



MBCA CAROLINAS SECTION

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MERCEDES BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA | JANUARY 2019



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Special thanks to all who submitted photos for this issue. Ads are from member recommendations but do not constitute MBCA endorsement. See The Star magazine or go to www.MBCA.org for a list of National Officers and contacts.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hope you are having a good Holiday Season! We just wrapped up another year with 11 well attended events. From the NC Aviation Museum, the Apple Valley Model RR, our Annual Dock party, the well attended Colonial Williamsburg learning experience, car shows at Shelton Vineyards, Lake Lure, Hilton Head, and then wrapping up with our always fully booked Aiken meeting, despite some snow this year.

I am going to wait until after our **Jan. 12th** meeting to put out a complete Events calendar as there are some issues I want you, the members, to provide input on. Some of the better events we have done in the past have more than doubled in cost. Do we want to follow up? Some dates need to be considered. What events would you like to see repeated?

My biggest concerns going in to 2019 is the loss of membership. SUV sales dominance is changing ownership demographics. That is not just our Section problem but with now getting so little funding from National compared to several years ago, funding of local events will become a future issue. We will have a dedicated Membership Chair at the request of National, but WE need to start talking the Club up to other owners. I am amazed at how many owners have never heard of the Club and what we do. Do your part, it costs you nothing. Don't forget you get a free month of membership with every new member you refer.

My second biggest concern is that we find some new talent in the Club to take over running the Club and developing backups so we are protected in the event of a sudden Officer loss be it do to health or relocation.

I also hope more of you will start attending events. The people who attend our fun events the most are those who have attended previous events and found out what they were missing.

Jan. 12th is coming! Start the year off right. Save some money and have some extended Christmas fun.

Nick Pasquine, President - *MBCA Carolinas Section*

About MBCA | Established in 1956, MBCA has approximately 26,000 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.



A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

Dennis Farquharson - Charlotte, NC
 Marshall Hoyt - St. Helena Island, SC
 Anthony Martin - Charlotte, NC
 William Rushing - Beaufort, SC
 Gerhard Van Graan - Hendersonville, NC
 Lewis Wilson - Rock Hill, SC

And thank you for your renewals!

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 apt to attend more events and get the most enjoyment out of the Club.

New members can get name badges via <https://mbca.org/name-badge>. They are a help at events so other members know who you are and where you are from.

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 of our past local Newsletters are archived there. It is also a good place to learn about technical issues and to ask questions about your car.

Login for Communities is simple, Your e-mail address and whatever password you select.

Once you do a 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.**

As a member you can also place free ads here for your car, part, or accessory in *The Star* magazine at no charge.

So again, Welcome to MBCA and the Carolinas Section. Do not hesitate to contact any of the Officers listed in the issue for any Club help.

New as well as existing members can access previous newsletters at:
carolinas.mbca.org/section-newsletters

MBCA CAROLINAS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FOR ADVANCE PLANNING, PLEASE CHECK YOUR CALENDARS!

An updated and more complete Event calendar will be published after our January 12th meeting. Here is some advance information:

SAT. JAN. 12th. - You just received an separate e-mail on this event in So, Charlotte. Please get your registration and check to me no later than Jan. 5th so the dealer and the restaurant can plan their staffing and set up.

SAT. FEB 23rd - Past President Rugby is working on a luncheon event at Web's Custom Kitchen. This highly rated restaurant in Gastonia, NC will open for lunch just for us. Watch for details and registration form to come.

MARCH 23 OR 24 - Our largest attended event in the past 5 years was at the Riverbanks Zoo in Columbia. Since then they have added new displays, and have more animals as part of their \$40 Million expansion project. We will start with lunch at the nearby Embassy Suites. Should we go Sat. or Sunday?

APRIL AND MAY - TBD

JUNE - ANNUAL DOCK PARTY

JULY - Board member Pedro Campuzano is working to put together a program endorsed by MBUSA called "Brake" which provides training for teen drivers. Watch for details.

SAT. AUGUST 24th - Annual Mercedes Day at Shelton Vineyards. A well attended event by three Sections with at least 50+ cars and SUV's in attendance. Make it a day or a week-end

SEPT./OCT. - TBD

SAT. AUGUST 24TH - Annual Hilton Head Motoring Festival
Website is www.hhiconcours.com/Our member Bruce Woods will provide more information as we get closer. We will have limited spaces for Car Club Day.

DEC. 7TH - Annual meeting and Christmas Dinner. The Willcox, Aiken SC.

Additional items being considered: The Peachtree Section would like to see us visit Biltmore again. Should we repeat the NC Transportation Museum again? Both Tarheel and Triangle Sections attended last time. Should we repeat out lake Lure Lunch and Boat tour again? This was our Second largest attended event after the Zoo. Should we try to do a rally again? We need at least 20 cars to participate and if so where?

It Was A Good Day!

Incoming Vice President Tom Sharar put together a luncheon and North Carolina Nature Center tour for us on October 13th in Asheville.

Photos by Steve Lawson

We started with lunch at the Gondolier where we have met a couple of times before. They always take good care of us with a private room. The food is very good, and at reasonable prices. We all left stuffed! John Struhar was first to sign up, so he won a "valuable" bag of animal crackers!

After lunch we made a short caravan to the Nature Center. It is a small Zoo in Asheville that features animals common to Western North Carolina. While a tour guide was not available, we did a self tour of about 1.5 hours.

We started with some farm animals and then moved on to deer, bears, foxes, big cats and more. In the bird section several type of owls watched our every move! At the end, we went to into the reptile house. Some of the snakes did not appear to like us! And finally, a look at some the great member's Mercedes in the parking lot.

All is all it was a low cost day, with good food followed by interesting animal presentations and socializing again with other members. Thanks Tom for organizing this!



2018 Hilton Head Island Concours D'Elegance

Story and photos by John Stine



My wife and I attended the Saturday show which was themed “Car Club Day”. It was a gorgeous day; a beautiful venue; with some fantastic cars – what more could you ask for?

Being Car Club day, almost all the show cars were affiliated with one club or another – they included the Mercedes Benz Club of America, Audi Club North America, Porsche Club of America, BMW Car Club of America, and several local clubs including Corvettes of Hilton Head, Orlando Mustang and Shelby Club, Heart of Georgia Corvair Club, et al.

MBCC had 12 cars in attendance, my personal favorites were a pair of 190SL's that looked like they just rolled off the factory floor in Germany. I also loved the “his and hers” Pagoda and 250 sedan – both painted in a light tan with dark brown roofs. There were also several Benzes being shown by other local clubs.



While there were some beautiful Benzes on display, I cannot but share a sense of disappointment. There were probably three BMWs for every Benz on display and probably twice as many Porsches as Mercedes. Perhaps the obvious factory support for both brands somehow brought out more of their owners – BMW had special displays of their South Carolina built SUVs and a very user friendly test drive program which we happily took advantage of. Porsche and Lexus also had test drive opportunities with the Porsche opportunity way oversubscribed. Given that MB USA is now headquartered in Atlanta, you would think they would jump at the chance to show the flag at a magnificent event in their backyard ... maybe next year?

FYI - On Sunday, the Best of Show was awarded to a 1931 Stutz convertible and the 3rd runner up was a gorgeous 1955 Gullwing.





🌿 Another Great Party! 🌿



We met again at the highly rated Willcox Inn in Aiken, South Carolina on December 8th. As seems to be consistent with weather for my events, some parts of northern Carolinas had a snow issue. That did not stop some members, including Roger Levesque from Easley, who provided the music for our Meeting and Dinner as he has every year.

Despite the storm we still had an almost full house. We started out meeting at the bar, (of course), and dropping off gifts for the gift exchange later in the evening. Assorted fine cheeses and crudities were available for snacking.

At 6:45 pm we were seated in the Library dining room where Roger had already started his Christmas medley.

President Nick started with introductions of the members, what town they were from and how long they had been members. He also listed the incoming



Officers, Unfortunately our incoming Vice President, Tom Sharar could not be present due to his wife's recent serious surgery.

During dinner, Nick announced our Board's choice for Member of the Year who was Sam Melwani, our Assistant Newsletter Editor who has also taken on the position of Secretary. His wife Christina was very proud of him and his new plaque.

Dinner was very good, and with the wine already bought and paid for, and fewer people present, there was PLENTY to go around — and the servers were not bashful about pouring. Good thing most of us were staying over and not driving!

After dinner we had a Mercedes dessert (see photo, bottom right).

President Nick then talked about upcoming events. Past President Rugby covered the upscale luncheon event he is working on in Gastonia on Sat. Feb 23rd. (Watch for the e-mail). Board member Pedro covered his plans for a "Brake" program for teen drivers, possibly in July. Both South Charlotte and Hendrick have indicated support for the event, which is also endorsed by Mercedes USA.

We also presented our musician Roger, who really had to scramble this year, with a gift basket of French, Italian, and German Goodies along with a Christmas ornament honoring the US Marines for whom he proudly served.

Once all the business was taken care of, we did door prizes and the gift exchange. Many of us did pretty well.

Some members headed out while others of us got together in front of the Lobby fireplaces for more "partying". And we did it again at breakfast provided by the Willcox the next morning!

Door prizes were provided by the Carolinas Section and Mercedes dealers. We also wish to thank Hendricks dealers along with South Charlotte Mercedes for the door prizes they contributed to help make this event a success. Thanks also to the many who braved the weather to attend. And thanks to the Willcox for doing a great job taking care of our group again. Next years meeting will again be at the Willcox on Saturday, December 7th.



Yes, you could eat the Mercedes!

AND THERE'S MORE...

FYI - Mercedes USA had been sending out some excellent service discount coupons.

To be on the mailing list go to MBUSA.com and click on Owners and then register.

Check with your local dealer to see if they have a mailing list for their customers. Some of them also send out service and other specials to their local customers.

And if you are planning a new car purchase or lease do not forget about the \$500. rebate provided to members of over 1 year in good standing. Rebate form is on the MBCA.org website.

Click [HERE](#) to read an article from Autoweek regarding the Hilton Head Concours.

A video about cats and the CLA:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LFNwdi2-BGg>

VP Sharar - Tom's wife Sharon was rushed to the ER about a month ago. She would up having two heart valves replaced and being diagnosed with a stroke that let her left side paralyzed. She is making good progress but has months of therapy ahead of her. You can send get well wishes to:

Mrs. Sharon Sharar, 5 Sourwood Ridge, Black, Mtn., NC 28711

NOW is a good time to review your profile at MBCA.org. Click on login, enter your e-mail address, a password of our choice. Is your information correct? Address, Associate member, listed, vehicles correct? Take a minute to do it now.

If you use Amazon did you know that you can have part of your purchase be a credit to a charity of your choice such as SPCA, Colonial Williamsburg, etc. It's not much but the numbers add up. Search Amazon-smile, log in and specify your charity to see if it listed.

Have a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year. Look forward to seeing you at an event that our volunteers work on to provide you with more enjoyment as an Mercedes owner. **Sign up for Christmas #2 on January, 12th NOW!**

Not just a car, a community.