



MERCEDES - BENZ CLUB of AMERICA
Central Georgia Section

Welcome to the Central Georgia Section!
www.cgs.mbca.org

Volume 3 - Issue 1

January 2013

LATEST CGS SECTION EVENT

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Seasons Greetings from Central Georgia Section

A GREAT TIME FOR SHARING!

Our Members showed Love and Appreciation for sharing and did not disappoint the U.S.M.C. TOYS For TOTS Drive with their generous Offerings.



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About the Newsletter

This Newsletter is our first Quarterly to be published. The opinions expressed in the Newsletter are entirely the Author's, Editor and Contributors. Expressed permission is hereby granted to other Sections of the MBCA to redistribute this Newsletter electronically. Contributing Articles remain the sole propriety of the Contributor. Articles of general interest are solicited for inclusion and should be emailed to the Editor, Will Toussaint at willt69mb@yahoo.com. Electronic copy of the Newsletter can be downloaded from our Section webpage. The URL is;
www.CGS.MBCA.org

We Thank our Sponsors

By Will Toussaint

As the year ends, leaving fond memories of accomplishments, it forces me to reflect on the intangibles values of the Club. The survival of our Section depends on several factors that together create a wholesome environment we refer to as the MBCA. In fact, the Club relies on 84 varied Sections for its survival ability.

As always, membership is primary and foremost to belonging, otherwise it would not feel or be special. It is a primary asset of existence.

Another asset to our Section is our Sponsors who labor faithfully to support our activities. As such, we would like to thank each and every one of them for their support for making our Club successful and pleasant to the Membership at large. In return, we ask each member to consider the value of their membership by supporting those who stand by their individual Section thereby "The Club" MBCA.

Our Holiday party was supported by Sponsors who provided door prizes and items that were raffled. We thank you very much for the gesture.

Mercedes-Benz Club of America - MBCA

The MBCA was established in 1956, it is the finest Automotive Club in the world and currently has over 20,100 members across the nation. There are about 86 local Sections organizing hundreds of local and National Events each year. You can enroll as a member of MBCA by calling 1-800-637-2360, or by using the National Website at www.MBCA.org

Annual Membership Fee:

One year = \$49.00 Two years = \$95.00 Three years = \$139.00

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Should you need roadside assistant Services,
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President's Message *by Tricia Nelson*

January 13, 2013

A New Year and Wonderful Times!

We are looking forward to a dynamic, entertaining, and productive New Year. Trish Welsh, Event Coordinator is busy planning many exciting events both driving and dining-out, while Tommy Couch is working on the Tech events.

Our Holiday Party at Henderson Village was immense fun, with delicious food, great door prizes, a very successful raffle, and many MBCA friends! If you missed the party, Scott Suits, the Southeastern Regional Director and a very talented artist, attended. He gave a fabulous painting to our raffle and also brought several other race car inspired paintings. Scott brought us "up to speed" on actions taken at the National level of MBCA.

Don't forget Star Tech, the National meeting that will be held in Birmingham, AL, May 18-21. We all need to mark our calendars for this special event. This is our chance to show the rest of the county what an energetic section we have in Central GA! How many times are National MBCA meetings so accessible? Last year's Star Fest was in Phoenix, AZ and was attended by several of our members, who came back with innovative ideas.

My wish for the New Year is for the Central Georgia Section to be the Star of Sections in the nation, the most active, enthusiastic and growing of all sections. With everyone working together we can be the best in the MBCA!

Happy New Year!

Tricia Nelson

President, Central Georgia Section of the MBCA

Feel free to email (tcnelson@comsouth.net) or call. 478-987-2156.

Thanks

NAME BADGE ORDERING

Name badges are available from the MBCA Club Store with three types of backing attachment (magnetic, safety pin, or tie tack) and can be ordered in blue. You may order by calling the MBCA National Business Office in Colorado Springs, CO at (800) 637-2360

Please send ___ Name Badge (s). Specify type of backing: ___ Magnetic / ___ Safety Pin / ___ Tie Tack

Specify Color: ___ Blue

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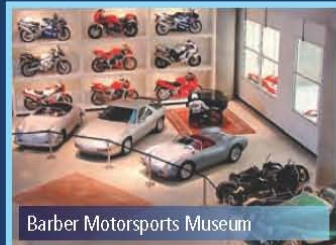
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What: StarTech® 2013, a premier bi-annual event of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America

Why: Join us at StarTech® 2013 in Birmingham, Alabama for an adventure in Mercedes-Benz technology & tours YOU WON'T GET ANYWHERE ELSE!

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Take touring laps around Barber Motorsports road course & explore their world-famous Motorsports Museum

Visit Classic Car Motoring to see how Mercedes-Benz models are polished & prepped for the world's finest auto shows

Tour the U.S. Space & Rocket Center

Stroll the beautiful Aldridge Gardens

Enjoy the snow-white sands of Alabama's Emerald Coast & nearby Florida Panhandle

So much to see & do – make StarTech® your May vacation. The perfect time of year!

Who: StarTech® 2013 is open to all MBCA Members and their guests

Cost: Accommodations at the Hilton Perimeter South Hotel from \$111/night (double occupancy)

How: Visit www.StarTech2013.org or www.alabama.mbca.org or contact Liz Roberson at lizroberson2013@gmail.com for details/information

Hosted By: Mercedes-Benz Club of America | Alabama Section





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Advertising in the MBCA of Central Georgia Section Newsletter provides great opportunities to reach dedicated consumers to the Marque. It is an excellent business decision to cater your Excellent Services and Products.

Mercedes Benz owners love their cars and appreciate quality and excellent services, thereby providing you the opportunity to customize your relationship to their needs.

Newsletter Advertising Rates:

Full Page - \$1011.00 / Year = to \$ 2.77 per Day

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Back Cover (Sold) Currently Unavailable for 2013

Please send Artwork and Check to:

Will Toussaint, Newsletter Editor

(478) 953- 5598

willt69mb@yahoo.com

Questions about Advertising with MBCA-CGS? Please Contact [Newsletter Editor](#),
Please make check payable to “MBCA – Central Georgia Section”

Suggestions Wanted

We are currently seeking ideas for Events to be planned in 2013. Your suggestions are solicited by the Board. We will follow-up with you and will help you plan the Event accordingly. There is no need to fear the challenge, as a Member of our community, we will be there with you. Events can be Touring, Technical Session, Social Gathering, or Competitive Driving.

Please, send us your suggestions for Section Events in your area of the State! We are anxious to Conduct local Events in diverse areas of the State of Georgia or adjacent States.

Upcoming Central Georgia Section Events

21 February 2013 - 7:00 P.M. Lobster Night at Backburner Restaurant, Macon, GA

March 8-10, 2013 - 18th annual Amelia Island Concours D'élégance

19 March 2013 - 7:00 P.M. Tuscan fare at Ristorante de Maria at Dublin Farm, Dublin, GA

22 April 2013 - Taki Japanese Steakhouse, Macon GA 6:30 P.M.

Mark your Calendars for the upcoming Central Georgia Section -MBCA Events.

**Henderson Village
Perry GA**



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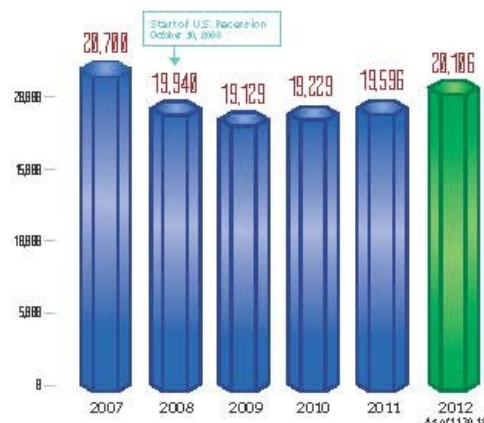
MBCA Fast Facts

By Lisa A. Juhl, Director of Marketing

Here are a few interesting facts about the Mercedes-Benz Club of America. Just for fun, try pulling these facts out at Membership gatherings; the Member with the most correct answers wins a prize! Or refer to them as you meet prospective Members. Our positive statistics might encourage other Mercedes enthusiasts to join the Club.

1. As of Nov. 30, 2012 (the last membership report available before press time), MBCA had 20,106 Members. The last time MBCA had over 20,000 Members was in 2007.

These 20,106 Members are recorded as the "Primary" Member in our national database. Add to that another 8,000 "Associate" Members (listed as the spouse/partner or person 18 years of age or older in the Primary Member's household) and MBCA hosted over 28,000 Members at the end of November 2012. (Look for membership updates in future editions of this article)



2. Annually, MBCA retains about 61% of its Members. The average retention rate among national non-profit organizations hovers around 50%. THANK YOU for your loyalty!

3. In addition to above-average retention rates, our New Member averages are on the rise, too:

Average # New Members 2008 - (November 30) 2012				
2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
311	304	326	348	357

4. The 10 largest MBCA Sections are:

Rank	Regional Director	Section	State	# Primary + # Associate Members
#1	William Hopper	Greater Washington	DC	1533
#2	Allen Wrenn	San Francisco Bay Area	CA	1190
#3	Gene Jurick	North Texas	TX	969
#4	Barry Patchett	Seattle	WA	819
#5	Gene Jurick	Fort Worth	TX	812
#6	Joe Grattan	Connecticut/Westchester	CT	763
#7	Ernie Fancy	Minuteman	MA	753
#8	Joe Grattan	Northern New Jersey	NJ	751
#9	Joe Grattan	NYC/Long Island	NY	716
#10	Bill Denton	Greater Chicagoland	IL	703

THANK YOU
for all you do to keep
MBCA GROWING!



CGS 2012 Christmas Party at Henderson Village**An Evening to Remember**

by Will Toussaint, Newsletter Editor

While we are celebrating our third Christmas Annual Party, we had just officially reached a milestone and also celebrating our second year anniversary as an MBCA Section. It was my honor to turn over the Presidency to Tricia Nelson our current President and needless to say, she is doing an outstanding job for the Section and Members. The preparation for the gala required planning, contacting many vendors and selecting a menu appropriate for the event. Our Section Event Coordinator, Trish Welch, orchestrated the functions and she thanks each and everyone who participated and helped her make this a memorable event. Included participant was Scott Suits, our Regional Director., he also played a large part and we hope he does not stay away from us too long. We hope everyone who attended had a wonderful time. As we truly believe, should anyone have an idea for our next celebration, please feel free to share your idea with Trish. The Board would like to Thank everyone who attended and made this a Special Moment.

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Technical Article

Contributing Editor, George Murphy

MBCA Technical Director

Subject: Cooling system service

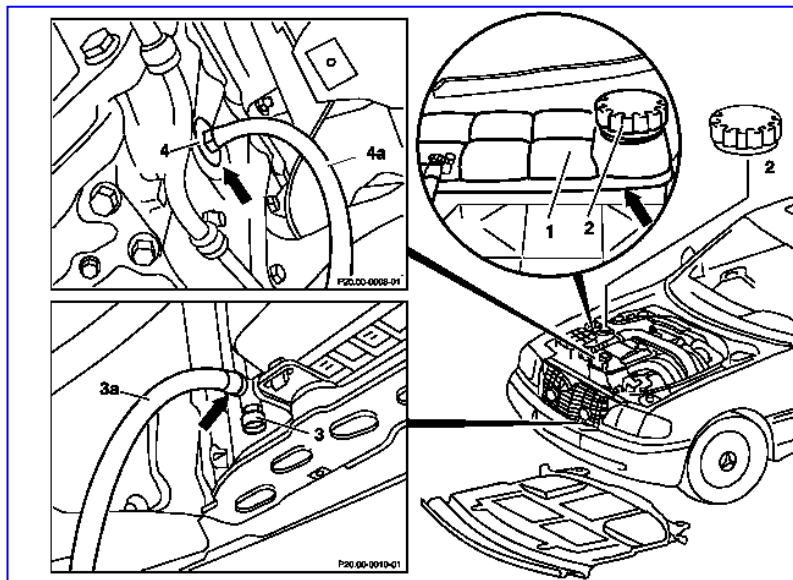
Draining the system

The first step in a cooling system service is to drain the existing coolant from the radiator. The MB Service Manual hard copy or CD is essential to locating the drain points for your engine. There is usually a drain valve on the driver or passenger side of the radiator. After removing the cap of the coolant system expansion tank (to allow air into the system), raise the vehicle for access to the drain plug on the radiator tank. This will only drain the radiator and some portion of the water pump and thermostat housing. The next step is to drain the block. These plugs are usually located at the base of the water jacket on one or both sides of the engine. They will often be difficult to remove, so be careful not to round off the bolt head. This is probably the most time-consuming part of the process.

(Typical drain locations)

- 1 - Coolant reservoir**
- 2 - Reservoir cap**
- 3 - Radiator drain**
- 3a, 4a - Drain hose**
- 4 - Typical block drain**

Next locate the heater return hose that carries coolant back to the engine. Disconnect it from the engine at some point and using a garden hose; back flush the heater to force out old coolant. Remove the top hose from the engine at the thermostat and remove the thermostat. If your thermostat is more than 6 years old, best to replace it now. (As thermostats age, they tend to allow an engine to operate at cooler and cooler temperatures). Flush the heater core from the RETURN end at the left side of the engine back through the supply. Use your garden hose and feed water into every opening possible in both directions until clear water runs out of other open "holes". Once you see only clear water draining from the various open drains and hoses then reconnect all hoses and install any removed drain plugs. Be sure to flush the coolant reservoir.



Refilling the System

Some models have an over flow bottle located behind the right front fender liner - remove liner to get to it.

(Continue on Page 11)

Technical Article

Contributing Editor, George Murphy

Subject: Cooling System Service

(Continued from Page 10)

When all clear water has drained out, re-attach hoses except the thermostat and its connecting hose. These days with dual heater cores, auxiliary cooling pumps and external cooling system plumbing, there is a multitude of places air can get trapped. This can lead to symptoms such as overheating and poor heater performance. You may have to run the engine for a while before you bleed all the air out. Check your service literature and see if there is a bleed procedure for the particular vehicle you are working on.

Pour in ONE HALF system capacity MB brand antifreeze into block and reservoir - DO NOT USE THE CHEAP GREEN STUFF! It can erode alloy engine parts and embrittle plastic coolant system components.

For example: If your system capacity is 12 quarts, pour in six quarts of MB brand antifreeze. Then button up the system and add the remaining amount of clear water into the coolant reservoir - make sure overflow bottle, if equipped, is empty. Some engines have a vent screw on the cylinder head that can be opened to allow trapped air to escape.

Start the engine and select the heater DEFROST button to assure coolant is circulated through the heater. Shut off after fully warmed up and add any needed water to the coolant reservoir "Kaltwasser" mark.

Recheck the next morning to assure the level is correct. I store any left over pure antifreeze mixed with 50% volume of water so I have a 50/50 mix for later topping up.

Use water that is clean and not too hard. Domestic drinking water frequently, but not always, satisfies requirements. The content of dissolved substances in the water may be of significance for the occurrence of corrosion. If in doubt, use DISTILLED water from your local supermarket. Do not use any aftermarket coolant flushing solutions as these may contain harsh chemicals that can attack seals and gaskets after a few thousand miles. If the cooling system is maintained in a timely manner these "cooling system repairs in a can" should not be necessary.

As for what water to mix with your antifreeze, MB states very clearly that the use of distilled water alone in our cars is bad. Distilled water is chemically very aggressive. Essentially it tries to dissolve metal ions right out of the engine parts - especially the aluminum parts in your MB engine. But once it is mixed with antifreeze however, it essentially acts like ordinary water.

(Continue on Page 13)

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Technical Article

Contributing Editor, George Murphy

Subject: Cooling System Service

(Continued from Page 11)

Refilling the System

MB also prescribes a specific chemical analysis for the water used with their antifreeze. But since you cannot always find such water, use well-filtered water, which does not have a high concentration of minerals, which will form deposits. If in doubt about your tap water, buy gallon containers of drinking water at your local supermarket. A few ounces of water pump lubricant (Redline works well - www.redline.com - to keep heater valves and water pumps working smoothly is a good idea.

If you need to clean your cooling system first, here's the procedure courtesy of Len Sokoloff:

MB recommends a two step process:

1. First deoil the system - use Mercedes-Benz product specifically for de-greasing the cooling system. It is Part # A.001.986.21.71 a 500gram container of "trioxosilicate disodique pentahydrate". Per the label - mix 50 grams per liter of warm water. Fill the cooling system, warm it up and flush VERY well. When flushing, fill the system up with clear water, get it up to temperature again and drain. Do this several times until you are sure it is all flushed out.
2. Decalcify the system - dissolve a pound of citric acid in hot water and pour it in. Get it up to temperature and thoroughly flush again. Citric acid can be obtained from most pharmacies or use MB brand of Citric Acid Powder, part # A.000.989.10.25 for 500gram container.

After you have thoroughly flushed the system and only residual water is left in the engine and heater, re-connect all disconnected hoses and close all drains.

Then add 8 ounces of Redline Water Wetter (to enhance coolant heat removal) and 6 ounces of water pump lubricant. Since you want NO MORE than 50/50 mixture of antifreeze and water, add no more than one half of the cooling system capacity of MB brand antifreeze. Don't try to mix 50/50 in a container and expect to get it all to "fit" in your cooling system – there is always some water left in the engine block and heater after flushing with a strong stream from your garden hose. So the system will already have some water left inside, so add 40% to 50% of capacity. Top off the system with water, leave off the radiator cap and start the engine. As it warms up you may have to add more water to bring the level to the specified mark on the coolant tank. Check the level again after a day or so and top up as necessary with water.

Members Trading Post — For Sale or Wanted Advertisement

Section members wishing to place a personal ad in the newsletter to sell their privately owned vehicles may do so by sending an electronic request to the Editor. The ad will be posted in the newsletter provided that it there is space available and is received 45 days prior to publication deadline. (February 15, May 15, August 15, November 15). Ads will be placed on a first come first served basis.

For Sale: 1973 280SEL 4.5 148K miles - Only 8173 manufactured, came off assembly line in October of '72, the last month of W108 production, possibly one of, if not the, last 280SEL 4.5's made. Sold in Jan '73. Extensive owner/maintenance records. Phantom (grey)/Red. Asking \$16,000. Contact Chuck @ 478-225-6878 or e-mail utriasMBCA@cox.net STAR indicated average value of A Condition at \$27,000.

*** YOUR SECTION NEEDS YOUR HELP ***

by Will Toussaint

The following positions are Internships, you will not bear the primary responsibilities of the Office you represent. You will be assisting the Director of the Office in fulfilling the duties, provide a much needed service to our Members and the Section. You may volunteer with any of the Officers or Directors beside those listed below. Other positions not listed below could use the Assistance of an Intern. Feel free to contact me by phone or email and I will gladly guide you to the individual and Office with the most urgent need.

[Membership Assistant Director:](#) Help in developing a rewards system for membership recruiting and for member event participation, develop Section logo articles (shirts/caps/ etc.), support recruiting tables when available; welcome new members at Events, etc.

[Marketing Assistant Director:](#) Help with the promotion of our Section, select Press release opportunities to the media, coordinate events with other Sections and German Car Clubs, work closely with our dealership and Sponsors to develop customer's recognition of the MBCA family, develop strategic Section Newsletter advertising.

[Newsletter Assistant Director:](#) Provide Input in developing articles, conduct interviews of articles under review, research news of interest, gather information for articles and become an Associate or Contributing Editor.

[Concours D'élégance Marshalls, Judges & Volunteers:](#) The Central Georgia Section is planning a Car Show for 2014, it is not too early to declare your interest to support and help the Section during the planning process. Our success and prominence are correlated to dedicated Members participation. We thank you for your consideration.

[Technical Assistant Director:](#) Provide much needed assistance the Director prior, during and after Technical Events. Plan and coordinate Section trips to remote Technical Events including Inter-Sectional activities.

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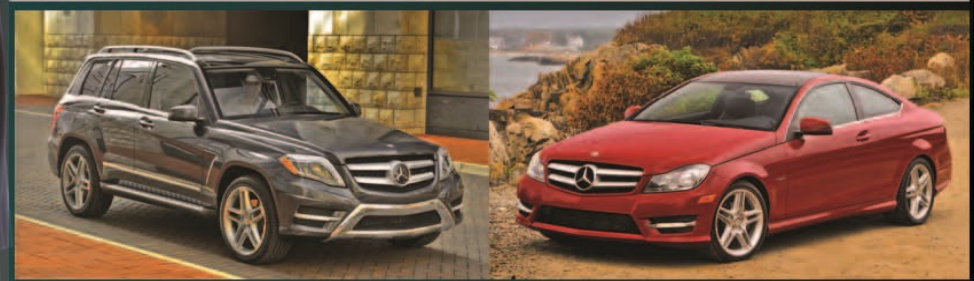
Are You a Member in Good Standing?



It's easy to find out. Visit the Club website at mbca.org. Click the 'Login' button at the top right corner of the page then enter your username and password. If you've been a Club Member for 12 consecutive months or longer, a Member in Good Standing symbol will appear at the bottom left of your personal profile page.

From your profile page, go to 'click here' for time-sensitive terms and conditions and to print an official Loyalty Reward Certificate redeemable at Mercedes-Benz Dealerships in the U.S.. Go to your favorite Mercedes-Benz Dealership then present your Certificate to the Dealer on the day you make your purchase. The Dealer will take \$1,000 off the price of your NEW car.*

*Excludes Sprinter Vans, smart, SLS AMG Coupes & SLS AMG Roadsters. Discount may not be combined with other Mercedes-Benz Certificate Programs or offers including, but not limited to: Master Lease Program and European Delivery. Please read online rules carefully.



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GLK-Class	\$750
M-Class	\$750
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smartfortwo	\$500

*Excludes all Demonstrator and AMG vehicles



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CGS 2012 Christmas Party at Henderson Village

Trish introducing Ssgt Jeremy O'Connor to MBCA Members



Region Director Scott Suits seated next to Tricia Nelson

The Event was well attended; the participants looked magnificent, they were joyful, and surprised by our Honorary Guest from the far away land of the State of Florida. That person was none other than our Regional Director, Mr. Scott Suits. It was truly great to have Scott with us to celebrate our 3rd Annual Christmas Party. Scott graciously updated the Members with the agendas reviewed at National Board Meeting, future Events on their calendar, Membership strength and other items of importance.

The paintings in the background are classy masterpieces painted by our one and only (Michelangelo) Scott Suits. Scott is an avid and accomplished artist whose portfolio was appreciated by all attendees. They can be seen in the background in some of our pictures.

Among our guests was Ssgt. Jeremy O'Connor, a member of the U.S.M.C. service, introduced to our group by our Event Coordinator, Trish Welch. Ssgt. O'Connor collected the gifts at the end of our function from our Members on behalf of the Marine's "Toys for Tots" drive. We thank him very much for his participation and service to our National defense.



Regional Director Scott Suits enthusiastically sharing pertinent information from National with Members

CGS 2012 Christmas Party at Henderson Village

Looking at those pictures here, one can see the attendees were seated spaciouly, they were at ease and comfortable enjoying the evening. Our tables were set very nicely and the service by the staff was excellent. Our well decorated Veranda did not disappoint. I cannot wait to do this again, it was great.



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1965 230 SL Pagoda

For details & information, go to www.legendsoftheautobahn.org and click on the MBCA logo
or "Mercedes-Benz" or contact Laura Simonds at 650.592.7613 or simonds1@pacbell.net

CGS 2012 Christmas Party at Henderson Village

Scott Suits donated one of his great painting (held below by Tuyen) for the Chinese gift Exchange. The exchange this year was light and extremely civil, Members were contempt with their initial prizes and did not feel the need for much exchanging activities.



Wonderful Welcome to our New Central Georgia Section MBCA Members**Welcome New CGS - MBCA Member****Jeanette Hughes, Warner Robins, GA****Jim Roberts and his fiancée Bonnie Bower, Bolingbroke, Ga.****Award Presentations**

It is my pleasure to announce the recipients of the following Awards. Upon nomination by the Past President, Will Toussaint, Dr. Linda Smyth was awarded the Member of the Year Award for her dedication to serve our Section so well and setting up the electronic Ballot for our first Election.

Trish Welch was awarded the Officer of the Year Award at the discretion of our Regional Director, Scott Suits, upon nomination by the Past President, Will Toussaint. We congratulate both Members on their achievement and we're grateful for their active Club participation.

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Congratulations. The purchase or lease of your Mercedes-Benz vehicle has propelled you to a higher level of influence. At the Mercedes-Benz Club of America (MBCA), our goal is to help keep you there. We'll enhance your brand experience with 24/7 technical advice, a global network of brand enthusiasts and a North American continent-full of local, regional & national events. And that's just for starters.

Club Benefits: Year 1

Discounts, driving programs & special access your first 365 days of membership:

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FREE subscription to our bi-monthly Club magazine, The Star®, winner of 17 medals for excellence

FREE membership for a second adult in your household

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And more ...

Club Benefits: Year 2 & Beyond

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Call or visit your local authorized Mercedes-Benz Dealer for details. Negotiate the best price for your new car, then present your MBCA Loyalty Rewards Certificate available at www.mbca.org. Restrictions apply. Offer and/or discount may be discontinued at any time. Always read online rules carefully before you buy.

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Call or visit your local authorized Mercedes-Benz Dealer for details.

Membership Application

Visit mbca.org. (Click "Join" button at top of home page) or

Call 800.637.2360 Mon.-Fri. 8am-5pm Mtn Time or

Mail this completed application in the postage-paid envelope provided (please allow up to 4 weeks for processing)

Primary Member Dues (U.S. residents) **Associate Member* FREE**

☐ 3 Years \$139 Best Value ☐ 2 Years \$95 Better Value ☐ 1 Year \$49 Great Value

Canadian & International Member dues: ☐ 3 Years: \$169 ☐ 2 Years: \$115 ☐ 1 Year: \$59

Primary Member (please PRINT in blue or black ink)

First Name Last Name (Suffix Jr./Sr./II)

Mailing Address

City State/Province Postal Code
()

Email Address Daytime Phone Is This (circle one) Home Work Cell

***Associate** (Spouse or Partner) Anyone 18+ years of age living in the Primary Member's residence. Associates receive all benefits of a Primary Member minus an additional subscription to The Star® and voting privileges.

First Name Last Name (Suffix Jr./Sr./II)
()

Email Address (if different than Primary Member's email) Daytime Phone Is This (circle one) Home Work Cell

If you were referred by an existing Member, please tell us their name so we can thank them

First Name Last Name Membership # (if you know it)

Mercedes-Benz Vehicles You Currently Own/Lease (list years & models)

Payment Options

The MBCA has over 80 local Sections, or chapters, throughout North America. You will be assigned to a single Section according to your postal code **unless you request an alternate**, below. You may also join (up to) four additional Sections for \$15/year each. Visit www.mbca.org/local-clubs-sections or contact the National Business Office at 800.637.2360 for details.

Membership Fee \$ _____ + Additional Section Fee(s)* \$ _____ = Total Payment \$ _____

(Associate Member FREE) *(\$15/year for each add'l Section you join)

- ☐ Please auto-select my Section according to my postal code **OR**
- ☐ Please assign me to the following *alternate* Section _____
- ☐ Name of add'l Sections I'd like to join _____
- ☐ My check or money order (in U.S. funds) is enclosed payable to "MBCA." Check # _____
- ☐ Charge my ☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ Amex ☐ Discover

Card # Exp. Date C/W security code

Billing Address (if different from above)

Signature

**For more information
visit mbca.org or
call 800.637.2360**

(Mon.-Fri. 8am-5pm Mountain Time)



More Than a Car. We're a Community.SM

Technical Article

Contributing Editor, Allen Akin

Subject: The Art of Record Keeping

As the busy time of the year creeps in, many of us are starting to think about the New Year, particularly getting our records together for the Taxman. This leads me to my suggestion for this month.

All of us love our cars. And we all tend to think that they are little nicer than the next guy's car, right? But it's often tough to quantify how nice a car is or why it's nicer than the next one.

One thing that you can do is to follow the principal standard of good record keeping I use.

In my car business, I do everything I possibly can to find out where a car has been, and what she's been up to. In the lawyering business, we look for evidence. The Court won't take our words, or any party's words, just on their utterance alone. We need something to back it up.

The easiest and most consistent way to add value to your car is to keep up with the history. The most obvious way is through service records. Do you keep all your service tickets? Do you keep your receipts for miscellaneous parts, accessories or maintenance items? If you change your own oil, or work on your own car, do you document this as well? (Yes, I would keep receipts for oil, filters, and the like).

Keep these records in a safe place—and that is NOT in your car. Do you realize that people will steal this stuff, if given the chance? The same goes for your books and manuals—do NOT keep them in the car. Put all this in a place that is available, but secure (and fireproof). Much of it will never be obtainable again. Your Mercedes Dealer cannot help you find lost records and tickets. The factory has a very “privacy focused” position on the history of your car. The responsibility is yours. When I see an ad for a car that says “service records available”, I immediately wonder if that means the owner has them, or if he thinks we can trot down to the dealer and get them immediately. Ever seen a picture of a car for sale on Auto trader or EBay with a picture of the service receipts, books, keys? Mine do. Yours should too, if you want all the money for it.

Couple other small things: have you taken good photographs of your car? With the details that you think are important? Have you added some nice accessories? Had a professional detail done? Get some photographs! How about some photos of your Benz at a MB Club function? If and when you decide to sell, the next guy will know you are a Benz Guy—not just some dude with a used car.

Keep your receipts. Get some photographs. Keep up with expenditures, maintenance, and even the bad things. An accident with pictures and a body shop receipt makes me feel much better than some guy telling me that it was “just a scratch”. Do all this now. Believe me from experience, it's much easier to do now than when it's time to sell or trade your car. In the lawyering business, we know there is no substitute for evidence. Acquire and keep yours!

Allen Akin is the owner of Encore Motors Inc, a business that specializes in unusual, special, and downright weird Mercedes, BMW, and Porsche cars. This is his 30th year in business in Middle GA. He is also Bar Certified lawyer in the State of Georgia, and practices law in and around problems associated with the automobile. Questions, comments, death threats, etc, Email him at allenman@earthlink.net.

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