



MERCEDES- BENZ CLUB of AMERICA

Central Georgia Section

Welcome to the Central Georgia Section!

Volume 1 - Issue 3

May 2011

Upcoming Events:

- May 12 - La Parrilla Mexican Restaurant, Macon GA
- May 19-23- Callaway Gardens, Birmingham Concours/Races, M-B Factory Tour
- June 4- Milledgeville Tour see write-up inside
- July 16- Columbus GA.- Infantry Museum and dinner
- August 6 - tech session, Collision and Insurance, plus Car show, Precision Collision, Byron GA
- See page 6 for more!

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Callaway & M-B Factory Tour May 19-23

May 19-23 -
Meet Florida Sections at Callaway Gardens, tour the gardens, drive to Birmingham AL for their Heimatfest Concours and the unique "Legends of Motorsports" racing, and then a special MBCA Mercedes-Benz Factory Tour in Vance AL

Thursday May 19th:

Arrive in the afternoon/early evening to meet the traveling Florida Sections at Callaway Gardens for a 2 night stay at the Mountain Creek Inn located on the Callaway Gardens property.

Group Dinner on Thursday night.

Friday May 20th:

After an 8:00AM traditional Southern breakfast buffet in the Plant Room... We will self-tour the Calloway Gardens with lunch at about 12:30PM.

Group Dinner on Friday night.

- Continued on page 6 -

Milledgeville June 4

June 4- Milledgeville Arboretum, Old Capital Bldg, Governor's Mansion and dinner at Aubrey Lanes

Georgia's Antebellum Capital
 Event hosts: Roc and Sue Patel

Our day of events starts with a 10:30AM gathering of members at the **Lockerby Arboretum, located at 1534 Irwinton Hwy. in Milledgeville. (parking maps will be provided with electronic registration confirmation)**

Around Lockerly Hall, the Arboretum includes some forty-seven acres of plantings. A specially arranged MBCA - CGS tour (normally closed on Sat.) will be starting at 11:00AM at **Lockerly Hall (c.1839)**, a Greek Revival home that is the centerpiece of the Arboretum and presides over its surroundings with elegance and grace.

After the Mansion tour take some free time for walking through the gardens and we will meet at the parking location at 12:30PM.

- continued on page 7-

M-B Middle Georgia Monthly Dine-Out Group - OR Your Area?

The opportunity to associate with other enthusiasts has increased membership in MBCA, as invited guests experience the value and enjoyment of an MBCA event.

The Board is ready to help you establish local Monthly Dine-Outs within your area. Although we cannot release specific names, we will aggressively advertise your Dine-Out schedule in this newsletter.

Officers

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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 acting Editor or e-mailed to Charles Utrias at utriasMBCA@cox.net. Copy deadline is the first of the month preceding the month of publication.

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 80 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 = \$45.00 Two years = \$87.00 Three years = \$127.00

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

Our Section continues to grow, and our events through 2011 are all taking final shape, and the Board is doing great things to help assure your membership brings value and enjoyment to your M-B ownership.

If you're not participating in the Sections Events you're not only missing out on meeting some great people, you're not getting the value the Club strives to provide. Additionally it takes a lot of work to plan an Event. Many of the Events, due to our large membership area, are being planned at locations distant from everyday encounters by the Event Planners. This makes it a little harder to coordinate. If you cannot be an Event Planner, your local help in support to the Event Planner is really appreciated. We also welcome any of your suggestions for Events in your local areas.

We are working hard to bring Events to your local areas, but we lose enthusiasm when no locals show up! A good example is our April Event in Americus. This Event was planned to support the many Albany and Columbus members in attending a LOCAL Event. No-one from Albany or Columbus attended. We had many members from Macon and Warner Robins, members from Perry, Milledgeville and Swainsboro, but not one of the locals? We had a great time, talked and looked at some cars, ate some great dinners, enjoyed three outstanding tours, and attended a classic theater production in a historic theater. (We didn't see any ghosts) We met folks who admired the cars and had either stories or questions regarding the M-B marque. Some may become new members, others just felt good talking to M-B enthusiasts.

I am, however, concerned about the interests of our Section members. I am drafting a very short survey to see if your getting the Newsletter, reading the Newsletter, and offering a way for you to tell the Board what types of Events interest you most.

We have some great Section Events over the next few months... in addition to the May special MBCA tour of the M-B Factory, we have planned a historic tour of Milledgeville in June, a 3 Section coordinated tour of the new National Infantry Museum in Columbus in July, a tech session and car show in August, a wine tour in September, a plantation tour along with 2 car collections AND a ride in the Fox Movie Studio Mogul's *Silver Ghost* Rolls Royce in Thomasville in October, a "First Annual Casual Concours" at the Columbus Dealership in November, and our Holiday Party in December... Plan your schedule and PLEASE register early!

Your Board has designed a MBCA-CGS logo and has had it digitized for embroidery use on clothing and accessories. An e-mail was sent to Section members with information related to various men's and ladies shirts and T-shirts and included an order form for your chosen type, color, and size. Until we get our website up and running, please use the order forms sent in the e-mail information.

Work continues on the website development. I, like you, am anxious to get it up and running as an additional method to communicate with you. We are also adding the Section to Facebook for more communication.

The CGS board of Directors is dedicated to assuring Events and activities are spread across the Section's boundaries. We are seeking ideas and suggestions from our members in the central and southern Georgia areas of our state. Let's get together and plan some interesting and exciting Events. Remember, Events can be social activities (location visits/lunch or dinner meetings), technical sessions (mechanical/body/cleaning & maintenance), rallies/driving courses/driving tours, and even M-B dealer or "Independent Service" special events needing the MBCA member support.

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!

Special Offer from Mercedes-Benz exclusively for USAA Members



THE GLK-CLASS

Proof that great engineering is great at any size.

Tested like a performance sport sedan and fortified like a rugged off-road vehicle, the GLK is compact, sleek and fuel-efficient – yet capable of completely outrunning its weightier competition. And with its agile handling and exceptional versatility, it can run circles around them, too. Which is a big deal, anyway you look at it.



THE C-CLASS

Standing the test of time means never standing still.

In creating the C-Class, we took the same uncompromising approach that has underpinned our philosophy since we invented the automobile. So after we gave it aggressive styling, 11-way airbag protection, elegant appointments and performance engineered to delight your right foot, we gave it something else – the three-pointed star that marks a true Mercedes-Benz.



THE E-CLASS

Some predict the future. We prefer to build it.

With a pedigree going back over 60 years, the E-Class has a proud tradition of pointing the way forward. Today, this legendary family delivers an inimitable mix of visionary design, meticulous craftsmanship and leading safety innovations – charting a course for others to follow.



Mercedes-Benz of Columbus

7470 Veterans Parkway

Columbus, GA 31909

706.256.6100

www.MercedesBenzofColumbus.com

Upcoming Events Summary—See Events details (Page 6) for RSVP

May 12 - Monthly Dine-Out at La Parrilla Mexican restaurant in Macon at River Crossings. Dress is casual. Dinner will be at 7:00PM

May 19-23 - A joint Section/Region Event, meeting the Florida Sections at Callaway Gardens, proceeding to Birmingham AL for Legends of Motor Racing & Concours, then a special MBCA tour of Mercedes Factory at Vance, AL. See details in this Newsletter...

June 4 - Milledgeville, GA Event and Dine-Out. Tour Milledgeville GA, see Arboretum, Governor's Mansion, Secession Vote Capital Building and dinner at Aubrey Lanes Restaurant. See details in this Newsletter.

July 16 - Three Section Event starting at 11:00AM at the Infantry Museum in Columbus GA. A special tour and experience shooting weapons, large and small military vehicles, many displays, lunch included, dinner at night.

Aug 6 - Tech Session, Dinner, and Car show. Joint event with Porsche Club, Collision and Insurance Seminar, followed by dinner, and then a multi-make car show that draws some 150 vehicles.

Sept 17 - German Autofest - M-B, BMW, Porsche Clubs at Albany Motor Cars / BMW of Albany dealer location.

Oct 15 - In the Thomasville area, a visit to the Pebble Hill Plantation (architecture/art/antiques/old cars), lunch then a tour of a unique car collection in Cairo, a short drive for another special car collection, rides in very collectable Rolls Royce's, a wine & cheese party, and a local dinner... hotel discounts and all.

Nov 5 - M-B of Columbus First Annual "Casual Concours" sponsored jointly with the MBCA-CGS. Wash it, shine it, and drive it to the dealership for a fun time of a M-B car Show. Fun judging, car watching, special awards, prizes, lunch, and the opportunity to meet and talk to fellow Central Georgia Section members as well as the Mercedes-Benz of Columbus customers.

Dec TBD - Tommy and Joan Couch are planning the Holiday Party at Henderson Village in Perry Georgia. Dress is "your finest". We'll also have a Chinese gift "auction" (M-B related gifts for exchange). And we'll arrange for group discount room rates at this unique property.

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

Welcome New Central Georgia Section (CSG) Members

March: New Members

Josiah Safo - Richland, GA

April: New Members

William Stephens - Macon, GA

We're looking for feedback comments on all of our Events and activities.

Although we provide Event discount hotel arrangements for those traveling some distance to the Event, feel free to just come for the day if you wish!

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 Lelary Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80909

Upcoming Events Details — Please contact Name listed

**May 12 -
Monthly Dine-Out at La Parrilla Mexican restaurant
in Macon at River Crossings. Dress is casual.**

Dinner will be at 7:00PM

Serving up a Fiesta, with exciting and delicious menu items that are sure to enchant and fascinate, the Chef and staff welcome customers by preparing authentic Mexican entrees served in a beautiful atmosphere just like in sunny Mexico.

To assure adequate group reservations please RSVP to utriasMBCA@cox.net by May 5, 2011

No event fees, you will order and pay individually.

Dress is Casual! Bring the Benz!

Callaway & M-B Factory Tour - Continued from Page 1-

Saturday May 21st:

After a buffet breakfast we will set out for Birmingham on a 4 hour route through interesting mountain passes and towns. Lunch will be at a mountain lookout along the way. We will proceed as a group to visit the Barber Vintage Racing Museum, one of the largest motorcycle museums in the country, and also houses the largest collection of Lotus race cars in the country.

Saturday night we'll have dinner locally with other MBCA visitors from around the country.

Sunday May 22nd:

After breakfast at the hotel we go to the Barber Raceway to join the MBCA – Alabama Heimatfest Festivities of Legends of Motorsports Racing Events, and a MBCA Alabama M-B Concours overlooking the Race-track. You will have the opportunity to drive your M-B vehicle on the track during the lunch break in racing. Only those registered for the Concours are allowed to attend the M-B Factory Tour.

Dinner Sunday night will be with the Alabama Heimatfest group.

- continued next column -

Callaway & M-B Factory Tour - Continued -

Monday May 23rd:

M-B Factory tour... Being sure to check-out early, and after the hotel complimentary breakfast we will proceed to the Vance Alabama M-B International vehicle assembly factory. Our M-B tour guide will meet us there and proceed with the specially arranged MBCA tour. We will have lunch at the factory cafeteria (where the employees eat) after the tour, and then have some time to tour the museum, and of course the gift shops.

Reservations at **Callaway** should be made directly with the Inn at **1-800-Callaway**... **Ask for the Mercedes-Benz Club rate.** Room rates include entry into the Gardens, a normally \$19.99 per person expense (\$40/couple)... The Mountain Creek Inn rates will be at \$119.00 + TAX, per room, per night single or double.

(Please send a message to utriasMBCA@cox.net that your coming to Callaway to help schedule reservation numbers for dinners.)

Reservations in Alabama should be made directly with the **Drury Inn & Suites Southeast** located at the Colonnade at the intersection of U.S. 280 and I - 459. **The discounted rate for Mercedes - Benz Club participants is \$79.99 +tax for 1 or 2 beds. Contact them at: www.druryhotels.com or phone 205 - 967 - 2450.**

NOTE: If you indicate you will be joining the Callaway Gardens group to utriasMBCA@cox.net as requested above, your registration materials (including entry to the Barber Museum and the Concours ID) will be distributed to you by Charles Utrias at Callaway Gardens to allow you to enter the Barber Museum on Saturday afternoon without paying additional fees to enter the track to retrieve your registration materials.

For Heimatfest questions please contact Alabama Section President Jim Roberts at 2301 Arlington Ave., Suite 200, Birmingham, AL 35205... 205-933-9333 or 1-800-228-2997. or e-mail Jim Roberts at jertoosaver@bellsouth.net

See you at Callaway and Birmingham AND at the special MBCA M-B Factory Tour!

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Event Reminders....

**DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR THE
MILLEDGEVILLE EVENT
ON JUNE 4, 2011
REGISTRATION FORM IS ON INSIDE
OF BACK COVER!!**

**DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR THE
INFANTRY MUSEUM EVENT
ON JULY 16, 2011
REGISTRATION FORM IS ON THE
BACK COVER!!**

Save dates of:

- **August 6 - Tech Session in Byron**
- **September 17 - German Autofest in Albany**
- **October 15 - Thomasville 3 Car Collections**

Upcoming Events Details continued ...

-Milledgeville June 4th - Continued from page 1

From the Arboretum we will drive a short distance to the center of town for lunch which will be at 1:00 PM at the Brick restaurant, a lively college town eating favorite.

After a leisurely lunch (and a look around downtown shops) following maps provided, we will then meet for a tour at 3:00PM at the [Old Capital Building](#) where the Southern States voted for secession.

At promptly 4:00PM we begin our tour of the [Old Governor's Mansion](#). Built as the Executive Mansion c.1839; it was home to the governors of Georgia from 1839-1868. Occupied by General Sherman during his March to the Sea, the mansion is one of the most perfect examples of High Greek Revival architecture in the nation and has received the prestigious Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation Award. A \$7M renovation was just completed.

Our Saturday night Dine-Out will be @ 630PM at Aubrey Lanes in downtown Milledgeville, an excellent downtown restaurant, with a varied menu and great atmosphere.

We have arranged to have a Host Hotel for those desiring to stay on Friday or Saturday evening.

The [Host Hotel](#), the [Holiday Inn Express](#), 1839 Columbia St., will offer "M-B of Central GA" Group Rates of \$75.00 per room for Friday and/or Saturday nights. Call [478-454-9000](tel:478-454-9000) for reservations. We might have a small Fri. night reception based on registration numbers.

Costs of the event will be \$20.00 per person. Lunch and Dinner will be self-pay.

Please complete the registration form on Page 15, and send it in with your check, and you will receive electronic confirmation and additional maps.

Upcoming Events Details continued ...

National Infantry Museum Columbus, GA July 16, 2007

.A three Section Event coordinated jointly by the Alabama, the Peachtree, and the Central Georgia Sections will be held at the new National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center in Columbus, GA.

This new 10-million dollar privately funded site is the cornerstone for the history of the Infantry Branch of the U.S. Army.

The event staff has arranged for dedicated parking for our group, with shuttle service from the parking area to the museum for those needing assistance. The shuttle will run from 10:30 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. and will deliver you to the World War II (WW II) company street chapel to wait for others to join us for the tour that begins promptly at 11:00 a.m.

The authentic WWII Company Street includes seven era barracks, a headquarters building utilized by General George Patton's third Armored Division training for deployment to the European theater, other assorted structures, and a "mess hall".

The tour of this area will conclude at Noon in the chow hall with a catered lunch featuring:

- A selection of Cole slaw, potato salad, baked beans, roasted corn on the cob, and dill pickle spears
- From the grill, ½ lb Angus Beef Hamburgers w/Kaiser Rolls plus Swiss or cheddar cheese.. or Herb Marinated Chicken Breasts
- Fresh Fruit Cobbler.

We will depart for a 12:45 p.m. tour of the first world-class museum to pay tribute to the U.S. Army Infantryman and his two-hundred-and-thirty-year history.



The museum and WWII village tours will be in guided groups of twenty attendees.

- continued -

The museum traces the history of the Infantry from Colonial times to Afghanistan in a series of era galleries that feature a state-of-the-art immersion experience which allows attendees to taste the bitter air of battle and touch the sacred soil of our nations defining moments.

The guided tour will conclude at 3:15 p.m., followed by a forty-five minute I-Max film of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Drinks and snacks during the movie are included.

Those electing to do so at 4:00 p.m. will traverse to the M-4 rifle simulator at an adjoining rifle range. You can experience semi-automatic and single-shot burst simulation in the same trainer currently utilized for training twentieth-century infantry marksmen.

The shuttle will return you to the designated parking area after the museum tour, IMAX presentation, or M-4 simulator exercise.

Those wishing to dine before leaving the area can do so at a cost above the registration fee with the group at Chef Lee's Peking, located in Columbus fifteen minutes and twelve miles from the museum. Chef Lee's has been serving Columbus for over forty years and is described in one review as having cuisine "on par with New York and San Francisco Chinatown restaurants" with "fantastic décor". Chef Lee's has the "best Peking Duck served anywhere in the south". Entrees are reasonably priced.

Please complete the registration form on page 16 (back cover), and send it in with your check, and you will receive electronic confirmation and additional maps/info.

Technical Session+ Dinner and 100+ Car show August 6 - Byron, GA

Bobby Piper, at Precision Collision in Byron will be providing critical information on Collision repair and the importance of adequate insurance coverage that will be helpful in protecting your vehicle investment. Afterwards we will have dinner, and enjoy the monthly "car show" that brings in excess of 100 cars to the Byron Outlet Mall the evening of the first Saturday of every month.

We have extended an invitation to the local Porsche Car Club to join us for this Event providing even more eye candy around the Precision Collision facility.

ALL NEW ALBANY MOTORCARS GRAND OPENING



The building is new.

The reputation was earned generations ago.

Albany Motorcars is looking forward to becoming a part of your community. Our dealership will be your home for new and Mercedes-Benz Certified Pre-Owned vehicles. With Mercedes-Benz Roadside Assistance* and cutting-edge diagnostic equipment, we'll be able to serve your needs for years to come.



Mercedes-Benz

Albany Motorcars

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www.AlbanyMotorcars.com

Dealer Update—alphabetically

We are fortunate to have three long established M-B Dealers within our Central Georgia Section.

This column is intended to provide the members an update of information of significance at each of these dealers on an ongoing basis.

Albany Motor Cars - Albany, GA

-The Grand Opening of the new Albany Motor Cars Mercedes-Benz Autohaus Showroom will be celebrated within the new facility by a **“Customer Appreciation Open House Party” on Thursday May 19th, from 5:00-7:00PM.** Champaign, wine, food and music will be provided to thank all of Albany Motor Cars customers for their continued customer support enabling this “Grand Opening” event. Reservations are required, so please contact the Albany Motor Cars receptionist with your RSVP.

-David Wimberly, Parts Manager will be celebrating his 35th year at the dealership in 2011. David has been involved in the parts department during his entire time with the dealership. His knowledge and advise are available to help you with any your particular Mercedes-Benz parts problems. Stop by and see David, not only to congratulate him on his 35 years of service, but to ask for his advice.

M-B of Columbus - Columbus, GA

-Best of the Best Dealer Recognition Award
Mercedes-Benz of Columbus has received the prestigious Mercedes-Benz “Best of the Best” Dealer Recognition Award from MBUSA based on its outstanding performance in 2010. The Dealership was presented the award as a tribute to its success as an independent entrepreneur who routinely exceeds the expectations of Mercedes-Benz owners. MBUSA recognized the top 10 percent of its retail network with the “Best of the Best” recognition. The award is presented annually, going to top performing Mercedes-Benz dealerships for demonstrating superior performance in various areas of their business, including customer satisfaction, new vehicle sales, certified pre-owned sales, leadership and management, parts operations, and market penetration. “These dealers represent the essence of the Mercedes-Benz brand: an enduring commitment to excellence combined with an entrepreneurial spirit and the absolute dedication to customer satisfaction,” said Ernst Lieb, president and CEO of Mercedes-Benz USA. “These are dealers who believe, as we do, that the ultimate measure of success is not only business acumen but also meeting the expectations of each and every customer every time – no exceptions.” Stop in to congratulate the Mercedes-Benz of Columbus team on this outstanding achievement.

-Mike Moretz - receives the Master Technician Guild Award ... Mike, in partnership with MBUSA Learning & Performance was awarded the highest level of achievement within the Standards of Excellence program - a Master Guild Recognition Program award trip to Germany.

- continued in next column -

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Participation on a Master Guild trip is an experience reserved for less than 1% of dealer network employees this year. It's truly something special, and even more so in 2011, as this year marks the 125th anniversary of the automobile. What better time to visit the very place it all began! Mike was selected based on his commitment to continuous learning, his ability to consistently deliver on business objectives and demonstrate the positive behaviors and values commensurate with the Mercedes-Benz brand. This once in a lifetime designed 7-day trip will take him to various Mercedes-Benz production facilities, as well as allow him to enjoy some interesting historical sights along the way. Stop in and congratulate Mike on being chosen to attend this most prestigious trip!

-Recent Mercedes-Benz Golf Tournament winners
Congratulations to Jimmy Jarrell and John Reynolds for being the winners of this years' Mercedes-Benz of Columbus Dealer Golf Tournament. Proceeds from the tournament benefited the American Heart Association. Combined with the Mercedes-Benz of Columbus Vehicle Raffle in January, and the funds raised for this Golf Tournament, Mercedes-Benz of Columbus has raised over \$35,000 for the American Heart Association so far in 2011.

-Service Clinic Reminder

MBCA-CGS will be supporting the Mercedes-Benz of Columbus “Free Customer Service Clinic”, Saturday May 14 from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Please contact their service department for more information 706.256.6100 or send an e-mail to seansmith@mercedesbenzcg.com



Mercedes-Benz

Support your local Dealer!

Jackson Automotive Group – Mercedes-Benz of Macon - Macon, GA

-Construction progress continues on the new Autohaus design showroom building. Also, in addition to the showroom construction upgrades, Jackson has added additional space to the Parts Department, have preliminarily finished 2 new Customer Waiting Rooms (one dedicated to allowing WiFi users to either conduct business or personal functions in a quieter environment), added 2 new Service Bays, and added 4 new Wash Stations.

Autohaus certification is currently planned for the July timeframe, with a Grand Opening celebration planned for early fall.

DREAM IN COLOR

MERCEDES-BENZ OF MACON



2011 Mercedes-Benz C-Class
Starting At **\$33,900**



2011 Mercedes-Benz E-Class
Starting At **\$49,400**



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9:00 am - 6:00 pm Sat.



Post Event Reporting

Michael's-On-Mulberry - by Sharon Utrias (w/photos by L. Smyth)

The Central Georgia Section of the Mercedes Benz Club of America held their monthly dine-out evening on March 24, 2011. This evening we headed to Macon, GA for dinner at Michael's on Mulberry. Our coordinator for this evening was Trish Welch who was able to secure a private dining room for our group of nineteen diners. This was a perfect dining area and provided our members with just the right atmosphere to welcome each other and meet our newest member, Charles Wofford of Swainsboro, GA.

Naturally, one of the first questions members asked Charles was "what type of Mercedes do you drive and enjoy?" He drove a beautiful 380SL to the Dine-Out, but has several others to talk about!

The dine-out group has been a popular activity of the CGS and a real high-light of the Club as it provides such a warm and pleasant venue to the new and existing members to enjoy each other's company and to catch up on adventures members may have with their vehicles. It also is a way in which members share any technical tips they may have discovered and want to share with others.

President, Charles Utrias gave a brief description of the up-coming events and discussed the Boards need for additional member volunteer help. The Board had on hand some newly designed ladies and men's T-shirts with the MBCA-CGS logo for sale, as well as an order form for additional selectable color orders.



The Board also distributed some new membership brochures and showed us the new door hangers that can be placed on the door of candidate members with our contact information.

It looked like everyone was engaged in conversation and laughter throughout the evening and so I can say a good time was had by all.

MBCA-CGS Americus Event - by Charles Utrias (w/photos by C. Utrias / D. Esposito / C. Wofford)

The MBCA-CGS's first formal Event was held at Americus Georgia on April 1-2, 2011. Some members arrived on Friday night and enjoyed a very tasty dinner at the Station Restaurant, only a 1/2 block from our Historical Victorian Hotel.

The Hotel was built in the late 1800's and has been preserved through several million dollars of investments to really bring the glory of that golden age to life. The glass roofed lobby is the second largest in the country of all originally preserved, and designed and built, Victorian architectural hotels.

- Americus continued -



On Saturday morning some of the group met in the hotels "breakfast room" for a leisurely elegant breakfast before starting the events of the day. The decorations and furnishings reflected the ambience of the entire hotel.

After breakfast we toured the hotel from basement to 5th floor, and were introduced to all of the original decorations and gifts the hotel has received over the years from previous owners and patron's estates. We heard the stories of ghosts, stories of John Dillinger, of Al Capone, and of Jimmy Carter's favorite suites.



With some of the vehicles left parked in front of the hotel, we walked to a small specialty café for lunch, on our way to the Rylander Theater tour. This theater has been through a \$5M restoration and has claimed title to "the finest playhouse south of Atlanta. Our tour guide was very thorough in explaining the efforts needed to duplicate plaster castings and original architectural renovations.

- continued on page 13 -

- Americus continued from page 12 -
The guide explained that in the abandoned years, extensive damage was experienced from the entrance throughout the theater, as some of our group listened intently.



From the theater we walked to tour the only working distillery in the state of Georgia. We received a tour guided by the Master Distiller, of the 13th Colony Distilleries who explained all of the equipment currently in use for this craft distillery operation.



(Some of the Distilleries attendees with smiles and tour guide)

We met for dinner in the Charles Lindbergh Room with some of the members staying overnight to attend the evening performance at the



Rylander Theater. And everyone enjoyed the comedy with some hearty laughter heard from all.

Most members left for home after breakfast on Sunday, however; member Chuck Wofford took a short trip to Plains Georgia and met with former President Jimmy Carter and his wife (that's Chuck on the



left), and also took the time to stop off at Billy Carter's age appropriate gas station for an additional picture of his 380SL.



M-B of Columbus Charity Golf Tournament for the American Heart Association - by Charles Utrias (w/photos by C. Utrias)

On April 5th a couple MBCA-CGS Board members volunteered to help the M-B of Columbus dealership by registering tournament players at the Green Island Country Club for the dealer sponsored American Heart Association charity golf tournament..

We had the opportunity to meet many prospective members as we registered players and helped distribute the fantastic "goodie bags" that the dealer provided to each player.

The M-B of Columbus management staff allowed us to use our MBCA-CGS table cover, which generated some inquiries and questions about the benefits of being an MBCA member.



We had 34 potential members sign up for a sample copy of the MBCA-CGS Newsletter and MBCA information. We also were able to place an MBCA brochure in each "goodie bag" the players received. We were also invited to attend the awards banquet giving us additional opportunities to talk with tournament players and to dine with the dealers executives.

The MBCA-CGS will have another opportunity to support the Columbus dealer and to meet other potential members on May 14th. We will be networking with M-B of Columbus customers during their annual "Customer Service Clinic" where customers have an opportunity to receive a free inspection of their vehicles with follow-up detail discussions with the inspecting mechanic.

While customers are waiting through their scheduled appointment, the MBCA-CGS Board and our members will have the opportunity to talk about the customers M-B, and to explain the benefits of extending their M-B ownership enjoyment by participating with an avid group of enthusiasts to experience social, driving, and technical events as a part of the MBCA-CGS activities.

Our local Columbus area members are invited to schedule your vehicle for an inspection, or just to come down to the dealership and visit with the dealer staff, MBCA-CGS Board members, and other members that stop by.

We're also coordinating a "Casual Concours" (wash and shine car show) with this dealer on November 5th... Plan to be there and enjoy the various vehicles, and maybe win a raffle prize or showing award for your vehicle.

Tommy Couch & Joan Dorsett's Wedding on April 16, 2011 - by Sharon Utrias (w photos by L. Smyth)

Tommy & Joan are each individual "Charter Members" of our MBCA - Central Georgia Section.

Separately introduced to the MBCA in September of 2009, they individually started contributing to the Club's activities, Dine-Outs and Functions. Friendship grew, and romance developed, leading to a newly found happiness for both of them.

On a beautiful spring day in mid April, Joan Dorsett and Tommy Couch became Mr. & Mrs. Couch, being married in Perry, GA. The weather was exceptional as there was a balmy breeze along with our beautiful blue sky.

Since Tommy and Joan are one of the most active couples in our Section, they invited all Section members to attend the wedding and reception.



Tommy & Joan Couch



Some of the MBCA-CGS members at the wedding reception

Many members feel a close relationship to both Tommy and Joan, experiencing them as active individual members and then as an active couple. Tommy is currently on our Board of Directors, and they are both currently planning our Holiday Party for December of 2011.

Between the couple there are at least 5 Benz's, one in particular is Joan's 1971 250. She is the original owner taking delivery of that car in Germany in 1971. With a few additional (E-Class, a 380SL, a SL500 and a SL55) in the garages, they always have a Mercedes ready for any occasion.

Best of Luck to Tommy & Joan Couch

Event Registration Forms (Americus is on Page 14)

Callaway Gardens and Birmingham Alabama - May 19-24, 2011

Send Callaway Gardens information form or e-mail information to utriasMBCA@cox.net

Name: _____ Guest: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____ e-mail: _____

Callaway Gardens (to help in meal reservations)

Attending: Thursday Dinner: _____, Friday Dinner: _____, Saturday Breakfast: _____ (all self pay)

Please mail Registration Form to: Charles Utrias
103 Fifth Fairway
Warner Robins, GA 31088

Questions: Please contact C. Utrias at: 478-225-6878 or utriasMBCA@cox.net

Milledgeville Historic Tour & Dinner - June 4, 2011

Name: _____ Guest: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____ e-mail: _____

Attending: Saturday Dinner: _____ (self pay) - Tour Lunch: _____ (self pay)

Arboretum/Governor's Mansion/Capital Building Tours = # _____ @ \$20.00 per person = \$ _____ enclosed.

Please respond by May 28, 2011. After this date use contact information below to verify if space is available.

Please make checks payable to: MBCA — Central Georgia Section

Please mail Registration Form and Check to: Charles Utrias
103 Fifth Fairway
Warner Robins, GA 31088

Questions: Please contact C. Utrias at: 478-225-6878 or utriasMBCA@cox.net

Event Registration Forms - Continued

National Infantry Museum & Soldier Center - July 16, 2011

Name: _____ Guest: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____ e-mail: _____

- Tour of WWII Street, Museum, buffet lunch, I-Max of Lewis and Clark: # _____ @ \$40.00 pp = \$ _____

- Marksmanship simulator: # _____ @ \$10.00 pp = \$ _____

Check for Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Attending self-pay Saturday Dinner @ Chef Lee's Peking: # _____

Please respond by July 8, 2011. After this date use contact information below to verify if space is available.

Please make checks payable to: MBCA — Central Georgia Section

Please mail Registration Form and Check to: Charles Utrias
103 Fifth Fairway
Warner Robins, GA 31088

Questions: Please contact C. Utrias at: 478-225-6878 or utriasMBCA@cox.net

Dealer Support Events:

May 14 - M-B Columbus Customer Service Clinic
M-B of Columbus
Dealer Service Area
MBCA - CGS Recruiting Table & Local Service
Customer Networking

For additional Club information:

**Mercedes-Benz Club of America -
Central Georgia section
103 Fifth Fairway
Warner Robins, GA 31088**

478-225-6878

utriasMBCA@cox.net