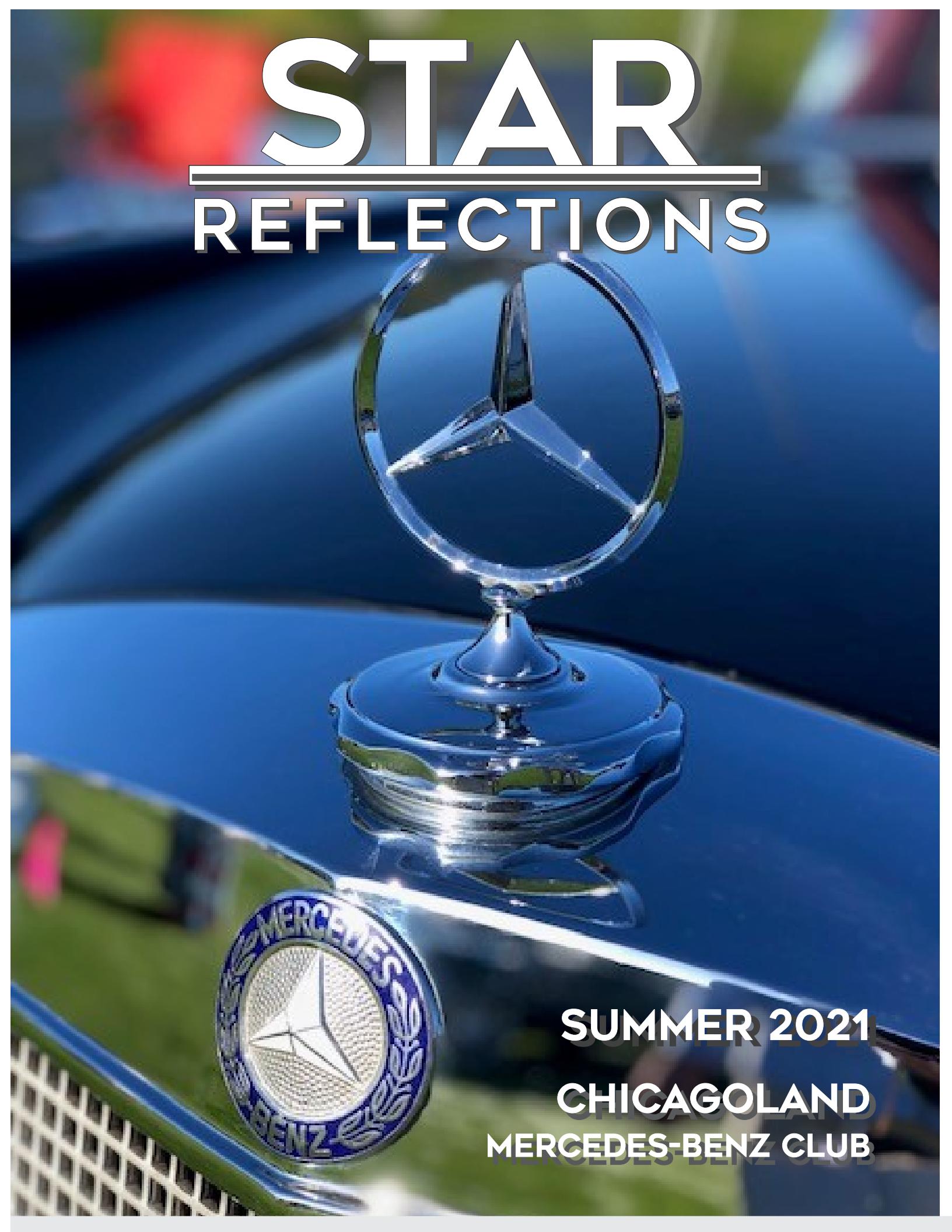


STAR

REFLECTIONS

A close-up photograph of a Mercedes-Benz hood ornament and front grille badge. The hood ornament is a polished chrome star mounted on a curved base. Below it, the front grille features a circular badge with the Mercedes-Benz logo and the words "MERCEDES-BENZ". The background is a blurred blue surface, likely the hood of a car.

SUMMER 2021
CHICAGOLAND
MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings, fellow Mercedes Benz Club of America Chicago section members!

Recently our President, Ed Matushek, passed away and I've moved from Vice President to President to take over the remainder of the term. You can reach me directly at gretaglimm@yahoo.com and if we've not yet met I look forward to doing so soon.

Speaking of meeting soon, we have some fantastic events coming up in MI in July, Geneva, IL in August and others for fall and later this year. It was such a pleasure to kick off the summer season at the coffee & cars meet we had at Montrose Beach here in Chicago in May. I am a Chicagoan myself, having moved here from the suburbs about 20 years back, and I am always thankful for an excuse to spend time at Lake Michigan with great people. I'm also fond of any excuse for a convertible drive too!

To our new members - thank you for joining us and to our existing members, thank you for staying with us! We're very interested in welcoming folks to join us and are driving more of a social media presence. If you're interested in supporting this please let me know and while you're at it, please give our page a like on Facebook too. You can find us at Mercedes-Benz Club Chicagoland.

I truly hope everyone is staying safe and healthy and ready to enjoy our upcoming events now that in person events are confirmed. I welcome feedback for additional events this year and next and hope to see many of you in August in Geneva (I won't be able to attend our MI event next month).

Happy driving!
Greta Glimm

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Deutsche Marques Car Show at the Gilmore Auto Museum**
July 10, Contact Chet Szerlag (ctszerlag@aol.com)
- **Geneva Concours d'Elegance 2021, Downtown Geneva, IL**
August 22, Contact Ralph Sikorski (rsikr@hotmail.com)
- **Fall Driving Tour to Kentucky/Bourbon Trail/Thoroughbred Heritage Horse Farms**
October 9-10, Contact Ron Roush (ron.roush@comcast.net)

For an updated list of events please visit
www.Chicagoland.MBCA.org/section-upcoming-events

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



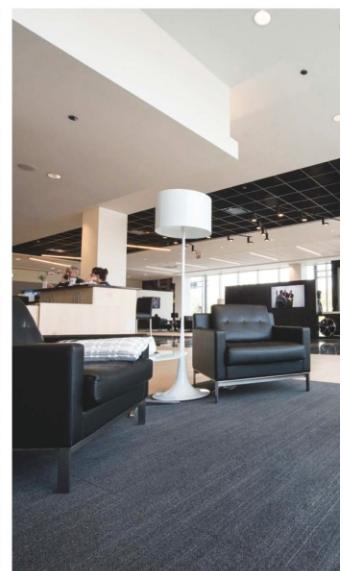
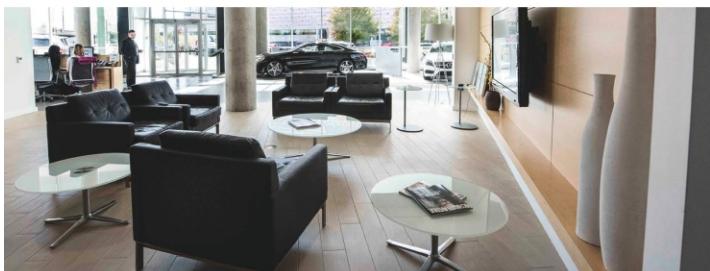
We welcome the new members to the Chicagoland Mercedes-Benz Club. Our club is a group of drivers united by our passion for highly engineered, elegantly designed, safe, luxuriously appointed automobiles. And because they are Mercedes we also share the practice of parking at the far end of the parking lot and paying a disproportionate amount of our budget for maintaining the experience. For us, getting there is way more than half the fun. Our club enjoys road trips, dinners, tours, car shows and importantly fellowship with each other.

We welcome you to the Club!

Jennifer Anaya	Henry Konkel
Saurabh Agarwal	Zachary Lawrence
Adrian Barber	Eric Lin
Morgan Battley	Shao-Lee Lin
David Benck	Alyce Miller
Harold Bentley	Karen Morava
Michael Bondi	Diana Pulvirenti
Mariola Bourtseva	Manni Rallo
Emily Bourdet	Tom Seeberg
Michael Broton	Mary Shannon
William Brown	Neil Shelton
Anthony Browning	Trent Steed
James Capparelli	Edward Sterba
Steve Cliff	David Stock
Steven Cohn	Kent Tinucci
Matt Degnan	Arthur Tokarczyk
Emily Destefano	Jeremy Weiland
Matthew Fiascone	Kathy Wereszczynska
Mike Florek	
Dolores Foreman	
Nicholas Gough	
Bradley Howard	
Chris Hupke	
Donald Kindwald	
Jessica Knight-Baker	

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CLUB EVENTS

A visit to the Knauz Collection

On April 24 our club was able to view automobiles owned by one of the Mid-West's automobile legends. Bill Knauz graciously opened the doors of his collection of historically significant and storied Mercedes Benzes. Over 60 Chicagoland club members attended and we were fortunate to mingle with some of the members of the Wisconsin club who were able make the drive.

History came alive as Mr. Knauz travelled from car to car and shared stories about the vehicle and the era it was manufactured. His friendship with the late Max Hoffman meant that we were able to learn facts that few know about the start of Mercedes coming to America.

This was the first in-person Club gathering since 2019 and it felt good to see our fellow club members and their cars in real life and not on a screen.





Annual Montrose Harbor Benz and Breakfast Event.

The third club event of the season and the second in person event was the Benz and Breakfast event at Chicago's picturesque Montrose Harbor. Hosted by Ralph Sikorski, the sunny day and the backdrop of boats and Lake Michigan helped set the stage for a great event. Over 45 members attended the event and displayed over 33 cars.





GLE or X5?

By Alex Schultdt

Mercedes-Benz has offered a mid-sized SUV for over 20 years now with originally the ML and--since 2016--the GLE. Over that period they have only improved and pushed the standards for what is to be expected in any new two or three row SUV



on the market. Presently the GLE faces competition from about 25 luxury mid-sized SUVs. Everyone from Hyundai to Tesla are aiming for Mercedes' customers. Mercedes has made it harder to choose the GLE by also offering the GLB, GLC, E-Class All-Terrain and GLS.

That said, there is one competitor that the ML/GLE has faced for nearly all of its 23 year lifespan. And that is the BMW X5. What I am going to do is compare the two together to find a clear winner.

In terms of powertrain options these two family utilities are evenly matched.

Although there is no 4 cylinder X5 to compete with a GLE 350, shoppers will find that the combined city/highway MPG for both SUVs is 23. For that fuel economy shoppers of the GLE will also get 27 more horsepower. Buyers can't get a dedicated plug-in hybrid GLE, but if you opt for a GLE 450 or GLE 580 (I6 and V8 options) you will get the same 48 volt mild hybrid system found across most of the Mercedes lineup. In the BMW you can get a plug-in

hybrid powertrain (XDrive45e) as well as a 48 volt battery on the I6 SUV (xDrive40i). For those looking for a V8 the closest comparison to a GLE 580 is the BMW M50i.

Mercedes' sub brand AMG is comparable to BMW M Division. The AMG GLE 53 offers an inline 6 with 429 horsepower. Although this is nearly 100 fewer horses than the BMW X5 M50i, the AMG is \$10,450 less expensive. Both Mercedes and BMW will sell you bonkers 600+ horsepower SUVs. These are the GLE 63s and the X5 M. Who needs over 600 horsepower? Truthfully nobody does; but it makes for a lot of fun embarrassing a Ferrari at the stop light! I will let you in on a little secret: if you like the look of the powerful versions but don't need all the power, or the premium price, Mercedes and BMW will sell you AMG and M appearance packages respectfully.

Now let's talk about stats you'll encounter on a regular basis. With all the seats in the upright position both SUVs have over 33 cubic feet of storage. If you plan to pull a trailer the Mercedes can tow an impressive 7700 pounds but the BMW only 7200. Both of the SUVs are 194 inches in length and around 70 inches tall. The Bimmer is two inches wider than the Benz.

Both vehicles can be ordered with leather and wood interior trim and optional massaging seats. Both feature a lengthy list of options that never cease to bring oohs and aahs from your neighbors. The GLE has superior legroom with 40 inches in both the front and back. (BMW comes in at 39 front and 37 rear)

The previous buyers of E Class and 5 Series sports sedans can now opt for more utility and not have to compromise on handling and performance. Both Utes are packed with technology to wow the savviest of

buyers. The factory warranties are nearly identical too.

In my opinion the GLE is a clear winner when you consider that in each category it is just a little better. The Merc is a little bigger inside, a little more powerful, a newer design, the materials have a little higher end feel, etc. And this all adds up to a much better choice with the GLE.

Alex Schultdt is a freelance automotive journalist based in the Chicago area.

Of Special Note:

- Both SUVs come in Coupe like form (GLE Coupe and X6)
- Special thanks to Edmunds.com for reliable and useful stats

Stay tuned for a comparison between the Mercedes-AMG GT and Porsche 911!



BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

Getting to Know: Chet Szerlag



Automotive enthusiast and Chicagoland Mercedes-Benz Club board member Chester "Chet" Szerlag is a native of Detroit. That is Motor City for those like him who came of age during the muscle car era. His interest in all things automotive started early in life. In driver's ed he learned how to drive on a red V8-powered 1964 Ford Galaxie 500 convertible.

Chet converted his earnings from his paper route into a subscription to Road & Track Magazine. It was in the pages of R&T that he was introduced to the special world of European cars. Chet was and still is especially fond of German automotive engineering. Over his life has owned a wide variety of Porsche, Volkswagen, BMW, and now Mercedes-Benz automobiles.

Career wise Chet has focused on academic medicine administration. This involves managing hospital operations, medical group practice, graduate medical education, and research grants for radiologic services. He began his career as a special accounts manager at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan where he also met his wife Judy.

Then, in 1980 he was recruited to join University of Chicago Medicine where he served for 32 years as Executive Director for diagnostic imaging and radiation oncology. He then acted in an executive role at the University of Illinois College of Medicine. before joining Weill Cornell Medicine His latest position was serving in New York City at Weill Cornell Medicine as the chief administrative officer for Radiation Oncology services.

After a forty year career retirement finally came in 2019 and he returned to his home in Woodridge.



Within the Mercedes range he is especially interested in the AMG versions. His first AMG was a 2004 supercharged E55.

He also likes the styling and performance of the R230 SL series, and acquired a 2007 Anniversary Edition SL550; a model that celebrated the 50th anniversary of the iconic 300

SL roadster. Parked next to his '07 SL is a 2009 SL 63 AMG which, in Chet's words, "transforms SL performance to a higher level with its naturally aspirated V8 pumping out 518 hp."

Chet has been a member of the MBCA since 2003. In addition to driving, another aspect he enjoys about being in the enthusiast community is sharing the experience with like-minded folks, and enjoying automotive events and get togethers. Memorable Club events he has attended include annual events such as Amelia Island (where he met Sir Stirling Moss), MBCA event at Hilton Head Concours, as well as the group tour of the Mercedes and AMG factory complexes in Stuttgart.

Currently Chet is organizing the upcoming Deutsches Marques event in Kalamazoo. He also plans on joining the club members at the Geneva IL Concours in August.



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HIDDEN TREASURES

Tomorrow's Classics - The S-Class from the 1990's

By Spencer Giardini



The W140 may be one of the most underappreciated S-classes of our time, but also one of the best generations. With late year W126 sedans reaching as high as \$50,000, similar low-mile W140s are less than half that. It is possible that the W140 is the most over-engineered, highest quality, and best driving S-class of all time.

The 1991-1999 flagship sedan featured many firsts, such as double-paned soundproof glass, power rear view mirror tied to the seat memory settings, and 4-zone automatic climate control. Save for the 92-

96 wiring harness issue, and expensive A/C repairs the W140 was also very reliable when maintained. All engines ranging from the straight Six to the 6.0L M120 V12 are fairly robust.

The high level of insulation, complex suspension, and powerful powertrains all added up for an excellent driving experience. Late model W140s like this S420 can be a great way to get into a classic S-Class without breaking the bank.

--Spencer Giardini (815-980-5932) is Co-Founder of Geneva Motorcars LLC, A premium auto dealership that specializes in offering exceptional pre-driven European cars; mostly with low mileage.



AT YOUR SERVICE

Service Profile:

Ron Neal,

Service Director at Mercedes-Benz of St. Charles

A thriving dealership in the western suburbs of Chicago is Mercedes-Benz of St. Charles. One of the reasons this dealership has a great reputation is because of how they treat their service customers. The man at the heart of their service department is Ron Neal, the Service Director.

Ron's automotive career began when he started at Mercedes Benz of Orland Park at the age of 18. Later he served Chrysler Jeep Dodge for 15 years, worked at Lamborghini for 5 years and then went back to Chrysler for several years. These years prepared Ron for his latest chapter in life and he is in a way back home as he serves at Mercedes-Benz of St. Charles. He operated for three years as a service advisor before becoming the Service Director.

There is a special comradery amongst the staff at MB St. Charles and one reason for this is that there is very little employee turnover. Perhaps another reason for the distinctive culture is because the dealership is family-owned. Mr. Neal feels MB of St. Charles is special because the owners and CEO have a strong loyalty to their employees.

Mercedes of St. Charles has a great mix of technicians on their team. Some specialize in older models and some specialize in newer models. Of particular note is their expertise with AMG models. The reputation for the meticulous care, proficiency and expertise (their techs have an average of 20 years of experience) of their service team is one reason many of their customers drive a long distance to have their cars serviced in St. Charles.

Ron and his wife Lynn have two boys Arron and Aidan. When not at the dealership Ron can be found enjoying the outdoors with his family. He can also be found driving his 2010 E550. His favorite Benz? He would love to find a nice E63.





In Memory

Edward J. Matushek III

1954-2021

We remember the passing of Edward Matushek, the Chicagoland Mercedes-Benz Club's most recent president. He and his wife Alisa were married for over 40 years. He was an attorney by profession. Ed served the club in many capacities including most recently as president.



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