



MBCA | SMOKY MOUNTAIN SECTION

# Newsletter

February 2015

## Valentine's Day Dinner

Saturday, February 14, 2015 4:30 pm

(Boarding starts at 3:30 pm)

Romance awaits aboard the Star of Knoxville Dinner Cruise February 14, 2015. If you miss this one, you may spend time in the dog house. Don't let this happen to you



This authentic paddle wheeler is United States Coast Guard approved for 235 passengers. The main deck seats 144 passengers and is fully enclosed, air conditioned, and heated for year round comfort. The vessel is equipped with two (2) bars, a dance floor, band stage, and is exquisitely decorated for the most elegant dinner and entertainment available.

### THE HISTORIC TENNESSEE RIVER

The Tennessee River is one of the most beautiful rivers you will ever cruise. While cruising, you will enjoy one of the most breathtaking views in Knoxville. Not only will you see some of the history of the river, you will most certainly be relaxed by the river's beauty.

### TENNESSEE RIVERBOAT STAFF

The riverboat is licensed by the United States Coast Guard and conforms to the rigid requirements for passenger safety. All their captains and deckhands are trained in firefighting, CPR and safety procedures. Our reservationist, sales staff, food and beverage staff and wait staff are fully trained in providing quality customer service.

(Check it out at [www.tnriverboat.com](http://www.tnriverboat.com))

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MARCH 21, 2015 SAINT PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH

PLACE: FLAHERTY'S IRISH PUB

TIME 12:30 PM

Tire Kicker & Lunch

### APRIL 18, 2015 TIRE KICKER

PLACE: TBD

TIME 12:30 PM

Tire Kicker.

### May 9, 2015 Mother's Day Dinner

Place: **McCloud Mountain**

TIME 5 PM

### May 16, 2015 Service Clinic at MBoK

PLACE: MERCEDES-BENZ OF KNOXVILLE

TIME 9 AM TO 12 NOON



## Reservation Form – Valentine’s Day Dinner Cruise

The dinner features their delicious Slow Roasted Prime Rib Buffet and Baked Breast of Chicken, Tossed Garden Salad, Baked Potato, Fresh Garden Vegetables, Green Beans, Fresh Baked Rolls, Coffee, Tea and a delicious dessert. A cash bar is available.

Price is \$40 per member – send your reservation and check to:

George Murphy  
233 Briarcliff Avenue  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

**RESERVATION FORM - MBCA SMOKY MOUNTAIN SECTION – Dinner Cruise**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

NO. IN PARTY (including guests) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$40.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

(Make check out to MBCA Smoky Mountain Section)



**Don't forget to patronize our advertisers**

### Advertising Rates – Newsletter – 6 issues

Our Smoky Mountain Section newsletter reaches about 150 Mercedes-Benz owners in East Tennessee from Chattanooga to the Tri-Cities. Send ad copy and check to: George Murphy at ([perfanalysis@comcast.net](mailto:perfanalysis@comcast.net)) or 233 Briarcliff Avenue, Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Full page – 8½ x 11	\$150
Quarter page – 4¼ x 5½	\$50
Half page – 8½ x 5½	\$100
Business card	\$25

**CLIMATE & CRUISE CONTROL**



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Heater blower motors 107 to 210 model.....	<b>\$449.00</b>
<b>NEW!</b> 107SL visor clips.....	<b>\$24.95 lpr</b>
<b>NEW!</b> 107 blower motors.....	<b>\$449.00</b>

**What's in your oil?**

Join M-B owners who monitor the condition of their cars with periodic engine oil analysis. Call or write for details of M-B engine oil survey

<b>Sampling Kit</b> w/prepaid analysis <b>\$14.95</b>	<b>3 Sampling Kits</b> <b>\$39.95</b>	<b>Topsider Oil Changer</b> <b>\$49.95</b>
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(Change oil through dipstick tube – no crawling under car)



**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS CO.**  
969 Oak Ridge Turnpike, PMB 258  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

865-482-9175 (V & Fax) MC/Visa  
www.perfanalysis.com Member MBCA  
[perfanalysis@comcast.net](mailto:perfanalysis@comcast.net)

## Tech Article - MERCEDES-BENZ IGNITION LOCKS

Mercedes-Benz ignition locks and keys used up through the 90's are among the best in the industry. They last a long time, are hard to pick, tough to crack and very difficult to drill out.

As good as these locks are, they do not age gracefully. Typically, they just fail and seemingly leave you stranded. This, however, is not always the case. These locks do provide ample warning of imminent failure. The unfortunate part is that the failure is imminent.

These locks provide a warning that many times goes unheeded. Owners think a little graphite or dry lube will fix the problem. They are surprised when it doesn't. There are three main parts to these locks. First is the lock cylinder that we see every time we insert the key. Second is the lock itself that is actuated by rotating the cylinder. Third is the "ignition" switch and yes, a diesel has a similar switch otherwise you would have to have a separate button for the starter like in the olden days.

Older MBs came new with keys made from hardened steel. After many years of use, the original key wears to the extent that the ignition lock cylinder no longer turns easily. Some owners then go to a local locksmith to have a new key made. Such keys are usually made of mild (soft) steel or brass, not Laser cut from hardened steel as MB original keys. Such "soft" keys may work the cylinder smoothly at first, but after a short time, particles of metal flake off the soft metal and eventually cause jamming of the tumblers inside the cylinder. When this happens, the cylinder can no longer be turned and the car cannot be started.

The only way the cylinder can be removed for replacement is to move the lock to Position 1 (the first detent) and use a tool to remove the cylinder. If the cylinder cannot be turned to position 1 to allow removal of the cylinder, the cylinder must be drilled out at great expense and possible damage to the steering lock mechanism.

The procedure for removing the cylinder is contained in the CD/DVD for your model MB – call 800-367-6372 to order yours.

Problems with these locks manifest themselves in dollar costs starting at less than \$20 for a new key followed by \$50 or so for a new cylinder plus \$100 or so for installation, up to \$1,500 when you simply refuse to believe you are going to have to spend a couple hundred bucks to have that cylinder changed.

One of the first things to wear is the key itself. You notice the wear so you take your key someplace and have a duplicate made. What did you just do? You duplicated an old worn out key. Now you have a brand new worn out key. Instead you should bite the bullet and buy a key from the dealer. He doesn't make them in the back room. Someone else in the Mercedes-Benz supply chain does.

The next serious issue is when the cylinder sticks, won't turn without jiggling or requires repeated attempts to turn it. This is the point where owners lose the most money. DO NOT TURN OFF THE IGNITION; it's going to cost you a lot of money. You may turn it to any position except "O." If you have the instructions and the tool, you can remove the cylinder. While waiting for the new one you order from the dealer, you can drive the car like you stole it. In place of the cylinder and key, just use a large screwdriver.

The final most serious issue is when the lock itself goes bad. It will not want to turn properly even with a new key and cylinder. If you can get the key in and out and the cylinder to turn you should be able to replace the whole lock mechanism. If all three are in their worst condition and you are not lucky enough to win the lottery on demand, break open the piggy bank. It's going to cost you.

If you are having trouble with your ignition lock, inspect the key. If it looks ratty get a new one from the dealer. They can order it by VIN. If your ignition key is different from your doors and trunk, order the correct cylinder AND key from your dealer.

If after the above repair, you are not comfortable with the way the assembly is working, put in a new lock. That is the one that cost a lot to do if you can't get past the first and second stages.

In the case of the newer electronic ignition keys, if a new battery in the key does not work, time to call an expert in making new electronic keys for Mercedes-Benz and many other makes. Contact Jeremy Arnwine at [Jeremy@dealerkeys.com](mailto:Jeremy@dealerkeys.com) or [www.dealerkeys.com](http://www.dealerkeys.com).

Submitted by anonymous

Edited by MBCA Technical Director



## MBCA | SMOKY MOUNTAIN SECTION



# February 2015 Newsletter

### Section Contacts

**President** Bill Lenihan  
[wlenihan@comcast.net](mailto:wlenihan@comcast.net)  
865-482-7325

**Vice-President** George Murphy  
[perfanalysis@comcast.net](mailto:perfanalysis@comcast.net)  
865-482-9175

**Secretary** Al Alvarez  
[freedr2003@yahoo.com](mailto:freedr2003@yahoo.com)  
248-496-8796

**Treasurer** Gerald Poats  
[gdpoats1930@hotmail.com](mailto:gdpoats1930@hotmail.com)  
423-507-7312

**Technical Help** George Murphy  
[perfanalysis@comcast.net](mailto:perfanalysis@comcast.net)  
865-482-9175

**Membership Chairman** Melinda Fellers  
[malindafellers@gmail.com](mailto:malindafellers@gmail.com)  
865-693-7358

**Past President** Tony Moore  
[tonynkaren@aaahawk.com](mailto:tonynkaren@aaahawk.com)  
865-945-3888

**Web Master/Newsletter Editor**  
Position available

**About the Newsletter**

The Smoky Mountain Section, Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc. publishes this quarterly newsletter. Opinions expressed are those of the authors. Express permission is hereby given to other Sections of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America to reprint articles contained herein, except as noted. Articles should be mailed to the Editor, 233 Briarcliff Avenue, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. Copy deadline is the 15th of odd-numbered months.

### An Overview of the Club

Established in 1956, MBCA has more than 20,000 members in over 80 Sections across the nation. These local Sections organize hundreds of events each year, ranging from social gatherings to specialized technical sessions. MBCA is a non-profit organization.

**Join the Club** Call 800/637-2360  
One year \$49  
Two years \$95  
Three years \$139

**Moving?** Send address change to  
[www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org)

### Local Activities

Your dues include membership in the

Section of your choice. Each Section publishes a newsletter with news of its activities and their year-round calendar of events, including rallies defensive driving courses, car shows, and dinner meetings. Many Sections host special events such as StarTech, our national technical meeting and StarFest, our National Convention. Any MBCA member may attend any Section, Regional or National event.

Web site

[www.mbca.org/smokymountain](http://www.mbca.org/smokymountain)

### The STAR

A subscription The STAR, MBCA's award-winning national magazine is included with your membership. Each issue includes technical information, a historic feature car in color, and the latest news from Daimler-Benz and MBUSA, articles on restoration, new car road tests, and advertisements from companies providing products and services for your car, plus free classified ads to member

