



# Stars in Georgia

## April 2022



Graphic by  
Doug Geganto



Volume 44 - Vol 2 | April 2022



## View Through The Star

by Gary Edwards, President

We're off to a great start for 2022! We've had several fun Cars and Coffees at Halcyon and some great events done by new event planners. I really appreciate Logan Trembly and Joe Ruda stepping forward and I hope they will continue to do events for us in the future. I think events are the essence of our club, and you can't do events without event planners - this is really important to me and to the club.

### Refunds.

An event planner asked me recently for guidance on issuing refunds. Our policy is generally that event planners are fully responsible for all aspects of their events and it's their decision whether to issue a refund or not – after all, they're the ones who best know the event financials. My thoughts are that we should give refunds whenever reasonable. This generally means to me that if a person cancels before the club has expended funds on their behalf, we should allow a refund. If funds have been expended and can't be recovered, then it isn't prudent to refund fees. In all cases, though, if you have registered for an event and have found out you can't attend, contact the registrar/event planner as soon as possible – some events have minimum required numbers – and if there is any chance of recovering some money, earlier notification makes it more likely.

[Read More](#)

# Member Spotlight - Mike and Nancy DiCarlo



Imagine inheriting a car so beloved that its owners refer to it as “the little jewel in our garage.” Mike and Nancy DiCarlo are now enjoying such a car – a 1987 560SL that was bequeathed to Nancy by her mother, Dee Kiernan, who was the first licensed female realtor in the state of Rhode Island.

“Dee really liked her cars,” Mike said. “She owned Lincolns and Jaguars. However, in 1989 her purchase as the second owner of the 560SL changed her dynamics of respecting quality engineering and craftsmanship. Dee drove two miles to her office and back, took no long trips in the car, and garaged the car since its purchase. When Nancy and Mike brought the car from Rhode Island, it had about 80K miles on it. Currently it has 99K.”

[READ MORE](#)

## The Event Rundown

### April

4/2 - [Cars and Coffee at Halcyon](#)

4/10 - [TSD Rally 1](#)

4/14 - Peachtree Board Meeting

4/16 - [Augusta Cars and Coffee](#)

4/23 - [Miles Through Time Museum](#)

4/24 - [Mercedes and Milkshakes](#)

4/28 - 5/1 - [Nashville Music City Medley Weekend](#)

### May

5/7 - [Cars and Coffee at Halcyon](#) and Summer Concours

5/21 - [Bell Mountain Drive](#)

5/27 - 5/29 [Sandhills Motoring Festival](#)

5/29 - [Autocross with PCA](#)

### June

6/4 - Cars and Coffee at Halcyon

6/8 - [Oil Analysis Tech Talk](#)

6/11 - [MBCA High Performance Driver Education at TGPR](#)

### August

8/6 - Cars and Coffee at Halcyon

8/13 - Karting at Lanier Raceplex

8/26 - 8/27 Shelton Vineyards

### September

9/3 - Cars and Coffee at Halcyon

9/17 - Peachtree Concours d' Elegance

9/24 - 9/25 [Summit Point Performance Driving](#)

9/25 - [Autocross with PCA](#)

### October

10/1 - Cars and Coffee at Halcyon

10/15 - Peachtree Board Meeting

10/16 - [Autocross with PCA](#)

10/22 -10/24 - Harold Wilson Fall Drive

10/25 - 10/29 - Mercedes Freude

10/30 - Cars and Coffee at Halcyon

### November

11/3 - 11/6 - Hilton Head Concours and

6/12 - [Autocross with PCA](#)  
6/18 - [Karting at Lanier Raceplex](#)  
6/25 - [Fried Green Tomatoes Rally](#)

### July

7/2 - Cars and Coffee at Halycon  
7/16 - Peachtree Board Meeting  
7/17 - [Mercedes Extravaganza with GWS](#)  
7/24 - [Performance Driving/Urban Survival School](#)  
7/24 - [Autocross with PCA](#)  
7/30 - [Members Appreciation Event](#)

Legends of the Autobahn East  
11/6 - [Autocross with PCA](#)

### December

12/3 - Peachtree Holiday Luncheon  
12/4 - Cars and Coffee at Halycon

## FULL EVENT SCHEDULE 2022

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## MEMBERSHIP

### *Welcome our Newest Members*

- Troy Bowen
- Chuan Chen
- Brian Clark
- George Cunningham

- Michael Esguerra
- Anastasia Falconio
- Alejandro Ferrell
- Larry Fletcher
- Dale Gawley
- Rafe Holt
- Mel Levine
- Kishor Patel
- Josh Rizzo
- Yousef Shaban
- Skip Skinner
- Peggy Streich



## Peachtree Section

by Reijo Haarla, Membership Director



At the end of February 2022 Peachtree Section has 529 members. The numbers of the Peachtree memberships keep growing. In two months, we have gained 7 more members.

We have a new member in the Peachtree Membership Committee. I'm glad to welcome **Nick Catania** to the Membership Committee team.

As always, please check the event calendar in this Newsletter and register to attend for an upcoming event.

[READ MORE](#)

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MEMBERSHIP](#)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**2022 Rally Season begins on April 10, 2022**  
**RALLY WINDER**



by Reijo Haarla, Event Planner

The Rally Winder is going to be the first rally of the 2022 MBCA Peachtree TSD Rally Championship Series! This rally is scheduled to take place starting on Sunday, April 10, 2022.

The rally is going to be “tour” – style Time-Speed-Distance (TSD) competition. It will be relatively straight-forward, all significant turns are clearly identified with mileages provided on the Route Instructions. The goal on the rally is to maintain “on time” driving on the timed portions of the rally according to given instructions. [Learn More.](#)

## [Augusta Cars and Coffee - 4/16](#)



by Gary Edwards, Event Planner

Join us for a Joint Peachtree Section/Carolina Section Cars and Coffee at Mercedes-Benz of Augusta on Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 1 pm. We haven't had an event in Augusta for quite a while

We will enjoy talking about cars, plus the dealership will be kind enough to provide one voucher per MBCA member car towards lunch cost at the adjacent Seafood restaurant. No fee to attend, come and join us, it's about two and half hours from Atlanta and about an hour and twenty minutes from Columbia.

REGISTER

## [Miles Through Time Museum and Drive - 4/23](#)



by Doug Geganto, Event Planner

Let's take a scenic ride up to North Georgia via Clarkesville to visit a unique collection of automobiles at the Miles Through Time Museum. We'll meet in Oakwood GA at the McDonalds on Munday Mill Road. Driving directions will be mailed prior to the event for you to print out.

The Miles Through Time brings you a stunning, ever-changing collection of automobiles, memorabilia, signage, and art. Displays have been donated to the museum or are privately owned by people in the community showcasing their beloved automobiles and memorabilia for everyone to enjoy.

REGISTER



by Doug Geganto, Event Planner

Make someone smile! On April 24<sup>th</sup> the Peachtree Section and The Mercedes Experience will travel to the Mansions at 3700 Brookside Parkway Alpharetta, GA, a senior living community located in Alpharetta and put our beautiful cars on display for the enjoyment of the residents. Elizabeth Zappi, Peachtree member, and the Activities Director at the Mansions wanted to provide an activity for her residents that would allow them to get outside enjoy seeing our vehicles and have some social interaction with our members. She mentioned when we were planning this event that many of her residents never get out and many don't even have family to visit. [Read More](#)

[REGISTER](#)

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## Nashville Music City Medley Weekend - April 28 - May 1, 2022



Look out Nashville, Peachtree is coming your way in April!

**Don't wait until the last minute  
to register for this weekend!**

Registration for the Ryman Auditorium and Grand Ole Opry  
events closes on April 6th.

**Don't miss out on these events!**

by Doug Geganto, Event Planner

We've had to pay a \$880.00 deposit for our reservations to the Grand Old Opry and Ryman Auditorium. The Grand Old Opry has informed me that our cutoff date to get reservations is April 6th. If we sell out our 50 seats for the Grand Old Opry and spaces for The Ryman Tour great, If we don't, we will receive a refund for unsold tickets or seats as long as I provide a count and names of members who've signed up for these two events on April 7<sup>th</sup>. If you register after the April 6<sup>th</sup> cutoff date the Ryman and Grand Old Opry events will not be available.

If you would like to tour the Ryman Auditorium on Friday or attend the Grand Old Opry on Saturday night after April 6th, you will have to order these tickets on your own.

Ryman Tours: <https://ryman.com/tours/>

Grand Old Opry Tickets: <https://www.opry.com/>

After this date individuals wishing to participate in this weekend event can but will be limited to the Lane Museum, the Hermitage, the Saturday Drive, and the Saturday Dinner.

**One other reminder the Hotel Room Rate closes on April 14th. After this date, the hotel will not guarantee our discounted \$149.00 room rate.**

**[Book your room at the group rate for MCBA Peachtree \(Atlanta Mercedes Benz Club\).](#)**

REGISTER

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**Summer Concours at Cars and Coffee 5/7 at Halcyon**

# MBCA Peachtree Summer Concours

May 7, 2022  
10:00 AM at Halcyon

**Proceeds Benefitting**  
Ukrainian Refugee Relief  
3.8 Million Ukrainian  
Citizens Displaced



by Sam Kamber, Concours Chair

For the first time MBCA Peachtree Section will hold a judged Concours d'Elegance in conjunction with our regular monthly [Cars & Coffee on the 7th May 2022](#) at Halcyon in Alpharetta. The proceeds this event will be donated to the **Salvation Army for the Ukrainian Refugee Relief Fund**.

The Spring Concours we will be using new cloud-based software designed to streamline the judging process and also allow us to see the results as they are submitted by the judges in real time – what a concept! The Summer Concours is designed for participants to determine areas they can improve their vehicles in preparation for our Concours d'Elegance which will be held on Saturday, September 17, 2022.

Those not interested in Concours are of course still welcome to come and enjoy our monthly Cars and Coffee – there is no registration fee for Cars and Coffee. Anyone can optionally make a donation to the Ukrainian Relief Fund using the link below.

If you have attended one of our judging courses and are Certified Judge and can assist with judging the Spring Concours please contact Sam at [kambers@bellsouth.net](mailto:kambers@bellsouth.net) Watch your email for more details and registration information for the **Spring Concours**.

## DONATE TO UKRAINIAN RELIEF FUND



### [Bell Mountain Drive - 5/21](#)

by Rusty Duncan, Event Planner

Come drive with us as we make our way to [Bell Mountain Park](#). Bring a picnic lunch and your binoculars to enjoy the amazing views!

Our plan is to rally at My Mercedes Place in Cumming at 9am on Saturday May 21st. Chef Danny is available! So, we will have a hot breakfast courtesy of Adrienne and Danny of **My Mercedes Place**. **(THANK YOU!!)**

After breakfast, we will have a tour of the shop, and Danny will answer questions. At 10:30 we will begin the drive via winding roads past the entrance of Brasstown Bald and up to Bell Mountain Park. I have been told that the road up Bell Mountain, while paved, is narrow and can be very steep. So, we have planned two drives; one to the top of Bell Mountain, and one around the Hiwassee river. Both will end at Towns County Park which has picnic areas. Directions My Mercedes & Bimmer Place – Bell Mountain <https://goo.gl/maps/6Jc3S25Bh4HMgWF69>

REGISTER

## **\*\* NATIONAL EVENT \*\*** **Mercedes and Friends at Watkins Glen, NY** **May 31 - June 3, 2022**



Here is your chance to drive your Mercedes-Benz or AMG on the Watkins Glen road course. We will have experienced instructors to help you learn the techniques of performance driving both in classrooms as well as in your car with you.

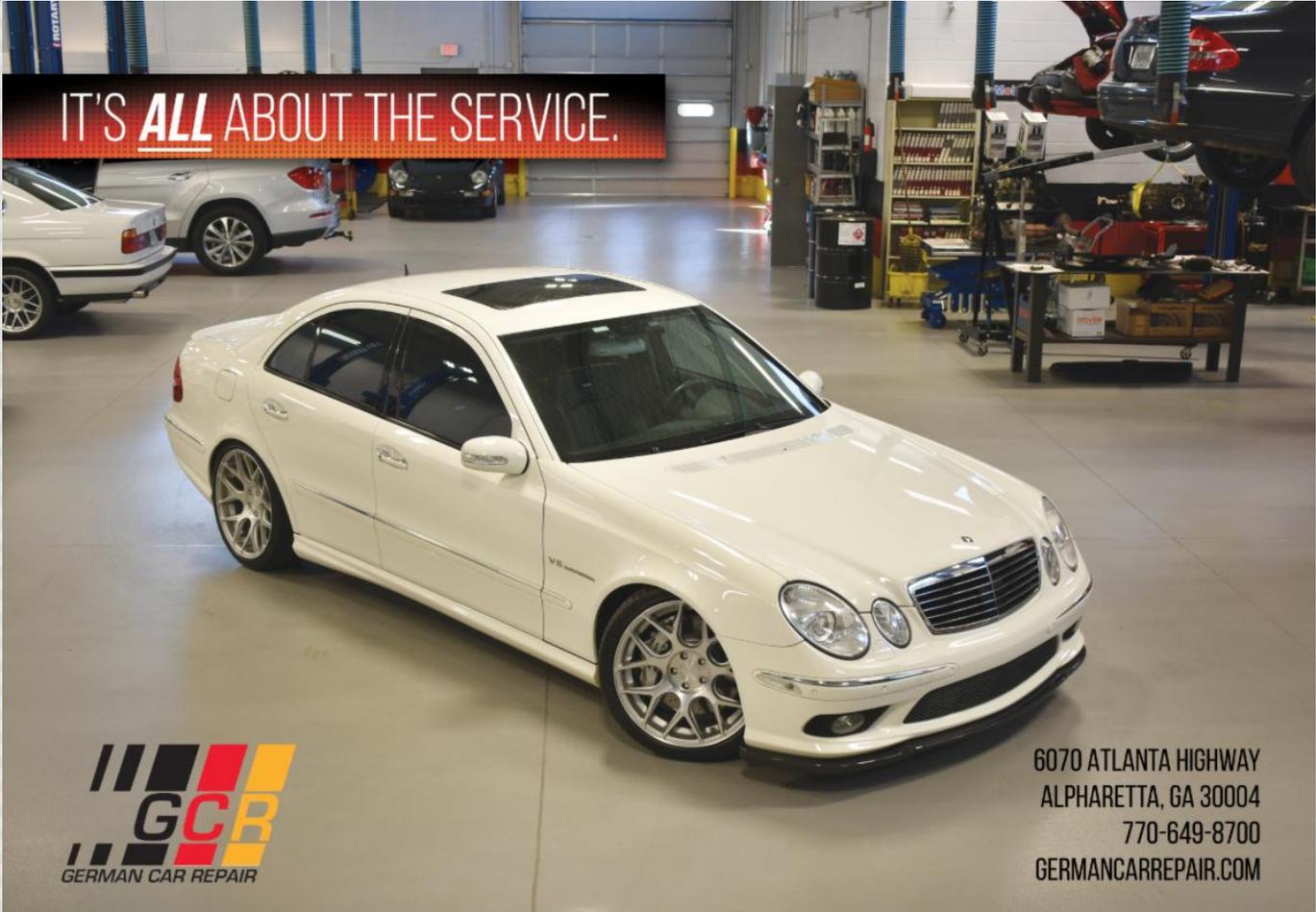
Every Mercedes-Benz is engineered to do this. We will be helping you do it safely. This is not a race and there is no competition.

There are other activities as well as arranging a special rate for hotels. There will be a welcome reception on Tuesday evening. Those not driving on the track Wednesday will have a choice of scenic drives from the Finger Lakes wineries to the beautiful mountains to the south.

MBCA member and Mercedes-Benz collector/advisor and dealer Dave Tobin will conduct a seminar and show us his establishment in nearby Horseheads with a Cars and Coffee

The nearby Glen Curtis Museum has a great collection of 1910-1930 cars and planes. We are also making arrangements with the award-winning Corning Glass Museum for visits. A special treat is driving the original 1948 race course that included a railroad crossing. For more information contact Jim Roberts: (205) 529-0071 at [Jertoosaver@bellsouth.net](mailto:Jertoosaver@bellsouth.net)

**REGISTER**



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# MBCA Eastern Region Presents High Performance Driver Education

June 11, 2022

Talladega Gran Prix Raceway - Munford, Alabama



One-day High Performance Driver Education (HPDE) co-hosted by Peachtree and Alabama/NW Florida Sections. A wonderful track for novices, only 5 turns in 1.4 miles with minimal elevation changes and wide, smooth runoff areas, but challenging enough to be fun for advanced drivers. We will provide both classroom and in-car instruction. Only \$300. Also offering the Performance Driving Experience (PDE) \$100 which includes classroom and highway speed on-track instruction.

For more information and to Register: <http://msreg.com/MBCAatTGPR2022>



by Gary Edwards, Event Planner

One-day High Performance Driver Education (HPDE) co-hosted by Peachtree and Alabama/NW Florida Sections. A wonderful track for novices, only 5 turns in 1.4 miles with minimal elevation changes and wide, smooth runoff areas, but challenging enough to be fun for advanced drivers. We will provide both classroom and in-car instruction.

**Early Bird Registration \$280, \$300 after May 11th.**

Also offering the Performance Driving Experience (PDE) \$100 with includes classroom and highway speed on-track instruction. Register at <http://msreg.com/MBCAatTGPR2022>

As planning proceeds, we will also try to include other events such as a Mercedes Factory tour and a Barber Museum tour if possible. For questions contact Gary Edwards at [performancedriving@mbcapeachtree.com](mailto:performancedriving@mbcapeachtree.com)

We are also planning a caravan from Gettysburg through the Smokey Mountains for our members to reach the area Contact Jim Roberts [jertoosaver@bellsouth.net](mailto:jertoosaver@bellsouth.net)

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[Oil Anlysis with Lake Speed Jr.](#)  
[June 8, 2022 7:00 p.m.](#)

[Karting at Lanier Raceplex - 6/18](#)



by Gary Edwards, Event Planner

Join us for a great Tech Talk ZOOM video-conference (VTC) on Wednesday, June 8th, 2022 - Certified Tribologist Lake Speed Jr. will discuss oil analysis in detail to help you determine whether your motor oil is doing its job protecting your engine. At his last tech session, one of the frequently asked questions was "What type of oil should I be using?" and only real way to answer that question is to conduct used oil analysis; Lake will discuss how to read and interpret oil analysis results.

**REGISTER**



by Gary Edwards, Event Planner

Join us for karting at Lanier Raceplex Saturday June 18th. After a rain-out in February, our karting returns to Lanier Raceplex. Hone your driving skills in a high-fun, low-risk environment. Four sessions for \$115, then an optional pizza lunch. Great karts, Great people, Great fun.

**REGISTER**



## Fried Green Tomatoes Rally June 25, 2022

by Doug Geganto, Event Planner

Grab a navigator and join us on June 25th for a leisurely drive along the country roads in Middle Georgia for the Fried Green Tomatoes Rally. We'll start at the Original Chick Fil-A Dwarf House in Hapeville. We'll down old GA 85 stopping along the way at a historic water

mill, in several quaint Georgia towns, an historic covered bridge, and the former Buggy Capital of the world before ending up in Juliette the town made famous in the movie, Fried Green Tomatoes. There you can stroll through the quaint shops on main street and, if so inclined, enjoy the world famous fried green tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café.

**REGISTER**

Performance Driving/Urban  
Survival Course July 24, 2022

Member Appreciation  
July 30, 2022



[Click Here to see Skid Pad in motion](#)

by Gary Edwards, Event Planner

On Sunday July 24th, spend a day behind the wheel at Atlanta Motorsports Park and learn life-saving advanced driving skills from professional instructors. We'll learn about skids using the wet skid pad and ice hill, transient car control using a short autocross course, and straight braking and turning while braking using ABS. Drivers of all ages are welcome and you get to drive your own car. The cost is \$325 which includes lunch, soft drinks and water throughout the day. A certificate of completion will be issued, which will likely reduce your insurance rates. We are limited to a maximum of 16 participants, so sign up now.

**REGISTER**



by Jane Brown and Ernie Smallman,  
Event Planners

We've had a change of location for the Member Appreciation Luncheon, but the food and the fun will be the same. Make your plans and register for Saturday, July 30, 2022, the day of MBCA Peachtree Section's annual Member Appreciation Luncheon in Group Shelter #2 at Red Top Mountain State Park (50 Lodge Rd SE, Acworth, GA 30102).

A scenic drive will precede the luncheon, so you can join the drive or come directly to the park. For the drive, we will gather at My Mercedes Place (4345 GA-400, Cumming, GA 30028) at 10:00 a.m. and depart on the drive by 11:00 a.m. The drive will take us through Ball Ground, Waleska, and Sutalee via back roads down to Red Top Mountain State Park. **Join us for this celebration of all Peachtree Section's members!**

**REGISTER**

# Mercedes Showcase at Shelton August 26-27 2022



The Shelton Vineyard Mercedes Showcase will feature a Friday afternoon drive along the beautiful Blue Ridge Parkway, the Mercedes Showcase on Saturday at the majestic Shelton Vineyards in Dobson, NC, on-site cuisine prepared by the Harvest Grill. Special rates at the nearby [Hampton Inn & Suites](#) are available. For more information contact Bill Parrish, President Tarheel Section at [parrishwl@retired.appstate.edu](mailto:parrishwl@retired.appstate.edu)

## Technical Digest



### Headlight Washer Woes

by Gary Edwards

One of the unusual features of some older Mercedes are the headlight wipers/washer systems. It's one of the features that makes these cars unique, but it's also a bit quirky and prone to odd failures. I'm referring to the systems on some W124 and R129 cars, and others, with a wiper and sprayer system. Many people give up on these systems when they misbehave, but I like for things to work as intended.

When working properly, the system will function when you have the lights on and you activate the windshield washer. The headlight wipers will sweep and spray cleaning fluid (from the windshield washer reservoir, heated if necessary) just in front of the wiper blade (the sprayer is in the blade). [Read more](#)

## [Visit to Cofer Museum](#)



by Eric Gilmer, Event Planner

Cecil McCall hosted over 30 MBCA Peachtree members to a visit at the Cofer Family collection. The Cofer's began collection pre war cars in the early 1950s and still are adding exceptional examples to their collection. There are currently over 40 cars in the collection. Most are stored at the Tucker location. MBCA Peachtree has been visiting this collection since 1998. [View More Pictures](#)

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# The Mercedes-Benz Experience at HALCYON-FORSYTH

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**AMELIA ISLAND CONCOURS 2022**

by Brooks Metzler

Everywhere you turned your head you



could see a 911, or a 944. And you'd better believe the Cayennes and Macans were a dime a dozen. Indeed, Amelia Island was littered with as many Porsches as you'd see Toyotas or KIAs on a given day. Why am I talking about Porsches leading into an MBCA article? Well, this prevalence of Porsches just made seeing an occasional Mercedes-Benz that much more special.

I drove down to Jacksonville from Atlanta in my 1994 E320, a journey that took us past some... inventive billboards and a lot of pine trees. Several other MBCA Peachtree members made the journey in cars of similar vintage, and not one of them missed a beat. Mine at least was a whisper quiet journey made in your favorite armchair, or at least, that's what it felt like.

Our first night, Friday, became overcast and cloudy, and my friends and I journeyed over to Amelia Island around 6 p.m. We were greeted by a grey sky and a mystical coastal fog, which whipped past the flags atop the Ritz-Carlton. Below that, a gorgeous, coach-built Bentley, some brand-new McLarens, and a RUF in a lovely forest green color. A 300SL Gullwing with red leather interior flanked the group, advertising a vintage car sales company. The real goodies, though, were lurking around the corner. [Read More](#)



# Mercedes-Benz News

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**Mercedes-AMG EQE**

**New battery plant**



February 15, 2022 – Affalterbach

Mercedes-AMG is consistently pushing ahead with the Future of Driving Performance and expanding its product portfolio with battery-electric performance models. New to the range is the Mercedes-AMG EQE sedan, which is based on the electric-exclusive Mercedes architecture of the luxury and premium class (EVA2). AMG-specific solutions – particularly reflected in the areas of drive, suspension, brakes, sound, exterior and interior design, and equipment – ensure a dynamic and emotively appealing AMG driving experience.

"With the new model, we are expanding our range with a purely electrically powered performance vehicle and are thus addressing additional target groups. The AMG EQE focuses on sportiness droppable-1648083241946and impressive driving dynamics. And that's not the end of our Future of Driving Performance: After performance hybrids and allelectric AMG derivatives based on EVA2, stand-alone AMG electric vehicles will follow in the not too distant future. These are based on AMG.EA, our new, completely in-house-developed platform," says Philipp Schiemer, Chairman of the Board of Management of Mercedes-AMG GmbH. [Read the Full Article](#)



March 15, 2022 - Bibb County/Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

### **Mercedes-Benz EV ramp-up: new battery plant sets stage for EQS SUV production in the U.S.**

Mercedes-Benz opens a new battery plant in Bibb County, Alabama, a few months ahead of the start of production of all-electric Mercedes-EQ vehicles in the United States.

- New battery production plant in Bibb County as Mercedes-Benz prepares to go all electric
- Up to 600 jobs created at the Mercedes-Benz battery plant
- New partnership with battery specialist Envision AESC to establish cell factory in the U.S.
- Reveal of new luxury EQS SUV interior, preparations for production ramp-up in Tuscaloosa underway
- Highly flexible and digitized production system allows Mercedes-Benz to manufacture electric and conventional vehicles on the same line

Bibb County/Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Mercedes-Benz opens a new battery plant in Bibb County, Alabama, a few months ahead of the start of production of all-electric Mercedes-EQ vehicles in the United States. [Read the Full Article](#)

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**SOCIAL MEDIA**

**Social Media**



Peachtree  
Section

by Rubin Howard, Social Media Director

We welcome **Brooks Metzler** and **Will Coloma (aka Will Power)** to our Social Media Committee. Brooks is keeping us all up to date with the latest news with our Weekly newsletter blasts. Will is telling the world about what we are doing on Instagram. Thanks for joining our team!

If you haven't already, Join our Facebook group [MBCAPeachtree](#) . 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 [MBCA Peachtube](#) 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: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mbcapeachtree>  
Instagram link <https://www.instagram.com/mbcapeachtree/following/>  
MBCA PeachTube link: [MBCA Peach Tube](#)

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## Peachtree Section Officers

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

## Officers

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[president@mbcapeachtree.com](mailto:president@mbcapeachtree.com)

Rubin Howard

[vicepresident@mbcapeachtree.com](mailto:vicepresident@mbcapeachtree.com)

Rusty Duncan

[secretary@mbcapeachtree.com](mailto:secretary@mbcapeachtree.com)

Roger McKissick

[treasurer@mbcapeachtree.com](mailto:treasurer@mbcapeachtree.com)

Steve Chapman

[exofficio@mbcapeachtree.com](mailto:exofficio@mbcapeachtree.com)

## Directors

[directors@mbcapeachtree.com](mailto:directors@mbcapeachtree.com)

Jim Fekete

Dean Prince

Ben Everest

## Past presidents

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Ernie Smallman

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## Committees

Reijo Haarla - Membership

[membership@mbcapeachtree.com](mailto:membership@mbcapeachtree.com)

Diana Quinn - Newsletter

[newsletter@mbcapeachtree.com](mailto:newsletter@mbcapeachtree.com)

Rusty Duncan - Sponsors

[sponsor@mbcapeachtree.com](mailto:sponsor@mbcapeachtree.com)

Dean Prince - Technical

[technical@mbcapeachtree.com](mailto:technical@mbcapeachtree.com)

Diana Quinn - Webmaster

[webmaster@mbcapeachtree.com](mailto:webmaster@mbcapeachtree.com)

## Director at Large

Sam Kamber

[directorsatlarge@mbcapeachtree.com](mailto:directorsatlarge@mbcapeachtree.com)

## Eastern Regional Director

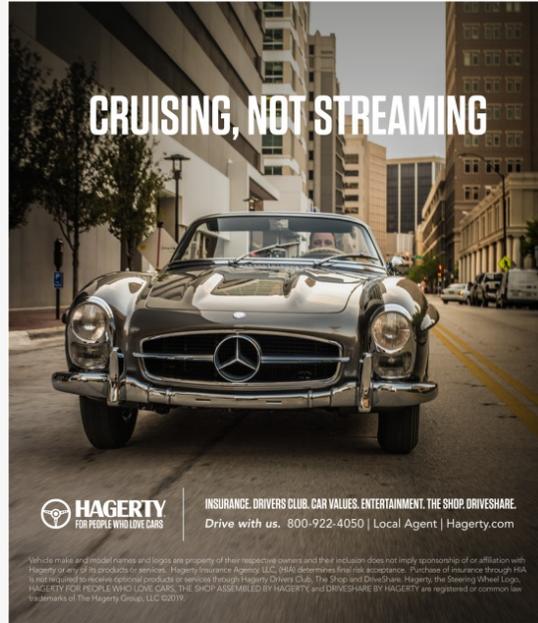
Diana Quinn

[mbcadirectoreasternregion@gmail.com](mailto:mbcadirectoreasternregion@gmail.com)

## Director at Large/Natl V.P.

Doug Geganto

[mbcanationalvp@gmail.com](mailto:mbcanationalvp@gmail.com)



## Events

[events@mbcapeachtree.com](mailto:events@mbcapeachtree.com)

Rusty Duncan

Rubin Howard

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