



Carolinas



1st Quarter 2023

jingling AND
MINGLING



*A Holiday Weekend to Remember
See Page 10*

President's Message

Dear Members,



Steve Brooks, President
MBCA Carolinas Section

As we bring in the new year 2023, I am honored to serve as the Carolina Section's new president. I have been a car enthusiast since I was a young boy growing up in Atlanta, Georgia. My wife Jeanne and I enjoyed long careers in the US Army. Following retirement, we moved from Alexandria, Virginia where we had lived off and on for the past 30 plus years to beautiful Asheville, NC. I have owned at least one Mercedes continuously since I was 27 years old. While on active duty, we lived for seven years in Germany, where our love for the Mercedes brand flourished even more. I have been a member of MBCA for over 40 years, although not continuously.

Currently, I take care of my 1960 190SL and my 1971 280SL roadsters. Over the

years, we have belonged to several MBCA sections as we were transferred from place to place while in the Army.

I am in awe of the outstanding leadership Jane Martinez and her husband Tony have provided the Section. Today, the Carolinas Section is one of the most successful in the national organization and I tip my hat to both of them, all the Section officers, and the many volunteers whose selfless efforts have made our section so successful.

I believe that we love the MBCA because we love our Mercedes Benz automobiles and the excellence they symbolize, whether it is an antique, a classic, a performance car, or our everyday transportation. We also love MBCA because we enjoy each others' company, sharing our interests and knowledge, and attending events in interesting places. My goal is to preserve and maintain the wholesome climate that Jane and Tony have established, and to help focus our positive energy into an enjoyable event schedule. Our successful chapter will continue to be dependent on active memberships, the quality of our experiences together, and our energy. I en-

courage everyone to be as active as your busy schedules allow. Most of all, my goal is that we have lots of fun together!

The Carolinas Section membership grew last year. Over the next two years, I would like us to grow our membership continuously by talking to friends, family, neighbors, and colleagues about all the benefits that a MBCA membership offers. It is a great deal with discounts, social opportunities, technical advice, and subscription to the *Star* magazine. In the US Marine Corps, they say that every Marine is a recruiter. In a similar vein, I think of ourselves as MBCA recruiters. If each of us brought one additional member into the MBCA, we would double our membership. More members bring more opportunities.

Finally, we need your recommendations, ideas, and feedback so that we can continue our history of great events.

I look forward to seeing you soon at a MBCA event.

Steve Brooks
President



Tech Articles

Find technical articles and connect with technical experts with questions.



Calendar

View upcoming Regional, National, and local club events in your area.



News

Read all the latest Mercedes-Benz headlines, and catch up on current MBCA news.



MBCA Forum

Connect with other Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts and discuss all things Mercedes-Benz.

Table of Contents

President's Message	2
Carolinas Section Website	4
Upcoming Events	5
Sponsors	9
A Holiday Weekend to Remember	10
More Recollections	12
Waiting by <i>John Stine</i>	14
Welcome New Members	16
Name Badges/Publication Details	17
Carolina Section Leadership	18
Membership Profile	20
Web Links	21

Carolinas Section Website and Facebook Page

Take a look at our [Facebook page](#) and explore the [Carolinas Section MBCA website](#). We also have a YouTube site. Carson Thorne, Social Media Director cethorne02@gmail.com.



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Carolinas Section



The Carolinas Section covers a broad geographical region which provides us with wonderful opportunities. We are able to enjoy the majestic North Carolina mountains, and the pristine coastline and beaches of South Carolina, including the many cities with great museums to visit and enjoy. Our area encompasses places where American history actually took place, including the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. And don't forget all the restaurants, wineries and breweries!! Just open any magazine that covers the Southern states and you will find great venues mentioned in Asheville and Greenville, the Queen City of Charlotte, and on through the Capital City of Columbia to the shores of Myrtle Beach, Charleston and Hilton Head Island.

Our challenge is to visit them all!

Upcoming Events for 2023

1st Saturday of every month 8 am—Cars & Coffee - Charlotte, NC

February 25 at 10 am—Electric Vehicle Tech Session & SC State House Tour

April 8 from 9 to 11 am—Member Meet & Greet at Mercedes-Benz of Asheville

May 6 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm—MBCA Grand Strand Section Meet & Greet Hosted by John Hameline

May (final date TBD)—River Jam Live Music at the Whitewater Center—Charlotte, NC

July 8 - 10 am—Technical Session—“Preventative maintenance on your classic Mercedes Benz”- Charlotte, NC

September 16—Florence, SC—A Mystery Tour of South Carolina’s PeeDee.

Carolinas Section Calendar of Upcoming Events (continued)

CARS AND COFFEE

1st Saturday of every month 8am
3545 Whitehall Park Dr.
Charlotte, NC

Monthly gathering of car enthusiasts on the first Saturday of each month. In the warm months, we meet at Top Golf at 7:30am before the show and drive in together.

Electric Vehicle Tech Session & SC State House Tour

Saturday, February 25th at 10 am.
5825 Two Notch Road,
Columbia, SC 29223

The Carolinas Section is once again inviting everyone and all members to gather at Dick Dyer Mercedes in Columbia to attend a technical learning session hosted by

Roy Chaney to discuss the next phase in car ownership—Electric Vehicles.

The session will begin at 10 am and lunch will be provided.

After lunch we will take a ride to downtown Columbia and participate in a tour in the beautiful South Carolina State House. What better way to spend a February day—talking about Mercedes Benz, a little South Carolina history and conversation with members of your favorite club!

The registration fee of \$25 per person includes the technical session, lunch, and entry fee to the SC State House tour. If you are bringing a guest, please include them

Location:

Dick Dyer & Associates
5825 Two Notch Road,
Columbia, SC 29223

Cell: 803-908-1060

Office: 803-786-8888

Email:

rchaney@dickdyeronline.com

Website:

www.dickdyeronline.com

The State House is located at 1100 Gervais Street, which is at the intersection of Gervais and Main Streets, Columbia, South Carolina.

Member meet and Greet at Mercedes-Benz of Asheville
Saturday, April 8, 2023

from 9:00 am to 11:00 am
Mercedes-Benz of Asheville

A chance for members to meet, tour the dealer, and maybe find out about some new MB models. More information coming soon...



Carolinas Section



EV Ownership Tech Session & SC State House Tour



[Register Here](#)

REGISTER NOW

Saturday, February 25th at 10 am.

Carolinas Section Calendar of Upcoming Events (continued)



MBCA GRAND STRAND SECTION

Meet & Greet on Saturday, May 6, 2023

4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Hosted by John Hameline, MBCA Carolinas Section
Grand Strand Ambassador

Location:

Bella Vita Clubhouse
300 Bella Vita Blvd.
Myrtle Beach, SC

Come meet your fellow Grand
Strand MBCA Members
and enjoy a few
refreshments!

Please RSVP no later than May 1st
to John Hameline at
(c) 843-315-4320
or
john.hameline@gmail.com



May 2023 (TBD) River Jam Live Music at Whitewater Center-Genres include roots rock, Americana, bluegrass, folk and funk.

Saturday July 8th at 10am
2716 Interstate St. Suite G
Charlotte, NC 28208

A technical session discussing preventative maintenance on your classic Mercedes-Benz. This will be an educational and hands on session discussing any questions you may have about keeping your classic Mercedes-Benz in tip-top

shape. We will discuss tires & brakes, engine & transmission service, and everything else you may want to know. Limited to 10 persons, snacks will be provided. *Registration will open up in May*

A Mystery Tour of South Carolina's PeeDee! September 16, Florence, SC

The Pee Dee is a region in the northeast corner of South Carolina and includes Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Lee, Marion, Marlboro and Williamsburg. It lies along the lower watershed of the

Pee Dee River, named after the Pee Dee, a Native American tribe that historically inhabited the region.

The mystery tour will begin near Florence, SC where we will stop for lunch. After lunch we'll drive to Darlington where we'll visit the Darlington Raceway Museum. We'll finish the tour at the Raceway. (As always, the weather could affect the present plans! More information and details coming soon...

Carolinas Section Calendar of Upcoming Events (continued)

Registration Form for Carolinas Section Events



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

**Jane, Martinez, 1375 Whispering Oaks Circle, Matthews, NC 28104
Make check payable to Carolinas Section - MBCA**

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR EACH EVENT

Event Name _____

Names of members attending: _____

Names of guests attending: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail: _____

Number attending _____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____

Additional information _____

NOTE:

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

Sponsors

Thank you to our generous sponsors



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A Holiday Weekend to Remember by John Hameline

Our weekend of Jingling and Mingling at the Pinehurst Resort began in the Ryder Cup Lounge where the holiday committee greeted everyone with some glittering holiday glasses and a jingle-belled packet of information about our weekend, a bite to eat and some libations.



We walked/shuttled down to the village and watched the town tree lighting ceremony. Some stayed and enjoyed the festivities, some walked back to the hotel, as Jill Blondo encouraged us to stretch our legs for a 3-minute walk! Some waited for the shuttle to return home and visit the Ryder Cup



Lounge...again for a bite to eat!

On Saturday morning we met David Thorne at the Pinehurst Brewing Company where we began a most bucolic motoring tour of the

Sandhills area. He did an excellent job starting us out and then he immediately stopped for coffee. Those of us who did not see him do so got immediately off course. But we used his great directions and managed to arrive at the Pinehurst Brewery only five minutes late. Lunch was enjoyable and included views of several football games. Thanks to Joe Clemmer for making sure some of us were at the Brewery in time!

Later on in the day, while

A Holiday Weekend to Remember (continued)



the Beers' and the Hameline's were attending to some last-minute details in the Member's Club dining room, folks started arriving at the Deuce for a holiday cocktail and to share their day with

club members. At six pm we traversed several patios and dining areas and entered our dining room. The tables were adorned with festive tablescapes, created by Judy Beers. After our excellent dinner,

Jane Martinez introduced our Regional Director, Diana Quinn who initiated the Awards Ceremony. We soon learned our award recipients for the Carolinas section Member of the Year Award

A Holiday Weekend to Remember (continued)



was Tony Martinez and the Eastern region Officer of the Year was Marsha Wilmot. Congratulations to both of these members for their energy and diligence and hard work this past year for our members!

The end of the evening will be most memorable for many of us! While sipping a night-cap or two, the power went

out and continued throughout the night. We forged ahead to our rooms while walking up several flights of stairs with the flashlights on our phones and a few torches provided by the hotel. We made it through the night, packed-up, and departed the Pinehurst Resort Sunday morning

Many thanks to our holiday committee: Judy Beers, Joe Clemmer, Jane Martinez, David Thorne, and Marsha Wilmot for a well-planned and enjoyable weekend of Jingling and Mingling. We all look forward to the next event. ■

More Recollections of the Affair to Remember *by Andy and Jill Blondo*

It was a beautiful Saturday morning in Pinehurst. The rain was holding off, temperature was mild, and we were ready for a leisurely scenic Mercedes Club drive from the Pinehurst Brewery Company, led by David Thorne and Kelly Avery. David was well prepared and gave us all written directions and encouraged us to watch posted speed limits, stop signs, and traffic signals. Mark suggested we switch navigators to spice things up (that was shot down quickly). We even had drone pictures taken of the group. Upon leaving the Brewery, we were falling in line to help ensure we did not get lost. That quickly got derailed when the traffic light changed and half of us were left waiting for it to return to green. No worries, we became the new lead Benz, until we got to the coffee stop. There was John waving us on as he stopped for coffee. “Hi John”, we said.

More Recollections of the Affair to Remember by Andy & Jill Blondo

This is where the drive got derailed. My wife Jill (my navigator) told me to turn right at the upcoming street, but this was not the street we were supposed to turn on. Having a somewhat lax sense of direction, Jill did not know where northwest was (on the sheet as a direction), even turning the paper upside down to try to get the MBZs in back of us back on track. She convinced me to pull over a few blocks from there and Jane/Tony took over as lead and saved the day (or so we thought). Jane and Tony helped with the directions, turning on the main highway. We noticed that they missed a turn but was there something we did not know? Nope; they stopped to make a U-turn as several MBZs piled up in back of them to do the same. Another group of cars passed them and U-turned at the next opening in the road. We chose the third U-turn and Jill finally found the street we were supposed to turn on. To our surprise, after about 15 minutes of driving alone around winding roads, we rounded one turn in the road and came across John's and David's cars in front of us. We were saved

and followed them while we took in the scenery for the last 30 miles or so, ending back at the Brewery for lunch.

Wait, the other cars that were in front of us turning at the U-turn led by Tony and Jane were not back yet? About 20 minutes later the rest of the cars arrived for lunch. We cheered them on as they walked into the Brewery. All had been saved. Everyone made it back.

Part 2. After a beautiful group happy hour and dinner at the country club, we all went our separate ways. We went back to our room to watch the Clemson/UNC ACC Championship game, while the others may have gone back to the bar to watch the Clemson or Michigan game with more drinks. About 10 minutes into the game, the power goes out. We were sure that Will (Alabama fan) had something to do with this as we were conversing with him and his wife at lunch about our favorite teams. There was Jill on her cell phone giving me the play by play as Clemson finally put in the backup quarterback. We thought it would be just a few minutes of dark-

ness, after a few hours when signal started to be iffy, we finally gave up and went to sleep, hoping for power in the middle of the night (not to be). Since no power and no food at the inn Sunday morning, we got up at sunrise and drove home. I guess we will have to wait to hear about all the exciting events through email since breakfast was a bust. ■



Waiting by John Stine



We begin in late January of this year. I had just taken my wife Michele's CLS400 for an oil change at Mercedes Benz of Mount Pleasant. The CLS400 was a 2015 model approaching 60,000 miles. I had previously mentioned to Michele that we were getting to the point of replacing the CLS with something new—I tend not to keep cars beyond 50,000 miles. While at the dealership, I noticed that they had a well-equipped GLC300 4Matic in Mojave silver with a beige interior in stock. 4matics were few and far between in the Low Country and Michele would only drive a 4Matic. She and I went to look at the GLC but the dealership's insistence on a \$2,500 dealer markup plus an additional \$1,700 of dealer add-ons (ceramic coating, nitrogen tire fill, etc.) killed any possibility of a deal being struck.

As Michele and I spoke further, it became clear that she really did not want an SUV but preferred sedans. I have a Cadillac Escalade—no need for a second SUV. My first Mercedes was a 2000 E320 which was my reward to myself for becoming a VP at New York Life. In later years, we leased a 2013 C300 4Matic and a 2015 C300 4Matic before buying the 2015 CLS400 4Matic just before we moved to South Carolina in early 2018. With all that in the background, I started researching an E Class sedan. I noted that the E Class had gotten excellent reviews from the automotive press after its 2021 freshening—Motor Trend even designated it as Car of the Year for 2021.

Recalling a conversation a while back with an MBCA member, who lives on the Isle of Palm, that he purchased a GLC63 from Dick Dyer and Associates in Columbia after

being frustrated with the deal offered by the local Mercedes dealers, and remembering the courtesy shown to the club members during an event the dealership hosted for us in early 2020, I contacted Roy Chaney to see what he would do for us. Roy made it clear that Dick Dyer does not add dealer markups or additional mandatory extras and that they discount the MSRP to include the dealer documentation fee. With all that in mind, I decided to order an E350 4matic from Dick Dyer.

I chose the E350 4matic and opposed to the E450 4matic because I did not want a car with the new 48-volt electrical system nor the hybrid technology. I appreciate the fact that the 450 would have more power but I am not an early adopter of technology and wanted a car that would be problem free for years to come. I decided that the horsepower and torque of-

Waiting (continued)



ferred by the E350 was significantly more than the power that my 2020 E320 had and that car was far from slow. I sped out an E350 4matic in Mohave silver with the light grey/dark gray interior, burl wood, and a few comfort and convenience items. The total price was \$62,300 and the order was placed in mid-February. After the order was accepted by Mercedes Benz, Roy let me know that the car would be built in early July and that we could expect delivery in August. Thus began the waiting...

In April I contacted Roy for an update—no change in the expected production and delivery dates—status quo in mid-June. On July 14, I heard from Roy—the car was built on June 22—he forwarded the VIN and a copy of the build sheet—however, there was no indication as to when it would be shipped. In mid-August Roy advised that the car had

still not been shipped and that it appears the car was in need of a part before it could be shipped—the waiting continued...

September and October came and went with no word as to when the car would be shipped or any specifics as to why it was delayed. I was becoming concerned that the car would never be shipped as I started seeing 2023 E Classes on dealer websites. In an act of desperation, on October 25, I wrote to Dimitris Psillakis, CEO of MBUSA, providing him with a synopsis of the saga and asking for his help in finding out if and when the car would be shipped. No response was ever received.

In early November, I checked in with Roy again—still no word about the car but Roy did suggest that we should place an order for a 2023, given that he had no idea if the 2022 would ever be shipped. After discussing it with Michele, we decided to go ahead with an order for a 2023 E Class. To my great surprise, on November 10, Roy called to say that the 2022 E Class was ready for shipping—it would be on the vessel Brooklands and scheduled to

arrive in Brunswick, Georgia, on November 30. Was it just a coincidence, or did my letter to Mr. Psillakis actually make a difference—we will never know.

There is an iPhone app called ShipAtlas that lets you track any vessel in the world with updates on current position, ports visited, and destinations. I followed Brooklands from Bremerhaven to Belgium to Baltimore and finally to Brunswick, where it arrived on November 30.

On Tuesday, December 6, Roy called to say that our car was released by the port and expected at the dealership the next day. On Wednesday, we received the first pictures. I spent part of Thursday cleaning out the CLS, which we were trading in. Michele and I picked up the new E Class on Saturday, December 10. Roy Chaney and the rest of the staff and Dick Dyer could not have been more pleasant and more professional—they spent lots of time with the two of us going over all the features of the new car.

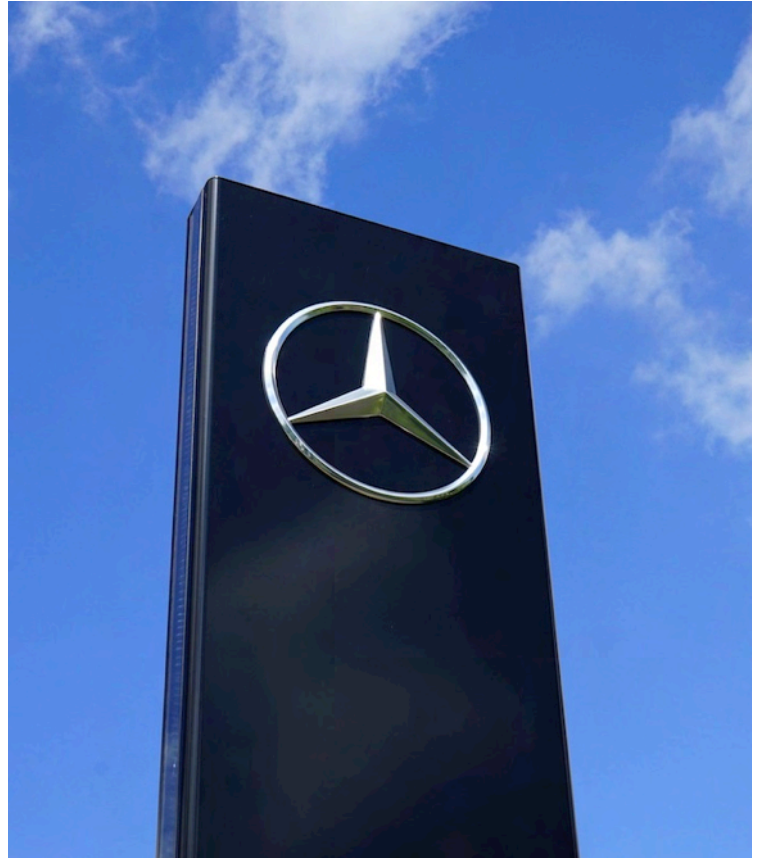
The car is beautiful inside and out; it drives like a Mercedes; and the Waiting is over... ■

Welcome New Members

We are pleased to welcome these new members.

New Members October 1 - December 31, 2022

Michael WhatleyGastonia, NC
Cojo JacobsCharlotte, NC
Tawanda BurneyCharlotte, NC
Bailey ClarkMarion, NC
Kay AndersonGreenville, SC
David CasavecchiaHuntersville, NC
Jocelyn GallinekCharlotte, NC
Robert ClarkHilton Head, SC
Roger GulledeFort Mill, SC
John TeskeCharlotte, NC
Kristie BenderBluffton, SC
Bill WalmanConway, SC
Richard Boyd Jr.Hilton Head, SC
Hank RamseyHilton Head, SC
Karen CarsonMurrells Inlet, SC
Kai LevyHilton Head, SC
Skip Hulett Mooresville, NC



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

New members should also try to spend a little time on the extensive National MBCA website, www.MBCA.org. For

starters check out the many benefits under **Membership**. Then check out all the information under **Community**. 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.

MBCA Badges and Publication Details

How to Order

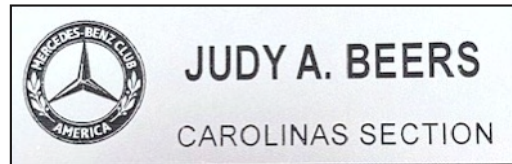
Click this link to order your name badge ...

<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. Cost is \$14.00 for one to two lines and includes mailing costs. Three lines cost is \$15.00 and includes mailing costs.

Line three options (which would appear between your name and section): office held, city in which you live, Mercedes model, year joined, Ladies of Mercedes (*Choose one*).

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.



Publication Details & Call for Articles

The Carolinas Newsletter is a quarterly publication by the Carolinas Section of Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc., (MBCA) provided to Carolinas Section members. Explicit permission to copy or republish any article is given to all sections of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc. Other use without written permission is prohibited. The articles in the Carolinas newsletter are the

opinions of the writers and no authentication is given or implied as to the validity of any expressed opinions. The Director reserves the right to edit, and to refuse, any submissions and/or advertising. Submission of material constitutes permission to publish. Material for publication may be emailed to MBCA Carolinas Section, judy@southcoastnc.com.

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 judy@southcoastnc.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, and September 1st. Exceptions can be made where practical.



MBCA Carolinas Section Leadership Team

Officers and Board of Directors

President

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MBCA Carolinas Section Leadership Team (continued)

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National Officers and Contacts

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



Membership Profile

Is Your Membership Information on MBCA.org up to date?

This information is the only way we have to notify you about your membership, and if the information is wrong, you won't be able to find out about our upcoming events or the benefits of your membership. And it's easy to check it out.

Go to <https://www.mbca.org/section/carolinas> and log in to your account. On the right side of the screen you will see the following items.

All members are able to change their name, email, password, phone numbers, gender, birthdate, and vehicles on their profile. Primary members are also able to also change their address and add an associate.

- My Profile
- My Membership
- My Content
- Profile Information
- Personal Information
- Phone Numbers
- Vehicles
- Privacy & Sharing
- Email & Password

Please add an associate member—it's included in the dues you pay.

If your vehicle isn't available as a selection, or you need to change your section, you will need to contact Ryanne at the National Business Office (ryanne@mbca.org). If you have any issues, feel free to contact Steve Brooks at mbcacarolinas.president2022@gmail.com for assistance.



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://starmagazine.mbca.org/star/september-october-2022>

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>