



Carolinas

January 2021

Member of the Year – Frank Towson
Pop and Picnic Pandemic Party
Holiday Event in Aiken, SC
Mercedes in Miniature
Myrtle Beach Fun



Planning More Action for 2021

President's Message

While it hasn't always been easy, 2020 was a year we will never forget. Because, really, what can we say about our time in 2020? There was definitely Good, Bad, and Ugly for the year.

MY PERSONAL LIFE:

GOOD – I was able to finish a lot of projects around the house that either I had started or stopped along the way.

BAD – Experimented with sourdough starter, and then ate the “experiments”.

UGLY – Hearing about relatives, friends, and acquaintances who actually caught the coronavirus.

CAROLINAS SECTION:

GOOD – We were able to create our Section's leadership team to better serve our members, amend the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and developed Policies & Procedures for current and future Board Members.

BAD – We spent a lot of time planning events and then had to cancel most of them. But we did have three events before the quarantines impacted us and then we were able to have two more events before 2020 ended. (I guess that should be under the heading of “GOOD”).

UGLY – Not being able to interact with our members – new and old!

We were on the internet a lot, and daydreamed about all the events we could be attending at all of the places we haven't been yet. We all Zoomed through the year, with virtual events, and virtual Board meetings. But we made it so far. And the most important thing we learned was to look for the good out there.

But now it's time to leave 2020 behind and pursue other opportunities in 2021 and beyond.

Have you taken the event survey yet? Thank you to the members who have already responded. I have looked at some of the responses and suggestions, and we have so much to look forward to in the next few years! So many great ideas!! If you haven't taken it, [go to this link](#) to take it now. We will accept responses until February 5th. The leadership team wants as much input as possible so that our members will be better served.



*Jane Martinez, President
MBCA Carolinas Section*

President's Message (continued)

With the great leadership team we have in place, as well as our members who are just waiting for an event to attend, we should have a great 2021! Keep reading our emails because we will soon have events that our members can attend. We are already planning a few later in 2020. Put them on your calendar and start registering for them. I will see you there!!

**Jane Martinez, President
MBCA Carolinas Section**



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

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I'm like a classic Mercedes Benz ...

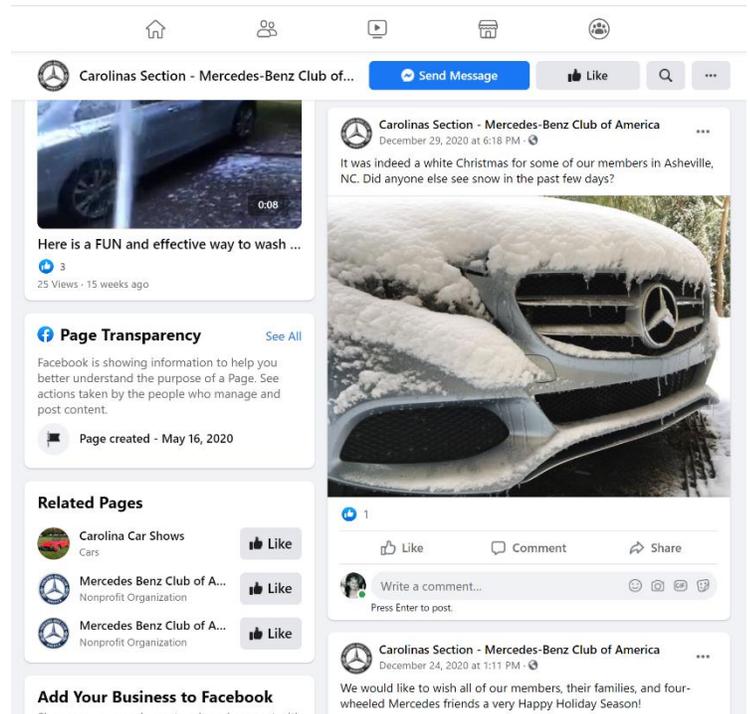


I depreciate much more rapidly than what's available these days, and I become more expensive to fix as time goes by.

Carolinas Section Website and Facebook Page

You should really look at our [Facebook page](#) and explore the [Carolinas Section MBCA website](#). We also have a YouTube site. Frank Towson, Social Media Director, and Tony Martinez, Webmaster, have been working during the past months on getting these sites updated and full of interesting items for our members. If you have any interesting suggestions or ideas, please let Tony know at mbcacarolinas.webmaster@gmail.com.

These links should be the place to go to find out the latest news about the Carolinas Section!

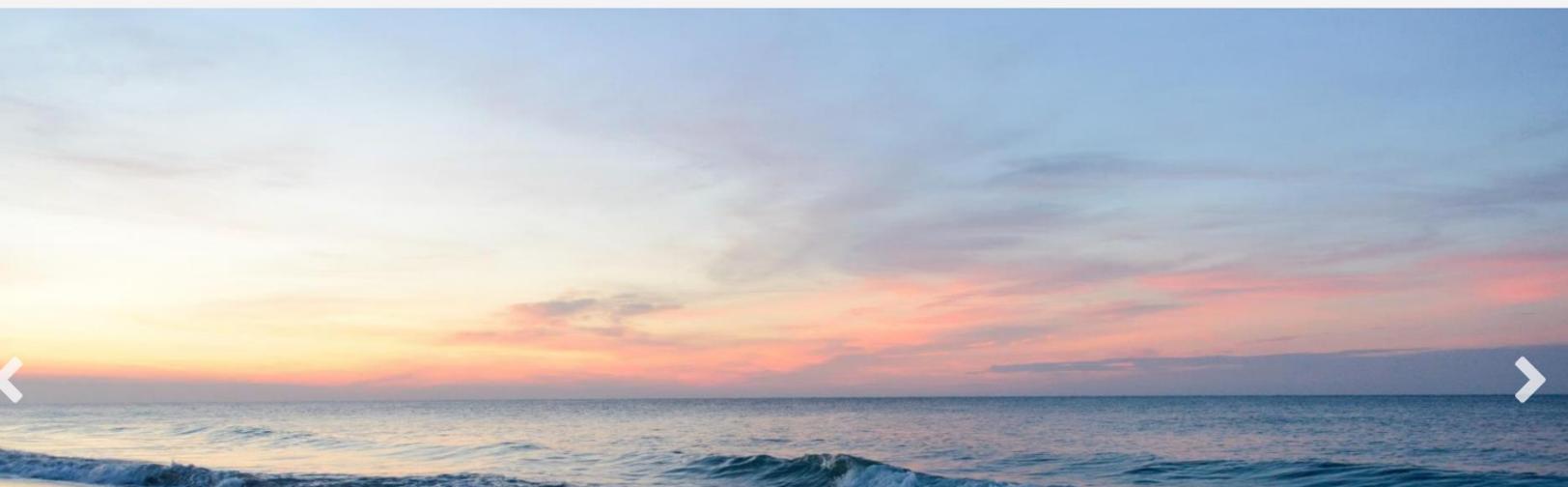


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Carolinas Section



Carolinas Section Calendar of Upcoming In-Person Events

September 10-12, 2021 ■ Myrtle Beach Grand Strand Tour Weekend *Sponsored by the Carolinas Section*



Please Join the MBCA Carolinas Section for a fun filled tour weekend at the [Litchfield Beach & Golf Resort](#). Two types of condos have been blocked off for our members. They include full kitchens and ocean or pool view rooms! Feel free to come a day before the weekend and/or stay a day later and receive our discounted rate. MBCA Carolinas Section hotel rates are:



Bridgewater Condos (ocean view): \$215.60 per night (two night minimum) inc. taxes & fees
Summer House Condos (pool view): \$161.70 per night (two night minimum) inc. taxes & fees

Make your reservations now by calling (888) 734-8228 and mention the code 'MBCA' for our special rate! These rates are valid for reservations made by July 31, 2021.

Our weekend will start with a visit to [Palmetto Academy for Learning Motorsports](#) (PALM) on Friday afternoon. It is the only motorsports high school in the United States. We will then continue our event at the [Litchfield Beach & Resort](#) with a Welcome Reception with delicious hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar in the Courtyard.

On Saturday, we will caravan through Pawley's Island, have lunch in historic Georgetown, ride through the Plantersville Scenic Byway where many plantations existed years ago, and end in Murrell's Inlet the seafood capital of the southeast. We may even be able to visit a plantation or two!

On Sunday, our day starts with a 'Pop-up Mercedes Showcase' event in the renowned [Brookgreen Gardens](#), a tour of the scenic gardens and brunch/lunch at the Austin Garden Restaurant.

Registration fee of \$45.00 per person through July 31, 2021 (or \$50.00 before August 10, 2021) includes Welcome Reception at Litchfield Beach & Resort, Saturday Caravan information and handouts, and the entry fee to Brookgreen Garden. All meals will be on your own.



Register for the event at msreg.com/Litchfield.

14276 Ocean Highway
Pawleys Island, SC

Calendar of Carolinas Upcoming Events (continued)



... WELCOME TO ...

Hilton Head

SOUTH CAROLINA

October 21 - 24, 2021 ■ Savannah Speed Classic in Savannah, GA

We, and many of our friends, judges and supporters, are truly excited to celebrate the 19th annual Hilton Head Island Concours d'Elegance & Motoring Festival this fall in Savannah, GA and on Hilton Head Island, SC.



HILTON HEAD ISLAND
CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE
& MOTORING FESTIVAL

[Here is a link with more detail about the event ...](#)

November 2-7, 2021 ■ Mercedes Freude - The Joy of Everything Mercedes in Hilton Head Island, SC an MBCA National Event

A new and improved national event that incorporates the most popular activities of both StarFest® and StarTech events. The kickoff of *Mercedes Freude* (“The Joy of Everything Mercedes”) will begin with an arrival on Tuesday, November 2, 2021 at the Omni Hilton Head Oceanfront Resort on Hilton Head Island, SC.

MBCA events and activities will run through Friday evening November 5, 2021. Saturday November 6, 2021 will be the kickoff of Legends of the Autobahn East Coast, which will be held on the Port Royal golf course and then Sunday November 7, 2021 will be the Hilton Head Island Concours d' Elegance, also held at Port Royal.

This will be an event not to be missed! Please pass the word and “save the date” - now! Stay tuned for updated details on [our website](#), our [Facebook page](#), and Newsletter including The Star® magazine.

[Check out this video](#) about the Concours d'Elegance ...

[Here is a link with more detail about the event ...](#)

MERCEDES FREUDE

“The Joy of Everything Mercedes”

Ctrl + Click here to [Watch a video about the event...](#)

**MBCA's newest & greatest
National Event EVER!**

Combining the best and most-popular activities
of both StarTech & StarFest
into one fabulous Gathering!

Location:

Omni Hilton Head Oceanfront Resort,
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

Along with our MBCA Event, we will be able
to experience the kickoff of Legends of the Autobahn-East,
as well as the renowned HHI Concours d'Elegance.

Dates:

Mercedes-Freude - Tuesday, November 2nd - Friday, November 5th, 2021

Legends of the Autobahn East - Saturday, November 6th (@Port Royal Golf Course)

Hilton Head Island Concours d'Elegance - Sunday, November 7th (@Port Royal Golf Course)

**Enjoy the comraderie of being together with old and new friends alike!
Mark you calenders NOW for a NOT-TO-BE-MISSED event!**

Further details coming your way in the near future!
Rick Siefert - National Events Chair - rick.siefert@att.net



Advertisement Photo credits:
Hilton Head Island Visitor & Convention Center
Omni Hilton Head Ocean Resort
HHI Concours d'Elegance

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 ... October 1 – December 31, 2020

Andrew Blondo	Charlotte, NC
Jessie Chang	Harrisburg, NC
Mattie & Willie Finch	Charlotte, NC
Darren Hickey	Davidson, NC
Allison Hilton	Aiken, SC
Timothy Howell	Charlotte, NC
William Johnson	Elgin, SC
Dale Kershner	Bluffton, SC
Martin Lau	Charleston, SC
Michael Pitts	Charlotte, NC
Leonard & Maria Purwin	Mount Pleasant, SC
Barry Raduta	Hilton Head, SC
Robert Smith	Highlands, NC
Eric Tempel	Huntersville, NC
Carson Thorne	Charlotte, NC
Tommy Zeuner	St. Helena Island, SC

TRANSFERS ... From Other Sections during this quarter

	<i>Transferred From:</i>
Tom & Ronnie Raddin	Road Start
Suzanne Brach	Greater Washington

And thank you for your renewals to all 367 current Carolinas Section memberships!

Please Take the Survey About Additional Future Events ...

Please take the [Carolinas Section Event Survey](#) if you have not yet. After we get results tallied (after February 5th) we will start planning more events for our area ... Thanks

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.

Welcome New Members (continued)

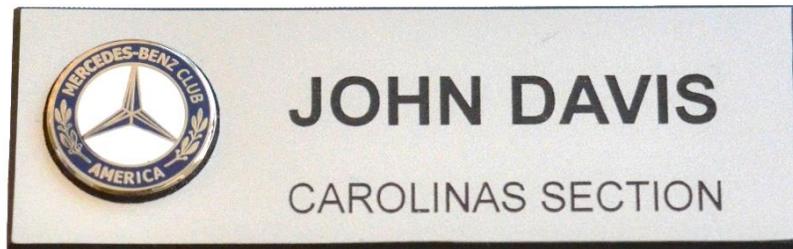
New members should also try to spend a little time on the extensive National MBCA website, www.MBCA.org. For starters check out the many benefits under [Membership](#). Then check out all the information under [Communities](#). All our past local [Newsletters](#) and upcoming events are located in the [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!!!

Pop and Picnic -- Sunday October 18, 2020 – David Thorne



Article by David Thorne, Secretary of the Carolinas Section with Photos by John Davis, Newsletter Editor

The wonderfully sunny afternoon of Sunday, October 18, 2020 saw 17 members and 2 guests of the Carolinas Section converge at **Andrew Jackson State Park in Lancaster, SC**. It was obvious that our Mercedes-brethren were eager to get together to enjoy each other's company – and cars, of course! But have no worries, we did so with masks and appropriate social distancing – all while being outside! Explore more about the park at this link ... [Andrew Jackson State Park](#)



(Left to right) Andy & Jill Blondo, David Thorne & Kelly Avey and Doug & Mary Ann Barnum social distancing



Frank Towson with his life-size 1999 E 320

Pop and Picnic, Andrew Jackson State Park (continued)

The idea of a section meeting in-person was appealing, but challenging. How could we do it responsibly during this pandemic? Well, how about asking our members to enjoy a leisurely drive in their favorite vehicle at their own pace to meet for a picnic? Lest the weather not cooperate, we arranged for one of the State Park's picnic shelters to be reserved for our group. As it turned out, those that attended enjoyed their picnics both under the shelter (in the shade) or on the lawn in glorious sunshine.



(Left to right) Marsha Wilmot & John Hameline, Kelly Avey & David Thorne, Tony & Jane Martinez & Frank Towson

Mark & Wilma McFadden are eating in style ... check out their official Mercedes-Benz picnic basket ... see detail below ...



(Left to right) John Hameline & Marsha Wilmot, Jill & Andy Blondo, and Belkis Salazar enjoy the picnic in the Carolina sunshine.



(Left to right) Wilma & Mark McFadden with "The Beast" ... their 2016 AMG GT S Edition 1 ... see photo on the cover



Pop and Picnic, Andrew Jackson State Park (continued)

The temperature was a quite comfortable 72 degrees which allowed us to admire each other's vehicles and explore under the hoods. You see, the "Pop" in Pop & Picnic is the popping of our hoods to show off Mercedes-Benz brilliant engineering. And what a show!



John Hameline, pops the hood on his 2013 E 350



Paul Manley chills with his 1970 220



David Thorne & Kelly Avey with their 1998 SL 500



John & Belkis Salazar with their 2019 C 300 Cabrio

Pop and Picnic, Andrew Jackson State Park (continued)

We couldn't have asked for such diversity. Everything from the classic motors in Paul Manley's 1970 220 (aka /8) and Paul Harman's 1981 240D (with over 1,167,310 miles!) to the sophistication of Mark and Wilma McFadden's 2016 AMG GTS and Doug and Mary Ann Barnum's 2018 AMG E63S.

Of course, with such wonderful weather a number of Cabs and Roadsters made appearances too, including our latest members (remember those guests?) Andy and Jill Blondo's 2018 AMG C43 Cabriolet. Welcome to the club Jill and Andy!



*Warm welcome to new MBCA members
Andy and Jill Blondo and their 2018 AMG C43*



You can tell that Halloween is just around the corner



*(Left to right) Jane and Tony Martinez
loving their 2005 SL 500*



*(Left to right) Tony Martinez, Paul Harman,
Andy & Jill Blondo, David Thorne & Kelly Avey,
With Doug & Mary Ann Barnum*



*(Left to right) Doug & Mary Ann Barnum with
Marsha Wilmot & John Hameline*

Pop and Picnic, Andrew Jackson State Park (continued)



David Thorne, MBCA Carolinas Section Secretary

As our group dispersed later in the afternoon, it was obvious that our members have missed in-person events. While many of us have enjoyed the various virtual events held by our section and others (Peachtree and the National Social Media Committee), it seems you just can't beat getting together with friends on a glorious autumn afternoon!

David Thorne



Article by David Thorne, Secretary of the Carolinas Section with Photos by John Davis, Newsletter Editor

Attendees	Vehicle
Marsha Wilmot & John Hameline	2013 E 350
Tony & Jane Martinez.....	2005 SL 500
John & Belkis Salazar	2019 C 300 Cabrio
Andy & Jill Blondo	2018 AMG C 43
Wilma & Mark McFadden.....	2016 AMG GT S
Paul Manley	1970 220
John & Jennifer Davis.....	2018 E 400
Paul Harman.....	1981 240 D
Frank Towson.....	1999 E 320
Doug & Mary Ann Barnum	2018 E 63 S
Kelly Avey & David Thorne.....	1998 SL 500

Mercedes in Miniature (Take 4) – 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.

I will be discussing the tinplate toy of a 1960 Mercedes-Benz 220S Coupe shown in the accompanying photos. This tinplate Mercedes is a replica of a toy car made in the late 1950s and early 1960s.



1960 Mercedes-Benz 220S Coupe

This miniature Mercedes-Benz is made of pressed tin, and it has plastic bumpers, wheels, and hard neoprene tires. It measures approximately 10 inches in length and weighs about 19 ounces. Early toys like these were not made in exact scale like more contemporary models, like the cars reviewed in previous columns. If we were to assign a scale to this car, it would be something like 1:18 or even 1:16 scale when compared with an actual car.

Like many old toys, this car is tinplate, and it has lithographed details. The interior does not have molded, three-dimensional seats like most of the model cars that we have reviewed so far. Instead, it has a flat piece of tin that has a two-dimensional illustration of an interior (think like a drawing or cartoon) that is lithographed onto a piece of metal. These lithographed details are basically printed onto the metal itself, as in the interior of this car.

This car was originally meant to be played with when it was made as a toy, and it has an unusual friction mechanism to propel the car across your living room floor. While many tinplate toys of this era had a wind-up key to create the friction needed to propel them, this car has a friction motor that is activated with two steps. The car must be held down while pulling out the half-meter pull-cord at the back of the car. In the photo, the large red knob protruding from the rear of the car is

Mercedes in Miniature (continued)

the handle for the pull-cord. There is black lever on the front bumper that can be set to control the steering of the car as well.

This miniature Mercedes has many nice details, even though it might look some-what primitive when compared with a more contemporary diecast model of the same make and model. It has many three-dimensional parts and plastic chrome pieces throughout. It also has a very high-quality paint job, seen here in a two-tone scheme with a maroon body and a cream-colored roof. Like any Mercedes from this era, it also has some snappy white-wall tires too. It comes in a beautiful box with a colorful outer sleeve that features illustrations of the car.



You can see the pull-cord in this photo

Although this car is a modern-day reproduction, it was made by Schuco, a German toy manufacturer that also made the original version of this car. Schuco offers limited reproductions and runs of these tinplate cars, as well as wind-up cars that they made 50 or more years ago. Schuco also has begun to produce many highly-detailed diecast model cars in the last few years.

I purchased this car over five years ago from the Lilliput Motor Company in Yerington, Nevada. Lilliput offers many unusual, rare, and highly-detailed models of cars, trucks, planes, and boats. I ordered this car from their catalog during one of their annual sales. Although Lilliput does not offer this 220S in the maroon/cream color scheme at present, they do have a version in a light-blue/dark-blue two-tone paint scheme that looks quite smart. Also on offer is a black 220S convertible for some top-down motoring through your living room or kitchen.

I purchased this car for around \$90.00 or so five years ago during one of Lilliput's annual sales. Both the coupe and convertible can be purchased for \$89.50 as of this writing through Lilliput's online website. Originally these cars had been priced around \$159.50. Lilliput seems to be the only place that has them for sale as well. [Click here](#) to see the coupe on their website. The convertible can be seen [here](#).

These tinplate Mercedes are beautiful cars that will make a nice addition to any collection. In some ways, they can be a good way to show how model and toy cars have evolved and changed over time if you want to have a more diverse collection. I purchased this car because of my love for classic Mercedes-Benz cars from the 1950s. In case you are wondering, my little car has never been on a run across the living room floor. It has only been on display since I purchased it.

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

Mercedes in Miniature (continued)

way to have FUN with cars and enjoy the Mercedes brand. 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.

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

Member of the Year – Frank Towson



Carolinas Section
Eastern Region

Member of the Year
2020

Frank Towson

*In recognition of outstanding achievement
in furthering the club's goals and aims
and contributing to the
general well-being of the*

Mercedes-Benz Club of America

It is with great pleasure that the Carolinas Section presented Frank Towson with our Member of the Year award for 2020. This past year he developed and has maintained our Facebook page for the Carolinas Section, volunteered to be the Ambassador for the Asheville area, wrote articles about his vast collection of miniature cars for our newsletter, and also did a video presentation about W124 and W210 – E Class Mercedes-Benz vehicles. All of his activities helped keep our members involved in our Section and a few new members joined after seeing the Facebook page. Please join us in congratulating Frank on this award, as well as thanking him for all of his efforts for our Section.

It is wonderful, giving, and interesting people like Frank Towson who make participating in the Mercedes-Benz Club of America such a fun experience.

Thanks, from all of us Frank, for being such a terrific friend, for making our Facebook page more interesting and for just being you! It's a pleasure to know you!



Member of the Year Frank Towson with his real life-size Mercedes Benz

In the News

Click [here](#) to read the January-February 2021 online edition of the Star Magazine.

Mercedes-Benz E-Class is the [2021 MotorTrend Car of the Year](#).



Why not choose a new S-Class? ...

See the latest news from Mercedes-Benz [View in a web browser ...](#)

The 2021 Mercedes-Benz S-Class

Redefining luxury. Yet again.



Additional Classifieds

See additional classified ads on the MBCA website at <https://www.mbc.org/classifieds>

There are about 75 cars now available for sale.

TRADING POST

TRADINGPOST

Submit ads to:
www.mbc.org/create-classified-ad

SLs for Sale

 <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">1967 230SL Silver / Blue. 68,000 miles. Always garage kept. Minor chips and wear, but very good condition overall. Owned since 2001, active in MBCA events. Both tops included, new softtop. \$40,000. Gary Wallick (302) 270-9161 gwallick1@yahoo.com (DE)</p>	 <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">1975 450SL Beige Gold Metallic / Parchment. 68,721 miles. Auto, PS, PB, AC, 2 top convertible, power windows, cruise control, electronic fuel injection, disc brakes, heated rear window, fog lights. \$16,900. Diana Humphries. 506-781-8452 (NH)</p>	 <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">1978 450SL Silver / Red. 47,777 miles. Silver/Red Leather Interior. Low mileage (82,777). Original Owner. Always garaged, Dealer Serviced, A/C updated. Excellent Condition. \$21,900 Jeff Bergen. 604-515-1554 jbergen2@columbus.com (OR)</p>
 <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">1970 280SL Forest Red Metallic / Black. 100,000 miles. German Spec including replacement engine, ZF 5-Speed, Restored 2005, not driven since. Tool kit, orig. docs, six manual for ZF Gearbox, many new parts. \$138,500 USD. Douglas Moore. 601.838.8826 SL_280_ZF_5sp@hotmail.com</p>	 <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">1976 450SL Red / Tan. 155,000 miles. Completely refurbished in 1992 w/ pics & receipts showing work. Driven only 9,000 since. Zero rust/bodywork ever, all original including radio. Garage kept, AZ car. Placed 2nd in MBCA show. \$8,900 OBO Vincent Lomas. 602-721-6212 (AZ)</p>	 <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">1978 450SL Metallic grey / Beige. 118,000 miles. Bought in Belgium in 1983 with unique Zender bumper package. Excellent condition always garaged, w/leat seats, A/C, sunroof, new M-B transmission, all service records. \$4,900. Albert Vanice. (854) 466-4115 bar1146@comcast.net (FL)</p>
 <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">1970 280SL White / Black. 41,000 miles. Restored by BenJamin. With black softtop and handtop with winch, storage cart and cover. Concors class winner. Drives beautifully! \$49,500 Rod de Courcy-Ireland. 416-786-1400 rdd@rojoeng.com (ON)</p>	 <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">1976 450SL red / black.. owned since 1998..garaged, hand/wat top, new battery, good condition, automatic. Tires in very good shape and includes 2 extra tires. \$7,900 Janet Wojt. 920-627-6744 nethome@yahoo.com (WV)</p>	 <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">1978 450SL Silver / Blue. 89,900 miles. hard top and soft top. No Dings or Dents in good condition. \$14,000 Penny Taylor. 702.733.8590 (NV)</p>
 <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">1972 350SL Light Blue / Dark Blue. 122,000 miles. New paint, softtop, tires, brakes, trunk liners, antenna, compressor, interior rebuilt. Always covered and garaged. Hard top with hoist. A/C, power windows, everything works. 2nd owner. \$12,900 Tom McNamee. 864-464-0082 tomcpo71@gmail.com (SC)</p>	 <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">1977 450SL Black / tan. 118,000 miles. second owner (25 years) leaving country, absolutely must sell this member of the family. \$70,900 (usual features/options). Full documented. Jamie Graham. (250) 507-0832 integrity1@telus.net (BC)</p>	 <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">1979 450SL Dark Maroon/Camel. 90,000 miles. Hand/soft top. Recent: rims, tires, driver window regulator, belts, antenna motor, battery. Needs thing: washer fluid pump, cruise control. Wants new leather, trunk/hardtop seals. Drives beautifully. Lilia Dianne Mueller. (781) 217-5539 liliamueller@hotmail.com (TX)</p>
 <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">1972 350SL Light Blue Metallic / Blue. 137,500 miles. Selling family SL purchased new when I was 12 and well-maintained. US model w/ Euro style headlights + rear bench seat. I have original parts. New soft top. Matching hard top. \$15,500. Rick Raff. 603-643-8000 rcaraff@aol.com (NH)</p>	 <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">1978 450SL White / Red. Complete restoration. 2500 miles on new engine. One small chip on right rear quarter panel. New soft top, hard top needs headliner. Hagerty evaluated and insured for \$12,500. \$12,500 Tom Ritt. 360-720-9399 saltypup@frontier.com (WA)</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">If Your Car or Parts Don't Sell</h3> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">within 60 days after you first post the ad, be sure to renew your ad in order to keep it active. Unless renewed, ads automatically are removed from the website 60 days after they were first posted. Ads can be revised or renewed by visiting the website and clicking on your profile to change your ad.</p> </div>

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MBCA Carolina's Section Leadership Team

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Columbia area -- Jay Guditis jguditis@gmail.com
Charleston Area - William King mrroki@comcast.net

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.

Two mates meet for a high school reunion ...

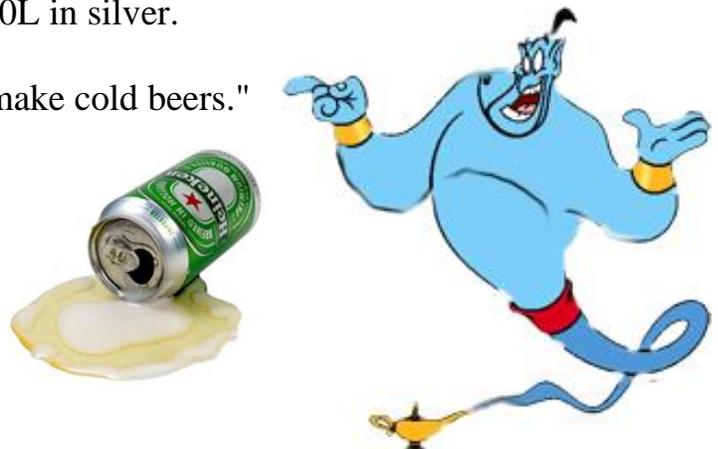


One has a brand new 2021 black Mercedes-Benz S550L, the other has a beaten up VW Golf. The Golf guy tells his friend that he has something to show off to him. They drive to a nearby car park.

The Golf driver opens his glovebox and whips out a lamp. He scratches it, a genie pops up. He tells the genie, "Please, give each of us cold beer?" The genie obliges.

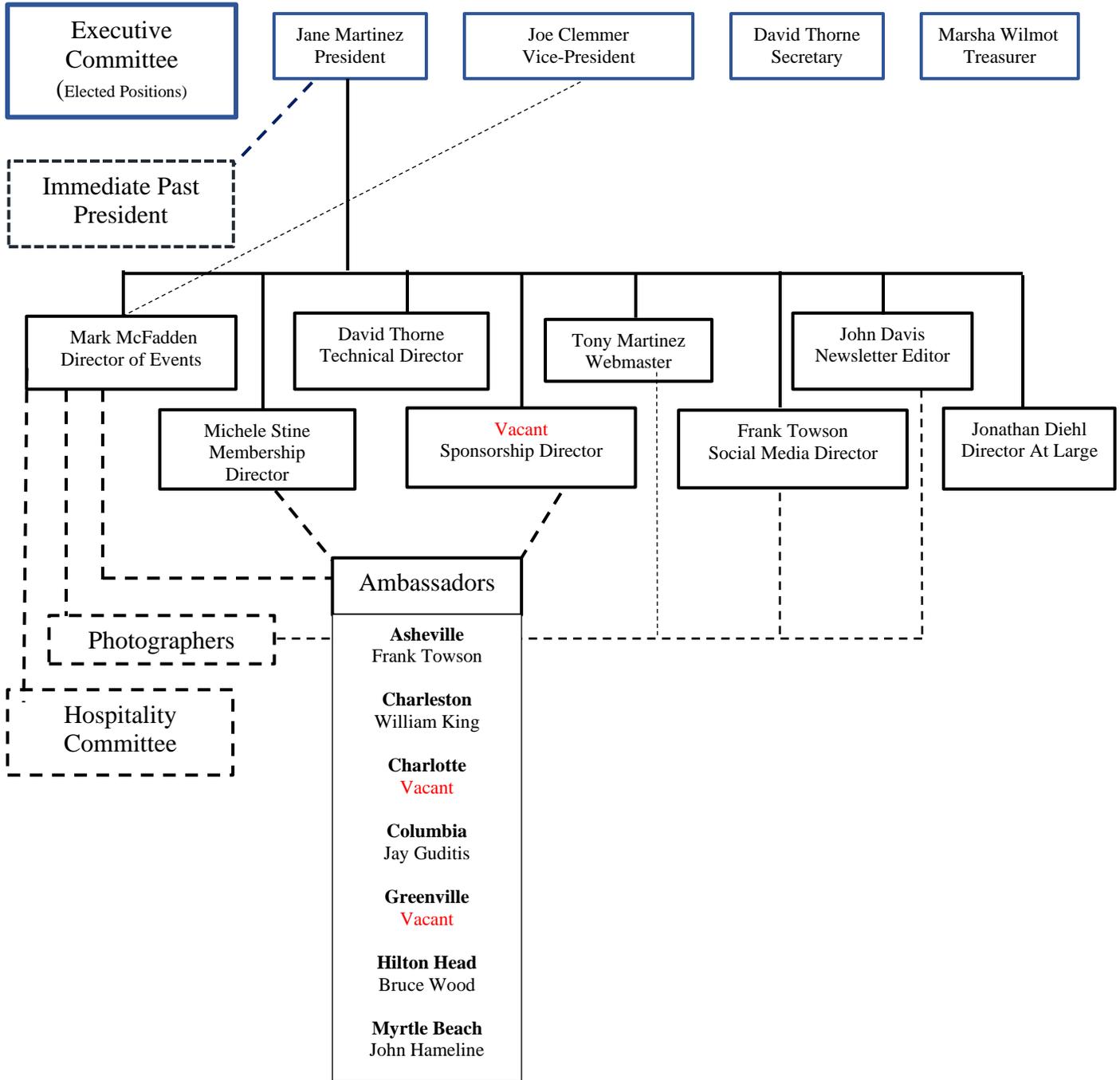
The Mercedes-Benz driver stares at it in amazement before saying, "That's amazing, I'll trade you my car for the lamp." They make the swap. He carries the lamp home, asks the genie to give him \$10 million and make a new Mercedes-Benz S550L in silver.

The genie shrugs and replies, "Sorry, I can only make cold beers."



MBCA Carolina's Section Leadership Team (continued)

CAROLINAS SECTION ORGANIZATION CHART



Benefits of Volunteering -- Join the Volunteer Team

The Greek philosopher Aristotle once said that the essence of life is “to serve others and do good,” and it seems an increasing number of us are starting to wake up and see why volunteering is important. People are starting to understand how the benefits from serving and helping each other and different communities are not just beneficial for others but for ourselves, too.

Volunteering is beneficial for a whole host of reasons:

- To utilize your skills or learn new ones
- Gain confidence
- Make a difference
- Meet people and make new friendships
- Be part of a community and work on a like-minded team
- Take on a challenge and build a real sense of achievement
- Reduce stress, combat depression, and reduce the risk of Alzheimer’s

Purpose and collaboration result in mental health improvements, adds years to your life, and gives you a better outlook on life. However, the best part, and often overlooked is that **volunteering is just plain fun.**

If you are ready to make friends, improve your mental and physical health, and maybe develop new skills along the way, start volunteering. You can change your life and the lives of others when you do. Don’t overlook the benefits of volunteering. Embrace them! Sign up for one of the following positions!

Sponsorship Chair—Coordinates and contacts dealerships and other businesses to promote sponsorships for our Section. Will work with Ambassadors. This person is a Board Member.

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 need an ambassador are Charlotte, and Greenville. 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

Hospitality Committee Members—Responsible for greeting new members at events and making them feel part of our Section. Just a fun position at our events!

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

New QR Code for the [Carolinas Section Website](#) ...

Here's a new QR code you can shoot with the camera on your phone that takes you to the Carolinas Section website.

Try it now and see ... or, you can just click on it to follow the link. The site has been recently renovated and updated, so if you haven't visited recently, you should check out all the new updated content.



Hemmings

Hemmings Daily Website ... for automotive enthusiasts ... check out these articles ...

- a. [To take better car photos, step back and zoom in](#)
- b. [Are virtual car shows the future of automotive social life?](#)
- c. [The 10 greatest performance cars of the 1960s](#)

Facebook -- Carolinas Section MBCA ... <https://www.facebook.com/carolinasmbca/>

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>

Do Have You Have an Associate Member on Your MBCA Profile?

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. Also, when we get requests for special cars for various events, we are able to utilize the information on the profiles as an initial contact point.

But many of you do not have an associate member listed, although many of you attend our events with another person. Whether 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. 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 and take our surveys!

[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.

Independent Repair Shops in Our Area

We now have a list of 15 (and growing) mechanics and independent garages our members have used for various repairs, advice or a shoulder to cry on. As a Carolinas Section member's benefit, John Hameline has volunteered to be the focal point for collecting the recommendations from our members, so we are able to provide this information to all of you.

First go to <https://carolinas.mbca.org>. Then only *after logging in* to your account, you will see "*Carolinas List of Repair Shops*" under the "*Membership*" drop-down menu.

While the club does not endorse any on the list, they are recommended by members of the Carolinas Section. Please do your due diligence to make sure they are the repair shop you feel meets your needs and requirements.

If you have a local independent mechanic or repair shop you would like to recommend and include on the list, please email the information to John at john.hameline@gmail.com. We will post updated lists to our website so all of our members will have options for repairing and servicing their vehicles.

Annual Holiday Event Willcox Inn, Aiken, SC

Article Contributed by Michele Stine



This has been a long trying year for all, but a group of our Mercedes Benz members were grateful to enjoy a 2020 December Holiday Dinner with the wonderful people at the Willcox once again.

You take a step back in time when you walk through the lobby of this historic hotel, decked out in holiday regalia. From the burning logs in the fireplaces, the scent of evergreen trees laden in holiday lights to the mantles covered in cheerful ribbon and greenery, our members felt merry and bright.

This year was a much smaller group, only 27 in attendance, but we still had fun. The evening began with cocktails and the *M'Aiken Music* a cappella group in the Library of the Willcox Inn.



Elise Lehman and
LaChelle Walker



Kathy Kraeling and friends were M'Aiken Music
for our entertainment

Kathy Kraeling, one of our Section members, was one of the carolers that presented us with holiday songs. An appropriate socially distanced dinner was had by all.

In place of the past Secret Santa, Section members donated a gift to Toys for Tots.

Annual Holiday Event Willcox Inn, Aiken, SC (continued)



Jane Martinez presenting LaChelle Walker with an Honorary Membership to MBCA for her late daughter, Maniche Nicole Wilson

In addition, an Honorary Membership in MBCA was awarded to Maniche Nicole Wilson, who passed away in a car accident last year. Maniche's mother, LaChelle Walker, is a treasured club member, who had been accompanied by Maniche to many of our Section's events, including the Holiday Dinner in 2019. She was missed at this year's event.

The next morning a delicious breakfast was available for all who stayed in the hotel, with pleasant conversation that marks the comfortable community the Section membership provides for so many of us.

Hope to see you all in 2021 in one of our events for more fun and conversation!

Michele Stine



Tom Wilcox, Diane Hadley, Bill Kraeling, and Kathy Kraeling



John McCutcheon, Judith Lang, Hal Lang, Jay Guditis, and Mary Guditis



Tony Martinez, Jane Martinez, Elise Lehman, her guest Gabriel Rinn, and LaChelle Walker.



John Hameline, William King, Marsha Wilmot, Diane Rowan, and John Windle

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. Exceptions can be made where practical.

A Lada owner comes to the Mercedes-Benz service department ...



A few years after the collapse of USSR a poor Russian bloke brings his old Lada to a recently opened Mercedes-Benz service center. He takes all of his savings from the pocket, around \$500, and tells them that he would love to have some genuine Mercedes parts installed in his Lada. He knows he can't afford to buy a Mercedes-Benz, but he is admiring the brand and just hopes that some German parts would make his car a little nicer. They take \$500 and tell him to come back tomorrow.

Next day he comes to pick up his car, get inside and starts pulling out. To his surprise, after service his Lada feels like a totally different car - it goes very smoothly and very quietly. The only problem is that it can't go very fast. Nevertheless, he is happy and comes back to service center to thank them. "It's amazing, how did you do it? And by the way, can I go a little faster?", he asks. "No, you can't go faster. We installed a power window motor, what else did you expect for \$500?"

