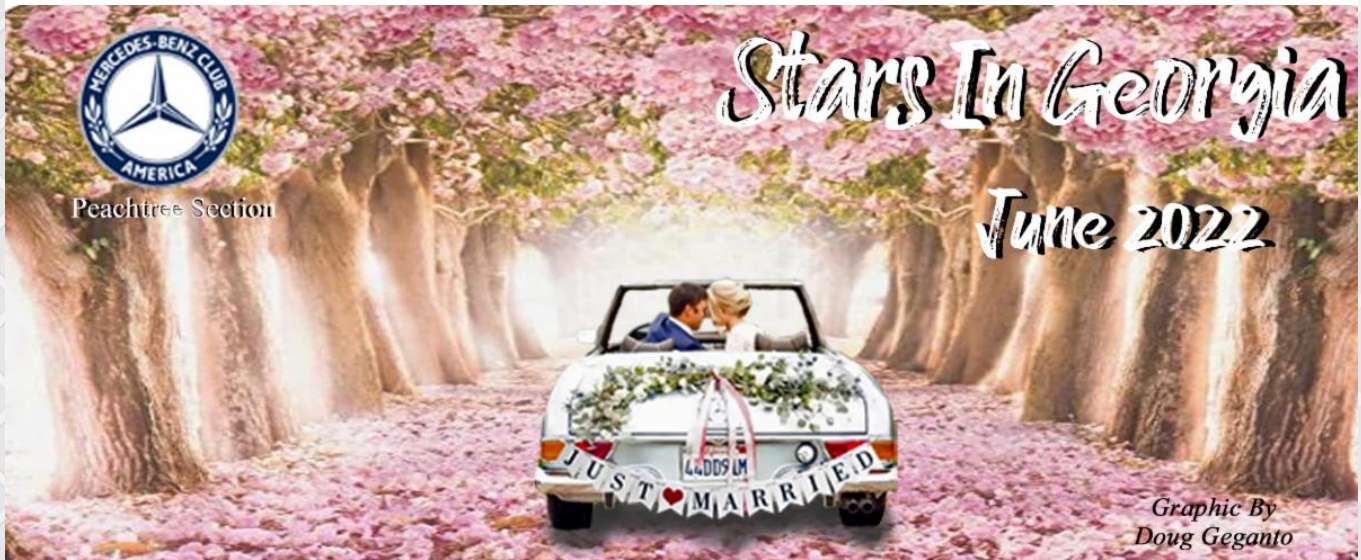




Peachtree Section

Stars In Georgia

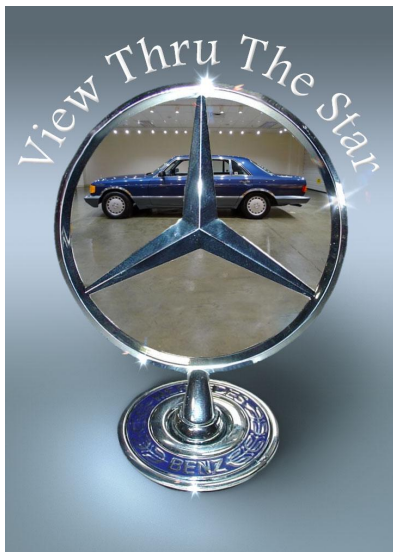
June 2022



Graphic By
Doug Geganto



Volume 44 - Vol 3 | June 2022



View Through The Star

by Gary Edwards, President

This month, I want to talk about membership, demographics and performance driving.

First, the performance driving – as this newsletter goes out, we are within two weeks of our track event, MBCA Performance Driving at Talladega Gran Prix Raceway on June 11th. If you haven't already signed up, this is an excellent opportunity to learn driving skills to better use your car's capabilities, plus you'll have fun too! We also need enough participants to pay for this event so I encourage you to support our program and sign up (see my "Reduce My Stress Level" comments in a previous article). If you aren't quite sure whether you're ready for track driving, we are also offering the Performance Driving Experience, at reduced cost, which offers the classroom instruction, and highway speed track sessions, one with you driven by an instructor and one with you driving with the instructor in the passenger seat. Register at <http://msreg.com/MBCAatTGPR2022>

One other pertinent aspect of performance driving is emergency handling and skid recovery. We'll be working on that at our Performance Driving Urban Survival Training on July 24th. This is a one-day event at Atlanta Motorsports Park where we'll practice ABS braking, braking while turning, autocross skills plus skid initiation and recovery using their newly repaved wet skid pad and ice hill. You'll probably save the entry fee due to reduced insurance costs that most companies will give when you show them your completion certificate. It's especially helpful for teenagers and those new to driving, but it's a great course for all ages. Register at <http://msreg.com/urbansurvival2022>

Member Spotlight - Charlie Bronson



Charlie Bronson has just completed his sophomore year at Innovation Academy, a STEM high school in Alpharetta. He is active in the Robotics team and has helped build a robot that can lift and carry cargo and complete other tasks. He wants to attend Georgia Tech to study mechanical engineering – and in the meantime, he has amassed many Lego sets that he uses to build and redesign his own creations. His parents, Joe and Christy Bronson, are current members of Peachtree

Section.

And Charlie has become the youngest member of Peachtree Section – and probably the youngest MBCA member in Georgia and beyond.

“I joined MBCA after I discovered the club on RBM of Alpharetta’s Instagram page that advertised the Cars and Coffee event at Halcyon,” Charlie said. “I told my dad about the event, and he immediately joined Peachtree Section and registered his 2016 Maybach S600.” At Cars and Coffee, Charlie and his father spoke with Doug Geganto, who encouraged Charlie to sign up as a member. “So,” Charlie concluded, “my dad created a membership for me, and now I’m proud to be the youngest member.”

[READ MORE](#)



From the Editor, and Eastern Region Director - Diana Quinn

Wow, I can’t believe that the first half of 2022 is almost in the rear-view mirror already! There are many exciting and positive things happening with the Mercedes-Benz Club. At the most recently National Board Meeting held on May 21, 2022, the club’s outside accounting, and auditing firm issued a positive and clean audit for year ending 2021. The club ended in the black for the year ending 2021, versus a small loss in 2020. This was achieved by disciplined focus on growing additional revenues (sponsorships) and tight control of expenses. Membership growth continues to be a focus that we must all be focused on keep us on track going forward in the future. In May the club hired a new National Marketing Manager, Ken Engleman. Ken has an extensive background in marketing and media. He has worked for another non-profit club like MBCA and understands the challenges that non-profit organizations encounter. Ken initially will be focusing on developing a marketing plan. More to come from Ken. Please welcome Ken to our club!

I am very exciting by many wonderful happening in the Eastern Region. Most recently several sections came together at the end of April for a wonderful weekend in Nashville, Tennessee led by National Vice-President, Doug Geganto. Here is a list of upcoming regional events for the year:

- [Talladega Gran Prix Performance Driving](#) (Alabama/Peachtree) – 6/11/2022
- [Mercedes Extravaganza](#) (Greater Washington's 65th Anniversary and unofficial World Record attempt of the largest gathering of Mercedes-Benz) – Greater Washington – 7/17/2022
- Shelton Vineyards (Tarheel) – 8/26 – 8/28/2022
- [Summit Point Performance Driving](#) (Greater Washington) 9/24 -9/25/2022
- Hilton Head and Legends East (Carolinas) – 11/4 – 11/6/2022

Nationally, there are several events of note (watch the STAR magazine for details and registration information):

- [Legends West Concours](#) – 8/18/2022
- Mercedes Freude - Newport Beach, CA – 10/25 – 30/2022
- Legends East Concours – Hilton Head, SC – 11/5

I will be attending several of the above Regional Events, hope to meet many of you at one of these events.

The Event Rundown

June

- 6/4 - [Cars and Coffee at Halycon](#)
- 6/8 - [Oil Analysis Tech Talk](#)
- 6/11 - [MBCA High Performance Driver Education at TGPR](#)
- 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](#)
- 7/17 - [TSD RallyTwo](#)
- 7/24 - [Performance Driving/Urban Survival School](#)
- 7/24 - [Autocross with PCA](#)
- 7/30 - [Members Appreciation Event](#)

August

- 8/6 - [Cars and Coffee at Halycon](#)
- 8/14 - [Karting at Lanier Raceplex](#)
- 8/26 - 8/27 Shelton Vineyards

September

- 9/3 - Cars and Coffee at Halycon
- 9/24 - Peachtree Concours d' Elegance
- 9/24 - 9/25 [Summit Point Performance Driving](#)
- 9/25 - [Autocross with PCA](#)

October

- 10/1 - Cars and Coffee at Halycon
- 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 Halycon

November

- 11/3 - 11/6 - Hilton Head Concours and Legends of the Autobahn East
- 11/6 - [Autocross with PCA](#)

December

- 12/3 - [Peachtree Holiday Luncheon](#)
- 12/4 - Cars and Coffee at Halycon

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MEMBERSHIP

Welcome our Newest Members

- Jonathan Baker
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- Charlie Bronson
- Joseph Bronson
- Nathan Chumley
- Justin Cohen
- Vince Crean
- Freddy Dendy
- William Dickinson
- Ian-Gordon Fisher
- John Hake
- Leland Harwood
- Ken Hedrick
- Archie James
- Marcus Roach
- John Rodee
- Marion Roland
- Brian Roldan
- Bob Tewksbury



Peachtree
Section

by Reijo Haarla, Membership Director

At the end of April 2022 Peachtree Section of the MBCA has 537 members. The numbers of the Peachtree memberships keep growing. Since the beginning of the year, we have gained 15 more members.

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.



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[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

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, \$300 . Also offering the Performance Driving Experience (PDE) \$100 with includes classroom and highway speed on-track instruction. Register at <http://msreg.com/MBCAatTGPR2022>

For questions contact Gary Edwards at 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

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



[Karting at Lanier Raceplex - 6/18](#)
[Karting at Lanier Raceplex - 8/14](#)



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 and August 14th (note August date change). After a rain-out in February, our karting returns to Lanier Raceplex, with some slight differences due to new ownership; karting will be afternoon instead of mornings and we won't be doing lunch. Hone your driving skills in a high-fun, low-risk environment. Four sessions for \$110. Great karts, Great people, Great fun.

REGISTER 6/18

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Fried Green Tomatoes Rally June 25, 2022

by Doug Geganto, Event Planner

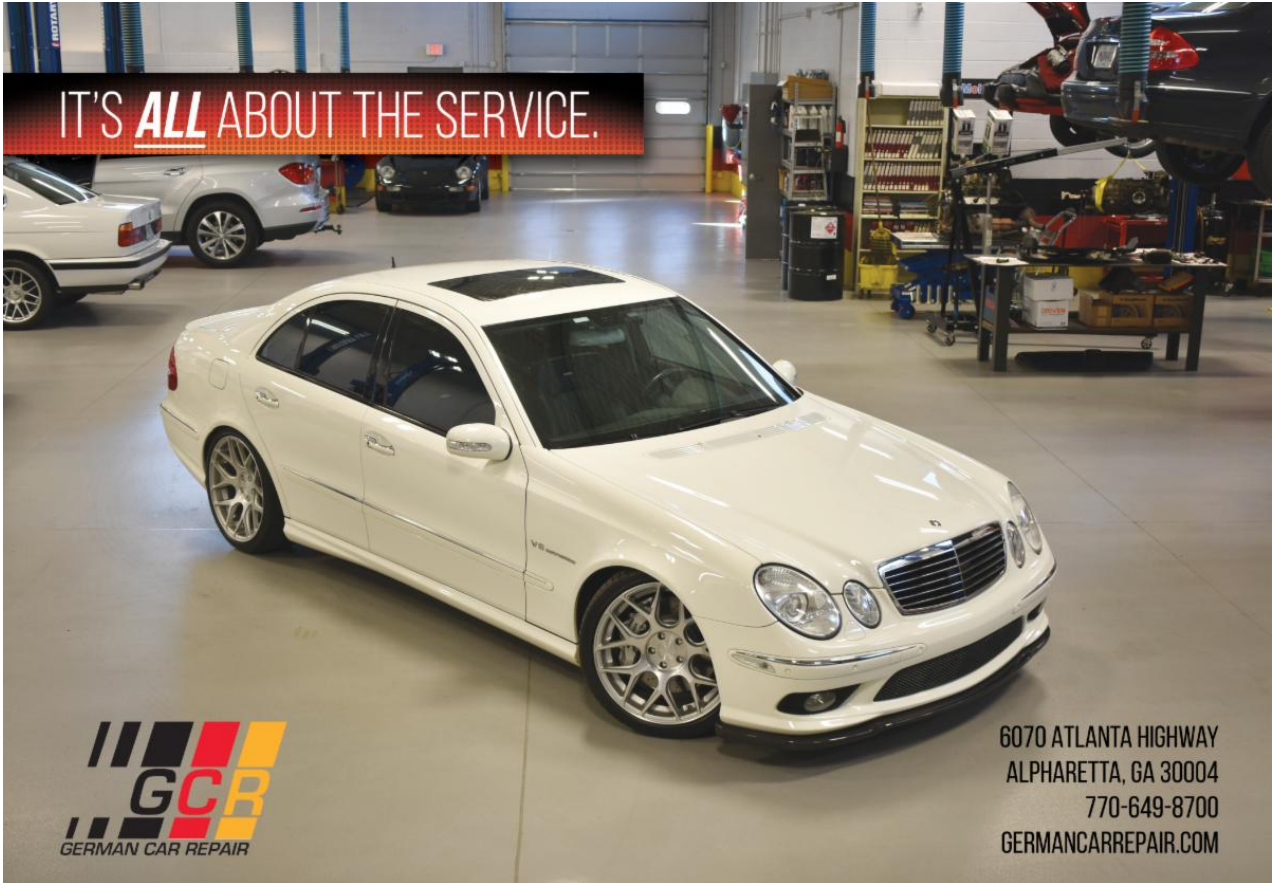
Grab a navigator and join us on June 25th for a leisurely drive along the country roads




*Fried Green Tomatoes
At The
Whistle Stop Cafe*

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.



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**Mercedes-Benz Extravaganza
Greater Washington Section Regional Event
Sunday, July 17, 2022 - 10:30am to 5:30pm**



The Greater Washington Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America announces the largest assembly of vehicles that carry the three-pointed star ever attempted in the world! We invite you to be a part of this truly momentous occasion as we kick off the 65th anniversary of our section on Sunday, July 17, 2022, at the picturesque Occoquan Regional Park in Fairfax County, Virginia. This event is open to all MBCA members nationwide and to any Mercedes-Benz owners who have yet to join. In addition to fine cars on display, we will have food, music, art, and an array of vendors, many of whom keep our cars running and looking like new.

[REGISTER](#)



[TSD RallyTwo - July 17, 2022](#)

by Scott Warner, Rallymaster

This rally is the second of the four rallies, which will constitute the 2022 MBCA Peachtree TSD Championship Series. MBCA members will earn championship points based on their overall finish in this event.

The rally will start from the parking lot of the Dillard House, in Dillard near Clayton, GA. (768 Franklin Street Dillard GA, 30537). The rally will take us through the beautiful north Georgia mountain scenery, along some long stretches of tree lined highway with spectacular views of the southern Appalachian Mountains and around several lakes with remarkable vistas. Driving through the rally route from the start to the finish will take about 3 hours and will be about 80 miles

REGISTER

[Performance Driving/Urban Survival Course July 24, 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

[Member Appreciation July 30, 2022](#)



by Jane Brown and Ernie Smallman, Event Planners

Members and guests of Peachtree Section are invited to the free buffet of Southern barbecue on Saturday, July 30, 2022. This year's MBCA Peachtree Section's Annual Member Appreciation Luncheon will be held 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.

**Join us for this celebration of all Peachtree Section's members!
The deadline for registering is Saturday July 16.**

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



Peachtree Holiday Luncheon December 3, 2022 Petite Violette

by Ernie Smallman and Patricia Duer,
Event Planners

Petite Violette is still a best value in fine dining, as attendees the last two year at Peachtree Sections Holiday luncheons can confirm

The annual awards of Peachtree Section will follow a short performance by two members of the Atlanta Opera Company performing songs from Les Misérables.

Mark your calendar for a taste of holiday cuisine at one of the oldest and most successful restaurants in the Atlanta Brookhaven area. Bring an unwrapped toy for the Marine Corp Toys for Tots Christmas drive.

REGISTER



CLK55 (M113 engine) Water Pump and Radiator Replacement

by Gary Edwards

I have a couple of high mileage W208 CLK55s and I've recently had to replace two radiators and a water pump in these cars. The work is relatively straightforward with some unique features and is well within the capabilities of the hobbyist.

These were the second and third radiator failures I had seen recently and they were all the same failure mode – a leak between the aluminum core and the left side plastic tank. Unique in my experience, the radiator comes out the top after removing the crossmember above the radiator. You do still have to go under the car to drain the coolant and remove the hoses, but the job just isn't that bad. I did manage to break the plastic fan shroud when replacing it (it's just not that flexible and it can be a little challenging to fit it into place). One other difficulty; the transmission cooler fittings are on the front of the radiator and the lower one is inaccessible with the radiator in position. It is necessary to pull the top of the radiator to the rear to access this fitting [Read more](#)

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PAST EVENTS

TSD Rally One 2022



by Rejio Haarla

The Rally in Winder was the first rally of the 2022 MBCA Peachtree TSD Rally Championship Series. The rally was carried out as a tour- style Time-Speed-Distance (TSD) competition. The goal on the rally was to maintain on-time driving on the timed portions of the rally according to given instructions. Teams used the Richta GPS Checkpoints app on their smartphones to

record an arrival time at each checkpoint. Teams achieved lower points depending how close their arrival time was at each checkpoint compared to the calculated perfect time. The fewer points the better score. [Read More](#)

[Spring Concours- May 7, 2022](#)



May 7th marked the first time that MBCA Peachtree Section hosted our first Spring Concours d'Elegance at Halcyon in Alpharetta in conjunction with our regular Cars & Coffee. It was a memorable event with 16 contestants essentially being the guinea pigs to field tested a cloud-based Car Show Scoring System. Other than a couple minor learning curve issues the event was extremely successful.

In years past members of the Concours administration staff would diligently tabulate the score sheets to determine the place settings in each class. This was stressful and tiresome trying to complete the task to be able to present the prizes. They always came through; I don't think the entrants realized how much work this was. [Read More](#)

[Drive to Bell Mountain - May 21, 2022](#)



by Rusty Duncan, Event Planner

Our drive to Bell Mountain was a great success. We ended up with approximately twenty cars and thirty people. The day began with a hot breakfast at My Mercedes Place courtesy of Adrienne Donahue and Danny Brewer. We always love to begin our drives this way. The facility is beautiful, and Danny is

an excellent chef. We ate together for about an hour, and then had a quick "ask me anything" session with Danny, and review of our driving directions before heading out. The weather was perfect for the drive, which was about an hour and a half of great scenery up 400 to 115 to Rt 19 and then onto 180 past Vogel State Park, Brasstown



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TOURING AMERICA 1957



look at touring America in 1957. Many of us weren't old enough to drive yet, but we couldn't wait to get behind the wheel of our own car. It was the beginning of the greatest period in US automotive history – a time when the debut of new cars in the showrooms was one of the biggest events of the year. Though this retrospective homage to 1957 was not developed by Mercedes, the images and narrative included in this abbreviated trip back to 1957 will bring back

many fond memories of the cars and what life was like at a time when people were discovering this great country, getting out on the highways to explore not only the beautiful geography, but to engage in new forms of recreation.

Click the following link and take a 1957 tour of America: <https://www.skyline725.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Touring-American.pdf>

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SOCIAL MEDIA

Social Media

by Rubin Howard, Social Media Director



Peachtree
Section

If you haven't already, Join our Facebook group [MBCAPeachtree](https://www.facebook.com/groups/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](https://www.instagram.com/mbcapeachtree/following/). Our Youtube Channel [MBCA Peachtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) 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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

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[m](#)

Director at Large/Natl V.P.

Doug Geganto
mbcanationalvp@gmail.com



Events

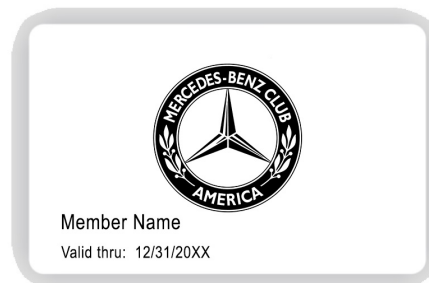
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Rubin Howard
Gary Edwards
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For information or questions about the Peachtree Section, please contact us at 770-376-0669.



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Membership Card



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

- Log into MBCA (www.mbca.org) 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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