



Carolinas

President's Message



Jane Martinez, President
MBCA Carolinas Section

I sincerely hope this finds you safe and healthy. The past three months have been some of the more difficult times we have had to endure. We have been forced to slow down and look for gratitude and appreciation in almost anything we do. We are also reminded of what is important to us in our life – a visit with family, a friend’s birthday celebration, and of course, conversations with our members and guests.

I am ready to move forward and take with me what I have learned from all of this: *Never take for granted the simplest things in life.*

And speaking of simple things, how many of you actually were excited and enjoyed your first haircut? I hope you look forward to our upcoming events with as much excitement and anticipation. I can’t wait to drive our Mercedes and explore some new areas of our Section. But I will have to have a little more patience before seeing everyone at an event.

The July event has been cancelled due to the continued restrictions in Asheville. But we have added a ZOOM event about the W124 and W210 E-Class cars on August 1st. I will keep monitoring the scheduled car shows and other upcoming events. Remember our grand finale for the year will be the [Holiday Party at the Willcox Inn](#) in Aiken, South Carolina. Check out the [Events](#) on page 8 for the dates, details and registration information.

Each of our members in the Carolina Section will be invited to a virtual Eastern Region Live Town Hall Meeting using Zoom on Wednesday, July 15 at 7 pm with

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President's Message (continued)

our National President, Julie Bruggner. She will be discussing the decision by the National Board to develop a Strategic Plan for the future of MBCA and what it means to our members.

I am happy to announce that [Bruce Wood](#) is our new Ambassador for the Hilton Head area, including Bluffton and Beaufort. He will be planning some local events in the HH/Bluffton/Beaufort area. You can find his contact information on page 22.

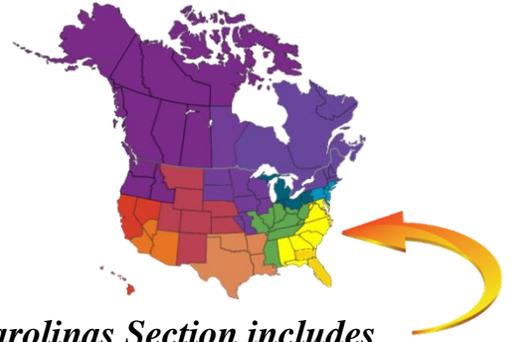
Have you checked out our new [Facebook page for the Carolinas Section](#)? Let Frank Towson, Social Media Director and a member of our Board of Directors, know you have looked at it and “Like” it!

With our new Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws approved, our current officers' terms will end on September 30. Look for the article on page 26 for more [information about the upcoming election](#).

The board is already working on the events for 2021 and we hope to have a FUN year ahead with lots of events and surprises!

While this has been an extremely hard time for all of us, the Board is grateful for your continued support of our Section. Hope to see you soon! And stay well!!

**Jane Martinez, President
MBCA Carolinas Section**



The Carolinas Section includes Asheville & Charlotte, NC, Hilton Head, Charleston, Myrtle Beach, Columbia & Aiken, SC and surrounding areas

A duck walks in ... 🤔

A duck walks into a Mercedes dealership and starts looking at cars. A salesperson approaches and says, “Can I help you, sir?” The duck says “Yes, I’m looking for a comfortable, yet fast car. Don’t worry” says the duck. “I have a well-paid job, and I can afford a Mercedes-Benz.”

After some time, the duck chooses a car and they retire to the salesman’s office to make the purchase. While the salesman completes the paperwork, the duck produces a large bag and places it on the desk. The salesman looks inside the bag and sees it’s full of feathers.

“What’s this?” asks the salesman. The duck says, “It’s a down payment.”

Carolinas Section has a new Facebook page!

Frank Towson, the new Social Media Director and a member of our Board of Directors, has done a great job of setting up a new Facebook page for our Section. You can look for Carolinas Section – Mercedes-Benz Club of America on the Facebook site or click this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/carolinasmca/>

Frank will continue to add items, as well as our upcoming events, to the page. Feel free to “like” the page and post your own comments and pictures. If you are having any issues with the site, or have suggestions, send him a message.

Welcome New Members

We are pleased to welcome these new MBCA Carolinas Section members. See how you can order a personalized MCBA name badge on the following page.

NEW MEMBERS ... April 1 thru June 30, 2020

Gary Andaas.....	Cornelius, NC
Dale Armbrister	Greenville, SC
Chris Black.....	Johns Island, SC
Dianne Carpenter & Richard Halliwill	Spindale, NC
Klaas Van Esselstyn.....	Beaufort, SC
Charles Gouch.....	Greenville, SC
John Mark & Gina Keith	Ridgeland, SC
Paul Manley	Charlotte, NC
Robert Mazzio	Asheville, NC
Jaime Pando	Myrtle Beach, SC
David & Cynthia Rich	Okatie, SC

TRANSFERS ... From Other Sections April 1 thru June 30, 2020

Transferred From:

Glenn Link	Carolinas	Peachtree
Cyrus Merritt.....	Carolinas	Lone Star
Moses Pettigrew.....	Carolinas	Greater Washington
Mark Scire.....	Carolinas	Greater Washington

And thank you for your renewals to all 357 current Carolinas Section memberships!

Welcome New Members (continued)

Some people join for the dealership discounts, some join for socializing with other Mercedes owners, and some want access to The Star magazine. We find that those who attend local events are most likely to attend more events and get the most enjoyment out of the Club.

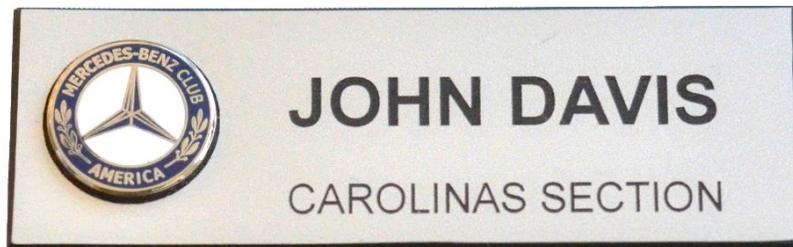
New members should also try to spend a little time on the extensive National MBCA website, www.MBCA.org. For starters check out the many benefits under [Membership](#). Then check out all the information under [Communities](#). All our past local [Newsletters](#) and upcoming events are located in the [Carolinas Section](#). It is also a good place to learn about [technical issues](#) and to ask questions about your car.

[Login for Communities is simple](#): Enter your e-mail address and whatever password you select. Once you login your profile will come up. Verify your personal information. Is it all correct? Is your associate member listed? Is your car(s) listed? Simple to correct them right there. Note that for security reasons none of your information is stored locally. So again, welcome to MBCA and the Carolinas Section. Do not hesitate to contact any of the Officers for assistance.

How to Get MBCA Name Badges ... Just \$13 Each

Click this link to order your name badge ... <https://www.mbca.org/name-badge>

Name badges are available from the MBCA Club Store in two types of backing (magnetic or safety pin) and can be ordered in blue, silver or gold. Costs range from \$13.00 for two lines to \$14.00 for three lines (25 characters maximum per line) and includes mailing costs.



You may also order through the MBCA website by going to www.mbca.org. From there, you must then log into your account. After logging in, choose **Store** from the main menu, choose **MBCA Event Equipment Store** from the next window, scroll down to **Name Badge** and make your selection. Perfect for socializing at MBCA events!!!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

All events listed are subject to change or cancellation – as you all know by now.

SATURDAY, JULY 18 ■ Pre-Concours Detailing Clinic at Mercedes-Benz – Athens – *Sponsored by the Peachtree Section*

The clinic will teach you some of secrets of detailing as you prep your car for the “big show”. We’ll focus on getting your car ready from the outside to the inside. The organizers, both master detailers, will share what they carry in their detailing kits and will share some tricks they’ve learned over the years.

The clinic will be held at Mercedes-Benz of Athens 1886 Luxury Dr, Watkinsville/Athens, GA 30677 on Saturday, July 18th beginning at 3:00 p.m. (please plan to arrive 15 minutes early) in the service area. We will be doing a classroom presentation from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. After which we will be doing some on-car detailing demonstrations. Please make sure your car has been washed in case we choose it for a demonstration. There is no need to bring your detailing supplies. The session will conclude around 5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

Registration is \$10.00 per person. Register early as participation is limited to 25 people and all participants must practice social distancing during the event by wearing masks and staying 6 feet apart.

Register Here: [Concours Detailing Clinic](#)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1 ■ Free ZOOM Event: W124 and W210 E-Class Cars: Two ‘Young-timer’ Classics Worth a Second Look - Sponsored by the Carolinas Section (Event planner: Frank Towson)

Please join the Carolinas Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America at 1:00 PM (EST) on Saturday, August 1, 2020 for our first-ever virtual event. The presentation, entitled, “The W124 and W210 E-Class Cars: Two ‘Young-timer’ Classics Worth a Second Look,” will provide information about the history and design of these vehicles and knowledge about owning them. Our board member, Frank Towson, will give the presentation using Zoom on the W124 and W210 E-Class cars, which were produced from 1985 to 1995, and 1996 to 2002 respectively.

This presentation will cover the coveted 500E of the W124 chassis, the underappreciated E55 AMG of the W210 chassis, and all of the other models in between. All members should walk

Calendar of Upcoming Events (continued)

away with a greater appreciation of these vehicles, and a better understanding of what to look for when purchasing one.

Use this [MotorSportsReg link](#) to register for this event on or before **Thursday, July 30, 2020**. There will be no cost for members to attend. All attendees should make sure that they have the Zoom app downloaded on their computer or mobile device before attempting to enter the Zoom meeting.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22 ■ Shelton Vineyards Car Show – *Sponsored by the Tarheel Section*

This event it still on – as long as NC goes to Phase III at that time! Always a crowd-pleaser and well attended. Additional events may be available on Friday for attendees to make a weekend in the wine country. Sponsored by the Tarheel Section in conjunction with Triangle Section and Carolinas Section. Look forward to hearing more in the August E-CARS!

SEPTEMBER 4-6 ■ Sandhills Motoring Festival in Pinehurst, NC - *Sponsored by the Triangle Section*

This will be a fun-filled weekend! Something for everyone! In addition to the Friday night BBQ, Road Rally and Concours Car Show at the Sandhills Motoring Festival, the Triangle Section has arranged for tours of the SLR Automotive Restoration, a tour of the Sandhills Horse Country and Equestrian demonstration, and a backroads drive to Seagrove, NC to tour the Ben Owens studio and visit other pottery studios. MBCA members will also gather at the Ironwood Café on Saturday night for dinner. To get more information and register for the **Sandhills Motoring Festival**, click on this link: [motorsports/Sandhills](#). For **MBCA activities**, click on this link for more information and to register: [motorsports/MBCASMF](#).

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 ■ Rally in Aiken SC with awards at lunch *Co-sponsored by Carolinas Section and Peachtree Section* (Event planners: Bill & Kathy Kraeling)

The Carolinas Section will be hosting a Fun Rally in and around the Aiken, SC area. All MBCA members are invited to attend. This event will provide the opportunity for all of us to enjoy our Mercedes and comply with CDC COVID-19 guidelines. The majority of the time will be spent inside your car with your navigator.

Using easy to follow directions, participants will be directed over city and country roads (all paved). There will be a series of challenging questions that can be answered only by observing clues on the way. You will not need to leave your car. This is not a race. Participants will be judged on their ability to follow simple directions accurately and to answer the questions correctly.

Calendar of Upcoming Events (continued)

Cars will be dispatched from the Aiken Visitors Center located at 406 Park Ave SE in Aiken at 5 to 10 minute intervals. While waiting to be dispatched, the Visitor's Center offers information on Aiken history including elaborate model railroad layouts. The first car will leave at 9:00 AM and last car will leave around 11:00 AM. You will be given a departure time with additional information prior to the event date. A waiver will be required to be signed prior to your departure from the visitor's center for the drive.

The rally will terminate with lunch and all teams will arrive by 1:00 PM for lunch and awards. Lunch will be at the Woodside Reserve Country Club on the veranda. The club will comply with social distancing and all the staff will be wearing masks. All participants will have their temperatures taken upon entering the club. The event should be completed by 3:00 PM.

Entry fee will be \$60 per car and will include the rally information and awards, as well as lunch, tax and gratuity for two individuals. Please register for this event at the [MotorSportsReg link](#). Registration ends on Friday, September 18, 2020.

Those desiring an overnight stay before the rally can stay at one of the hotels listed below. Participants are encouraged to come early to enjoy the many unique shops and restaurants in Aiken.

Hotels:

- The Willcox <https://thewillcox.com/> 100 Colleton SW, Aiken, SC (803) 648-1898
- Carriage House <https://www.aikencarriagehouse.com> 139 Laurens NW, Aikens, SC (803) 644-5888

OCTOBER TBD ■ Pop and Picnic Sponsored by the Carolinas Section (Event planner: David Thorne)

This event will be a drive to a picnic area, pop your hood, and eat, drink and be merry. Bring a picnic lunch, chairs, blankets, and whatever else you need to enjoy the outdoors and the Mercedes cars that we own. More details will be given at a later date.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6 and SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 ■ Cars on Kiawah in Kiawah Island, SC (Happy Hour planner: Michele Stine)

We will start off the weekend with a happy hour on Friday night to mix and mingle with our Section members. Additional information on this gathering will be provided at a later date.

On Saturday, November 7 the show opens to the public at 10 am and concludes at 3 p.m. It is a large showcase with over 250 exhibiting automobiles and 3,500+ spectators. They have

Calendar of Upcoming Events (continued)

bathrooms onsite, great food and drink options, and wonderful vendors to peruse. A laid-back awards ceremony takes place at 2 p.m.

They do have a few openings for some “special cars” and “cars with unusual histories.” If your Mercedes (or any other car you own) fits either of these categories, please contact Irene at irenebreland@comcast.net or Bruce at bstemerman@gmail.com. The Car Showcase is considering re-opening registrations in July, so if someone is interested, please check the website (www.carsonkiawah.com) for further information.

DECEMBER 4-6 ■ Holiday Party at the Willcox Inn in Aiken, NC *Sponsored by the Carolinas Section* (Event planner: Rugby Hodgkins Jr. and committee)

We will end the year with a weekend in magical Aiken at the Willcox Inn. Rugby and his committee are looking at possible event(s) on Friday and/or Saturday with the annual Holiday dinner at the Willcox Inn on Saturday night. It should be a wonderful event to end our extremely challenging year.

Your Board is currently working on events for 2021. We are hoping to make up for all of the lost time during 2020, and provide some FUN events in various locations in our area.

We are especially excited about the NEW National MBCA Event that will be held in Hilton Head Island, SC from Wednesday, November 3, 2021 ending on Sunday, November 7, 2021 with the Hilton Head Island Concours d’Elegance and Motoring Festival. It will be a time to celebrate and have FUN! Tech Sessions, Area Drives, Car Shows, and Social Gatherings!

Mercedes Freude - The Joy of Everything Mercedes

We hope you will be able to join us!

The following events have been cancelled. Please look at future newsletters and E-CARS for updates on all events in our surrounding area.

CANCELLED: ~~JULY 25~~ ■ Asheville Event at Grovewood Village

CANCELLED: ~~AUGUST 14-16~~ ■ Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance in Monterey, California

CANCELLED: ~~AUGUST 28-30~~ ■ Weekend Fling in Savannah – Sponsored by the Peachtree Section

CANCELLED: ~~SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17~~ ■ Eurofest Car Show in Greenville, SC

CANCELLED: ~~OCTOBER 30 – NOVEMBER 1~~ ■ Hilton Head Concours

Calendar of Upcoming Events (continued)

Most of the events on the preceding pages have links to websites that enable you to register online. For those of you who prefer to register via US Mail, you can complete the form below.

IF YOU PREFER TO REGISTER AND SEND A CHECK FOR ANY *CAROLINAS SECTION* EVENT PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND MAIL BEFORE DEADLINE OR AT LEAST TWO (2) WEEKS EARLIER THAN EVENT DATE TO:

Steve Lawson, 511 South York Street, Gastonia, NC 28052

Make check payable to **MBCA - Carolinas Section**

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR EACH EVENT

Event Name _____

Names of members attending: _____

Names of guests attending: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail: _____

Number attending _____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____

Additional information _____

NOTE:

THIS FORM CAN ONLY BE USED FOR CAROLINAS SECTION EVENTS. EVENTS HOSTED BY OTHER MBCA SECTIONS MUST REGISTER FOR THEIR EVENTS PER THEIR REQUIREMENTS.



Mercedes in Miniature (Take 2) – Frank Towson

Your Guide to the Scale Model World of Mercedes-Benz

In this column in our section newsletter, I will provide you with information about Mercedes-Benz model cars and toys. I have been an avid collector of model cars for many years now, and I am certifiably “car crazy.” Although I collect model cars of all makes, Mercedes-Benz models now outnumber other makes in my collection.

The car that we will be discussing in this column is a 1:18 scale model of a 1970 Mercedes-Benz C111, as shown in the accompanying photos.



1:18 scale model of a 1970 Mercedes-Benz C111 and the real thing in the Mercedes-Benz Museum in Stuttgart, Germany

Mercedes in Miniature (continued)

The C111 was a series of experimental cars developed by Mercedes-Benz beginning in 1969. Designed by the well-renowned head of Mercedes-Benz design, Bruno Sacco, the C111 featured a sleek body shell with gullwing doors. The body of the C111 was “fiberglass-reinforced plastic that was riveted and glued to a steel frame floor,” according to *Mercedes-Benz Classic*. All C111s were mid-engine cars where the engine was mounted behind the passenger compartment.

The 1970 C111 had a more powerful mid-mounted four-rotor Wankel rotary engine producing 350 horsepower. Mercedes would later test the C111 with a turbo-charged three-liter, five-cylinder turbocharged diesel engine that produced 190 horsepower. Mercedes-Benz also experimented with a V8 engine in the C111.

Mercedes-Benz produced a total of 16 examples of the C111 at its Untertürkheim facility, but none were ever sold to the public despite the fact that several prospective buyers offered Mercedes-Benz blank checks for the chance to own one of these cars. Mercedes decided that the car did not meet its standards of quality in 1970 due to issues with the reliability of the rotary engine.

Although many motoring enthusiasts were disappointed that Mercedes-Benz did not sell the C111 to the public, the dream lives on in this faithfully-recreated model that we will examine today. This replica of the 1970 C111-II is rendered in 1:18 scale, and it measures around nine inches long by four inches wide. It is of course presented in the bold metallic orange of the original, with a two-tone black and white interior. The recesses in the hood are painted satin black like the actual car.

This model is made from cast resin, which is becoming a more popular medium for model cars in today’s market. To make resin model cars, companies typically produce soft rubber molds that the resin is then poured into. Like diecast model cars, resin model cars also have many plastic pieces to make up all of the detailed parts and pieces, such as side mirrors and windows.

In my opinion, resin cars have a deeper, richer, and glossier paint finish when compared with most diecast cars. Their overall level of detail appears crisper and more accurate as well. Because of how resin cars are made, they lack all of the functional details of diecast model cars however. This means that resin cars do not have opening doors or a functional hood or trunk. As a result, there is no scale engine or mechanical detail in resin model cars when compared with their diecast counterparts.

Resin cars are sometimes known as “curbside” models in the industry because they give you the impression of seeing a car from a distance, rather than a car that you could get in and “drive,” so to speak.

The market for resin cars has gotten larger over the last several years, and they have become very appealing to collectors because manufacturers often make them in small batches. These small production runs create limited-edition, numbered vehicles that are very desirable among discerning collectors.

Mercedes in Miniature (continued)

This particular model was made by a company called *Best of Show*, or BoS Models as they are often known. BoS is a German company that was founded in 2012 that makes resin models of a wide variety of unusual cars and trucks. BoS Models offers 1:18 scale replicas of cars like the Studebaker GT Hawk, our Mercedes C111 here, and many other rare and unusual European and American classics. BoS also offers models in smaller scales, such as 1:43 scale.

I purchased this vehicle from American Excellence, a supplier of thousands of model cars that has its business office in Fort Myers, FL and its U.S. warehouse in Charlotte, NC. I bought this car when it was on sale for \$90.00. As of this writing, this C111 is still available from American Excellence, but it is listed at \$129.95. Many of the other websites I purchase from do not have this vehicle. You can see it [here](#) on the American Excellence website.

Most nicely-detailed resin models are priced in the \$100.00 - \$200.00 price range, depending on the rarity of the car and level of detail. GT Spirit and Ottomobile are two other well-known makers of resin model cars. Ottomobile (sometimes known as Otto) offers many nice models of the early AMG Mercedes-Benz cars from the late 1970s and 1980s.

I was able to see a number of C111 cars in the Mercedes-Benz Museum in Stuttgart, Germany when I traveled with the Mercedes-Benz Club of America on its annual trip to Germany in 2015. I have included a few of the photos that I took so that you can see some of the actual cars.



If you want to learn more about the C111, click [here](#) to see a nice history put together by Mercedes-Benz Classic about the cars. You can see (and hear) a V8, 1970 C111-II on Jay Leno's Garage [here](#), where Jay and Constantin von Kageneck, from the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center in Irvine, California, take the C111 out for a drive.

If you are interested in beginning a model car collection or have questions about the many brands and types of model cars, feel free to catch me at the next club event. Collecting models is another way to have FUN with cars and enjoy the Mercedes brand.

Sources:

<https://www.imodelcar.com/resin-vs-diecast-difference-resin-diecast-model-car/>
<https://www.hobbydb.com/marketplaces/hobbydb/subjects/bos-models-brand>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercedes-Benz_C111
<https://www.mercedes-benz.com/en/classic/history/c-111/>

Article and photos by Frank Towson, Board Member and Asheville-Area Club Ambassador

Success Is in the Details – Dale Moss

Full Article and Videos Available on YouTube

Getting ready to show your car at a Concours or a major show can be a daunting task. Dale Moss, a Concours Judge and Master Detailer, shares some tips on how he approaches getting a car ready on YouTube.

The three-part series includes Dale's assessment process, tips on leather rejuvenation, product recommendations and anecdotes.

With more than 50 years of experience, we hope everyone can benefit from his amazing accumulated knowledge.

The full, three-part series can be found on the **Hilton Head Island Motoring Festival and Concours d'Elegance** [YouTube Channel](#):

[View Part 1](#)

[View Part 2](#)

[View Part 3](#)



Success in Details ... Dale Moss shares 50+ years of hobby experience detailing cars to share best practices with you for getting your vehicle ready for shows.

By Reference from an interesting article by Dale Moss on YouTube

Materialistic Lawyer ...



A lawyer opened the door of his Mercedes, when suddenly a car came along and hit the door, ripping it off completely. When the police arrived at the scene, the lawyer was complaining bitterly about the damage to his precious Mercedes. "Officer, look what they've done to my Mercedessss!!!", he whiningly said. "You lawyers are so materialistic, you make me sick!!!" retorted the officer, "You're so worried about your stupid Mercedes, that you didn't even notice that your left arm was ripped off!!!" "Oh my god...", replied the lawyer, finally noticing the bloody left shoulder where his arm once was, "Where's my Rolex?"

The Final Edition: The End of the Road for the SLC (& SLK) Roadster

Article and photos by Frank Towson, Board Member and Asheville-Area Club Ambassador

Car enthusiasts from around the world learned last year that 2020 would be the final year of the SLC roadster, formerly known as the SLK. Mercedes-Benz announced February 19, 2019 two Final Edition versions of the SLC roadster, and that these cars would be available in the United States in 2020.

Mercedes-Benz first surprised the motoring community when the SLK was unveiled in 1996 at the Turin Motor Show in Turin, Italy. Prior to its introduction to the public, two design studies of the SLK had been developed in Turin and Paris, France. Known internally as the R170, the SLK was unlike any Mercedes available at the time, notable as a small two-seater roadster with a retractable hardtop. Another surprise was the bold exterior color of the SLK debuted to the public, which was a bright shade of yellow known as Yellowstone. The SLK also proved to be more affordable than its SL sibling.



The 2020 Mercedes-Benz SLC43 AMG in Sun Yellow.

Although many people think that the alphanumeric model names of Mercedes have no meaning, the letters SLK actually describe the car to a “T.” SL stands for sportlich (sports leicht), or sporty and lightweight, and kurz, meaning short or compact. The first-generation SLK was based on the platform of the W202 C-Class of the 1990s. It could be argued that the grandparent of the SLK was the 190 SL roadster of the late 1950s. In fact, both cars have a 94-inch wheelbase and four-cylinder engines.

The SLK would become available in the United States just in time for the 1998 model year. When the SLK rolled out of the Bremen, Germany assembly plant, it was available to Americans as the SLK230 Kompressor, equipped with the M111 2.3-liter four-cylinder engine producing about 194 horsepower. A 3.2-liter six-cylinder engine was also available in the SLK320. While most SLKs were equipped with an automatic transmission, a five-speed manual transmission was available but difficult to find when the car was new and even rarer to find these days. An AMG version of the R170, known as the SLK 32 AMG was introduced in 2001 after the car had a mild restyling in the year 2000. The SLK 32 AMG was only available with the 5G-Tronic five-speed automatic transmission.

The Final Edition – SLC & SLK (continued)

Carolinas Section member John Struhar was able to purchase one of the first-generation SLKs once they were finally available to Americans. “It took me two years to get it,” Struhar recalled. “I had already placed an order for one, and then I happened to be sitting next to an executive that worked for Mercedes-Benz on an international flight I took to Europe. I told him that I really wished the car had a manual transmission. He told me that if I was willing to wait a little bit longer that I could get an SLK with a manual transmission.” Struhar was able to alter his order to get an SLK with the five-speed manual transmission once he returned from his trip. In September of 1998, John Struhar’s Brilliant Silver Metallic SLK230 Kompressor arrived at the dealer that he ordered it from. He kept the car until 2006 when he purchased a 2006 SLK350, a year after the second-generation SLK was available to American buyers.



Another exterior view of the SLC43 AMG, this time with its retractable hardtop in view.

The second generation of the SLK, known internally as the R171 was introduced in 2004 at the Geneva Motor Show in Geneva, Switzerland. The R171 was lengthened and widened slightly over its predecessor. Mercedes made efforts to strengthen the bodyshell and frame, increasing its use of high-strength steel in the construction of the car. The SLK was now available with a seven-speed automatic transmission, and various six-cylinder engines in the SLK280, SLK300, and SLK350 variants.



The two-tone black and grey Nappa leather interior of the SLC Final Edition.

The SLK280 and SLK350 could be purchased with a 6-speed manual transmission as well. The AMG-variant of the R171 was the SLK 55 AMG, sporting a 5.4-liter V8 and seven-speed automatic. The 5.4-liter V8 engine in the SLK 55 AMG produced a tire-smoking 355 horsepower in this small roadster.

The last generation of the SLK, known internally as the R172, was introduced in 2011. In the United States, this car was sold as the SLK250 and SLK350. The SLK250 was equipped with a 1.8-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine. The SLK350 was equipped with a naturally-aspirated 3.5-liter

The Final Edition – SLC & SLK (continued)



One of the design studies for the original SLK before its debut in 1996.

V6 engine. The SLK250 was available with a 6-speed manual transmission in this generation of SLK as well.

In 2016, the SLK was once again given a mild “facelift,” and the name was changed to SLC as we know it today. The name was changed slightly to “acknowledge its relationship to the C Class,” according to Mercedes-Benz, since the two cars share much of the same technology. The redesign and name change were completed to

coincide with the 20th anniversary of the SLK. The SLC is currently available as the SLC300, equipped with a turbocharged 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine producing 241 horsepower and the 9G-Tronic nine-speed automatic transmission. It is also available as the SLC43 AMG, equipped with a 3.0-liter turbocharged six-cylinder engine producing 385 horsepower.

Mercedes again announced a milestone with the conclusion of the SLK/SLC model range. The Final Edition of the SLC is offered with two unique styling and color combinations specific to the SLC300 and the SLC43 AMG.

The SLC300 Final Edition is offered in Selenite Grey Metallic with AMG-Line exterior styling with silver-chrome finishes on the lower portions of the car. The exterior of the car also features many gloss-black accents and Final Edition badges on the front fenders. Inside, you will find a stylish two-tone black and grey Nappa leather interior. Alpaca grey seatbelts finish off the sporty look of the car inside. The SLC300 also has larger ventilated brakes when compared with the standard SLC300, and it has been lowered by 10 millimeters overall.

The SLC43 AMG Final Edition pays homage to the SLK show car that debuted in 1996, painted in its bold Sun Yellow exterior color, reminiscent of the Yellowstone paint of the show car and the color Sunburst Yellow offered on the 1998 SLK. Like the SLC300, the SLC43 AMG Final edition has a number of gloss-black design elements and AMG styling in addition to the Final Edition badges on the



The first SLK, known as the R170 chassis, in its bold debut color called Yellowstone.

The Final Edition – SLC & SLK (continued)

front fenders. One of the most unique styling elements on the SLC43 AMG Final Edition is the yellow painted pinstripe that runs around the perimeter of the 18-inch black five-spoke AMG wheels. The SLC43 AMG Final Edition also is equipped with the two-tone black and grey Nappa leather interior like the SLC300.



*The R170 and R171 chassis SLK roadsters
shown with their grandparent, the W121 190 SL roadster.*

Both the SLC300 and SLC43 AMG Final Edition cars are well-equipped examples that come with many options, including the signature Air Scarf feature, unveiled by Mercedes on the second-generation SLK. Air Scarf is a system that uses air vents mounted below the headrests of the driver and passenger seats to blow warm air around the occupants of the SLC when riding with the top down on a cool day.

The SLC Final Edition is in stock and available at select Mercedes dealerships now. Check with your local dealer to see how you can acquire an example of this unique vehicle. Mercedes has been somewhat vague about how many Final Edition examples will be produced, but if you want one, you better find a way to acquire it before the last example rolls off of the assembly line in Bremen.

Although the SLK/SLC seems to be gone, we may see it return one day in another form. There is no way to know what Mercedes-Benz has up its collective sleeve and what FUN car may come next.

Sources:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercedes-Benz_SLK-Class_\(R170\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercedes-Benz_SLK-Class_(R170))

<https://www.caranddriver.com/news/a26415619/2020-mercedes-benz-slc-final-edition-photos-info/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercedes-Benz_SLK-Class_\(R171\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercedes-Benz_SLK-Class_(R171))

<https://media.mbusa.com/releases/the-slc-final-edition>

<https://www.mercedes-benz.com/en/vehicles/passenger-cars/slc/slc-final-edition/>

Article and photos by Frank Towson, Board Member and Asheville-Area Club Ambassador

Mercedes-Benz has revealed an amazing extra-plush, high-performance version of the full-size Maybach AMG SUV GLS63 version of Mercedes-Benz's GLS. A showroom appearance will follow toward the end of 2020, with the vehicle arriving as a 2021 model.



Mercedes-Benz Maybach AMG high-performance GLS63

Pricing will be announced closer to the market launch but rumors point to it starting close to \$200,000. That will put the Maybach GLS in competition with the Bentley Bentayga and Rolls-Royce Cullinan, and to a lesser degree the Lamborghini Urus and new Aston Martin DBX.

Read more about it and view videos, photos and stories at the links below ...

https://www.motorauthority.com/news/1115761_2021-mercedes-maybach-gls-spy-shots-video

https://www.motorauthority.com/news/1122135_2021-mercedes-maybach-gls-revealed-plush-suv-has-bentayga-cullinan-in-its-sights

Mid Life Crisis ...



A man in his 40's bought a new Mercedes convertible and was out for a nice evening drive. The top was down, the breeze was blowing through what was left of his hair, and he decided to open her up. As the needle jumped up to 90 mph, he suddenly saw flashing red and blue lights behind him. "There's no way they can catch a Mercedes," he thought to himself and opened her up further. The needle hit 100, 120.... then the reality of the situation hit him. "What the hell am I doing?" he thought and pulled over.

The cop came up to him, took his license without a word, and examined it and the car. "It's been a long day, this is the end of my shift, and it's Friday the 13th. I don't feel like more paperwork, so if you can give me an excuse for your driving that I haven't heard before, you can go." The guy thinks for a second and says, "Last week my wife ran off with a cop. I was afraid you were trying to give her back." "Have a nice weekend," said the officer.

For Sale by Owner (continued)



- 128k miles
- Excellent mechanical condition
- Well maintained
- Interior & exterior in immaculate condition
- Transmission just rebuilt- still under warranty
- Cloth top recently replaced
- All hydraulic cylinders for convertible top replaced
- New tires
- Wheels recently refinished
- Seats 4 people comfortably
- Plenty of trunk space
- This *25-year-old Mercedes Benz A124 Cabriolet* is a classic now, rather rare, with only 6,300 made (1993-1995), and is growing in value **\$16,900**



John Romano
336-456-1697 cell
jromano@knoll.com

MBCA Carolina's Section Membership Benefits

Welcome to the Club!

Attending club events is the best way to make new friends that share your passion for Mercedes-Benz vehicles. As a member, you will receive our section newsletter. Please take some time to visit our website at <https://carolinas.mbca.org/> where you will find copies of recent newsletters, a complete calendar of scheduled events, contact information for our section officers, and much more.

There is a NEW Member Benefit – The MBUSA Rebate Incentive Program

MBCA primary members are eligible for exclusive rebates on the lease or purchase of select Mercedes-Benz vehicles. For additional program details, go to the MBCA website at this [link](#) or call Mercedes-Benz at 1-866-628-7232 or send an email to FleetOperations@mbusa.com

Additional membership highlights include the following benefits ...

- **The Star® Magazine** - our bi-monthly magazine, The Star®.
- **Carolinas Section Newsletter** – published quarterly.
- **AirStream Loyalty Rewards Program** - Save \$500 off the purchase price of any NEW Airstream Touring Coach®, built on the award-winning Mercedes-Benz Sprinter chassis. To qualify, you must be a current Member of the MBCA.
- **Classified Ads** – You may sell merchandise, goods and services through this website and in our award-winning magazine, The Star®.
- **Collector Car Insurance** - Members have access to receive a 5% discount, in addition to all other offered discounts, with their collector car insurance policy through Hagerty.
- **Club Trips to Germany** - Membership benefits include the exclusive opportunity to experience a first-class European vacation and VIP tours that places you at the heart of Mercedes-Benz rich history.
- **15% Discount on Parts from the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center** - Club members receive 15% off parts from the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center in Irvine, California.
- **Discounts on Parts, Service & Accessories at Participating Mercedes-Benz Dealers** – As a member, the presentation of your membership card may entitle you to 5%, 10% or (up to) 20% off parts, service and accessories from participating U.S. and Canadian Mercedes-Benz dealers.
- **Passport Transport** - Receive 10% off vehicle transportation services from Passport Transport - preferred transportation carrier of the MBCA.
- **Refer a Friend Program** - Refer a friend to the Mercedes-Benz Club of America and get one additional month of Club membership FREE.
- **Local, Regional & National Events** - You'll be able to attend a wide range of driving events and activities in your own back yard, your region of the country and in five-star destinations across the U.S. and Canada.

MBCA Carolina's Section Leadership Team

Officers

PRESIDENT

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VICE PRESIDENT

Tom Sharar
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mstinembca@gmail.com

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Frank Towson
Asheville, NC
ftowson@gmail.com

Board of Directors

Joe Clemmer
Gastonia, NC

Linda Liberty
Rock Hill, SC

Tony Martinez
Matthews, NC

Rugby G. Hodgkins, Jr.
Gastonia, NC

Ambassadors

Asheville Area - Frank Towson ftowson@gmail.com

Hilton Head Area – Bruce Wood bwood@HiltonHeadCP.com (804) 350-1338

Ambassadors are still needed for the following areas:

Aiken, Charlotte, Charleston, Columbia, Greenville, and Myrtle Beach

MBCA Carolina's Section Leadership Team (continued)

Eastern Regional Director

Doug Geganto
Gainesville GA
Phone (404) 754-9955
e-mail dgeganto@charter.net

National Officers and Contacts

See *The Star* magazine or go to <https://www.mbca.org/contacts> for a list of National Officers and contacts.

Anything you want ...



I was standing next to a man in the changing room yesterday at the local gym when a mobile phone rings. He was drying off so he puts his phone on loudspeaker.

Man: Hello

Woman: Honey, it's me. Are you at the gym?

Man: Yes

Woman: I am at the mall now and I found this beautiful leather coat. It's only \$1,000. Is it ok if I buy it?

Man: Sure, go ahead if you like it that much.

Woman: I also stopped by the Mercedes dealership and saw the new models. I saw one I really liked.

Man: How much?

Woman: \$100,000

Man: Okay, but for that price I want it with all the options.

Woman: Great! Oh, and one more thing. The house I wanted last year is back on the market. They are asking \$1 million.

Man: Well go ahead and give them an offer of \$950,000. They will probably take it, but if not, we can go the extra \$50 thousand.

Woman: OK, I'll see you later! I love you so much!

Man: Bye. I love you too.

The man hangs up. The other men in the changing room are staring at him in astonishment, mouths agape. He smiles and asks: "Anyone know who this phone belongs to?"

Join the Volunteer Team

In order for the Carolinas Section to meet our members' expectations across our broad geographical area, it is necessary to have a great team set up to work together and bring the "FUN"! This cannot be done by one person, or even a small group of members. A large group of individuals willing to contribute a small amount of their time, will develop our Section into something **GREAT!** Many of our members have talents and interests that we would love to utilize to make our Section better. The following positions are vacant and waiting for the right person to volunteer. Please look them over and see if your talents fit these positions. As a Board Member, you are expected to attend the four Board meetings we have each year. Due to the recent social distancing issues, we are using ZOOM for those that live in other areas of our Section, or those that are unable to attend in person.

Events Coordinator (also known as "Party Planner") – Coordinates all of the events of the section. Will work with Ambassadors and event coordinators. Board Member.

Sponsorship Chair – Coordinates and contacts dealerships and other auto-related businesses to promote sponsorships for our Section. Will work with Ambassadors. Board Member.

Webmaster – Maintains our MBCA.org website. Board Member.

Hospitality Committee Members – Responsible for greeting new members at events and making them feel part of our Section.

Ambassadors – Since we cover a wide geographical area, these volunteers will be the contact for the portion of the area where they live (approximately a 50 mile radius). **Areas that still require ambassadors are Aiken, Charlotte, Charleston, Columbia, Greenville, and Myrtle Beach.** Ambassadors will:

- meet and mentor new members from their designated area
- work with dealerships and other businesses in their designated area
- set up and host local "Meet & Greet" events at restaurants or other venues
- attend "Cars & Coffee" events in their designated area
- recommend and assist with Section events in their area.

Contact Jane Martinez at mbcacarolinas.president@gmail.com if you would like to get more information or volunteer for one of these positions.

Helpful Web Links

Mercedes Benz Club of America ... <https://www.mbca.org/>

Star Magazine Latest Issue ... <https://www.mbca.org/star/july-august-2020>

Browse or Trade Vehicles ... <https://www.mbca.org/classifieds>

Membership Benefits ... <https://www.mbca.org/member-benefits>

Local Clubs/Sections by Region ... <https://www.mbca.org/sections-by-region?title=Eastern+Region>

Mercedes Current News ... <https://www.mbca.org/current-news>

Past Carolinas Section Newsletters ... <https://carolinas.mbca.org/section-newsletters>

List of Mercedes Dealers in the US ... <https://www.mbusa.com/en/dealers/browseAll-true>

My Three Sons ...



Three sons left home, went out on their own, and prospered. Getting back together, they discussed the gifts they were able to give their elderly mother.

- The first said, “I built a big house for our mother.”
- The second said, “I sent her a Mercedes-Benz with a driver.”
- The third smiled and said, “I got you both beat. You know how Mom enjoys the Bible, and you know she can’t see very well. I sent her a brown parrot that can recite the entire Bible. It took 20 monks in a monastery 12 years to teach him. I had to pledge \$50,000 a year for 10 years, but it was worth it. All Mom has to do is name the chapter and verse and the parrot will recite it.”

Soon thereafter, Mom sent out her letters of thanks.

- To her first son “The house you built is so huge. I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house.”
- To her second son: “I am too old to travel. I stay home all the time, so I never use the Mercedes-Benz. And the driver is so rude.”
- To her third son: “You were the only son to have the good sense to know what your mother likes. That chicken was delicious!”



Upcoming Election of Carolinas Section Officers

In accordance with our new Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, the terms of the current officers will end on September 30, 2020. The next terms will be for two years. The following officers will run for their current positions:

President: Jane Martinez
Secretary: David Thorne
Treasurer: Steve Lawson

Tom Sharar will be leaving his position as Vice President at the end of September. He has accepted the responsibility of being the Nominating Committee Chair for the elections to be held in August. **Please contact Tom at mbcacarolinas.vicepresident@gmail.com if you are interested in the Vice President position, or any of the other officer positions, by Wednesday, July 15, 2020.** He will be able to add your name to the ballot. Any interested parties after that date must be nominated by an Active Member to David Thorne, Secretary of the Carolinas Section, (mbcacarolinas.secretary@gmail.com) before **Friday, July 31, 2020.** Instructions on how to vote will be distributed to all current members on or before **Saturday, August 15, 2020** with the voting deadline no later than **Monday, August 31, 2020.**

In accordance with our Bylaws, all ACTIVE members of the Carolinas Section are able to vote in our elections.

The MBCA National Procedures Manual defines an “active member” on page 1 under Article II – Membership, Section 1. Classification of Members:

“a. Active Members: Up to two individuals from one household at least 18 years of age paying one membership fee, listed with the NBO.

Therefore, both primary and associate members affiliated with the Carolinas Section are able to vote on this matter. Our Bylaws are intended to give all registered active members of the Carolinas Section a voice in our organization. This is different than the MBCA NBO which only allows one vote per membership number for a National Board member.

You can update your information and add an associate member by using this [link](#) to log in to your account to change your account profile. If you have any issues updating your information or adding an associate member, contact Ryanne Dias at ryanne@mbca.org at the NBO. Please make sure your membership information is updated and correct before **Saturday, August 1, 2020** as this date will determine whether you are a registered active member and if your vote will be included.

Have You Checked Your MBCA Profile Lately???

Your MBCA profile is used for many things. We get the email addresses to send our Section newsletter and event notices. Your physical address is used to receive the Star Magazine. If you are the primary or associate member, both of you are eligible to attend all of the events, get member benefits, and volunteer for a position in the club. Also, when we get requests for special cars for various events (such as the Hilton Head St. Patrick's Day Parade or a car show), we are able to utilize the information on the profiles as an initial contact point.

Both the primary member and the associate member can have their own login, although their profile is shared. **And we allow all Carolina Section members – both primary and associate members – to vote in the Carolinas Section elections.**

[Login for Communities is simple](#); Enter your e-mail address and whatever password you select. Once you login your profile will come up. Verify your personal information. Is it all correct? Is your associate member listed? Is your car(s) listed? It's simple to correct them right there. Note that for security reasons none of your information is stored locally and we make every effort to ensure that your personal information is not used for reasons other than related to MBCA and the Carolinas Section.

Publication Details

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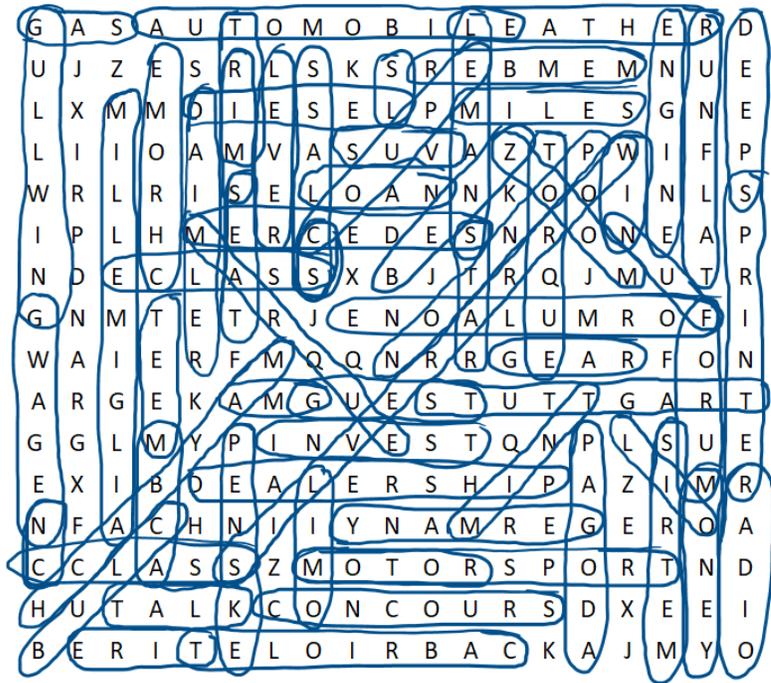
As a member you can also place free ads for your Mercedes Benz vehicles, parts, or accessories in this newsletter, at no charge. Submit details to mbcacarolinas.newsletter@gmail.com . Be sure to include a photo, description, price and contact information.

Deadlines for submissions are one month prior to publication; December 1st, March 1st, June 1st, & September 1st.

Mercedes-Benz Word Search

Here are the answers for the Word Search Puzzle from the previous Newsletter.

AMG	Fun	Meet	Run flat
Automobile	G Wagen	Member	S Class
Benz	Gas	Mercedes	SC
C Class	Gear	Metris	Seat
Cabriolet	Germany	Miles	Silver Arrow
Chrome	Grand Prix	Mille Miglia	SL
Club	Guest	Mint	Speed
Concours	Gullwing	Money	Sprinter
Coupe	Invest	Motor	Star
Daimler	Leather	Motorsport	Stuttgart
Dealership	LeMans	NC	SUV
Diesel	Lever	Oil	Talk
E Class	Limo	Pagoda	Tire
Engine	Loan	Penske	Torque
Formula One	Marque	Ponton	Trim
Forum	Maybach	Radio	Win
	MBCA	Rims	Zoom



A smart blonde walks into a bank ...



A smart blonde walks into a bank in New York City and asks for the Loan officer. She says she's going to Europe on business for two weeks and needs to borrow \$5,000. The bank officer says the bank will need some kind of security for the loan, so the blonde hands over the keys to a new Mercedes Benz SL 500. The car is parked on the street in front of the bank, she has the title and everything checks out. The bank agrees to accept the car collateral for the loan.

The bank's president and its officers all enjoy a good laugh at the blond for using a \$110,000 Benz as collateral against a \$5,000 loan. An employee of the bank then proceeds to drive the Benz into the bank's underground garage and parks it there.

Two weeks later, the blonde returns, repays the \$5,000 and the interest, which comes to \$15.41. The loan officer says, "Miss, we are very happy to have had your business, and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are a little puzzled. While you were away, we checked you out and found that you are a multimillionaire. What puzzles us is, why would you bother to borrow \$5,000?"

The blonde replies, "Where else in New York City can I park my car for two weeks for only \$15.41 and expect it to be there when I return?"