



# MBCA | Carolinas Section

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MERCEDES BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA, CAROLINAS SECTION

3RD QUARTER 2013



WWW.MBCACAROLINAS.ORG

StarTech 2013

## What A Show!!

**S**tarTech 2013, hosted by the Alabama Section with the help of neighboring Sections produced a top notch 4 day MBCA National event at the Mercedes-Benz U.S. International facility in Vance, AL. The event attracted over 300 Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts from all over the US and Canada.

StarTech is a National technical education opportunity for members to learn more about their vehicles, including diagnosing and repair, maintenance, restoration and performance improvement.

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## We're growing and you can help!



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Here it is June, with half the year already flown by. I've been tied up selling a house, moving into temporary quarters, and starting to build a new house, with my wife suffering through it all. But despite this, I am happy to report that the Club is now up to 350+ members strong and continues to grow. Some of this growth

is coming from you recommending the Club to others and some from dealers more actively promoting membership. We really thank you for that. We also thank you for renewing your memberships. The whole purpose of the Club is to take Mercedes ownership beyond just transportation, which is why MBUSA supports the MBCA Club.

In this issue you will read about the recent "StarTech" and upcoming events. But don't just read about them. Come out and be part of your Club. We will be introducing some new events to help you do just that.

You will also read about the need to develop manpower to handle the Club's ever expanding membership and activities. There is a lot of talent out there. We can use it, we need it, we solicit your responses, and encourage you to be involved.

### About MBCA

Established in 1956, MBCA has approximately 20,240 active members and 9251 additional household members in 12 regions which are comprised of 80+ local sections throughout the United States and Canada. Each region is administered by a regional director who is responsible for assisting and inspiring the sections in the region. The regional director also fosters the formation of new sections, coordinates regional activities and represents the constituents as a member of the national board of directors. Hundreds of events are organized by sections, from social gatherings to tech sessions, from car shows to driving events. Most sections publish a newsletter of information and events and each section has its own officers and bylaws.

**From the National Business Office:** With every email and address update that we receive at the NBO, we will send a 10% off coupon for one item in the Club Store. One coupon per member will be sent electronically (so it must include a valid email address). Please send these updates to Geni at geni@mbca.org.

# THE LATEST FOLKS TO JOIN US

## We are so pleased to welcome the newest members of the Mercedes Benz Club of America to the Carolinas Section!

|                   |              |    |
|-------------------|--------------|----|
| James Acuff       | Indian Land  | SC |
| James Bedard      | Aiken        | SC |
| Arthur Berry      | Charlotte    | NC |
| Robert Boykin     | Huntersville | NC |
| Todd Caccamise    | Denver       | NC |
| Joseph Clemmer    | Gastonia     | NC |
| Brian Galloway    | Mills River  | NC |
| Jay Guditis       | Columbia     | SC |
| James Harley      | Spartanburg  | SC |
| David Koehler     | Charlotte    | NC |
| Mark McCauley     | Charlotte    | NC |
| Manjo Nampoothiry | Rock Hill    | SC |
| Larry Saunders    | Conway       | SC |
| Stuart Singer     | Charlotte    | NC |
| Reginald Tripp    | Charlotte    | NC |
| Richard Voltz     | Fort Mill    | SC |



### BENEFITS FOR NEW MEMBERS

There are a lot of pluses to be had from your membership in MBCA. The Club adds some fun and friendships to Mercedes ownership, opens up new avenues of knowledge about the brand, and provides some additional savings at both National and local levels.

Review all of the Club benefits at the [MBCA.org](http://MBCA.org) website under "Members" where you will learn about everything from partner discounts to the MB Loyalty discount when you purchase or lease a new Mercedes Benz vehicle, including the newly released 2014 E Class.

Our local Mercedes dealers have also stepped up to the plate. At *Hendrick's Motors* of Charlotte and Northlake both dealer's offer a

15% discount on parts and both dealerships generously offer a \$99/hour service rate, which represents a 30% savings over their standard rate. Mercedes of So. Charlotte now supports the 15% parts and service discount as do *Baker* of Charleston, *Carlton* of Greenville, and *Skyland Mercedes* of Asheville. Just show your valid Membership Card. This savings is a good incentive to use a Mercedes Benz dealer's repair expertise and OE parts for your Mercedes.

Meeting other members who are fellow enthusiasts can be the most valuable perk as it opens up benefits you might never have expected from both a friendship and knowledge standpoint. Over-all not bad for less than 14 cents per day!



# UNDER THE (web) HOOD



## Just as we sometimes don't look under the hood as often as we should we don't check the [MBCA.org](http://MBCA.org) website that drives what we do. Let's look at what's under those Headings:

On the **HOME** page you'll find the latest information beyond what you saw in The Star magazine with everything from the latest news to all the following Headings. Click away!

Under **MEMBERSHIP** you will find a complete list of all member benefits all in one place, some of which you may not have realized existed. Did you know that there are discounts at Avis, Hertz, Sears Brooks Bros. and more or that you can add free months for signing up a new member?

Under **STAR MAGAZINE** you will find information regarding both back issues and advertisers of cars, parts, accessories and services.

Under **TECH TALK** you will find a ton of information with informative articles, information from other members, and a list of resources and useful sites for a wide range of topics concerning servicing, trouble shooting and maintaining your Mercedes Benz.

Under the **COMMUNITY** heading you will find articles regarding events by local sections throughout the USA. As an MBCA member you are invited and eligible to attend most other Section events. There is also news and forums that you can both read and participate in.

Under **LOCAL CLUB/SECTIONS** you will find a complete listing of every Club Section in the USA.

Are you traveling? Do you live in another area during the Winter or Summer? Did you know that you can join an additional Section for just \$15 more?

In the **CLUB STORE** section you can find gifts and MBCA apparel for the entire Family, as well as gifts for your prized Mercedes. This would also be a good time to order that name badge that you keep meaning to order! And yes those sales benefit the Club expenses.

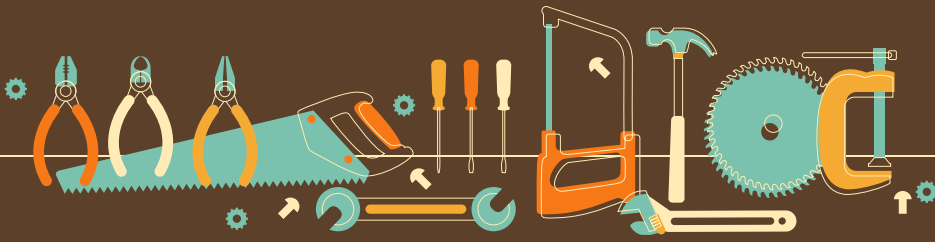
The **CATCH**: For some of the things I listed you have to Log on to the MBCA website to access them. Once you have done the easy registration part you will have full access to everything shown above. Setup and/or Check your profile. Is it up to date? E-mail address, phone number, which vehicle(s) you have? The more up to date your information is, the better the Club can serve you. So pour that glass of wine, German beer, or lemonade and sit down and git'er done!

Also note that we have setup [www.mbcacarolinas.org](http://www.mbcacarolinas.org) as a local website for local access. It is just starting out and we will continue to develop it as an information source for both members and non members, as we are in the process of changing our communications Editor. And yes there will be Facebook. We will continue to use E-mails to bring you "up to the minute" Club information on a number of topics and events and we will do them at least once per month, virtually every month.

*Nick Pasquine, VP/Event Chair*

# WHAT DOES IT TAKE?

## What does it take to run a Local Section of the Mercedes Club? A LOT!



### Like any organization we are as strong as our Members. Let's take a look under this hood:

**A President** – He/She is responsible for all aspects of the Club in terms of guiding the team on events, developing membership, encouraging MB Dealer support, following Club bylaws, encouraging new ideas, assuring that communications go out, working with the Regional Director and National Club staff, conducting local meetings, attending events, and anything else that comes up!

**A Vice President** – Just as in a Corporation, that person does most of the work and fills in for the President when needed

**A Treasurer** – This person is responsible for maintaining the Club's Bank Account, being the watchdog for assuring proper Club expenditures and classifications, plus creating and filing our Financial Reports for the National Club.

**A Secretary** – Obviously that person is responsible for keeping track and recording Club activities, updating information as needed at both Local and National level, and getting Local event information into the *Star*.

**A Membership Chair** – This position is responsible for recognizing new members, keeping the roster up-to-date, reminding members of renewal, communicating member information to the Officers, and introducing new members at Club events.

**A Newsletter Editor** – A tough job to say the least with a lot of technical skills required. Involves creating and publishing the local Section Newsletter, creating and maintaining the local website and Facebook page if needed, as well as communicating with the National Office as needed. While part-time, this position can still be time consuming, especially in the beginning.

**An Event Chair** – This person has the over-all responsibility for developing and carrying out the Club Events calendar and communicating the Events to the members. Also a time consuming position, especially as the number of events keeps increasing. Like many of the positions, even though they are part-time, the amount of effort put into this position will reflect in the results.

## VOLUNTEERS

**Local Ambassadors** for new members who will contact and mentor new members, including at events, by geographical areas such as Charlotte, Columbia, Greenville/Hendersonville/Asheville, Myrtle Beach/ Hilton Head areas.

**Local Dealership Liaisons** – Do you live near a dealer and have a good relationship with them? You would provide Club info to them, report back any issues the Dealer would like brought up, work with the sales force to promote Club membership, be sure the dealer has membership signage and membership materials.

**Event Helpers** – These would be members who help organize and run one or more events. Do you have experience running a driving event, a gimmick rally, a local event in your area?

We are currently missing many of these positions. We have some people doing multiple tasks. In the past that might have been OK, but as the Club grows in size, the problems and needs grow also. In the future we will also need someone to start developing local advertising revenue.

If you have a desire to serve in any of the above positions, get off that sofa and let Rick Dieber or Nick Pasquine know of your desire to be involved via e-mail. We know we won't fill all of the positions right away, and some positions will have to be developed into. But we do need to start now, if we are to continue our current rate of growth.

# 2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Before we get into specifics events I want to bring up an issue. I've attended some dealer customer meetings and have bumped into some Club members at these events who tell me they have never been to a Club event even though they had an interest. The #1 reason given is that they do not know anyone, or what to expect. Are all events big bucks? Are all of our members old rich folks running around in Gullwings or what?

So there is an obvious need to provide our members with an opportunity to meet other members on an informal basis and find out that we are in fact real, down-to-earth people who share a common interest in Mercedes and we don't bite! We surveyed some members who have attended events and they agreed with this idea, so we are going to start a series of "Meet & Greets" or "Bring the Club to You" or "Cars and Eats"...someone will come up with a better idea of what to call them. The idea to is have a Saturday breakfast, Lunch, or a Sunday Brunch, for the purpose of meeting each other.

We will move the meetings around. We'll start in the Charlotte area and then move on to areas such as Columbia, Greenville, Summerville, Asheville, etc., and meet once every 2 months or so. If there is a dealer in the area that wants to be involved, we will meet there first. You are invited to attend any or all of them. The most it will cost you is gas and lunch.

I would welcome your suggestions of where to meet, be it a restaurant, a place for a picnic, etc. Looking for places where we can eat and talk, with good parking available. Now get out those calendars and start jotting down dates!!

## ▶ JUNE

- **Annual Dock Party, June 15, N. Charleston, NC.** One of our most popular events. Previously announced by Newsletter and E-mail. Contact is Henry and Katherine Durbar at 843-860-3000.
- **First Meet & Greet Meeting, June 29, Northlake Mercedes Benz, Charlotte, NC.** Northlake Mercedes Benz (10725 Old Statesville Rd., 866-576-2993) has graciously offered to be the location for our first Meet and Greet Event. We will kick it off at 9:30AM with some breakfast, then

have member introductions, discuss any issues you want to talk about, spend some time socializing, seeing cars and wrap up by noon. **Please e-mail me no later than June 19 at NickPasq@aol.com, with Northlake Breakfast as the subject line, if you are going to attend** so that Northlake knows how many to expect.

## ▶ JULY

- **Second Meet & Greet, July 20, Mercedes of So. Charlotte.** We'll meet at Mercedes of So. Charlotte (950 N. Polk St, Pineville, NC 866-799-6908) at 9:30AM. See the facility, have member introductions, and then go to the nearby Waldhorn German restaurant (12101 Lancaster Hwy., Pineville, NC) for lunch starting at 11:30 AM. **Please e-mail me at NickPasq@aol.com by July 13, with So. Charlotte MB as the subject line, if you plan to attend**, so I can notify the dealer and the restaurant of attendance. This will be your 2nd Charlotte opportunity to meet other members and break the ice.

## ▶ AUGUST

- **Shelton Winery, August 23 - 24, Dobson, NC.** This was a nice event last year. August 24th is the Winery's 13th Anniversary, Italian Festival, and Mercedes Day. You get to park your car on the green in front of the winery, relax (bring chairs) meet other members, talk to winery visitors, have lunch or a picnic, tour and taste. This year they have added some additional activities. The Shelton Winery will be offering a have it all weekend starting Friday night, as well as lunch options during the Saturday show so you can do as much or as little as you want.

Watch for the e-mail with all the final details from the Shelton Winery. We are partnering with the Tar Heel Section and others. Have a friend who owns a Mercedes-Benz but is not a Club member? This is an event to invite them and their car to.

## ▶ SEPTEMBER

- **Meet & Greet, September 21, Highland Lake Inn, Hendersonville, NC.** This will be a Planes, Trains, and Automobiles event with some shopping thrown in if you decide to do it all! We will meet



for lunch at 12:30PM at the attractive Highland Lake Inn with the same agenda as the first two Meet & Greets. There are a number of attractions in the Hendersonville area. You'll have the opportunity to see some vintage trains and planes along with meeting fellow members. Final Details for this fun break the ice event will come via e-mail in the coming month.

## ▶ OCTOBER

• **Euroautofest, October 18 – 19, at the BMW plant in Greer, SC** For those who attended last year, with Mercedes as the featured marque, we got to see over 400 cars. Club members and others showed everything from Gullwings to older sedans, over 50 Mercedes in all. There is no cost to just view the cars and see the beginning section of the BMW museum on the second day. However, if you want to make a nice week-end out of it, show your car, attend some sessions or driving events there is plenty to do. Here is the information summary to register, stay over night, and attend the optional Saturday night banquet as provided by Eurofest:

EURO Auto Festival is now open.

Go to [www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventId=1213437](http://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventId=1213437) to start the registration process. There is a drop down list for club affiliation. If your Club is not on the list, type in the name Mercedes Carolinas. There is a drop down list for you and a guest if you select the Saturday night banquet with a menu selection.

1. If you registered last year, the information will auto fill. Check it for accuracy.
2. There is a registration fee of \$35 to SHOW your car (all cars of the same make are assigned parking spaces together, plus admission to all technical sessions and use of the hotel hospitality center.
3. Parking spaces by marque will be assigned as received. Drop down boxes are provided if your model is not listed. Ferrari is the featured marque this year.

Registration will be limited to 400 cars and closed when 400 cars have been registered, with all registration types closed as of October 1, 2013. You are encouraged to register early!



When we have five registrations from a particular Club your logo will appear on our home page. Embassy Suites in Greenville is the host hotel. They are located at 670 Verdae Blvd., Greenville, SC 29607, (864) 676-9090. Our special rate is \$119 which includes a full

breakfast and evening hotel hospitality. Mention group code EUR when you call, or go on-line.

For more details about this year's event go to [euroautofestival.com](http://euroautofestival.com). This is an exciting event that always sells out. Personally I underestimated what a nice event this was last year and ran out of time to see it all. I plan to stay over this year. **Besides registering, please let me know BY September 16th if you are attending on Saturday, October 19th. If there are enough of us I can put together a Club luncheon. E-mail NickPasq@aol.com with Euroautofest as your subject line.** We also plan to again have a membership booth set up and if you would like to help staff it please let me know.

## ▶ NOVEMBER

• **Concours D'Elegance & car Club Jamboree, Nov. 2-3, Hilton Head, SC.** Go to [www.hhiconcours.com/events/concours-delegance.html](http://www.hhiconcours.com/events/concours-delegance.html) for all the details on this event along with ticket prices. This event is being upgraded with a new location at the Port Royal Golf Club.

## ▶ DECEMBER

• **Annual Meeting & Christmas Dinner, December 14, Aiken, SC.** Based on your input we will again hold our Annual Meeting and Christmas Dinner at the award winning Willcox Hotel in Aiken, SC. Visit [www.thewillcox.com](http://www.thewillcox.com). It was an excellent location and they served us well. Our current plan is to meet in Aiken for lunch, have afternoon activities and then go on to the hotel as we did last year for the evening. More details will follow as we get closer to the date but please mark the date down on your calendars now.

# STARTTECH 2013

CONTINUED

The event gets National media coverage. MBCA members also enjoyed events from car shows, to parade laps around the 2.7 mile Barber Motorsports racetrack, to social and lifestyle activities for “non-technical” spouses along with a number of receptions and a banquet. Attendees ranged from 8 to 80 with something for everyone.

If you missed StarTech look for a complete report in the July/August 2013 issue of The Star magazine.



WWW.MBCACAROLINAS.ORG

## ODDS & ENDS

### FYI

I got an e-mail from O'Reilly Auto Parts that shows that on their website they have a smart phone app that they claim lists 25,000 car shows/events that you can locate wherever you are in the USA and Canada.

### DID YOU KNOW?

CocoMats, like I used to have in my 1961 VW Beetle, are made in Fort Mills, S.C.? In the future we will try to set up a Factory Tour as one of our events.

### A NIGHT AT THE ZOO

Want to have a German beer with a Lion, Elephant, Penguin, or other favorite zoo animal? On the evening of August 2nd you can do just that at the Riverbanks Zoo in Columbia, SC.

It's adults only. Details at [www.Riverbanks.org](http://www.Riverbanks.org)

