



The Circle and Star

Mercedes-Benz Club of America
Nashville Section

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October/November/December 2012 Volume 34, Issue 4

Benchmark Collision Center Open House

Dear Nashville Section Members:

This month Nashville Section member Ellis Hubbard invites the Mercedes-Benz Club to an open house at Benchmark Collision Center on **Saturday, October 20, 2012, at 10:30 a.m.** Following a tour of the facility and a brief technical session, Ellis will be serving a buffet lunch of barbeque and fixings. There will also be a number of door prizes for those in attendance. The Benchmark Collision Center Open House has always been a very popular event on the Club calendar.

Benchmark is a state of the art collision repair facility, and it specializes in both foreign and domestic makes—it has also restored a few classics. There is always something interesting going on back in the shop.

Ellis and his wife, Betty have been loyal members of the Nashville Section for many

years. Mercedes-Benz artwork and memorabilia fill the lobby and waiting room, giving a clue as to Ellis' favorite brand. Located at *999 Polk Avenue, Nashville (615-254-6946)*. Benchmark is about a quarter mile south of Murfreesboro Road near the I-40 and Fessler's Lane interchange. For more information and directions, check out www.benchmarkcollision.com.

There is no charge for this event, but in order to know how much barbeque to order, **please make your reservation by Thursday, October 18, 2012** in one of these ways: through the new Nashville Section website, www.mbcnashville.org, e-mail rbibb@lewisking.com or leave a message at my office (615) 259-1349, or on my mobile phone, (615) 294-7325. As always, guests and prospective Club members are always welcome.

We hope that many of you will be able to attend.

Randy Bibb, President



Nashville Section



Nashville Section Leaders



Randy Bibb
President



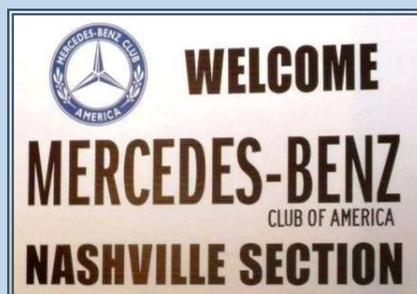
Joel Morris
Vice President



Jan Diehl
Treasurer



Ed Johnson
Membership Director



MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA

More Than a Car. We're a Community.™

Stones River Battlefield

Nashville Section members learned about the Battle of Stones River at the Section event September 15, 2012. This battle, one of the most significant battles in Tennessee in the early days of the Civil War, was near the Stones River in 1862. More than 24,000 soldiers—one in three—were killed, missing or wounded after the three day battle.



Nashville Section Awards Dinner at Stoney River

The Nashville Section's 2012 Awards Dinner will be held at Stoney River Legendary Steaks in Cool Springs on ***Saturday evening, November 10, 2012. Cocktails will be served at 6:00 p.m. and dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.*** Please come and join us for what is traditionally the highlight of the Nashville Section calendar.

Stoney River is more than just prime steaks. The menu also features seafood and chicken served in a warm, country lodge setting. The dinner will be a prix fixe and will include your choice of an appetizer, dinner salad, one of four entrees and a dessert tray. All for \$35 per person! This dinner is \$48 per person, but the Nashville Section will be picking up part of the cost of dinner. For those wishing to have wine, beer or cocktails there will be a cash bar.



This year the Nashville Section will celebrate its 34th birthday. We will also celebrate the 60th anniversary of the SL, the upcoming 50th anniversary of the "Pagoda" and many more events. There will be a special award for our Member of the Year, and we will recognize the many contributions of our Section members both old and new. The Awards Dinner will also feature a PowerPoint slide show about the highlights of the 2012 Nashville Section Year, including the Mercedes-Benz of Nashville Drive and Ride, the Lane Motor Museum tour and lunch at the Gerst Haus, the annual Shadowbrook Luncheon and concours d'elegance, the wonderful trip down the Natchez Trace to the Amber Falls Winery, the drive down Highway 70 to see Dave and Linda Miles' fantastic collection of Mercedes-Benz cars and trucks in Waverly followed by lunch at the Waverly Café, the tour of the Stones River Battlefield and the ever-popular Benchmark Collision Center Open House. As always, there will be many Mercedes-Benz themed door prizes for the German car lover.

In addition, we will preview the tentative 2013 Nashville Section calendar and StarTech which will be held in Birmingham in May 2013. many of you have asked about taking a tour of the Vance, Alabama assembly plant where ML-Class, GL-Class and R-Class vehicles are produced and we will discuss plans for a special MBCA tour of the plant during StarTech.

We have arranged a private room at Stoney River for the Club dinner. ***Seating is limited to 60 and in past years we have sold out, so please make your reservation early.***

Nashville Section Awards Dinner...continued

All attendees will receive a Stoney River gift card that can be used at either the Cool Springs or West End location. Remember dinner is not limited to MBCA members. Please feel free to invite and bring a guest (aka "future member") with you.

Stoney River is located at 1726 Galleria Boulevard, Franklin, Tennessee in Cool Springs. If you come from Nashville, take the Galleria Boulevard exit off I-65 and turn left just past the light at the foot of the exit ramp. (For those of you who have been with the Club to Buca di Beppo, Stoney River is located right next door). Stoney River's phone number is (615) 778-0230. For more information about the restaurant go to www.stoneyriver.com.

Because seating is limited, please RSVP by Thursday, November 8, 2012. Send your check for \$35 per person payable to "MBCA, Nashville Section" to MBCA, Nashville Section, P.O. Box 50291; Nashville, Tennessee 37205. Your check will confirm your reservation. For more information, check out the Nashville Section website at www.mbcanashville.org or contact Randy Bibb at rbibb@lewisking.com or (615) 259-1349 (office) or (615) 294-7325.

We hope that all of you will be able to attend this highlight of the Nashville Section year.

Randy Bibb, President, Nashville Section



Congratulations, Randy!!

Randy Bibb's 1969 280SL won Second Place in the Pagoda 280SL competition at StarFest 2012!



MBCA Membership Form

Please print clearly

Full Name

Associate Member (spouse or dependent)

Address

City State Zip

(_____) (_____) _____
Home Phone Business Phone

Occupation

E-mail Address

Mercedes-Benz cars now owned (model/year)

New Member Renewing Member (check one)

If Renewing, Member Number: _____

Interests:

Driving Events Car Shows Car Care
 Social Events Technical The Star

Please enroll me as an MBCA Member for:

1 Year (\$49) 2 Years (\$95)
 3 Years (\$139)

Make check payable to MBCA; Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express also accepted. If using a credit card, please complete the following:

Visa MasterCard
 Discover American Express

Expiration Date

Account Number

Applicant's Signature

Nashville Section

Sponsor's Member #

Mail: MBCA
P.O. Box 50291
Nashville, TN 37205

Web: www.mbcanashville.org

888-800-0892
Club Event
Hotline

Interview with our Founding President—Ed Johnson

It was my pleasant duty and honor to have presented the Charter to the Nashville Section upon its establishment when I was the Southern Region Vice-President of MBCA!

Excerpted from a letter written by Tom Sheppard, 2003

When we thought about revamping the website and the newsletter, we also thought about how this all began. You know the sort of questions: what exactly was the genesis? Why did the founders start this club? And why has it continued for 34 years?

Who would know the answers? Well, maybe the three people who brought to life the idea of a Mercedes-Benz club in Nashville – the three who are still active members today: Ed Johnson, Tom Diehl, and Joel Morris.

In this edition of *The Circle and Star*, we talk to the Nashville Section's founding President, Ed Johnson.

The Circle and Star: How did the club get started?

Ed Johnson: Well, Tom Diehl and I were working together at Cain-Sloan in the late 70's. I was driving a 1962 220S Mercedes-Benz. Tom was admiring my car one afternoon as we were leaving, and he said, "if you ever find one like it, I'd like to have one." And I said, okay, I'll keep my eyes open.

Little did we know: two weeks later I found one. It was \$300. Turned out, it had belonged to a former schoolteacher of his in high school: Mrs. Cox. There's always a history with these things.

Well, Tom bought it, and over the next six months we had it repaired and improved so it ran even better. But we discovered the local Mercedes-Benz dealer really didn't seem too interested in helping us with the restoration. So I came up with the idea of starting an automobile club dedicated to Mercedes-Benz, thinking a group of us might be able to share ideas and present strength in numbers, so to speak.



Interview...continued

We ran an ad in *Hemmings Motor News* and in *Road & Track* magazine advertising for members of the Mercedes-Benz Club of Nashville, and about three weeks later I got a call from Colorado Springs, Colorado. It was a Mr. Donn Wald, and he explained that there was already a Mercedes-Benz Club of America, and we could become affiliated with them. Sounded like a great idea to us.

C&S: So you decide start a club; what are the first steps?

Ed: We started talking about a club in early 1978, and on April 3, 1978 Volume 1 Number 1 of this newsletter went out to our group.

In the summer of 1978 we had an organizational meeting at the Cain-Sloan Steeplechase Room in Green Hills. Eighteen were at the meeting, and we signed a petition to be chartered as the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Nashville Section.



I am delighted that three of you Charter Members are still active in the Club. - you, Tom Diehl & Joel Morris!

Excerpted from a letter written by Tom Sheppard, 2003

Our charter was granted on October 15, 1978. We had a meeting at the Jolly Ox, and Mr. Tom Sheppard, who was Southern Region Vice President of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, presented the charter to us. We sent out a press release about it.

You know, I probably should mention that the current Mercedes-Benz dealer is supportive of our club!



Interview...continued

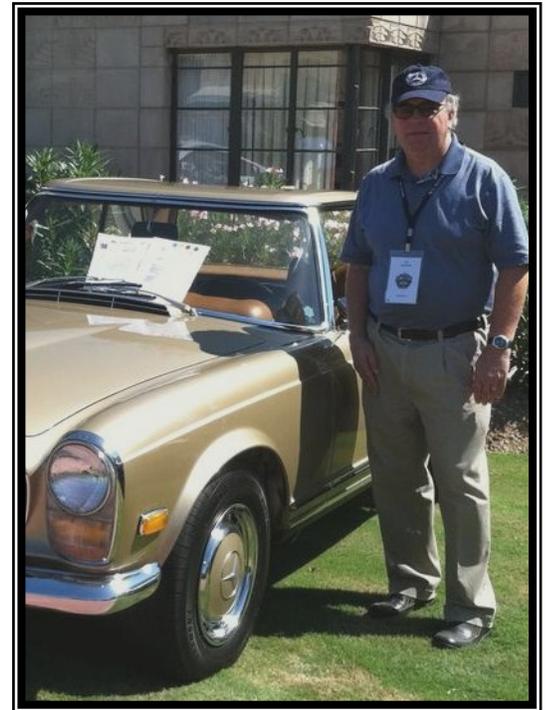
C&S: Who were the first officers when the club began?

Ed: I was the President, Tom was Vice President, and Joel Morris was Secretary/Treasurer. And we're all still part of the club today.

C&S: What was your first Mercedes-Benz?

Ed: Actually, my brother Noel was the first in the family to own one. It was a 1958 180. It's still in the family—he still has it, still drives it.

My first was that '62 220S. I combined two of 'em for my first one. One was wrecked and the other was burned, so I put the good parts of both of them together. It was black with a red interior.



C&S: What initially attracted you to Mercedes-Benz?

Ed: The history and the heritage. Mercedes built the first car, regardless of what Henry Ford says. They are the first company to hold a patent on automobiles, in 1896. I figure, why not have the first and the best? The company's motto is and shall always be: the best, or nothing.

C&S: What do you remember most when you think of that first Mercedes-Benz?

Ed: A camping trip. I packed all the gear in the trunk and took my dog for a week camping at a farm in Sumner County. The trunk held everything for the whole week, and that car was rugged: it went down a dirt road that would have turned any other car into a piece of junk. It was durable and safe, and the maintenance was inexpensive and straightforward. I did most of it myself. Changed the oil, the water pump, the brakes, you name it. Gas was 78 cents a gallon, and it got 14 miles per gallon. Had six cylinders, and Solex dual carburetors.

At the time, that car was sort of a throwback to another era. Remember, this was the 70's. I wouldn't say it was the most beautiful car I ever owned, but it had a beautiful soul.

Interview...continued

C&S: Would you like to have that car again?

Ed: Oh, yes. I sold it for \$1,600 in 1980, and bought a 1964 220SE coupe. The coupe was a very collectible car. I bought it for \$1,800 and spent \$5,000 restoring it.

C&S: What would you want to tell people about Mercedes-Benz?

Ed: If you want a good car, a Mercedes-Benz is an excellent choice. Plan to spend the most you can on one in good condition – the restoration can be expensive.

C&S: What would you want to tell people about the Mercedes-Benz club?

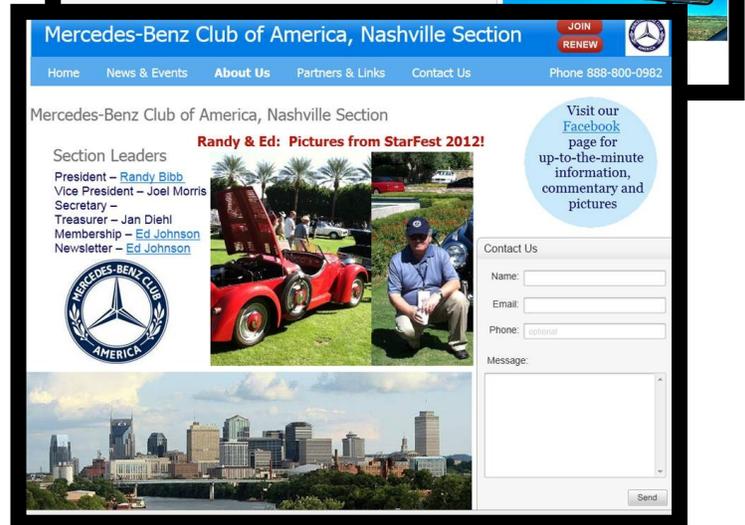
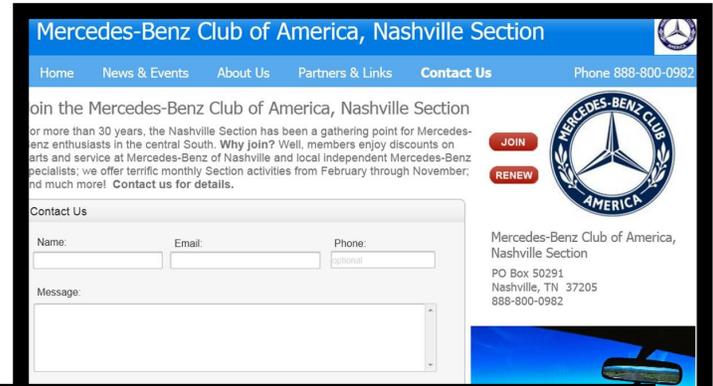
Ed: Membership in the club enhances your ownership experience. It increases your understanding, not only of your car, but of the history of Mercedes-Benz.

You, as the founding president, deserve recognition and honor for your work which brought about the birth of the first Section in Tennessee and to have been a principal force in fostering the growth and maintaining the vigor of the Section

Excerpted from a letter written by Tom Sheppard, 2003



The Nashville Section's New Website!



Have you see the new website? Check it out: www.mbcnashville.org.

The website is updated regularly. For example, Randy and Ed sent pictures from StarFest that were posted immediately (actually, while they were still *at* StarFest!).

The Nashville Section also has a Club email address now: mbcanashville@yahoo.com.

If you have:

- a comment on the newsletter or website; or
- a suggestion; or
- a question...

Please email it to mbcanashville@yahoo.com, or use one of the forms on the website to send in your idea.

Let us know what you think!

Pictures from StarFest 2012



The Circle and Star	
Vol. 1	Newsletter <i>Monday</i>
	No. 1
----- April 3, 78 -----	
<p>Spring has finally arrived in Nashville! The countryside around the city is blooming in every color imaginable. I hope that we can all find the time to get out and enjoy the beauty around us. A trip to Lynchburg and surrounding counties is planned for June 19. A tour through the Jack Daniel Distillery has been arranged and a picnic is planned nearby. If you have suggestions or ideas to make this trip more fun, please contact the club at Box 50291, Nashville, Tn. 37205. This will be an opportunity to swap information and ideas as well as an outing for the cars.</p>	

<p>Mr. Fred Wurster has announced plans to build a new facility in Franklin Tennessee to house eight bays for Mercedes-Benz service work exclusively. The Desert Fox says that he has been changing too many tires when he could have been doing what he enjoys most-- putting cars in top running condition. Has he ever told you the story about running a Mercedes on salad oil when no other oil was on hand? Fred always has an answer!</p>	

<p>Does anyone know of any salvage lot that has Mercedes-Benz cars for parts? We are trying to compile a list of parts cars and lots that have parts cars for club members. You may interested in Knoxville and Memphis lots too. One of the biggest Mercedes-Benz salvage dealers is Jay Wiley Import Auto in Memphis. How about a new brake booster for 62-64 200, 220 Sb, for \$220.00? Jay ships U.P.S. or by bus and will ship anywhere in the United States.</p>	

<p>Many of you are aware of our effort to establish a Nashville Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America here in Nashville. Once again let me point out that there are many outstanding advantages in belonging to the club, and the \$15 a year is a small price to pay I think. I want you to become better acquainted with us whether you join the National or not, but you will not feel a total part of the organization at the local level until you support the National club. A portion of your membership fee comes directly back to the Nashville Section when it is formed and not until then. You see how vital your support can be.</p>	

<p>If you have not given a telephone number to us where you can be reached, we need to hear from you. A meeting will be called in May to discuss Section formation and further details of the trip to Lynchburg Tennessee. Remember this is your club and we want your ideas! Best wishes and happy motoring.</p>	

NAME _____	Edwin Johnson
ADDRESS _____	Box 50291
TELEPHONE _____	Nashville, Tenn. 37205
CAN WE SEND YOU AN APPLICATION FOR NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP? _____	

***Here is where it all started...
the Nashville Section's first newsletter.***

Our Partners

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Alex Crooke



Mark Your Calendar:

- ◆ **Saturday, October 20, 2012—Benchmark Collision Center Open House**
- ◆ **Saturday, November 10, 2012—Nashville Section Awards Dinner; Stoney River Legendary Steaks**



We Need Your Help!

You may have noticed the *Partners & Links* page on the website. And, of course, we have sponsors listed in *The Circle and Star*.

Beginning with this edition of the newsletter, we are hoping to provide more information, more often – and our intention is the same with the new website.

We would love to have a few new partners and sponsors in the newsletter and on the website. Our thought is that we could offer the new sponsors a well-educated and informed group of consumers (that would be **YOU!**) as an audience for their ads in our newsletter and on our website, and at the same time let you know about well-regarded providers of services and products that you really want and need and would use.

So here's where we need your help: what service or product providers do you know who might be appropriate as a partner or sponsor for our newsletter and/or website? Would you introduce us?

In our initial brainstorming, we thought it might be worthwhile to seek sponsors who are involved with:

Auto towing	Car detailing
Real estate	Gourmet food shop
Home staging	Clothing store
Travel agent	Winery
Assisted living facility (for our <i>parents</i> , what were you thinking??)	
Photography	Jewelry
Landscaping	Event planning
Catering	Children's shop
Pet grooming and boarding	Florist
Restaurants	Personal concierge service
Veterinary services	Decorating/home design

We only want to partner with one of each service or product provider type. For example, one Italian restaurant, or one home designer, or one real estate agent. And if a member would like to be a sponsor, that would be our first choice

We really want to hear from you! Please bring us your ideas, thoughts, and comments via email at mbcanashville@yahoo.com, or via telephone to Kelly Graham at 750-8135.

