MERCEDES- BENZ CLUB of AMERICA

Central Georgia Section

Welcome to the Central Georgia Section!

www.MBCA-CGS.org

Volume 2 - Issue 2 **March 2012**

Upcoming Events:

- Mar 24 - 2nd Annual Golf Outing & Dine-Out at Landings Golf Club - Warner Robins
- April 21 - Drive & Lunch at Whistle Stop Café—Juliette
- May TBD - Member Appreciation Picnic
- June TBD— Andersonville Historic Site & Mennonite Dine-Out
- July TBD - Metropolis Restaurant—Macon
- Aug TBD - Back Burner Restaurant—Macon

. See more Pages 5 & 6 !

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March Golf Outing and Dine-Out

March 24 -
A Golf Fund Day at the Landings Golf Club and Montana's Steak House in Warner Robins.

Our 2nd Annual "Best Ball" tournament. 9 Holes. Groups of 4. Awards, and a Dine-Out. You can choose to only attend the Dine-Out if you wish, and still enjoy the awards presentations!!

Location: Landings Golf Club
309 Statham's Way (in Statham's Landing Subdivision)
Warner Robins
(Montana's Steak House is located in the Clubhouse)

Time: 2:00PM Golf — 6:00PM Awards and Dine-Out at "Montana's at the Landings"

Dress: Golf Attire (Casual)

Beginner to Pro, this is a FUN TOURNAMENT… More info inside on page 6 …

April Drive & Lunch Event

April 21 -
A Group meeting location and a drive from Macon to Juliette with a visit to the Whistle Stop Café for lunch.

Enjoy a scenic drive with other M-B vehicles through Georgia's countryside to Juliette Georgia. Enjoy a lunch break at the Whistle Stop Café, famous for the film *Fried Green Tomatoes.* Walking self tour of Juliette.

Meet Location: Shoppes at Riverside Shopping Center Parking Lot, (Dillards) Macon, GA

Time: before 9:45AM (tour departs promptly at 10:00AM)

Lunch at Whistle Stop Café: 11:00AM

Dress: Casual

Our first "road trip" Event … See write-up inside starting on Page 6 ...

May Member Appreciation Picnic Event

May TBD -
A membership appreciation and picnic FREE for members and families. Date and location TBD. Watch for details…...

Officers

President: TBD

Vice-President: Will Toussaint
478-953-5598
willt69mb@yahoo.com

Secretary: Sharon Utrias
478-225-6878
sutrias@cox.net

Treasurer: Trish Welch
478-327-1583
trishwelch@ymail.com

Directors at Large

Director: Tommy Couch
478-741-7092
tommycouch@live.com

Director: "Roc" Patel
478-452-2335
rakeshp@windstream.net

Director: Linda Smyth
478-474-9916
drlindahall@millenicom.com

Chairpersons:

Membership: TBD

Activities: TBD

Webmaster: Will Toussaint

Newsletter: TBD

Historian: Linda Smyth

Southeast Regional Director:

Scott Suits
727-460-5739

About the Newsletter

The Mercedes-Benz Club of America—Central Georgia Section, Inc. publishes this newsletter every two months in January —March — May — July — September – and November. Special editions may be published from time to time to address important Events or interest items of special significance. Opinions expressed are those of the Authors and Editors. Express permission is hereby granted to other Sections of the MBCA to reprint articles contained herein, without exception. Articles of general interest are solicited for inclusion and should be mailed to the Editor or e-mailed to Charles Utrias at utriasMBCA@cox.net. Copy deadline is the first of the month preceding the month of publication.

Newsletter copies are on MBCA-CGS Website : ww.MBCA-CGS.org

Mercedes-Benz Club of America—MBCA

The MBCA was established in 1956, and currently has over 20,000 members across the nation. There are over 84 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. Cost is:

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

You may select your Section, or be assigned the closest local Section by your zip code to be closest to Events and activities in your area.

Your local Section of MBCA

Your National dues include membership in the Section of your choice. Each Section publishes a newsletter defining it's activities and Events. Year round calendars of Events include social, technical, and driving Events. Within your MBCA magazine, *The Star*, you will find information on Section, Regional, and National Events. Any MBCA member may attend any Section, Regional, or National Event by registering and paying the member fees advertised.

Mercedes-Benz Roadside Assistance

If you need roadside assistance:

MBUSA is available 24 hours a day at:

1-800-FOR-MERCEDES

President's Message

It is with a heavy heart that I announce that I must end my "tenure" as the MBCA-CGS President, Membership Director, Events Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, Dealer Coordinator, Website Manager, and Section inventory Control Manager.

It's been a lot of work, but a great experience, to Charter the Section, and to set in place an organizational body, and to put in place the Officers/Directors which I hope will move the Section forward.

However; due to circumstances beyond my control, and related to recent Board actions and decisions that I am very uncomfortable with, I feel I can no longer lead the organization toward its future.

I will remain an active MBCA and Central Georgia Section Member and look forward to personally taking the now available time to enjoy the membership camaraderie, and to leisurely enjoy any scheduled Events and activities that may come in the future.

I will be forwarding you the March Newsletter, and I hope you will respond to the March Golf Fun Day Event.

The Board will be initiating future contact with you, and future Newsletters will include finalized dates on the Sections planned Events. Please continue to add them to your schedule and plan on attending as you are available. **In the interim please contact Vice President, Will Toussaint, at willt69mb@yahoo.com or at 478-953-5598 with any Section questions.**

It has been an extreme pleasure to work with you all. I will always remember the outstanding support you provided me as I engaged in this Sections Chartering, and subsequent growth.

Charles J. Utrias

For Sale

Section members wishing to place an ad in the newsletter to sell automobiles and/or related equipment may do so at no charge by sending an electronic, typed, or printed copy to the Editor. The ad will be included in the next newsletter based on timing received.

For Sale: 1973 280SEL 4.5 - 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, recovered from 15 years of storage 3 years ago. Extensive mechanical storage induced refurbishment addressed on fuel system, steering, sub-frame/trans mounts, fluids, engine, shocks, brakes, A/C, tires, etc. (call for details), 148,000 miles (avg. = 3800+ mi/yr). Asking $16,000. Contact Chuck @ 478-225-6878 or e-mail **utriasMBCA@cox.net** STAR indicated average value of $27,000

YOUR BOARD NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

You can help by volunteering some of your time :

Membership Committee: 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.

Events Planning Committee: Help in selecting and coordinating the Section's Social, Technical, and Driving Events, preparing pre- & post Event Newsletter write-ups, coordinating Event advertising, planning the Section's charitable support, Dealer support opportunities, etc.

Publicity Chairman/Chairwomen: Lead getting promotional materials/press releases to local media, develop Section poster, coordinate with Porsche/BWM/German Car Clubs for MBCA-CGS exposure, set up speaker opportunities, select Section advertising, coordinate recognition at charitable events, input info to Website, write inputs to dealer customer letters, etc.

Newsletter Inputs: Help in developing articles, develop new columns of interest… "Tech Talk", Car Ownership Experiences, "From a Ladies Perspective", etc… help write articles or gather information for articles, OR become the Editor or Associate Editor!

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Upcoming Events Summary—See Event Details (Page 6) for RSVP requirements

March 24 - 2nd Annual MBCA-CGS Golf Tournament and Dine-Out. Landings Golf Club and Montana's Steak House in Warner Robins. Our 2nd Annual "Best Ball" tournament. 9 Holes. Groups of 4. Awards, and a Dine-Out. You can elect to attend the "Dine-Out only" if you choose, and still enjoy the awards presentations!! Beginner to Pro, this is a FUN TOURNAMENT (see page 6)

April 21 - A Group meeting and a drive from Macon to Juliette with a visit to the Whistle Stop Café for lunch. A spring event including a drive along beautiful Georgia country roads to the quaint town of Juliette where we will have lunch at the Whistle Stop Cafe, home of the best fried green tomatoes in the South! (see write-up starting on page 6)

May TBD - A membership appreciation and picnic FREE for members and families. Date and location TBD.

June TBD - A tour of the Andersonville National Historic Site & Mennonite restaurant Dine-Out. Date TBD. We'll do this in early June to beat the heat!!

Mark your Calendars for the MBCA-CGS Event date

Tentative Schedule of Events for Calendar Year 2012

July - A Dine-Out at Metropolis Restaurant n Macon GA

August - Lobster Night Dine-Out at the Back Burner Restaurant in Macon GA

September - A road trip to Georgia Wine Region and a B&B stay

October - An Oktoberfest venue TBD

November - Two Events / different dates… The Second Annual "Casual Concours" at M-B of Columbus & a Dine-Out at Bonefish Grill in Macon GA

December—Our Holiday Party and Gift Auction, location TBD

PLEASE send us any suggestions for Section Events in your area of the state! We are anxious to provide more local Events!!

Mark your calendars to assure no future conflicts with the MBCA-CGS Schedule of Events!

We are currently seeking ideas for Events to be planned in 2013. Your suggestions for your local area are solicited by the Board. You know more about your local area than other members, so please send us a suggestion, we'll follow-up with you, and we'll plan (or help you plan) an Event to show off your community. Remember, Events can be Touring, Tech Session, Social, or Competition Driving venues.

Welcome New Central Georgia Section (CSG) Members

New Members

Les Goggans - Bonaire, GA
Albert Kagler - Tallahassee, FL
Jeffrey Misamore - Macon, GA
John Sours - Marshallville, GA
Carome Neal—Smithville, GA

Be sure to welcome new members at the next MBCA-CGS Event!

We're looking for feedback comments on all of our Events and activities. Please let us know what you like or dislike!

MBCA NAME BADGES

Name badges are available from the MBCA Club Store in three types of backing attachment (magnetic, safety pin, or tie tack) and can be ordered in blue. Costs range from $8.00 for two lines to $9.00 for three lines (25 characters maximum p/line), plus shipping and handling of $1.20 for one badge, $1.50 for two badges, $1.75 for three to four badges, or $2.00 for five to six badges. You may order by calling the MBCA National Business Office in Colorado Springs, CO at (800) 637-2360 and ask for the Store Administrator, by mailing this order sheet (see address below), or you may order through the MBCA website by going to www.mbca.org and choose Club Store from the main menu, choose Membership and Office Items / Section Events from the next window, scroll down to the desired name badge and make your selection. Order for your Associate Member too!

Please send ____ name badge(s). Specify type of backing: ___ Magnetic / ___ Safety Pin / ___ Tie Tack

Specify color: __ Blue

NAME: _____ NAME: _____

Central Georgia Section, MBCA Central Georgia Section, MBCA

Use a second sheet for additional names….. enclose appropriate dollar amount and return address…… and place your order…

Order from: MBCA, 1907 Lelarary Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80909

Upcoming Events Details — Please contact Name listed

2nd Annual MBCA-CGS Golf Tournament and Dine-Out
Landings Golf Club in Warner Robins
March 24, 2012

This FUN Golfing and Dine-Out Event is scheduled for March 24th starting at 2:00PM for the Golf Tournament, and at 6:30PM for the Awards and Dine-Out at Montana's Steak House in the Clubhouse. (Cocktails from golf finish to 6:30)

For our March Event, we are conducting a Golf "Fun-day"… "Fun-day" being a fun-tournament 9 hole golf gathering for all levels from beginner to low handicap. This is a chance to play a portion of the golf course, and enjoy socializing as you do it.

Format will be:

- "Best Ball" format is that everyone hits their own ball, the team chooses the best positioned ball and marks it (with a tee), and everyone then hits their own ball from that location, etc., including putting on the green. The score entered on the card is the team's lowest score for the hole. When putting, when someone sinks their putt, then the hole is finished. Please be sure to designate a score keeper on your team!
- Ladies will play from the "red" ladies tees. Gentlemen will play from the "white" men's tees.
- Golf shoes or tennis shoes required, men must have collared shirt.
- The winning team will be the team with the lowest score over the 9 holes played.
- Cocktails will definitely be appropriate right after we finish…. Estimated at about 5:00PM.
- Award Ceremonies and Dine-Out will start about 6:30PM.

Those attending only the Dine-Out can meet the golf participants in the Montana's dining room at about 6:30PM.

(Dinner will start at 6:30PM or sooner if group designates desire to do so, and no additional responses are received for Dine-Out attendance).

- continued in next column -

- continued from previous column -

Golf Fun Day March 24, 2012 continued

It should be a fun spring Dine-Out option to our regular format. Those attending the 2010 Event praised the opportunity the Golf Game offered to better mingle, interface and talk to other attendees in a social format without the limitations of a large restaurant table in a limited time restriction.

I will be "pairing" the teams to distribute abilities. Just share with me if you shoot under or over 110!

Date: March 24th, first team tee off at 2:00PM … Saturday afternoon ...

Location: The Landings Golf Club in Warner Robins. This award winning location will be available through a special discount from the General Manager. The semi-private course offers the best greens in the tri-county area, and is beautifully laid out throughout the Statham's Landing area.

Price/fee: Total cost is $20.00 per person (including green fee, cart, tax, and range balls), paid individually at the pro-shop in the clubhouse prior to play.

Dine-Out: Will be at Montana's Steak House in the Landings Clubhouse. Dine-Out will start at 6:30PM

You have an option to play golf, and/or just come to the Dine-Out and socialize…..

Contact: Chuck Utrias at utriasMBCA@cox.net to register for Golf and/or just the Dine-Out.

PLEASE RESPOND ASAP ON YOUR ATTENDANCE INTENTIONS AS WE NEED TO WORK WITH THE GOLF CLUB TO SCHEDULE PLAY FOR ALL ATTENDEES—Thank You.

Join the MBCA Central Georgia Section for a Spring Drive Featuring Cherry Blossoms and Fried Green Tomatoes!
April 21, 2012

On April 21, 2012, MBCA's Central Georgia Section is hosting a spring event including a drive along some beautiful Georgia country roads to the quaint town of Juliette where we will have lunch at the Whistle Stop Cafe, home of the best fried green tomatoes in the South!

- continued on page 7-

Upcoming Events Details continued— Please contact Name listed

Spring Drive Featuring Cherry Blossoms and Fried Green Tomatoes! **- continued from page 6 -**

The cherry blossoms should still be in bloom so we anticipate a leisurely and picturesque drive to Juliette in our Mercedes vehicles. We will meet as a group at Macon's Shoppes At Riverside Crossing Shopping Center parking lot (outside Dillards) on Saturday 21 April 2012 no later than 9:45 AM. The drive to Juliette, depending on the route we ultimately decide to take, is between 30-35 miles. **We will depart Riverside Crossing Shopping Center promptly at 10:00 AM** in order to arrive at Juliette no later than 10:45. The restaurant only holds 50 people and they do not take reservations, but if we are there at 11:00 AM when they open the doors, they will seat us without a delay. We will not be able to all sit together, but the venue is so unique that we think it will be even more enjoyable to mingle!

Juliette is a tiny town that became nationally known when it was featured in the filming of the movie "Fried Green Tomatoes" in 1991. There are some shops and grounds to explore and we might even see a train come through! The restaurant does have awesome fried green tomatoes, and also features a wide variety of other traditional Southern favorites. We hope you will join us to enjoy a bit of spring and one of Georgia's most unique venues! Please feel free to meet us there if you do not want to participate in the drive or if the location you are traveling from is not convenient to the meeting place.

This is a pay as you go event, so there is no registration cost, but we do need a head count to expect you at departure and we ask that you **e-mail Trish Welch (trishwelch@ymail.com) to let her know that you are coming by April 17th.** We will send you more detailed directions on notification of your attendance.

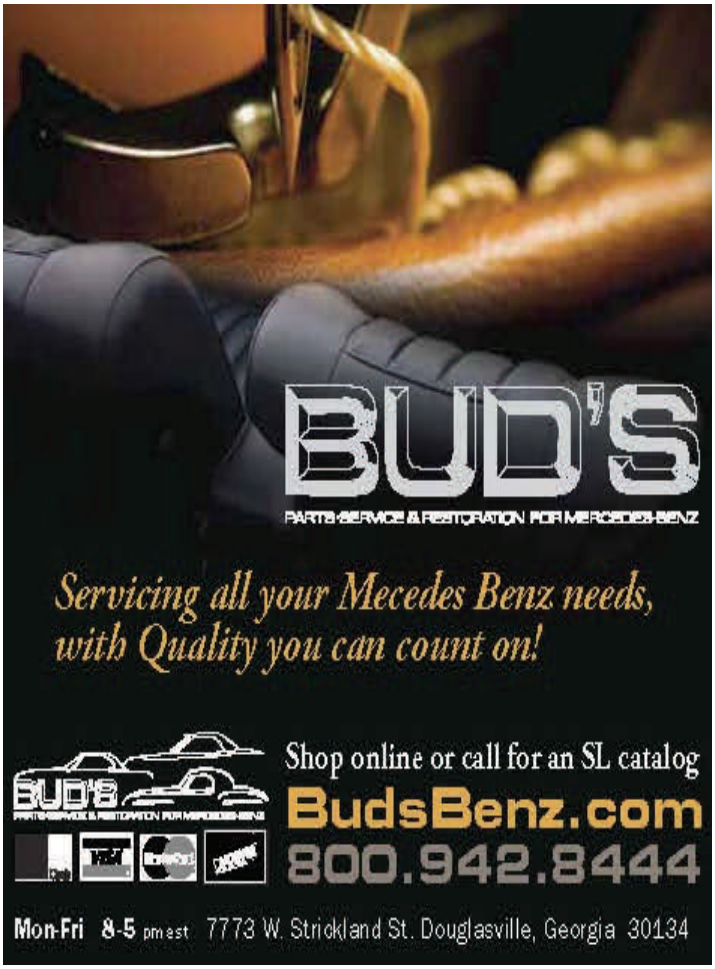
A little bit of the history of the building that houses the Whistle Stop Cafe follows in the next column.

- continued in next column -

HISTORY OF THE WHISTLE STOP CAFE:

The Whistle Stop Cafe building was built in 1927 and was a general merchandise store there for 45 years, finally closing the doors for good in 1972 While in business, the store sold groceries, staples, gasoline, cattle feed, medicines, clothing and hardware. The store was probably one the last of it's kind that delivered the groceries and also allowed folks to "charge" them; keeping a running tab. An antique file system loaded with old yellow tickets from the past along with the meat block, cash register, meat scales, wood heater, safe, and other smaller items remain in the cafe today. The store was rented out for a while as a timber consultant/real estate office and then as an antique shop before The store played a major role as "The Whistle Stop Cafe" in the filming of "Fried Green Tomatoes". After the filming, the buildings owner decided to make it into a real cafe and kept the "Original Whistle Stop Café" name.

We hope to see you there!!!



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Post Event Reporting

<u>Tech Session - Pot Luck Lunch - M-B Facility Tour and Vehicle "walk-around")</u> January 21, 2012… (by Sharon Utrias—pictures by Dotty Esposito/Chuck Utrias)

The MBCA-CGS held its first Tech Session of 2012 on Saturday, January 21, 2012 at the Jackson Automotive Mercedes-Benz Autohaus in Macon, GA. Jackson's Mercedes-Benz of Macon let us use one of their 4 new heated wash-bays for the entire workshop and also provided breakfast pastries and refreshments for attendees. We had 21 members attend the detailing workshop, luncheon, and dealer introductions. The instructor/director of this Cleaning and Detailing Workshop session was our very own CGS member, Tommy Couch. Tommy also provided the Detailing Guides that were offered to the first 8 registrants for the session.

Some of the 21 folks watching the start of the workshop

At 9:30AM, our Section President introduced Tommy as a very active member of the CGS and the man who may change our minds about various techniques to employ on this often tedious task-of proper car cleaning and detailing. If you want your Mercedes to be show ready, or properly prepared for any Concours presentation, this was place to be that rainy morning.

Some of the other attendees in the 21 folks getting educated

Tommy began the workshop session by demonstrating the proper way to wash a vehicle. He explained that the body of the car isn't always the dirtiest part so he started washing from the top and windows, then to the hood, front, back, and then the sides of the car in sequence. His knowledge of various techniques and materials were used on the Mercedes belonging to the CGS Treasurer, Trish Welch's 2008 SLK280.

Tommy Couch explaining some of the materials used

At each stage of the cleaning and detailing process Tommy explained the best practices and procedures and invited audience participation from the attendees.

Several folks took part in the processes and the ladies also took up the challenge as well. They became involved in wheel cleaning, clay bar, polish preparation, application and buffing, then wax application and buffing—and not one mention of a broken finger nail! At the conclusion... Trish's Mercedes was definitely "show ready".

Ron Richardson getting clay bar practice

Tommy kept an ongoing dialog with the members not only with demonstrations but also his experiences with different products and in some cases, tools he often uses in cleaning and detailing. Working with these tools was also part of the workshop.

Trish working on those wheels

The Board of Directors of the MBCA-CGS and its Members sincerely thank Tommy for all his time and effort in preparing this seminar/workshop for us. His offering of his knowledge and expertise, answering questions, and helping with the hands on training that he graciously shared with us, should provide for seeing some pretty spectacular automobiles at our February Dine-Out. We are very fortunate to have Tommy Couch as one of our own. Thank You, Tommy. Now on to the rest of the days functions…..

- Tech Session continued on page 10 -

Post Event Reporting—continued

Detailing Seminar / Pot Luck Lunch / Dealer Intro —continued...

After that "hands on" experience, we entered into the service bay area where tables and chairs were set up by David Morgan's Jackson Autohaus sales staff for our attendee "pot luck" lunch. This was a new 2012 approach for the lunch, in that it was provided by the members themselves … and from the looks of things, the lunch was a success with several plates of leftovers and desserts making their way home for a tasty treat later that day …. after doing some vehicle cleaning perhaps.

One of the 2 tables of food and drink — loved the chili!!

After he and his staff shared their time having lunch with our group, Mr. Ken Grinstead, General Manager of Jackson Mercedes-Benz of Macon welcomed us to the newly expanded and refurbished facility and explained some of the exciting things Mercedes-Benz will be providing in their newer products.

Ken and his staff are always open and supportive of the MBCA-CGS and he personally has been one of our club's constant guides and supporters.

Ken (left), Rusty (center), and David Austin coordinating the tour

His offer to host this Tech Session was greatly appreciated and we could not find a more willing person to help us be successful. The refreshments, juices, coffee and pastries upon our arrival and drinks during the lunch, were such a nice gesture on behalf of Jackson and we all enjoyed that bit of their hospitality. As in the Mercedes tradition everything was first class.

Ken also introduced the Parts Manager, David Austin and the Service Manager Rusty Suddeth who then gave us a tour of their respective areas with an explanation of some special discounts and services provided to Mercedes owners. David Austin provided us with a surprise of some wonderful raffle gifts after the luncheon and from the conversation I overheard, the gifts are always quite a hit…. Thank you, David Austin.

The tour ended with yet another highlight, a trip to view the new showroom and its treasures - models of the 2012 Mercedes-Benz vehicles. The Salesmen were knowledgeable and eager to show off and explain these wonderful automobiles but alas, the weather alarm went off and the salesmen had to rush out and protect the vehicles outside from the predicted three-inch hail and a threat of a tornado. Probably best that happened, otherwise, some MBCA-CGS members would have stayed until closing time. All in all we had a great time on a rainy Saturday.

- more Post Event Reporting continued on Page 11 -

Post Event Reporting—continued

MBCA-CGS February Dine-Out - February 16, 2012:

The February 2012 casual Monthly Dine-Out at The new "Vietnamese Cuisine & Donar Kabob Restaurant" in Warner Robins was attended by 24 people which was our largest turn-out for a non-Macon Dine-Out Event.

The camaraderie and food selection process were enjoyed by all

The food from Southeast Asia and street food from Turkey provided a different palate from our normal entree's. The restaurant primarily offers Vietnamese delicacies and authentic cuisine, but with a cook on board from Germany, where doner kebabs are popular, the restaurant was also outfitted with a lamb spit to serve the dish similar to the Greek gyro.

We were joined by 2 new MBCA-CGS members and one new associate member, Les and Elaine Goggans and Jeffrey Misamore. Also joining us were 2 new M-B owners who are prospective members and that were checking us out!

Our next Event is a Golf Fun Day on March 24th…. Be sure to read about the details on page 6 of this Newsletter.

Event Registration Forms -

Registration:

Specific "Registration" is not needed for the next 2 Events...

But PLEASE make reservations for the May Member Appreciation Picnic

However; Please let us know if you will be attending:

1. **The Golf Fun Day on March 24th - Please contact Chuck Utrias at utriasMBCA@cox.net with your average golf score(s)**

2. **The Casual drive from Macon to Juliette on April 21 with lunch at the Whistle Stop Café - please contact trishwelch@ymail.com to let us know if you will drive along, or just meet us there…. We'll know to wait for you!**

3. **The Member Appreciation Picnic on May TBD - A no cost to members family picnic for members and their immediate family. The Section will cover the cost of food and drink! - Please contact Will Toussaint at willt69mb@yahoo.com with your number of attendees.**

Hope we see you there!!!

For additional Club information:
Mercedes-Benz Club of America - Central Georgia Section

www.MBCA-CGS.org

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