



Volume 45 - Vol 4 | August 2023

## View Through



## View Through The Star

#### by Gary Edwards, President

Looks like this is my last View from the Star and I'm thinking about how much I'm going to miss being President of this wonderful organization. As I said almost two years ago, it has been an honor and privilege to serve as your President. We'll have our elections in September and on October 1<sup>st</sup> will have a new slate of officers to lead us for the next two years. The two-year term of office is new; this was in the Bylaws change we implemented last year. It will improve our efficiency since we won't have to gear up

and run an election every year, plus it enhances the effectiveness of the officers since the longer term allows more time to understand the job so the officers don't have to spend their entire term figuring it out.

One of the strengths of Peachtree section is the quality of our Board of Directors and according to the Bylaws, the slate of the officers has to come from the Board. You'll find the slate and bios of the nominees elsewhere in this issue. I thank all of our nominees for their willingness to step forward, and I thank our outgoing Officers and Directors for their service. I know our new group will provide excellent leadership with a steady hand on the rudder across transition, and I have confidence that the same standards of

quality that you've seen in Peachtree for the last 45+ years will continue. I encourage each of you to vote in our election, even if the positions are generally uncontested. <u>Read More</u>

## The Event Rundown

#### August

8/5 | Cars and Coffee at Halcyon | register | map
8/13 | PCA Autocross | register | map
8/23 | Mercedes-Benz Valuation Deep Dive | register | ZOOM
8/25 - 8/27 | Shelton Vineyards | register | map
8/30 | Concours Judging School | register | ZOOM

#### September

9/2 | Cars and Coffee at Halcyon | register | map
9/3 | Karting at Lanier | register | map
9/6 - 9/10 | Mercedes Grande | register | map
9/8 | Taste of the Track Carolinas | register | map
9/9 | Mountain Drive | watch for details
9/23 | Peachtree Concours d' Elegance | register | map
9/24 | PCA Autocross | register | map
9/29 - 10/1 | HPDE Road Atlanta | register | map

#### October

10/7 | Cars and Coffee at Halcyon | <u>register</u> | <u>map</u>
10/8 | <u>PCA Autocross</u> | <u>register</u> | <u>map</u>
10/20-22 | Harold Wilson Memorial Drive | watch for details
10/28 | Cars and Coffee at Halcyon | <u>register</u> | <u>map</u>

#### November

10/3 - 5 | Hilton Head Car Club Showcase and Concours | <u>tickets</u> | <u>map</u>
11/5 | <u>PCA Autocross</u> | <u>register</u> | <u>map</u>
11/11 | Event Planning Workshop | watch for details
11/18 | Mountain Drive | watch for details

#### December

12/2 | Holiday Luncheon | <u>register</u> | <u>map</u>
12/3 | Karting at Lanier | watch for details | <u>map</u>

FULL EVENT SCHEDULE 2023

## **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - BROOKS METZLER**



**Brooks Metzler** 

Brooks Metzler is a single, 30 year old Georgia native. He has a Bachelors in Writing, with a Journalism minor. Presently, Brooks is an Instructional Designer, who creates online training. He believes in a totally separation of work and home. As he states, "Work stays at work."

Even though his first job was answering the phones at a Papa John's Pizza, his favorite food is fried chicken. Brooks is a dog person, but doesn't presently own one. His favorite music is 80s and 90s country and modern "trash pop" (his own term). Umbrella Academy, Top Gear, and the United States of Tara are a few of his favorite television shows. *Read More* 



## **SLATE OF OFFICERS** 2024 - 2025



Rubin Howard President



Rusty Duncan Vice-President



Brett Butler Secretary



Jim Fekete Treasurer



Reijo Haarla Director



Sam Kamber Director



Joseph Ruda Jr. Director

#### by Rusty Duncan, Nominating Chair

I am pleased to announce our Slate of Officers for 2024-2025. I personally would like to thank each of them for their service and agreeing to continue to lead the Peachtree Section forward.

All current members will receive a electronic ballot on September 10th. Please VOTE.

**View Candidate Bios** 

## **MEMBERSHIP**



#### Welcome our Newest Members

- Kirk Chouest
- Clark Hill
- Dan Howington
- Mark Johnson
- Michael Latino
- Bob McNeill
- Wendel Nelson
- Eric Nelums
- Michael Ogle
- James Patterson
- Hung Pham
- Mark Riesch
- Andy Sumner
- Heather Tollison
- Bethel Williamson

#### by Reijo Haarla, Membership Director

At the end of June 2023 Peachtree Section of the MBCA has 494 members. After last fall's decrease on the Section membership numbers, the membership numbers have evened up during the last 6 months and there are some hopes to get the goal of 500 members again.

Peachtree Section is one of the most active sections within the Mercedes-Benz Club of America organization. We offer a large variety of events members can participate. Please check the event calendar in this Newsletter and register to attend for an upcoming event. Attending club events is the best way to meet members that share your interest in Mercedes-Benz vehicles.

We are pleased to welcome those who recently joined the Mercedes-Benz Club of America Peachtree Section.

### Thanks to our Renewing Members

- Henry Absher
- Gary Albin
- Dewitt Alderman
- Brad Bailey
- David Benoy
- Michael Briggs
- Tyrus Brown
- Anneice Butler
- Jim Butler
- Nedra Byers
- James Cartwright
- Karen Catania
- Priscilla Cherry
- Grant Cleveland
- Cameron Davis

- H. Wayne Jones
- Mary Jones
- Alan Kidson
- Kelt Kindick
- Ernest Kiser
- David Latham
- Bruce MacLachlan
- David Markley
- Roger McKissick
- Marques McMillan
- Brooks Metzler
- Roger Miller
- William Norris
- Jeff Priluck
- William Quinto

- William Davidson
- Mitchel DeFrancis
- Robert Edmond
- William Eisenhardt
- Benjamin Everest
- Jonathan Fleischman
- Douglas Forrester
- Teresa Gourlay
- Keith Hawkins
- Kenneth Heyman
- Joerg Hohler
- Phillip Hungate
- Ronald James
- Stephen Jenn
- Alfonso Jessie
- Niket Jindal
- Irvin Johnson

- Ken Roberts
- Olonzo Roberts
- Randy Safreed
- Brian Salinas
- Stephen Schwab
- Chris Seastrom
- Bryan Shaver
- Carl D Smith
- Don Smith
- Bob Smith
- Steven Smith
- Barry Spurlock
- Robert Tanner
- Benjamin Trapp
- Kathy Tuton
- Richard Zeits

## **RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

# CARS COFFEE

## **Cars and Coffee at Halcyon**

Join us for our monthly Cars & Coffee sponsored by RBM's Mercedes-Benz Experience at Halcyon. Please arrive by 9:30 am, we'll begin at approximately 10 a.m. when everyone has finished prepping their cars. The *Fuel* coffee shop is ready to serve up a hot cup of coffee to enjoy while chatting with fellow members.

This year some months will have a theme to them. Here is our upcoming dates:

8/5 - <u>Cars and Coffee at Halcyon</u>
9/2 - <u>Cars and Coffee at Halcyon</u> - AMG's
10/7 - <u>Cars and Coffee at Halcyon</u>
10/28 - <u>Cars and Coffee at Halcyon</u> - Halloween



## The Mercedes-Benz Experience at HALCYON-FORSYTH

Conveniently located at McFarland Parkway and GA 400.



Mercedes-Benz Experience by RBM of Alpharetta



6345 Halcyon Way, Suite 835 | Alpharetta, GA 30005 | 678-726-6726

PCA Autocross 8/13

Concours Judging School - 8/30



The third PCA autocross of the year is on June 25th at the huge parking lot at Atlanta Motor Speedway. Great fun, a great way to become a better driver and to learn your car's medium speed performance limits in a safe environment.

Don't doddle; they tend to fill up quickly. The dates for the rest of the year: , August 13, September 24, October 8 and November 5.

These are well run, safe events that typically give you 10 runs – much better than most autocrosses, time to learn the course and experiment. You should plan to bring a helmet, though they do tend to have some loaner helmets available.



Gary Edwards, Event Planner

We need concours judges for our September 23<sup>rd</sup> concours. We'll provide free judges training the evening of Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6 to 10 pm via ZOOM.

Previously certified judges are also welcome since there have been some rule book changes since our last training. There is no charge for this event, but you must register.

## REGISTER

## REGISTER

Carolinas Section Presents Mercedes-Benz Valuation Deep Dive with Haggerty Wednesday, August 23, 2023 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. via ZOOM



Tracy Molloy of Hagerty will offer a Virtual Seminar on Mercedes-Benz Valuation and a "**State of the Market**" conversation followed by questions from the audience.

Learn valuable information about the inner workings of valuation of Mercedes vehicles.

#### Karting at Lanier - 9/3



Gary Edwards, Event Planner

Great fun, Great people, Great karts. Hone your driving skills in a high-fun, low-risk environment. We have two more Karting events scheduled this season at Caffeine and Octane Lanier Raceway.

Sign up for September 3<sup>rd</sup> now: . We also have December 3rd. We're doing morning Karting with an optional pizza lunch afterwards. Four sessions for \$110. Pizza lunch \$10.

### REGISTER

## Peachtree Concours d' Elegance



Sam Kamber, Concours Chair

Registration for the MBCA Peachtree Concours d'Elegance is now open, so mark your calendar for the 23rd September 2023 . Our premier event will take place at Halcyon in Alpharetta GA. where our qualified judges will score entrants vehicles in the various classes pertaining to the vehicle.

Once again custom trophies for the three finalists in each class will be handed out.

We will also have the Show & Shine Category where the vehicles will be judged on their appearance only.

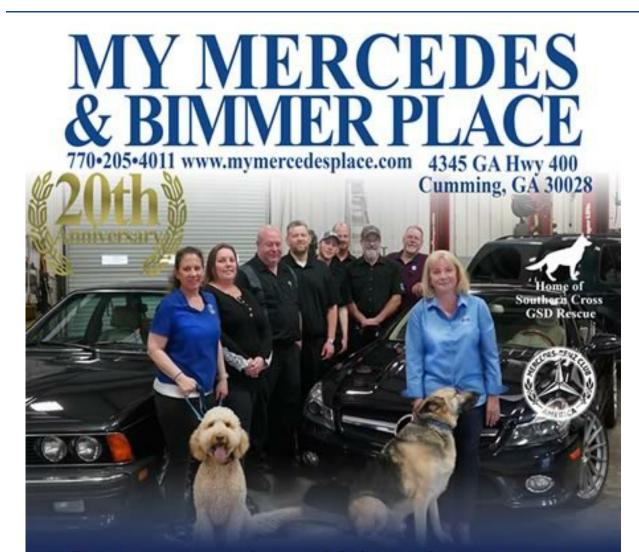
#### REGISTER



#### <u>High Performance Driving Education</u> (HPDE) - 9/30 - 10/1

It's great fun, it's addictive, and you'll be a better driver! We had six of our members at the PCA event at AMP in February, and Cheryl and I had a great time at Watkins Glen for the combined MBCA/Lotus Club event at the end of May. Our next event will be with PCA on September 30 through October 1<sup>st</sup> at Road Atlanta with PCA. Cheryl and I have already registered. I'd love to take a bunch of Mercedes to this event – but these events fill up fast, so sign up now! Going to these PCA events and partnering with the Lotus Club allows us to get to tracks we otherwise wouldn't be able to afford.

#### REGISTER



As we approach our 20th anniversary, we continue to stay committed to providing you with quality service at a fair price.

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Stu•30 Years|Lane•12 Years|Jennifer•6 Years|RJ•2 Years|Adrienne•20 Years

An Irish Holiday - 12/2



Ernie Smallman III and Pat Duer, Event Planners

A change from a traditional holiday luncheonan Irish seasonal buffet. Olde Blind Dog Irish Pub has been a popular waterhole in Milton for the past ten years. Ole Blind Dog's authentic reproduction of an Irish Pub was recognized and selected as the "Irish Pub of the Year" in 2015 by the Irish Global Pub Federation of Dublin Ireland.

The internet and found that grits are a traditional fare in Ireland, not just the South USA.

Parting words of Slainte Gaelach!

- May your glass be ever full,
- May the roof over your head be always strong,
- May you be in heaven a half hour
- Before the devil know you're gone!

REGISTER

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## **TECHNICAL DIGEST**



You might remember when I did a seminar on "How to Buy a Car on the Internet". I talked about precautions to avoid scams. Well, I just allowed myself to get scammed – how could I let that happen?

The car I was after doesn't matter, though it was a Mercedes. I was busy getting a car ready for Watkins Glenn, shuffling between commitments, quite distracted and feeling a little sick as well. I sent in a query about a car and received a response several days later. I asked some specific questions and received a set of emails forwarding about 100 pictures, but no real answers to my questions. The pictures were accompanied by an email that looked like a full disclosure of the car's issues but in retrospect, nothing was shared that was not visible in the pictures. The interior and exterior colors were attractive, and the mileage was on the low end; the price was in the reasonable to maybe a bit low range.

The "company" offered free shipping with a 10 day right of return. When I said I wanted to look at the car I was told the next available appointment was in three weeks. I decided to purchase the car; thinking that it would be gone in three weeks. I had been interested in a similar car at a similar price in the Atlanta area which sold before I could even get over to see it. If the price had been higher, I would have been more cautious.. <u>Read more</u>

## **EVENTS AROUND THE REGION**

Shelton Vineyards Dobson, North Carolina August 25-26, 2023



Everyone is excited to be gathering again, reuniting with old friends and meeting new ones. Where better than the Mercedes-Benz Showcase at Shelton Vineyards in Dobson, NC. <u>www.sheltonvineyards.com</u>

This year the schedule of events will be:

- Friday August 25 Scenic Drive
- Friday night 6:00pm Group Dinner
- Saturday August 26 Mercedes-Benz Showcase
- Saturday Evening Dinner 6:00pm in Elkin, NC at Southern on Main
- Sunday August 27 MBCA Leadership Forum 9:00-11:30am for MBCA Leaders

For hotel information and event details visit the Registration button.

#### **Shelton Vineyards Registration**

## Taste of the Track Carolinas Motorsports Park Friday, September 8, 2023



"... designed to be an introduction to what it feels like to drive on a professionally designed track with professional instruction"

Start with a brief classroom briefing, led by a professional driving instructor. Your 10-lap track time is split into two sessions.... Instruction, drive 4 laps-

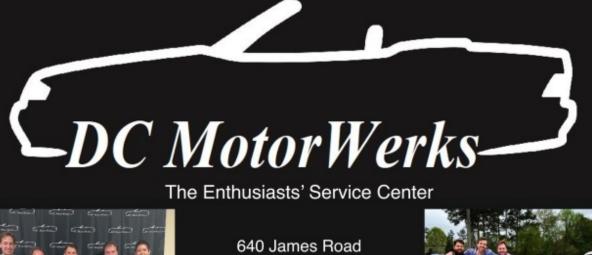
come back in for more advanced instruction, then 6 more laps.

It's leader-led format; you're driving your car in a single file group of no more than five. Safe speed and distances are maintained. Total participants will be approximately 15

Cost is \$125.00 per car. Registration deadline is August 31, 2023

Food is available on site at Carolina Motorsports Park, 3662 Kershaw Hwy, Kershaw, SC 29067 A great opportunity to learn about your Mercedes Benz and your driving talents!

### **REGISTER FOR TASTE OF THE TRACK**





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## **POST-EVENTS**

## **Bruno Sacco Car Show**



by Sam Kamber, Concours Chair

On June 3rd over 50 vehicles assembled at Halcyon in Alpharetta to honor one of the most iconic vehicle designers of the 20th century.

In 1970 Bruno Sacco was named head of the Body and Dimensional design department and in 1975 chosen to succeed Friedrich Geiger as head of the Mercedes Styling Department, a position he would hold for the next 24 years.

Joining Mercedes 1958, Bruno first worked as a stylist and engineered on projects including the 230SL roadster and the 600 sedan before becoming project manager for the experimental C111 sports car. To say that the show was successful would be an understatement. Everyone had a great time presenting their vehicles and the public enjoyed seeing these beautiful cars.

The wide array of Bruno Sacco Vehicles displaying the enthusiasm by the entrants was really great. MBCA Peachtree Sponsor, DC Motowerks donated all the door prizes at the end of the show. All contestants received the custom designed C111 Key Ring in their packet. The C111 inspired trophies were well received.

The beneficiary of the show was **Bert's Big Adventure**, a nonprofit organization which aids terminally ill kids with chronic diseases.







We raised \$2000 for the cause which was gratefully accepted by a representative of Bert's Big Adventure.



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PEACHTREE SECTION		DA	те	June_3rd20 <sub>23</sub>
PAY TO THE ORDER OF	Bert's Big Advent	ture	\$	2000.00
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	HALCYON, ALPHARET TALGA 7	109039	7435	

## **Mercedes-Benz LOVE in Tuscany**



May 2023, Siena Italy - Diana Quinn, Eastern Region Director

The W113 Pagoda is my all my time favorite Mercedes-Benz from a look and feel of what a Mercedes should be in a two-seater convertible. My first Mercedes-Benz that I purchased was 1980 450SL which I drove and loved until I bought my current 1995 E320 Cabriolet in 2018.

So, what could be better than to have a opportunity to drive W113 and R107's in Tuscany? Nothing! The tour opportunity came about last year, and we waffled but after a bit of coaxing by the US organizer Marsha Wilmot of the Carolinas Section we joined the wait list. A few weeks later a spot opened, and we were going! The tour expanded to a three week vacation with a week before the tour visiting with past coworker who now lives in Casalanguida, Italy (eastern side of Italy near the Adriatic Sea). And then a week after the tour, visiting Rome, Switzerland, and Paris.

Our week with Nostalgic Classic Tours began with meeting the group in Florence Italy for a one night stay at the historic Hotel Albani. The group had dinner on the first night at a local Florence restaurant and then did a walking tour through the city center of Florence the following day before leaving for our base camp hotel at Borgo Scopeto near Siena, Italy. With the group now assembled (24 in all, mostly couples) we met and had a dinner at our host hotel. We were teased with 12 cars all under covers in the parking area of the hotel as what the cars might be. Was this one W113 or was it a R107? (Well, the wheel covers peeking from under the car covers did give them away a bit). <u>*Read More*</u>

#### **6x Honoree**

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## Mercedes-Benz USA reports Q2 2023 total sales of 96,109 vehicles

#### July 11, 2023 - Atlanta

Atlanta - Mercedes-Benz USA (MBUSA) today reported Q2 2023 sales of 77,287 Mercedes-Benz models. Additionally, Mercedes-Benz Vans reported Q2 2023 sales of 18,732 units, bringing MBUSA to a total of 96,109 vehicles for the quarter. MBUSA has introduced five Electric Vehicles (EQ) in the Mercedes-Benz electric line-up, including EQS Sedan, EQS SUV, EQB, EQE Sedan and the EQE SUV. Strong, sustained demand for EQ and Top-End Vehicles propelled Q2 Top-End growth of 40% for a total of 26,927 vehicles. <u>*Read More*</u>

## Mercedes-Benz USA Hosts "Camp MBUSA" with Atlanta Falcons' Bijan Robinson, the YMCA of Metro Atlanta and Safe Kids Worldwide



July 13, 2023 - Atlanta

Yesterday, Mercedes-Benz USA (MBUSA) hosted "Camp MBUSA" at their headquarters with Atlanta Falcons running back and Mercedes-Benz brand ambassador Bijan Robinson for children from YMCA of Metro Atlanta. The day-long event provided campers with a series of fun field day activities and interactive safety education stations led by Safe Kids Worldwide to educate students about summer safety and injury prevention. *Read More* 

## SOCIAL MEDIA

**Social Media** 



by Rubin Howard, Social Media Director

If you haven't already, Join our Facebook group <u>MBCAPeachtree</u>. Keep up to date with the latest events, chat with members, and make the most of your membership with our Facebook group. As well, follow us on Instagram @MBCAPeachtree. Our Youtube Channel <u>MBCA Peachtube</u> is full of excellent resources for club members. We feature videos such as technical sessions.

concours judging schools, Rally schools, as well as features from events.

Facebook Group link:

<u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/mbcapeachtree</u> Instagram link <u>https://www.instagram.com/mbcapeachtree/following/</u> MBCA PeachTube link: <u>MBCA Peach Tube</u> SPECIAL TIRE & WHEEL PRICING For Club Members HI-Speed on-The-Car Balancing Four-Wheel Alignment Nitrogen Tire Inflation

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#### Thursday, 9/7

- Tech Talks & Guest Speakers
- MBCA Fashion Show/ Car Show & Luncheon
- Mercedes-Benz New Car Extravaganza and Lifestyle Exhibition

#### Friday, 9/8

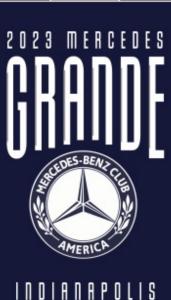
- Tech Talks & Guest Speakers
   Rally Drives and Tours
- Presented by the Mercedes-Benz Club of America & Artomobilia
- MBCA Medallion Rally Luncheon
   Hullabaloo Street
- Hullabaloo Street Festival, Drive-In Car Show, and Concert

#### Saturday, 9/9

- Mercedes Monumental Classic Car Show at Artomobilia
- The Grande Celebration Awards Dinner
- Kids Zone Exhibit Play Station & Driving Experience

#### Sunday, 9/10

- Rally Drives and Tours Presented by the Mercedes-Benz Club of America & Artomobilia
- Silo Auto Club Racing Simulator Challenge



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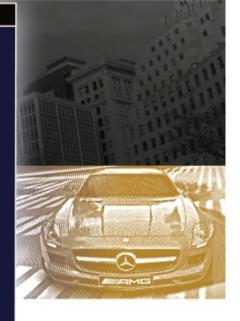
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## **Peachtree Section Officers**

Peachtree Section, MBCA Officers and Board of Directors and Leadership Support Members

Gary Edwards president@mbcapeachtree.com

#### **Events**

<u>events@mbcapeachtree.com</u> Rusty Duncan Rubin Howard Gary Edwards Jim Fekete

#### **Rubin Howard**

vicepresident@mbcapeachtree.com Rusty Duncan secretary@mbcapeachtree.com Jim Fekete treasurer@mbcapeachtree.com

#### Directors

directors@mbcapeachtree.com Brett Butler Sam Kamber Dean Prince Joseph Ruda Jr.

#### **Past presidents**

Joe Martin Ernie Smallman JoAnne Taylor

#### Committees

Reijo Haarla - Membership <u>membership@mbcapeachtree.com</u> Diana Quinn - Newsletter <u>newsletter@mbcapeachtree.com</u> Rusty Duncan - Sponsors <u>sponsor@mbcapeachtree.com</u> Dean Prince - Technical <u>technical@mbcapeachtree.com</u> Diana Quinn - Webmaster <u>webmaster@mbcapeachtree.com</u>

Eastern Regional Director Diana Quinn

<u>mbcadirectoreasternregion@gmail.com</u> **National President** Doug Geganto <u>mbcaprez@gmail.com</u> For information or questions about the Peachtree Section, please contact us at 770-376-0669.



#### **Membership Card**



Your MBCA Membership card is available on the MBCA National website. Here is how:

- Log into MBCA (<u>www.mbca.org</u>) with your username/password
- Click on **My Membership** from the menu on the left
- Click Print Member Card
- Print to your printer

**TIP:** Take a screen shot of your membership card and save to your photos in your phone

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