



# The Circle and Star

## Mercedes-Benz Club of America Nashville Section

April/May/June 2013

Volume 35, Issue 2

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From the Nashville Section  
President's desk:

# Randy Bibb

### Carnton Plantation Saturday, June 22, 2013

On June 22, 2013, members of the Nashville Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America will tour historic [Carnton Plantation](#) followed by lunch at Puckett's Grocery in downtown Franklin. We plan to meet at 9:30 a.m. at Mercedes-Benz of Nashville, 630 Bakers Bridge Avenue, in Cool Springs for the 20 minute drive to Carnton.

Following the tour of Carnton and its grounds, we will head to downtown Franklin for lunch at [Puckett's Grocery](#), 120 Fourth Avenue South. Puckett's features [down-home food](#) in a delightful setting of mismatched tables and chairs.

Please RSVP to the Nashville Section [website](#), [www.mbcnashville.org](http://www.mbcnashville.org); contact me at [rbibb@lewisking.com](mailto:rbibb@lewisking.com); or call (615) 259-1349 (office) or (615) 294-7325 so we can let Carnton and Puckett's know how many to expect.

**Please RSVP by Thursday, June 20, 2013.** Depending on how many attend, we may obtain a group rate with Carnton for the guided tour of the home and grounds.

### Art Deco Automobiles Sunday, July 14, 2013

On Sunday, July 14, 2013, Nashville Section members will be special guests at the Frist Center for the exhibition of *Sensuous Steel: Art Deco Automobiles*. **Space is limited** and we do expect a sellout. **Reservation deadline is Friday, June 21** and the cost is \$10 per person for parking, box lunch, admission, and the audio tour. **See pages 11-12 for all the details.**

### DOUBLE DISCOUNT for MBCA Members

[Mercedes-Benz of Nashville](#) is **doubling** the discount it currently offers MBCA members for certain repair parts. That's **an additional 10% discount on top of the 10% discount members already receive.** The additional 10% applies to all repair parts, except for tires and scheduled maintenance items. **Members will need to present their membership card** for the discount. Call Nashville Section member Barry Smith in the Mercedes-Benz of Nashville Parts Department, 615-742-8000 for details.

### Masters Winner Adam Scott: Love the logo...



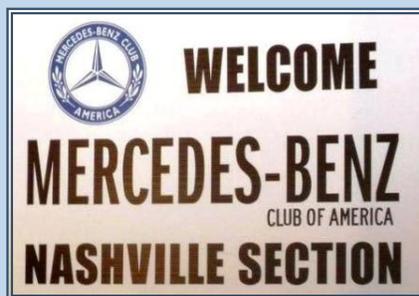
## Nashville Section Leaders



**Randy Bibb**  
*President*  
rbibb@lewisking.com



**Joel Morris**  
*Vice President*



**Jan Diehl**  
*Secretary / Treasurer*



**Ed Johnson**  
*Membership Director*  
wizardofgraz@yahoo.com



**Kelly Graham**  
*Website / Newsletter*  
MBCANashville@yahoo.com



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# 2013 Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance



Bird's-eye view of the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance auction preview



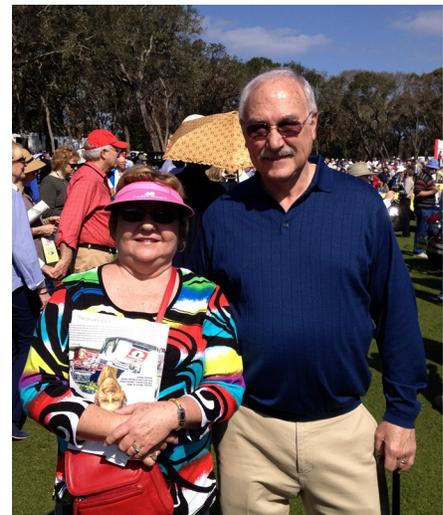
Ryan Clark and 3-month-old Evelyn Clark pose with Jack Nethercutt's Duesenberg SJ Model N, the car selected 2013 Best in Show



Randy & Brenda Bibb and Mark Lambert at the Amelia Concours



Nashville Section at the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance: dinner at Le Clos in Fernandina Beach. From left, Dave Miles, Linda Miles, Brenda Bibb, Randy Bibb, Tom Diehl, Ed Johnson



Linda & David Miles at the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance

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# 2013 CALENDAR

**Saturday,  
February 16  
Mercedes-Benz  
of Nashville  
Open House**

**Saturday,  
March 16  
Lambert Auto  
Open House**

**Saturday,  
April 20  
Precision  
Autohaus  
Open House**

**Sunday,  
May 5  
Shadowbrook  
Clean Car  
Classic**

**May 18 – 20  
StarTech 2013  
Birmingham,  
Alabama**

**Saturday,  
June 22  
Carnton  
Tour & Lunch**

**Sunday, July 14  
Art Deco  
Automobiles  
Tour & Lunch  
Frist Center**

**Saturday,  
August 24  
Bowling Green  
Dealership**

**Sunday,  
September 29  
Arrington  
Vineyards  
wine-tasting  
and lunch**

**Saturday,  
October 19  
Lane  
Motor  
Museum**

**Sunday,  
November 17  
Nashville  
Section  
Member of the  
Year Brunch,  
Sunset Grill**

Updates are ongoing; check our website, [www.mbcnashville.org](http://www.mbcnashville.org), for news and details



Historic Carnton in Franklin, TN



Puckett's Grocery, Franklin



Frist Center for the Visual Arts, Nashville, TN

**Saturday, June 22**

**Sunday, July 14**

# Lambert Auto, March 16, 2013



Some 50 members of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Nashville Section, and their guests gathered at Lambert Auto on Saturday morning, March 16, for an unforgettable day.

Mark Lambert, a veteran judge at several major Concours including the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, welcomed the Nashville Section and commented that we brought one of the larger groups to his garage, which was featured in author Phil Berg's best-selling book *Ultimate Garages*.



We viewed Mark's current project, a rare Dietrich-bodied Packard convertible sedan, and we also saw Mark's personal Packard, Randy Bibb's Packard, and Tom Diehl's 220S, along with many other members' cars.

Mark gave us a behind-the-scenes look at classic car restoration; at one point even putting Membership Director Ed Johnson to work hand-cranking a camshaft. Mark talked about what makes a car a classic, how classic cars should be restored, trends in classic car collecting, and how classics are judged.

After a wonderful visit at the garage, many adjourned next door to M.L. Rose for some terrific food and great conversation.

We offer a huge THANK YOU to Mark Lambert for opening his garage, for sharing his knowledge, and for his gracious hospitality. This is an event we very much hope to repeat.



### **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**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Referred by (Member name/number)

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

Web: [www.mbcanashville.org](http://www.mbcanashville.org)



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**Hotline**

# Precision Autohaus, April 20, 2013

Andrew Krych of Precision Autohaus hosted 35 members of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Nashville Section, on Saturday, April 20, 2013. Precision Autohaus is a longtime sponsor of the Nashville Section and Andy, Alex Croke, and Hector Correa set up a great lunch buffet inside the shop.



Alex and Hector gave a very informative presentation about preventive and corrective maintenance, showing members parts that were well-maintained versus parts that were not. One very interesting segment of the presentation involved the detrimental effect ethanol can have on engines. Alex and Hector recommended the use of ethanol-free fuel, and Section member Gary Haynes mentioned the "Pure Gas" [app](#) that can be downloaded to a smartphone to help in locating fuel that is free of ethanol.



# Member Classified Ads

## MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS

**FOR SALE:**

1990 Mercedes-Benz 560SEL. Bought another car so this one needs a good home! 2 owner Tennessee car, 198,400 miles, non-smoker, all records. Smoke Silver / Cream Beige. \$6,500 negotiable. More information, lots of pictures, all details: [adam2002blackwell@yahoo.com](mailto:adam2002blackwell@yahoo.com)

**FOR SALE:**

1985 300CD Turbo, Petrol Green, 150K miles. New tires, battery, belt & hoses. Strong; dependable; drive anywhere. \$5000 O.B.O. Contact J.T. @ 615-289-4667 [jtbenzman1@aol.com](mailto:jtbenzman1@aol.com)

**FOR SALE:**

'59 190 SL. Red/Camel. Restored by Bud's Benz, Weber carbs, electric fuel pump & ignition. Both tops. All records dating back to original factory delivery in 1959. Many pictures. \$36,000 OBO. Details at (615) 859-0526.

**WANTED**

**MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS!**

**DETAILS:**

[MBCANashville@yahoo.com](mailto:MBCANashville@yahoo.com)

## Stay Connected: [www.mbcnashville.org](http://www.mbcnashville.org)

If you have not yet given us your email address, please send it to [MBCANashville@yahoo.com](mailto:MBCANashville@yahoo.com) so you can be notified of any updates to our website AND be the first to get news as it happens!

# Shadowbrook Clean Car Classic, May 5, 2013

What a wonderful day at Shadowbrook! On Sunday, May 5, 2013, [Shadowbrook Estate](#) on Marrowbone Lake once again hosted the Nashville Section's Annual "Clean Car Classic." And once again, the Nashville Section was the beneficiary of some incredible weather: yes, it was chilly; but luckily the predicted 70% chance of rain failed to materialize! Attendees saw some incredible cars and heard some great stories. The "Clean Car Classic" has long been a tradition with the Nashville Section,

**FAVORITE COUPE: John Breslin, 300CE**



## Welcome to New Members

2013 has been a great year so far for new memberships for the Nashville Section. THANK YOU to all who have referred new members to us, and remember you benefit from referrals as well, with an extra month added to your membership for every new member you refer! Our new members thus far this year include:

Ahmed Abu-Halima  
Kun An  
Carl Bankston  
Leah Boehnen  
Wyeth Burgess  
Wesley Coker  
Jonathan Crawford  
Jim Dean  
Robert Gaddis  
Andrew Graves

Stafford Hall  
Omar Hamada  
Dawn Hill  
Kevin Kappes  
Hal Kroeger  
Andy Mahoney  
Greg McCollum  
Stan McMeeken  
Katrina Neylon  
Joe Questel

Catherine Ramsey  
Stephen Ray  
George Richter  
Kevin Ross  
Michael Schiele  
Joyce Searcy  
Amy Smith  
Sharon Stewart  
David Sumner



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## Art Deco Automobiles: Sunday, July 14

On Sunday, July 14, 2013, members of the Mercedes-Benz Club will be the special guests of the Frist Center for the Visual Arts for its exhibition of *Sensuous Steel: Art Deco Automobiles*.

The first fine art museum exhibition devoted to automobiles of the Art Deco era, *Sensuous Steel: Art Deco Automobiles* presents 18 automobiles and two motorcycles from the 1930s and '40s drawn from some of the most renowned car collectors and collections in the automotive world. Like the Frist Center's historic building, the automobiles included in *Sensuous Steel* display the classic grace and modern luxury of Art Deco design. An eclectic, machine-inspired decorative style that thrived between the two World Wars, Art Deco combined craft motifs with industrial materials and lavish embellishments. Automakers embraced the sleek iconography of motion and aircraft-inspired materials, creating memorable automobiles that still thrill all who see them.



**The Nashville Section has arranged for parking, an audio tour and a private lunch prior to the tour, all for only \$10 per person** - the regular price of an adult admission ticket. Because seating for the lunch is limited, **this event is restricted to a total of 50 members and guests. We expect that this will be a sell-out, so please make your reservations early.** You can reserve your place by sending a check payable to "MBCA, Nashville Section," for \$10 per person to Ms. Jan Diehl, Treasurer, 6728 Pennywell Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37205. The Frist requires that we notify them as to the number of

guests attending 21 days in advance, so **we must cut off reservations on Friday, June 21, or as soon as we hit the 50-person limit.**

For the box lunch, we will have a choice of:

1. Flank Steak Wrap;
2. Chicken Salad on Croissant;
3. Vegetarian Sandwich.

**Please indicate your preference(s) for the box lunch on your check.**



The parking lot for the Frist Center is located behind the Frist Center, 919 Broadway, Nashville. The lot will open at 11:15 a.m. on Sunday, July 14, for the Nashville Section, and will open to the general public at 11:30 a.m. In order for the Nashville Section to park our Mercedes together in the lot, please plan to gather behind the Frist no later than 11:15 a.m.



The Frist Center opens at 12:00 noon and we will plan to meet at 12:00 noon in the Rector Room of the Frist for lunch (on the left as you enter through the rear entrance of the Frist; you will see our banner in the hall beside the Rector Room entrance). We plan to begin the tour of the exhibit together at approximately 1:00 p.m.

*Continued on next page*

# Frist, Sunday, July 14 continued

Among the vehicles featured in *Sensuous Steel* are a 1933 Pierce-Arrow Silver Arrow Sedan, a 1934 Edsel Ford's Model 40 Special Speedster™, a 1934 Packard Twelve Model 1106 Sport Coupe, and a 1937 Delahaye 135MS Roadster.



**For more information** about *Sensuous Steel: Art Deco Automobiles* and the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, go to [fristcenter.org/artdecoautos](http://fristcenter.org/artdecoautos), and click [here](#) to listen to **Mark Lambert**, host of our March 16, 2013 event, talk about the exhibit.

**I hope that many of you will be able to join us on Sunday, July 14, 2013, for this very special event.**

**Randy Bibb, President, Nashville Section  
Mercedes-Benz Club of America**

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# Concourse d'Elegance of America Features 50th Anniversaries of the Pagoda and 600

Of special interest to Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts, the **35<sup>th</sup> Annual Concours d'Elegance of America this July in Michigan** will feature a special judged class devoted to the [Pagoda SL](#) and the 600 sedan hosted by the International Stars Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America. At nearly the opposite ends of the wheelbase spectrum, these two automotive icons were introduced to the public in 1963, and both immediately found favor with celebrities and politicians around the world.

Mike Selemi of the International Stars Section was charged with organizing the Pagoda and 600 class from a collection of nominated cars. **One of the cars selected for the Concours is an unrestored beige metallic 1969 280 SL owned by Nashville Section President Randy Bibb.**



Randy Bibb and Ed Johnson with Randy's 1969 280SL at StarFest 2012

The [Concours d'Elegance of America](#) will be held on Sunday, July 28, 2013, at the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth, Michigan. For the first 32 years, the Concours was held at Meadow Brook Hall on the campus of Oakland University just outside of Detroit. In 2011, the Concours moved to the Inn at St. John's. **The aim of this world-class concours is to exhibit prestigious collector cars as well as to offer an automotive art exhibition, a vintage car auction, Mode du Concours and social events.**



The Mercedes-Benz 230SL was introduced at the Geneva Motor Show in March 1963. The successor to both the legendary 300SL Roadster and its little brother the 190SL, the two-seat 230SL was immediately nicknamed "[Pagoda](#)" because of its unique concave roof supported by gracefully slim pillars. Between 1963 and 1971, the Pagoda's engine grew from the 230SL to the 250SL and finally to the 280SL. All in all, fewer than 50,000 were built over the period of a nearly a decade.

The 600 or the "[Grosser Benz](#)" was also introduced in 1963, although its first U.S. sales were in 1964. Powered by the legendary M100 6.3-liter V8, the 600 would top 120 mph, despite its three-ton curb weight and its wheelbase of 130 inches. If the 600 was not enough car, the Pullman limousine would seat seven and was more than 20 feet long. As is fitting of its position at the top of the Mercedes line, only 2,677 were built before production ended in 1981.



Both cars were popular with the rich and famous. Pagoda owners ranged from actor Charlton Heston to legendary race car driver Sir Stirling Moss to astronaut John Glenn, while the 600 was favored by Aristotle Onassis, Hugh Hefner and numerous famous and infamous leaders, ranging from the Shah of Iran to Leonid Brezhnev. Beatle John Lennon famously owned one of each.

**For Nashville Section members interested in escaping the heat and humidity of late July, the Concours d'Elegance of America is perfect.** In addition to the Concours, there are two driving tours on Friday to explore the history of the American motor car and the world-class RM Auction of classic and collector cars on Saturday. **For more information about the Concours, see [www.concoursusa.com](http://www.concoursusa.com) and the [Facebook](#) page for the Concours.**

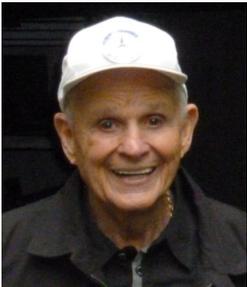
## Interview With Our Third President: Joel Morris

It was primarily the work of three people that brought to life the idea of a Mercedes-Benz club in Nashville, and they all are still active members today: Ed Johnson, Tom Diehl, and Joel Morris.

In our last edition, we spoke with the Nashville Section's second President, founding member Tom Diehl. In this issue, we have a conversation with the third President of the Nashville Section: founding member Joel Morris.

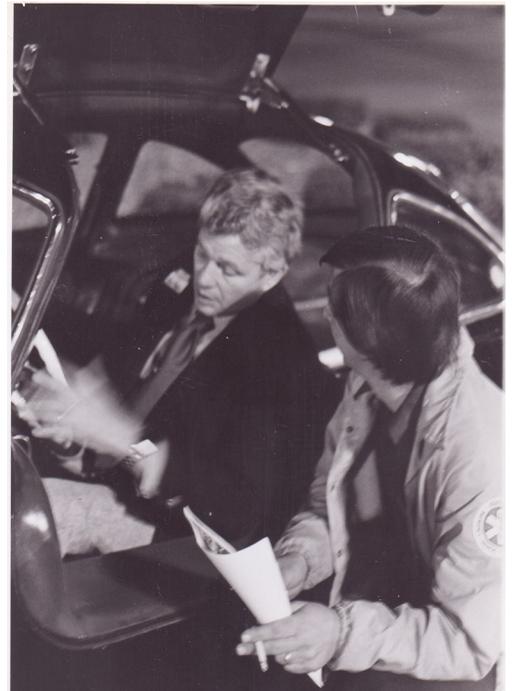
### The Circle & Star: How did the Nashville Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America get started?

**Joel Morris:** Well, the few of us who had Mercedes-Benz cars would get together on Saturday or Sunday out at the park. We would take a sandwich and have a picnic and talk about cars. We really enjoyed that and just kept doing it and finally we advertised in *Hemmings Motor News* and *Road & Track* to see if there was enough interest to start a Mercedes-Benz Club. The Mercedes-Benz Club of America saw our ad and contacted us and said, "Did you know we already have a club?" And we said, "Sign us up!"



### C&S: How did you become a fan of the Mercedes-Benz marque?

**Joel Morris:** Well, it started with a Cadillac. I had a 1950 Cadillac; that was the first year you could buy them after the war. The Cadillac dealer was on Broad Street, and next door Paul Montcastle had a little foreign car shop, Montcastle Motors. He had a black Porsche in the window and he got me to drive it around the block. I put my Cadillac up for sale and bought that 1951 Porsche for \$3,600. They made one model: it was a little 4 cylinder engine with 90 horsepower. It would do a little better than 100 mph, though. It was quite a machine.



Joel Morris demonstrates the Gullwing tilt wheel for Frank Dodd at the first organizational meeting of what would become the Nashville Section

## Interview...continued

So I got kind of crazy about foreign cars. Mercedes-Benz kept talking about bringing their cars to the States. There had been a two- to three-year delay, but eventually we heard the first boatload was coming in. A friend from New York had ordered a 1955 190SL convertible. He called me and said his wife was pregnant, and when she found out the car would hold only two people, she said he couldn't have the car. He asked me if I wanted him to change the reservation from his name to mine.

I said "Sure!" and that's how I got a 1955 190SL from the first boatload that came to the States. It was \$4,000. My wife and I flew to New York and drove it home.

### **C&S: You have a beautiful 1957 Gullwing. How did that come about?**

**Joel Morris:** Now, I always wanted a Gullwing, but figured there was no way I could afford one of those. This same friend called from New York a couple of years later. He said that I was always talking about a Gullwing, and told me about a dealer in New York who had a demonstration 1957 Gullwing that had never been titled. This dealer drove the car from his dealership on Park Avenue to his home on Long Island every night, then drove it back to work the next morning.

My friend told me the demo car had 6,000 miles on it and the dealer would sell it for \$6,500. Well, I scraped up every penny I had, and I borrowed \$400 from my grandmother, and I went to New York and bought the car and drove it home. I sold my 190SL to Dr. Simon, an optometrist who had Simon Vision Center in the Arcade.

The Gullwing was the only car I had for 10 years. I drove it to work every day and parked it on the street downtown. I put my Labrador in it and drove to Arkansas and went duck hunting. I went to Reelfoot Lake in it, with all those back roads, and put my muddy hip waders in the car. It was my car *and* my truck.



Joel Morris, left, and Ed Johnson with Joel's 1957 Gullwing

After about 10 years the Gullwing started getting valuable, so I started taking care of it. About 8 years ago I scraped up enough to get it restored, new leather, new paint, everything.

## Interview...continued

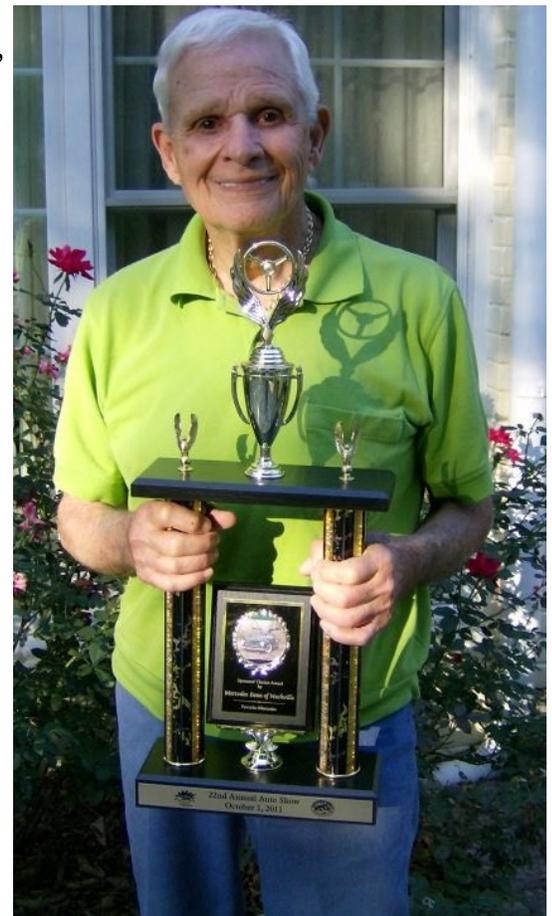
They only made the Gullwing from 1954 to 1957, and it was called a coupe. After that they made a convertible and it was called a roadster. I joined the Gullwing Group back when I first got interested in Gullwings, and now they send out bulletins every day on these cars. Seems like the value just keeps going up. They made a few all-aluminum Gullwings to see if they would be faster, but they weren't that much lighter and faster. They just sold one of those all-aluminum Gullwings for more than \$6,000,000. Now isn't that ridiculous?

There's a lot of aluminum in Gullwings: the doors, hood, trunk lid, and rocker panels are aluminum on all Gullwings, including mine. But for most Gullwings, the frame and other construction is steel. When I built my house in 1960 I built a room for the car. It's in my basement, and I can just drive in. It's fully air-conditioned and heated: whatever temperature is set in the house, it's the same for the Gullwing. There's no rust, and I have about 85,000 miles on it.

### **C&S: Tell us a little about the Gullwing Group Conventions.**

**Joel Morris:** The Gullwing Group Conventions always seem to be out west: Las Vegas, Palm Springs, San Diego, Los Angeles, and I never drove mine that far. Then in 2011 we had the first Gullwing Group Convention that was anywhere close: it was in Hot Springs, Virginia. Well, I decided to drive up there. Now, I thought Hot Springs was close to Bristol, but when I got to Bristol I found out I was just half way there! Jefferson used to ride his horse to the hotel where the convention was held, and you almost need a horse to get there. I've never seen such a winding road in my life.

So I drove up there, and found out that at the Gullwing Group Convention, attendees all vote for the car we like best. The final evening banquet is where the winners are announced. It's really fancy and formal and you bring a tuxedo for the dinner. Well, I thought I might get a chance at third. You see, my car was the only car with whitewalls at the convention. My car came with whitewalls, and in fact the spare is one of the original whitewalls. So I thought I might be announced at the dinner as the winner of third place, but I was not. So then I started getting anxious that I might have won second place, but I didn't get that. Then they announced the first place winner and called me up to receive the prize.



## Interview...continued

I have one of those big six-foot pictures of that event. They had a camera there with a motor that would take a panoramic shot, and I remember the photographer had me pull in a little crooked when everyone else pulled straight in, and I wondered why. When you see the picture now, you can see those whitewalls.

This year the Gullwing Group Convention is in New Orleans in October, and I'm planning to drive the Gullwing to the convention. My daughter is not really looking forward to me making that drive, though! **[Editor's note: In 2015 the Gullwing Group Convention will be held in Nashville at the Union Station hotel]**

### **C&S: What other Mercedes-Benz vehicles have you owned?**

**Joel Morris:** I've had tons of them. I've really lost count. And I always had one for my wife, too. Right now I have a 1986 G-Wagen. I got it because of the 4-wheel drive; it's the only way to come up my driveway in the winter. I got a snowplow for it, because I have to plow the driveway when it snows. There was a rumor in the neighborhood that I have a heated driveway, since it's always clean after a snow. I felt so powerful with that G-Wagen and snowplow that I got up to where I was clearing driveways for 35 friends. Then I had to replace the transmission, so I quit doing that.

### **C&S: Any other memorable purchases?**

**Joel Morris:** Well, my big mouth is the reason I bought the other car I have right now, a 1998 SLK. I went out to the dealer one day in the Gullwing for some reason, I don't remember now why I was going to the dealer.



The Sales Manager asked what I was doing there. So just to be a smart-aleck I said, "I came to get a new SLK today!" You see, I knew they didn't have one because, at the time, the wait for an SLK was more than a year.

But the problem was the Sales Manager said, "Great, you're in luck!" And I said, "Wait a minute, what??" So the Sales Manager explained that the dealership had just received, that very day, an SLK to use as a hole-in-one prize for a golf tournament. He believed no one would win it, and then it would belong to the dealership to sell. He said, "Give us \$500 and I'll hold it for you." And I said, "Well, let me go talk to the bank," and I ended up with the 1998 SLK, which was the first year of issue. I had to sell one of the other Mercedes-Benz cars I had. I think I sold a sedan.

## Interview...continued

**C&S:** Is there anything you would like people to know about the Club?

**Joel Morris:** Well, of course there's the discount on parts, and that's good. But mainly there's friendship and fellowship and we all have a good time talking about cars. We're all good friends, and we get together, eat some good food, have a good time, and it's very worthwhile.



Founding members Tom Diehl, left, and Joel Morris at the Nashville Section's charter presentation dinner, October 15, 1978



# Our Partners

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