

Stars In Georgia

December 2022



Peachtree Section



Header By
Doug Geganto



Volume 44 - Vol 6 | December 2022



View Through The Star

by Gary Edwards, President

The Year in Review and a Different Approach to Performance Driving

I can't believe it's already December. I'm already in my second (and last) term as President, and we're about to enjoy our holiday luncheon together. Looking back, we put together a busy schedule for 2022, with a diverse offering of events. We sometimes fell a little short on execution, but I'd rather shoot

for the stars since you can always do more than you think you can. Cars and Coffees were a standout, as was our spring fling trip to Nashville. Concours was also an accomplishment as we introduced software-based scoring and some magnificent awards. We provided great tech sessions to a national audience as well.

TSD Rally and Performance driving fell a bit short of our objectives. We were trying to have a rally series but only accomplished one. In performance driving we had great karting events but didn't make it to any auto crosses mostly due to schedule conflicts. Our HPDE event at little Talladega went very well, but we didn't have many participants and we lost money on the event.

For 2023's Performance Driving, we'll continue to do karting and we'll try to get back to the autocrosses, but instead of doing our own HPDE event we'll plan on attending the PCA event at AMP on February 18th and if that proves successful we'll plan on attending their June and September Road Atlanta events.

Also, for 2023, we'll be having a special banquet to celebrate our 45th birthday. On March 18th we'll converge on Cross Creek Cafe in Buckhead to pay tribute to 45 years of the Peachtree Section. [Read More](#)

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Member Spotlight - Eric Gilmer



A member of MBCA since 1988, Eric Gilmer has served as Director for the Peachtree Section and was Chief Judge for the annual Peachtree Concours for four years. He served as event planner for the Cofer Collection and co-sponsored the first Halcyon meet. Over the years, Eric has owned many cars, including 14 Mercedes since 1987.

For his first car, Eric would have liked to inherit his mother's 1968 Malibu, but she wasn't ready to let it go. So he settled for a 1970 Ford Torino Cobra from his next door neighbor who was a car dealer and had taken the Cobra as a trade. "I was 16 and a month," he said, "and that car was a dream come true. I traded it in later on a 1977 Pontiac Firebird Trans Am which I ordered new when I was 20 years old."

After Eric left home for submarine duty in the Navy, his 16-year-old brother found the Trans Am too great a temptation to let alone. "My little brother decided that my car needed to be driven, so when the parents were away, he drove it to school," Eric said. "He finally got caught, unfortunately for him."

Over the years Eric has owned Porsches, Corvettes, and Volvos. The first Mercedes he owned was a 1987 300E that he and wife enjoyed driving before they had children. As their family grew, they needed bigger Mercedes vehicles to transport everyone.

When Eric decided to collect Mercedes, he bought a 1994 E320 Cabriolet. "I got it from

a local guy who put it in his garage and never drove it," he said. "Finally his wife told him to get rid of it because it was taking up too much space."

READ MORE

The Event Rundown

December

12/3 - Peachtree Holiday Luncheon

12/4 - [Cars and Coffee at Halcyon](#)

January 2023

1/7 - [Cars and Coffee at Halcyon](#)

1/18 - MBCA Peachtree BOD Meeting

1/21 - [Drive through South Georgia](#)

February

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

2/18 - [High Performance Driving and Education](#)

2/25 - Savoy Museum - Cartersville

March

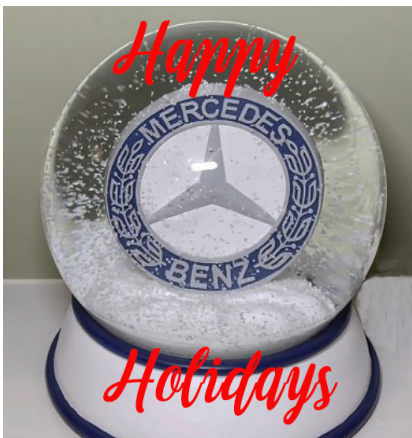
3/2 - 3/5 - [Amelia Island Concours](#)

3/4 - [Cars and Coffee at Halcyon](#)

3/11 - Mountain Drive (tentative)

3/18 - Peachtree 45th Anniversary Banquet

FULL EVENT SCHEDULE 2023



From the Editor, and Eastern Region Director - Diana Quinn

Last year I was appointed by the National Board to serve as the Regional Director for the Eastern Region. I want to thank all of you that voted and officially electing me to serve as your Regional Director for another three years. It has been a very busy year I and I am very proud of these great regional events that were held in 2022:

- Talladega Gran Prix Performance Driving (Alabama/Peachtree) – 6/11/2022
- Mercedes Extravaganza (MBCA 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 and Regional Presidents Meeting
- Summit Point Performance Driving (Greater Washington 9/24 -9/25/2022
- Benz by the Beach at Hilton Head and Legends East (Carolinas) – 11/4 – 11/6/2022

Additionally, the region hosted Legends of the Autobahn East that was held as part of the Hilton Head Concours Car Club showcase.

Membership continues to be a challenge for the Mercedes Benz Club of America. Membership nationally is down by (4.6%), as of October 31st. The Eastern Region began the year with a membership of 2,609 and as of October 31st membership is 2,524 a decline of (3.36%). I do want to congratulate the following Eastern Region Sections for positive growth through October of 2022: Alabama +9, Carolinas +6, Central Georgia +3, and Triangle +5.

[Read More about National Happenings](#)



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MEMBERSHIP

Welcome our Newest Members

- Jim Beatty
- Jamorris Brice
- Nick Campagno
- Eduardo Cortez
- William Edwards
- Jon Eilers
- Rob Levinson
- Linda Meister
- Kolade Obajuluwa
- Michael Otte



Peachtree
Section

by Reijo Haarla, Membership Director

- Wesley Rager
 - Jay Skuban
-

Anniversary *Roll Call*

45 Years

- Lloyd Schnuck

40 Years

- M Richey
- Bernie Taylor

30 Years

- N Cohen
- D Joyner
- William Kraeling

25 Years

- Maria Bonsavage
- Luther Clark, Jr
- James Mitchell
- Diana Quinn

[See Complete List](#)

At the end of October 2022 Peachtree Section of the MBCA has 523 members. We have experienced a slight decrease in the numbers of the Peachtree membership during the past few months.

Peachtree Section is one of the most active sections within the Mercedes-Benz Club of America. We organize a large variety of events members can participate. There are still many interesting events scheduled for the rest of the year. 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.

In addition to recognizing new members who joined recently the Mercedes Benz Club of America, we are honored to announce MBCA membership Anniversaries in this Newsletter issue.

[READ MORE](#)

[RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP](#)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

CARS & COFFEE

HALCYON

Cars and Coffee at Halcyon Continues in 2023

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:

- 12/4 - [Cars and Coffee at Halcyon](#)
- 1/7 - [Cars and Coffee at Halcyon](#)
- 2/4 - [Cars and Coffee at Halcyon - High Mileage Cars](#)
- 3/4 - [Cars and Coffee at Halcyon](#)
- 4/1 - Cars and Coffee at Halcyon - R107/R129

JANUARY DRIVE THROUGH SOUTH GEORGIA

[1/21 January Drive through South Georgia](#)

Doug Geganto, Event Planner

Rather than make a trek through the mountains in January we'll take a leisurely drive down south. We'll start at the newly remodeled original Chick-Fil-A located at 461 N Central Ave, Hapeville, GA 30354. Departure time to begin the drive will be 10 am so plan your arrival accordingly.

On the way south toward our lunch venue in LaGrange we'll pass through Newnan and eventually end up in LaGrange GA after traveling on the quaint back roads south of Atlanta. We'll stop for lunch at a restaurant to be selected.

Our Return Trip will take back roads towards Luthersville and eventually onto I85 north toward Atlanta where everyone can disperse to head home.



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hero General Marquis de
Lafayette***

[REGISTER](#)



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[2/18 PCA HPDE at Atlanta Motorsports Park](#)

Gary Edwards, Event Planner

This year, instead of running our own High Performance Driver's Education (HPDE) event, we'll take a group of

Mercedes to the Porsche Club of America's event.

Join us on February 18th for a one-day HPDE at Atlanta Motorsports Park (AMP) in Dawsonville. AMP is a challenging and technical track with elevation changes and a variety of slow and high-speed turns. If this proves to be a popular event, we'll plan for follow-on events at Road Atlanta in June and September. These events fill up fast so register immediately!

REGISTER FOR PCA HPDE



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SAVE THE DATE



**Peachtree Section 45th
Anniversary Celebration
March 18, 2023**

Mark your calendars!

The Mercedes-Benz Club Peachtree Section was established and chartered in 1978 thanks to its founder Jim Partain. The first meeting was held on February 17, 1979 with 40 members of

the newly formed Peachtree Section in attendance. We will come together to celebrate our humble beginnings, celebrate our achievements over the years and look forward to the future of the Peachtree Section.

Plans are underway to meet for dinner at the Cross Creek Cafe in Buckhead. Watch for more details in the next issue of *Stars of Georgia* and your email inbox!

TECHNICAL DIGEST



[R320 Battery Replacement](#)

by Gary Edwards

Replacing the Battery is Easy, Right?

We drove the 2008 R320 CDI to Hilton Head, checked into the hotel and I went out to move the car – it cranked but wouldn't start. Used my Hagerty Towing Service and had it towed back home, with a little monetary input from me. By the time the tow truck arrived, the car started, and I drove it onto the rollback.

After I had time to look at it (and while getting myself stranded in the parking lot of my doctor's office with the crank no start problem again), I thought I saw a low voltage while cranking. I bought a new AGM battery from my wonderful local, old fashioned auto parts store – the kind where the folks behind the counter actually know something about cars and parts.

The procedure to replace the W251 battery has a lot of steps, but the procedure is in the owner's manual and it's clearer and better illustrated than the factory workshop manual. But it's just a battery replacement – straightforward, right? [Read more](#)

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POST-EVENTS

Harold Wilson Memorial Drive Featuring Northeast Georgia Covered Bridges

by JoAnne Taylor, Joe Martin, Ernie Smallman, Event Planners

Sixteen Mercedes Benz left the Braselton Town Green after coffee, loading up on bottled water, snack bars, and receiving driving instructions for the Crawford Long Museum in Jefferson, GA. Participants included Andrew Crawford (no relation to Crawford Long), son of Triangle Section Past President Terry Crawford, who has transferred his membership to Peachtree and his residence to the Atlanta area. Most convertible tops were down to enjoy the temperate fall weather. After a self-guided museum tour about the physician who discovered the medical use of ether, participants were alert enough to drive to four covered bridges spanning as far north as Royston and south to Smithsonia near Athens. Watson's Mill, built in 1885 was the oldest visited, with Hurricane Shoals completed in 1905 the newest. One temporarily misoriented driver managed a side visit to Boutier Winery near Danielsville.

Fellowship followed at Tito's N Cali's, Athens's eclectic re-creation of a Peruvian countryside restaurant where participants found the food excellent, fresh, plentiful, and decidedly Peruvian. [See more pictures.](#)



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Peachtree Concours d' Elegance

by Sam Kamber, Peachtree Director and Concours Chair

Saturday, September 24, 2022 the annual Peachtree Concours was held at Halcyon in Alpharetta. We welcomed over 40 cars who

participated in a variety of classes and awards.

Unique, custom trophies were awarded to the top winners in the Show and Street classes.



Congratulations to our WINNERS!

BEST OF SHOW

Tommy Couch 1970 280SL

CONCOURS - SHOW CLASS

1st Place

Roy Francois 1991 420SEL

STREET CLASS - SL EARLY

1st Place

Bob Best 2000 SL500

STREET CLASS - SL EARLY

2nd Place

Sam Kamber 2000 SL500 Designo Edition

STREET CLASS - SL LATE

1st Place

Arnon Isaacson 2005 SL 500

STREET CLASS - SL LATE

2nd Place

John Olson III 2003 SL 55 AMG

STREET CLASS - SEDANS - EARLY

1st Place

Wayne Jones 1971 300SEL 3.5

STREET CLASS - SEDANS - EARLY

2nd Place

Eric Gilmer 1994 E500

STREET CLASS - SEDANS - LATE

1st Place

Derek L 2007 E63

STREET CLASS - SEDANS - LATE

2nd Place

Otto Gogolin 2005 Maybach

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MBCA Inaugural Medallion Rally 2022



Sunday, October 30, 2022 - Sandy Springs Georgia

Peachtree members gathered at the offices of the Atlanta Chapter of Alzheimer in Sandy Springs to begin a commemorative drive to our monthly Cars and Coffee at Halcyon in Alpharetta. Members proudly wore medallions that were purchased to donation to ALZ.

The CEO of the Atlanta Chapter was there to greet members as they supported such a worthy cause.



Peachtree Members supporting the Atlanta Chapter of Alzheimers at Cars and Coffee



Peachtree Medallion Rally organizer Rusty Duncan (right) with Dan Goerke (left), Board Member and Past Chairman of the Atlanta Chapter of Alzheimers



Helping END ALZHEIMERS

Members from Peachtree display Peachtree and Central Georgia Section's Alzheimer's Medallions at 2022 Freude

by Doug Geganto, MBCA National President

During the week of Oct 24-Oct 30 the 2022 Mercedes Freude was held in Newport Beach California. On Thursday Oct 27th Medallion Rally chairman, Roger Brummett presented Medallions representing all 84 sections of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America to representatives from the National Alzheimer's Association. Representing the Peachtree Section members John Wood and Shannon Jones received and displayed the medallions from the Peachtree and Central Georgia sections prior to Roger presenting them to the National Alzheimer's Association.

Highlights of the event were the visit to the Petersen Museum, a tour of the Classic Center and the Début car show held at the Classic Center in Long Beach.



John Woods and Shannon Jones



Presentation of medallions to Alzheimer's Representatives in center wearing purple shirts.

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LEGENDS OF THE AUTOBAHN EAST

by Sam Kamber, Peachtree Director and Concours Chair

MBCA - Peachtree Section took on the task of judging the Mercedes Concours d' Elegance at the event. A big shoutout to my Head Judge Gary Edwards and all those

members to helped with the event. The weather was perfect, and the cars were gorgeous. We used Carshowpro software which we had introduced for our events 2022 and I'm pleased to say that our Judges using their smart phones or tablets found it to be easy, effective, and transparent. The ladies at the administration table had little to do as when the scores were submitted by the Judges the software took care of all the back end calculations. [See more pictures.](#)



Best in Class and Marque
Robert Sutter - 1991 420 SEL



Best in Class
Keith Cassidy - 2002 SL 500

MERCEDES-BENZ NEWS



**All-new fully-electric EQE Sedan to start from
\$74,900**

Mercedes-Benz USA Announces Pricing and Packaging

Structures for all-new EQE Sedan

Nov, Atlanta – The new EQE Sedan is the latest all-electric model from Mercedes-Benz based on the Mercedes-EQ premium-class electric architecture (EVA2). The sporty 'purpose design' exhibits all the characteristic elements of Mercedes-EQ, including aerodynamic one-bow lines and a striking cab-forward design. Starting from \$74,900, and with up to 305 miles of range according to EPA estimates, the 2023 EQE Sedan is poised to set new standards in the luxury electric segment when it arrives in U.S. dealerships in the fall.

The 2023 EQE Sedan line-up features the EQE 350+ Sedan, EQE 350 4MATIC Sedan and EQE 500 4MATIC Sedan. Similar to the EQS Sedan, all models will be offered in Premium, Exclusive and Pinnacle Trims for the U.S. market. Each trim showcases EQ-specific innovative technologies and luxurious features, along with an array of additional options for further personalization.

The sleek exterior design beautifully reflects the overall Mercedes-EQ family design language of Sensual Purity with generously modeled surfaces, reduced joints and seamless transitions. The overhangs and the front end are kept short, while the rear provides a dynamic accent with a sharp rear spoiler. The black panel grille can be further enhanced with a Mercedes-Benz Star Pattern.

READ MORE

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social Media



Peachtree
Section

by Rubin Howard, Social Media Director

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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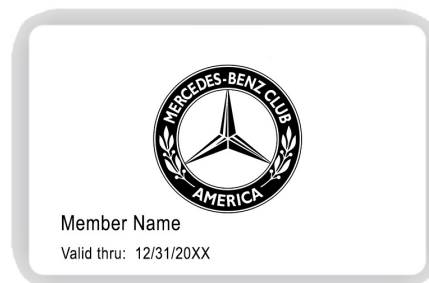
Jim Fekete

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



Order Name Tag

Membership Card



2023 CALENDAR



ROB PYROCK - CAROLINAS SECTION
Rob Pyrock's first experience in the world of Mercedes-Benz was in 1988 when he joined the club. He has since become a charter member for life and has the joy of driving a Mercedes-Benz in his own driveway.



Need a gift for a Mercedes-Benz lover? There are still a few 2023 MBCA Triangle Mercedes-Benz calendars left.

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- 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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