



MERCEDES - BENZ CLUB of AMERICA

Central Georgia Section

Welcome to the Central Georgia Section!
www.cgs.mbc.org

Volume 2 – Issue 3

May 2012

LAST CGS SECTION EVENTS

Upcoming Events:

- June 25 – Bonefish Grill Dine-out
- July 1 - Perry GA. Parade - Driving Event
- July TBD - CGS Members Appreciation
- Aug. 4 - Visit to Caine River Winery, Dinner & Car Show
- Sept. - TBD - Dahlonega, GA, Wine Tour and Dinner
- Nov. 6 - Lobster Night at the Back Burner Restaurant in Macon
- Dec. 8 - Tech Event by 2 Guys' Garage
- Dec. 20 - CGS - MBCA Holiday Party



March 24 Golf Outing and Dine-Out

Contributor, Will Toussaint

The Section Golf Outing was outstanding and enjoyed by all participants. We had three teams with three members per team. The afternoon was very nice, the green was beautiful and the fun never stopped. All three teams finished closely and an award for first, second and third place was distributed. First place winners were Sharon Utrias, Joe Esposito and Jeff Misamore.

Following the Golf Outing, was our Dine Out prepared by Micheals' at the Landings Golf Club. The event drew a large number of participants, over 24 members attended. (Photo of Sharon Utrias and Joe Esposito)



April 21 Drive and Lunch Event

Contributor, Trish Welhs

On April 21, 2012, MBCA's Central Georgia Section hosted its first driving event along beautiful Georgia country roads to the quaint town of Juliette where we had a wonderful home-cooked lunch at the Whistle Stop Cafe, home of the best fried green tomatoes in the South!

We all met at the Shoppes at Riverside Crossing, Macon Georgia's newest and very trendy outdoor mall! We departed at 10:20 A.M. and drove Georgia back roads still glistening with morning dew and just barely beginning to steam as the day began to heat up.

There were 5 beautiful Mercedes that made the trip. Chuck and Sharon Utrias sailed along in their elegant 1973 280 SEL. They had new members Les and Elaine Goggans as passengers as the Goggans' Mercedes was not available that day. Tommy and Joan Couch were in their sleek 2003 SL 55 AMG. They kindly lent their sporty red 1985 380 SL to Trish, whose own Mercedes is still temporarily off the road. Frank and Barbara Bell brought their brand spanking new 2012 E 350, which was admired by all. The best surprise of the day was meeting Al Kagler, who drove up from Florida to be part of this event in his 2009 300 SLK. The drive went smoothly, with little traffic and gorgeous scenery.

At the Whistle Stop Café, made famous in the movie *Fried Green Tomatoes*, we thoroughly enjoyed the renowned southern cooking, from fried green tomatoes, to fried chicken and fried okra. We ended up being a merry group of 12, as Rick and Gloria Koch, who were unable to meet us for the drive up, met us at the restaurant. All in all, our inaugural driving event went smoothly and everyone had a great time!

Inside this issue: May 2012

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About the Newsletter

The Mercedes-Benz Club of America—Central Georgia Section, Inc. publishes this newsletter every two months in January—March—May—July—September—and November. Special editions may be published from time to time to address important Events or interest items of special significance. Opinions expressed are those of the Authors and Editors. Express permission is hereby granted to other Sections of the MBCA to reprint articles contained herein, without exception. Articles of general interest are solicited for inclusion and should be mailed to the Editor or e-mailed to Will Toussaint at willt69mb@yahoo.com. Copy deadline is the first of the month preceding the month of publication. Electronic copy of the Newsletter can be downloaded from our Section webpage. The URL is; www.CGS.MBCA.org

Mercedes-Benz Club of America—MBCA

The MBCA was established in 1956, and currently has about 20,000 members across the nation. There are over 84 local Sections organizing hundreds of local and National Events each year. You can enroll as a member of MBCA by calling 1-800-637-2360, or by using the National Website at www.MBCA.org

Annual Membership Cost are:

One year = \$49.00 Two years = \$95.00 Three years = \$139.00.

You may select your Section, or be assigned the local Section closest to your zip code to be closest to Events and activities in your area. To view available benefits in joining, navigate to the following URL;
<http://www.mbc.org/available-benefits>

Your local Section CGS - MBCA

Your National dues include membership in the Section of your choice. Each Section publishes a newsletter defining it's activities and Events. Year round calendars of Events include social, technical, and driving Events. Within your MBCA magazine, *The Star*, you will find information on Section, Regional, and National Events. Any MBCA member may attend any Section, Regional, or National Event by registering and paying the associated fees advertised.

Mercedes-Benz Roadside Assistance

Should you need roadside assistance Services,
MBUSA is available 24 hours a day at:
1-800-FOR-MERCEDES or 1-800-367-6372

Interim President's Message By Will Toussaint, Section Vice President

It has been some trying times the last few months, and gradually, I am adjusting to the responsibilities of the Office as vested in me. I certainly thank each and every one of you, Central Georgia Section Members, for your patience, perseverance and the opportunity that allows me to serve and develop strategies to carry on my duties. I am also grateful to the Board Members who ameliorated the transition with kindness and total professionalism. They are always there to help with the duties and their dedications will make us a strong, vibrant Section.

The primary function of the club is to have fun and as such several changes have taken place to insure that everyone enjoys the association of belonging to the Central Georgia Section to the full extent of their participation.

The Board has approved the purchase and issuance of Members and Associate Members initial Name Tags. If you would like to take advantage of this offer and have not been asked for your information yet, don't be shy! Contact Trish Welch and provide her with your name as you wish for it to appear on your nametag, the type of backing you prefer (magnetic, safety pin or tie tack) and if you want Brushed Pewter looking background or Blue. She will order your nametag for you. If you want the Section to pay for your nametag you must order it through Trish. Send her an email at trishwelch@ymail.com, she will be pleased to take care of it.

Continue on Page 11

Members Trading Post— For Sale or Wanted ADS

Section members wishing to place an ad in the newsletter to sell their cars may do so by sending an electronic request to the Editor. The ad will be posted in the upcoming newsletter providing that it is received 30 days prior to publication deadline (the end of January, March, May, July, September, November.)

For Sale: 1973 280SEL 4.5 - Only 8173 manufactured, came off assembly line in October of '72, the last month of W108 production, possibly one of, if not the, last 280SEL 4.5's made. Sold in Jan '73. Extensive owner/maintenance records. Phantom (grey)/Red, recovered from 15 years of storage 3 years ago. Extensive mechanical storage induced refurbishment addressed on fuel system, steering, sub-frame/trans mounts, fluids, engine, shocks, brakes, A/C, tires, etc. (call for details), 148,000 miles (avg. = 3800+ mi/yr). Asking \$16,000.

Contact Chuck @ 478-225-6878 or e-mail utriasmBCA@cox.net STAR indicated average value of \$27,000

*** YOUR CLUB & SECTION NEED YOUR HELP ***

Membership Committee: Help in developing a rewards system for membership recruiting and for member event participation, develop Section logo articles (shirts/caps/ etc.), support recruiting tables when available, welcome new members at Events, etc.

Events Planning Committee: Help in selecting and coordinating the Section's Social, Technical, and Driving Events, preparing pre- & post Event Newsletter write-ups, coordinating Event advertising, planning the Section's charitable support, Dealer support opportunities, etc.

Publicity Chair Leader: Lead getting promotional materials/press releases to local media, develop Section poster, coordinate with other German Car Clubs for MBCA-CGS exposure, set up speaker opportunities, select Section advertising, coordinate recognition at charitable events, input info to Website, write inputs to dealer customer letters, etc.

Newsletter Publishing: Provide Input in developing articles, develop new columns of interest... "Tech Talk", Car Ownership Experiences, "From a Ladies Perspective", etc... develop articles or gather information for articles, OR become the Editor or Associate Editor!

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9:00 am - 6:00 pm Sat.

Upcoming Central Georgia Section Events

June 25 - Dining Out Event - Bonefish Grill at 6:30 P.M.

July 1st - Perry GA. Independence Day Parade - Driving Event

July - Date TBD - CGS - MBCA Membership Appreciation Event. At Fish N Pig on Lake Tobeofkee Macon, GA. The cost is FREE to Members and Associate Members.

August 4th - 4:30 P.M. Visit to Caine River Winery and Dinner. 6:00 P.M. Car Show at the Peach Outlet Center

September - Date TBD - Dahlonega, GA, Wine Tour and Dinner, B & B Overnight and Sunday Brunch

November 6 - A Dining Out Event - Lobster Night at The Backburner, Macon, GA.

December 8th - Tech Event presented by 2 Guys' Garage

December 20th - CGS - MBCA Holiday Party at Trish Welsh's Home

Mark your Calendars for the upcoming Central Georgia Section -MBCA Event dates.

We are currently seeking ideas for Events to be planned in 2013. Your suggestions for your local area are solicited by the Board. You know more about your local area than other members, so please send us your suggestion, we'll follow-up with you, and we will you plan the Event accordingly. There is no need to fear the challenge, as a Member of our community, we will be there with you. Just remember, Events can be Touring, Tech Session, Social, or Competition Driving.

Please, send us any suggestions for Section Events in your area of the state! We are anxious to Conduct local Events in diverse areas in the State of Georgia.

Wonderful Welcome to our New Central Georgia Section MBCA Members

Welcome New CGS - MBCA Section Members

by Roc Patel, Membership Chairman

Lamar Brand - Blakely, GA

Henry Hughes - Dexter, GA

Allen Meyers - Warner Robins, GA

Please, be sure to welcome our new members at our next Central Georgia Section - MBCA Event

We are receptive to your feedback, your comments are always welcome regarding our Events or activities. Please let us know what you like or dislike, it is our mean for positive improvements.

MBCA CLUB NAME BADGES

Name badges are available from the MBCA Club Store in three types of backing attachment (magnetic, safety pin, or tie tack) and can be ordered in blue. Costs range from \$8.00 for two lines to \$9.00 for three lines (25 characters maximum p/line), plus shipping and handling of \$1.20 for one badge, \$1.50 for two badges, \$1.75 for three to four badges, or \$2.00 for five to six badges. You may order by calling the MBCA National Business Office in Colorado Springs, CO at (800) 637-2360 and ask for the Store Administrator, by mailing this order sheet (see address below), or you may order through the MBCA website by going to www.mbc.org and choose Club Store from the main menu, choose Membership and Office Items / Section Events from the next window, scroll down to the desired name badge and make your selection. Order for your Associate Member as well!

Please send name badge(s). Specify type of backing: Magnetic / Safety Pin / Tie Tack

Specify color: Blue

NAME: NAME:

Central Georgia Section, MBCA Central Georgia Section, MBCA

Use a second sheet for additional names..... enclose appropriate dollar amount and return address..... and place your order...

Order from: MBCA, 1907 Lelaray Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80909

Upcoming Events Details — Please contact Name listed

International Taste of Soul

Tubman Museum, 340 Walnut Street Macon GA.
Cost in \$25.00 per Adult, Children 10 and under \$10.00

June 24th, 2012 at 3:00 - 6:00 P.M.

Event Coordinators: Trish Welsh & Linda Smyth

Three members of our Central Georgia Section MBCA are supporting the International Taste of Soul event on 24 June 2012 at the Tubman Museum in Macon, GA.

Trish Welch, Rex and Linda Smith, are among the 28 celebrity chefs providing attendees of this event with a taste of international comfort food.

Trish and the Smiths' are proud to represent our Central Georgia Section at this event and hope you will come to support this unique culinary adventure!

The Event is a fundraiser to benefit the Children's Educational Program throughout the year.

There will be a variety of food from around the world for your enjoyment to include dessert as well.

The Tubman Museum is located downtown Macon and the event will kick off the beginning of a great Summer to come.

Cost for the event will be \$25 for adults and includes a tour of the museum, food, entertainment, a signature International Taste of Soul drink, door prizes, discount in the gift shop, as well as opportunities to learn more about the Tubman African American Museum.

For more information, or to purchase tickets,
call 478-743-8544 or visit our website at
<http://www.tubmanmuseum.com>

Dining Out Event at The Bonefish Grill

River Crossing Mall In Macon, GA.

June 25th, 2012 at 6:30 P.M.

Event Coordinator: Trish Welsh

Bonefish Grill features a wide variety of fresh fish entrees, Steaks and a full martini menu, including the wildly popular bang-bang shrimp.

For Reservation, please contact Trish Welsh at 478-327-1583 or trishwelch@ymail.com

Membership Appreciation Day Event

At Fish & Pig

Lake Tobesofkee Macon, GA.

In July Date & Time TBD

Event Coordinators: Tommy Couch & Trish Welsh

Our annual CGS-MBCA Members Appreciation Day Event is in its confirmation stage and will take place next month on lake Tobesofkee at the Fish & Pig Restaurant.

There is no cost to Members and Associate Members for participation (*Adult Beverages at your expense*).

Come join us for a great time, meet fellow Members, show your cars, share your enjoyment or dissatisfaction about the direction of your Section and be rewarded for your dedicated Membership.

Upcoming Events Details — Please contact Name listed (*Continued from Page 6*)

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Fall Wine Country Touring

September - Date & Time TBD

CGS - MBCA will host a tour of wine country in the fall when grape harvesting is happening and the foliage is just beginning to turn. Dahlonega's commercial district, including the public square, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Major wineries have discovered the rich, fertile hillsides of Lumpkin County with others scheduled to open up operation in the future. The creative spirit soars, Dahlonega has evolved into a center for the performing and visual arts in the North Georgia mountains. Recreational activities are available year round including the southern terminus of the Appalachian Trail on Springer Mountain. Frogtown, Three Sisters and Wolf Mountain are just three of the wineries we hope to visit. We are arranging a dinner in the local area, an overnight stay at one of the wineries or B&B's in the area and a Sunday Brunch to close out this event. Details to be released soon.

Independence Day Parade Perry, GA.

Downtown Perry

July 1st, 2012 (Assembly Time) 2:00 P.M.

Event Coordinators: Joan & Tommy Couch

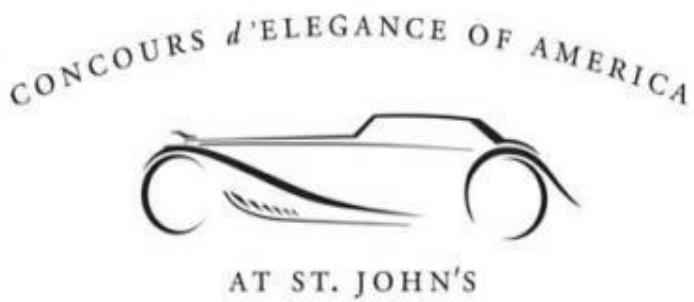
Central Georgia Section Members!

Parade your Mercedes Benz in the Perry Chamber of Commerce Independence Parade on Sunday, July 1st at 4 P.M.

Please let Joan and Tommy Couch know if you can come just as soon as you know. Email event coordinators Tommy at tommycouch@live.com or Joan at jorsett@windstream.net or phone either one at 478-987-5272.

We must report to the assembly area downtown Perry ***two (2) hours prior to parade start time or 2 p.m.*** The Assembly area will be given out when unit number and instructions are emailed to the Couches on Tuesday, June 26.

Plan to come by the Couch home ([1100 Ridge Circle South, Perry, GA.](http://1100RidgeCircleSouthPerryGA.com)) for a social gathering following the parade. Drinks will be provided,...you bring the snacks!



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Upcoming Events Details — Please contact Name listed (Continued from Page 7)**Visit to Winery in Byron, GA, - Dinner & Car Show**

Byron, GA.

Event Coordinator: Linda Smyth

August 4th, at 4:30 P.M. A visit to Caine River Winery with Dinner served on location by Georgia Bob's BBQ is scheduled to start the afternoon. Following the Wine touring and dinner **at 6 P.M.** a Car Show at the Peach Outlet Center in Byron, GA. adjacent to the winery will provide a pleasant ending to our evening.

The address of the Winery is 144 Caine river drive next to GA Bob's BBQ. Direction is I75 Exit 149 heading East. The Winery is slightly behind the Peach Outlet Center in Byron, GA. and as good reference point, it is next to Georgia Bob's BBQ.

More Information to come regarding this Event.

Upcoming Events Details — Please contact Name listed (Continued from Page 7)**EURO Auto Festival 2012**

Mercedes-Benz Featured Marque
October 19-21, 2012

A Peachtree Section Event
A Tentative Concours Event
Greer, South Carolina

EURO Auto Festival will be celebrating its 17th year in 2012. At last, Mercedes-Benz has been chosen as the featured marque. It is our hope that with the club member's help, we can have a large presence at EURO this year. This event raises donations for the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund for the Carolina area and is held in Greer, SC on the lawn of the BMW Zen-trum and factory.

Euro Auto Fest began when a car club smaller than ours had a vision. The Foothills British Car Club wanted to invite all clubs for European models to come together at the same venue to share their automobiles and the history and stories that go with them. Their success in doing this is proven in the number of years this event has been held and the number of European automobiles on the show field which is now upwards of 400! www.euroautofestival.com

Dining Out Event at The Backburner

Ingleside Ave. in Macon, GA.

November 6th, at 6:30 P.M.

Event Coordinator: Trish Welsh

We are planning a Lobster Night Dining-out at The Backburner in Macon, GA

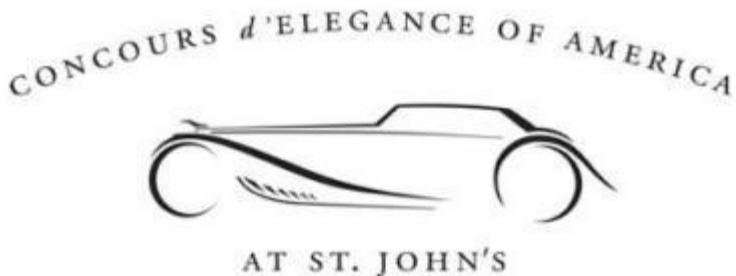
Each Tuesday is New England Lobster night at the Backburner in Macon. The Backburner is a small, charming French bistro-type restaurant tucked away in the historic Ingleside neighborhood of Macon.

Award winning Chef Christian Losito never disappoints with his creative and scrumptious delicacies.

Come on foodies!!! Be sure and join us for this sure to be satisfying taste of the finest foodie arrangements to come out of New England!

National MBCA Events

[Legends of the Autobahn 2012](#) | August 17, 2012 - Carmel Valley, California



MBCA invites you to be part of the excitement at Legends of the Autobahn 2012, on Friday, August 17. Held on the greens of the Rancho Cañada Golf Club in Carmel Valley, California, Legends attracted an audience of thousands to view nearly 500 cars on display in 2011.

In 2012, it will be a 4-German-marque concours, with Audi Club of North American joining the other co-hosts MBCA, the BMW Car Club of America, and the Porsche Club of America. This one-day MBCA national special event brings enthusiasts, owners, and aficionados of distinctive German cars together to view four of the finest Marques in the world. The event will feature separate club-concours judging sites and combined corral parking areas.

[MBCA at Concours of America St. Johns](#) | September 29, 2012

Concours D'élegance of America's annual event at the Inn at St John in Plymouth, Mi. The International Stars Section is hosting MBCA Car Club parking with coveted on premise the day of the event as well a fun Concours in our parking area. Dinner the night before is also being offered.

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rstacio@desertstars.org

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MBCA's bi-annual National event will be held on the picturesque grounds of the Arizona Biltmore.

Wayne Carini, the host of "Chasing Classic Cars," will be our Concours Awards banquet speaker and will be involved with all the Concours d' Elegance activities. He is teaming up with us for a special "Concours Autism Research Fundraiser" on Sunday, September 30.

Indulge your senses with fine cars, International Raceway driving, spas, golf, shopping, food, fun and more. A beautiful 3-hour drive to the breathtaking Grand Canyon. Take a chance!

Register your Mercedes for a chance to win an award!

[Click here](#)

<http://desertstars.motorsportreg.com/>

Questions?

Visit www.starfest2012.com

or contact Event Chair **Rick Stacio** at
rstacio@desertstars.org

or 623.582.6694

National MBCA Events

National Membership

by Lisa Juhl

For the sixth consecutive month, MBCA Membership is up. As of March 31st, our North American family grew to 19,765 members; up from 19,547 a year earlier.

Kudos to our loyal members - our #1 "promoters" - and to our dealer associates for encouraging Mercedes-Benz owners and lessees to join our growing community

Spring Raffle

by Lisa Juhl

Through June 15 2012 - Not a winner in last month's Mega Million Lottery? (I wasn't either!) Then try your luck in the MBCA Spring Raffle!

Tickets on sale through June 15. Odds of winning is approximately 1 in 3,000, depending on total number of tickets sold.

Win one of four cash prizes (grand prize is \$50,000) or one of (20) \$500 gift cards to spend at your local Mercedes-Benz Dealership

Mark your calendar for this Celebration

CGS - MBCA Holiday Party!

20th December 2012 at 6:30 P.M.

At Trish Welch's lovely home located in the historic Shirley Hills neighborhood in Macon, GA.

Trish hosted our first Christmas party and has graciously volunteered to host us again this year.

President Message *continued from Page 3*

Effective immediately, our official Web Address has always been www.cgs.mbc.org and any other web addresses or URL are simply taking you to a scenic route as you will eventually get to the URL or address listed above. I do not have nor can I assure you that the other URL's will always be active so therefore, bookmark this address in your Browser.

Registered CGS – MBCA Section Members have one (1) vote to cast at Election procedures, Associate do not, as stated by our By Laws, have a right to vote. However, the Board has voted to allow Associate Members to earn the right to vote by becoming active participant in the Section activities as an officer or Director on the Board.

Associate can volunteer to be mentored by a selected Board Member based on the Board needs and the Associate Members' interest.

The future plan is to have one Mentor for each Board Member and the Mentor will hold full Executive power in the event that they substitute for their Advisers at Board Meetings. They can seat at Board Meetings voluntarily or be briefed by their Advisers to learn and become familiar with the agendas so they can make informed decisions when necessary. They can also teach their Advisers since they may have closer alliance to the Members at Large. With that said, it has been my pleasure.

Sincerely,

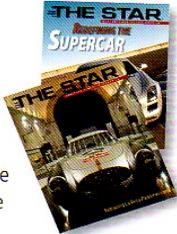
Will Toussaint

Membership Application

Want to save money and get the most out of your Mercedes-Benz experience?

You can, when you take advantage of these popular benefits, **FREE** with Club membership:

- **FREE** "Associate" membership for one adult living in your household
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"I insured my Mercedes through your Chubb insurance program and saved about \$500 a year. That benefit alone paid for my membership 10 times. OUTSTANDING!"

Charlie B., Colorado Springs, CO

"Hands down, The Star magazine is the best resource for teaching 'rookies' like me everything there is to know about Mercedes-Benz vehicles. You share advice from seasoned technicians and automotive experts. As a first-time Mercedes owner, that's priceless to me."

Alex J., Austin, TX

New Member Application

Visit mbca.org. (Click "Join" button at top of home page) or

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 Year | \$49 | |

Canadian & International Member dues: 3 Years: \$169 2 Years: \$115 1 Year: \$59

Primary Member (please PRINT in blue or black ink)

Name _____ (Suffix Jr./Sr./II)

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Postal Code _____

Email Address _____

() Daytime Phone Is this (circle one): Home Work Cell

***Associate Member** Anyone 18+ years of age living in the Primary Member's residence. Associates receive all benefits of a Primary Member minus an additional subscription to The Star® and voting privileges.

Name _____ (Suffix Jr./Sr./II)

Email Address (if different than Primary Member's email) _____

() Daytime Phone Is this (circle one): Home Work Cell

Mercedes-Benz Vehicles You Currently Own/Lease (list years & models)

Payment Options

The MBCA has over 85 local Sections, or chapters, throughout North America. You will be assigned to a single Section according to your postal code **unless you request an alternate**, below. You may also join (up to) four additional Sections for \$15/year each. Visit www.mbc.org/local-clubs-sections or contact the National Business Office at **800.637.2360** for details.

Membership Fee \$ _____ + Additional Section Fee(s)* \$ _____ = Total Payment \$ _____
(Associate Member FREE) *\$15/year for each add'l Section you join

- Please auto-select my Section according to my postal code **OR**
 Please assign me to the following alternate Section _____
 Name(s) of add'l Section(s) I'd like to join _____
 My check or money order (in U.S. funds) is enclosed payable to "MBCA." Check # _____
 Charge my Visa MC Amex Discover

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ CV security code _____

Billing Address (if different from above) _____

Signature _____

Please Complete Reverse Side

mbca0112