



# Das Heimatblatt

Newsletter for the Alabama Section  
Mercedes-Benz Club America

## Inside this Issue...

Sternblick	1
Calender of Events	2
Coming Events	3-5
Event Recap	7-8
Members Stories	10-11
In Der Presse	11

January • 2014

## STERNBLICK

(View through the Star)

*Robert Hinds*  
*President, Alabama Section MBCA*

**F**or the first time since the Alabama Section was formed, Jim Roberts has passed the baton to someone else to guide our section. Jim will still be involved in the programs, tours and our June Heimatfest.

We had an exciting and interesting 2013 which included a very successful StarTech. 2014 will also be challenging year with many interesting activities.

The board needs your suggestions to help the Alabama Section continue to grow with interesting events and to make the monthly meetings more interesting to our membership.

As many of you know I am undergoing Chemo Therapy for Prostate Cancer, which should conclude in April.

### Neue Mitglieder (New Members)

**J**oin us in welcoming these new members to the Alabama Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club America. We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events in the near future.

Herzlich Willkommen!  
(Sincere Welcome)

William Cook

Sandra & Brian Martin

Norma Fisher

John Mauter

Wood Herren

Lawrence Pugh

Troy Jeffcoat

Jerry Tucker

Twyla Johnson

Mark Wall

ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI, GULF COAST

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### January

- 11- Winterfahrt to Covered Bridges
- 21 - Birmingham Stammtisch  
(monthly meeting)-- See back page
- 29 - Huntsville Stammtisch  
(dinner/meeting)-- See back page

### February

- 18 - Birmingham Stammtisch  
(monthly meeting)-- See back page

### March

- 1-2 - Advanced Driving Skills with PCA  
Barber Motorsports Park
- 7-9 - Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance  
Fernandina Beach, FL
- 18 - Birmingham Stammtisch  
(monthly meeting)-- See back page
- 26 - Huntsville Stammtisch  
(dinner/meeting)-- See back page
- 29 - Saturday at Bud's Benz  
Duluth, GA

### April

- 15 - Birmingham Stammtisch  
(monthly meeting)-- See back page
- 25-27 - Car corral at Indy Car Race  
Barber Motorsports Park

### May

- 20 - Birmingham Stammtisch  
(monthly meeting)-- See back page
- 28 - Huntsville Stammtisch  
(dinner/meeting)-- See back page

### June

- 13-15- Special National Driver's Ed at Barber  
w/ Safe Families-Safe Drivers' Program
- 17 - Birmingham Stammtisch  
(monthly meeting)-- See back page

## MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA ALABAMA SECTION [www.mbca.org/alabama](http://www.mbca.org/alabama)

### Executive Board

President, **BOB HINDS**  
**Birmingham, AL**  
205.967.5014  
[bobjanehinds@bellsouth.net](mailto:bobjanehinds@bellsouth.net)

Treasurer, **BRENDA BROWN**  
**Anniston/Orange Beach, AL**  
256.237.5277  
[bama69@cablone.net](mailto:bama69@cablone.net)

Vice Pres., **MASON BEALE**  
**Birmingham, AL**  
205.837.7003  
[masonbeale@msn.com](mailto:masonbeale@msn.com)

Secretary, **KEN CHAMPLIN**  
**Birmingham, AL**  
205.995.0237  
[homescan@bellsouth.net](mailto:homescan@bellsouth.net)

### Board of Directors

*Member-at-Large*, **PIERCE WILLIAMS**, Gadsden/ Orange Beach, AL  
[phwj15@juno.com](mailto:phwj15@juno.com)

*Member-at-Large*, **JACK SCHILLECI**, Hoover, AL  
205.540.5338, [avecaesar@bellsouth.net](mailto:avecaesar@bellsouth.net)

*Member-at-Large*, **CAROL WADLEY**, Birmingham, AL  
205.529.5400, [hwadley@bellsouth.net](mailto:hwadley@bellsouth.net)

*Member-at-Large*, **CHAD STEVENS**, Huntsville, AL  
[rotodome@gmail.com](mailto:rotodome@gmail.com)

*Member-at-Large*, **ED JONES**, Birmingham, AL  
[edwardljonesdmd@aol.com](mailto:edwardljonesdmd@aol.com)

*Member-at-Large*, **LIZ ROBERSON**, Hoover, AL  
205.822.8460, [lizroberson2013@gmail.com](mailto:lizroberson2013@gmail.com)

*Membership/ Reiseführer*, **JIM ROBERTS**, Birmingham, AL  
205.933.9333, [jertoothsaver@bellsouth.net](mailto:jertoothsaver@bellsouth.net)

*Eastern Regional Director*

William Hopper

### das Heimatblatt

EDITOR

RHIANNON GAGE

**das Heimatblatt** is published bi-monthly by the Alabama Section, Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc. Copy deadline: 10th of the month preceding the month of issue. Please type and double space copy.

ABOUT OUR ADVERTISERS: We hope you will support our advertisers. No inference, however, should be made that advertising in **das Heimatblatt** implies approval of their products or services by the Club, its Officers or members, or by Mercedes-Benz-USA Inc. or Daimler AG

MEMBERSHIP information or renewal, call toll free:  
1-800-637-2360

You can send your articles or ads via E-mail or FAX for inclusion in **das Heimatblatt**  
[jertoothsaver@bellsouth.net](mailto:jertoothsaver@bellsouth.net) or FAX 205-933-9338

# Coming events

---

## Stammtisch

---

Please note that while continuing out monthly Stammtisch (regular's table) dinners/meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at Dale's Southern Grill in Birmingham, we are now having a Stammtisch in Huntsville on the fourth Wednesday of odd numbered months (i.e. Jan, Mar, May, July, Sep, Nov). We are trying different German restaurants, so check Das Heimatblatt for locations.

We would also like to establish these in the southern part of Alabama Section.

For the Mobile-Pensacola area where we have a concentration of members, we have discussed an area of the Point Clear Grand Hotel's Sunday brunch area. This would be a chance to meet and talk with other local Mercedes-Benz owners. We can also have local tech sessions and drives, but we need to know what you want.

Mercedes-Benz of Dothan would also like to host events there where we can gather, have tech events, go on drives. We are also considering the Hoffbräu house in Panama City, which is one of the only 3 official ones in the US.

Again, how do you feel about this?

We understand that geography is a challenge along the Gulf Coast as we have members from Tallahassee to Dothan and Panama City to Biloxi—a distance of 370 miles. With the exception of Dothan and Tallahassee, most live within 10 miles of the coast. We are never going to be able to have monthly events that are close to every member, but we do want to help everyone feel a personal association with the Alabama Section whether you live in Birmingham, Huntsville, Tallahassee, or Southeast Mississippi. By attending events you will find that most of our MBCA members are not only enthusiastic about their Mercedes-Benz cars, they are most interesting people who always seem to have a great time no matter who attends. You will find people with whom you have much in common.

While the cars may bring us together, the people keep us together. This is not just a cheesy slogan, it is very true.

---

## Advanced Driving Skills with PCA

---

**When: 1-2 March**

**Where: Barber Motorsports Park**

---

A recent survey of MBCA members indicated that the most important thing to our members was learning to drive their cars better. If you are one of these, here is your chance! Our friends in PCA welcome MBCA members to participate in this "Driver Education" event on the Barber track. Experienced instructors will be provided to help you learn these advanced driving skills

While AMG models are designed to be some of the best performance cars on the road, virtually any Mercedes-Benz is very capable. I have driven our 2000 S430, 1990 300SL, and even my 1978 280SE and done well at these events.

You will need to sign up about 6 weeks ahead to get a place. Register at [clubregistration.net](http://clubregistration.net). This next one will open at noon on Monday, 20 January. Be ready to sign up then.

You can get more details at [jertoosaver@bellsouth.net](mailto:jertoosaver@bellsouth.net) or call 205-933-9333/ 205-529-0071 (mobile).

# Coming events

---

## Amelia Island Concours d'elegance

---

**When: 7-9 March**

**Where: Fernandina Beach, FL**

---

**M**ercedes-Benz has sponsored this event from its inception 20 years ago. Today it is the premier east coast concours with cars you will not see anywhere else. There is a huge Mercedes-Benz presence with all the new models available for test drives at the Ritz Carlton and a giant pavilion with priceless classics from the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center.

The field consists of 300 of the finest cars in the world.

The hot tip is to arrive early enough to join "Cars and Coffee" on the show field of the 18th fairway on Saturday morning where 30 places will be reserved for MBCA cars.

You can then check out the cars that will be auctioned or attend the show and racing seminars in the Ritz where the RM auction also takes place. The ultra high end Gooding's Auction is held nearby on Friday.

At the formal Mercedes-Benz gala on Saturday evening you can rub shoulders with a who's who of the automobile world. Less formal and less intimidating is the MBCA dinner hosted by Peachtree Section at the Crab Shack in Ferdinandina Beach. Many of our Alabama Section members gather with those from all over North America for a great time.



Gullwing on display at last years Amelia Island

Be sure to make your reservations for dinner at the Crab Trap by sending in the registration form on page 5.

---

## Saturday at Bud's Benz

---

**When: 29 March**

**Time: 3pm**

**Where: Bud's Benz, Douglasville, Ga**

---

**S**ince Bud's owner David Latham has been such a good friend of Alabama Section, we will join with our Peachtree Section friends again at 3pm central time on Saturday, 29 March for technical questions and answers on maintenance and restoration as well as a chance to see Benz's in several stages of restoration. Douglasville is only 30 miles from the Alabama line, so it's an easy drive. If you would like to caravan, we will gather at Crown Mercedes-Benz to depart by 12:30.

Dinner will be served at 6pm eastern time.

Send your questions about restoration, repair, and maintenance for the Q & A session to Jim Mitchell at [jrs190sl@yahoo.com](mailto:jrs190sl@yahoo.com)

A registration fee of \$5 will cover each person's attendance. Please submit this along with the registration form on page 5 by March 1st.

# Coming events

---

## Heimatfest 2014

---

**When:** 13-15 June

**Where:** Barber Motorsports Park

---

Several participants in StarTech 2013 enjoyed their touring laps at the Barber Motorsports Park's Formula One/ Indy car road course so much that they asked for an opportunity to drive the course at full speed.

Through fortuitous circumstances in Alabama we not only have the only Mercedes-Benz factory in North America, we also have the Barber Vintage Motorsports museum and track with the only Porsche Sport Driving School in North America. We also have eight members of the Alabama Section of MBCA who are also very active in the Alabama Region of PCA.

This has resulted in PCA offering to share the 14-15 June 2014 date for Advanced Driving skills (driver education) at Barber with MBCA.

This event is not timed, and we will have instructors for all first time and beginning students with instruction available for even more advanced participants who have never driven at Barber.

While the major technical inspection will be done by each participant's personal mechanic at home, there will be a pre track inspection at the track to be sure batteries are secured, loose items are removed, and that everyone has a Snell 2005 or later helmet. This takes place on Friday night, and we will follow this with an intro to track driving at Barber at the host hotel adjacent to the track.

We understand that any MBCA member visiting Central Alabama wants to visit the MBUSI Factory. We are arranging special tours on Friday, 13 June. We will also arrange for discounted tickets to the magnificent Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum.

The adjacent Hampton Inn has given us a special rate of \$79/ night including a hot breakfast.

---

### **AMELIA ISLAND CONCOURS DINNER - MARCH 8, 2014, 5:30 P.M.** **Crab Trap, 31 N 2nd St., Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 - 904-261-4749**

Name(s) of Member(s) Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Guests(s) Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$37.50 per attendee \$\_\_\_\_\_ Amount does not include alcoholic beverages, but a cash bar will be available.

Please respond by February 22, 2014. Please make checks payable to Peachtree Section, MBCA. Mail with Peach Page registration form to: Daryl K. Williams, 834 Dusky Sap Ct., Griffin, GA 30223. For more information contact Daryl Williams [dwill3038@aol.com](mailto:dwill3038@aol.com) or call 678-425-5171.

---

### **SATURDAY AT BUD'S BENZ, - MARCH 29, 2014, 4:00 P.M.** **773 Strickland Street, Douglasville, GA 30134 - 770-942-8444 - [www.budsbenz.com](http://www.budsbenz.com)**

Name(s) of Member(s) Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Guests(s) Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$5.00 per attendee \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please respond by March 1, 2014. Please make checks payable to Peachtree Section, MBCA. Mail with Peach Page registration form to: Jim Mitchell, 357 Mountain Valley Drive, Hendersonville, NC 28739. Questions? Call Jim Mitchell at 770-883-2316 or e-mail [jrs190sl@yahoo.com](mailto:jrs190sl@yahoo.com)

GREAT CARS MAKE US APPRECIATE  
THE JOURNEY, NOT JUST THE DESTINATION.



CROWN  
Automobile

1800 Montgomery Highway • Hoover • 205-985-4200 • [CrownAutomobile.com](http://CrownAutomobile.com)



# Event Recap

---

## Feiertags Fest

---

The Alabama Section MBCA's holiday party was a great success as member's converged from all over the Alabama Section despite torrential rain. The view from "The Club" atop Red Mountain overlooking Birmingham 600 feet below was similar to that from a plane just breaking through clouds on its approach to landing, but the room was the definition of "Gemütlich" with its fireplace and wood covered walls.

Eastern Region Director Bill Hopper joined us for appreciation of those who worked so hard to make StarTech 2013 successful and to present special awards to new Vice President Mason Beale for his extraordinary help with StarTech and to Members for the Year Liz and Don Roberson for the cheerful management of StarTech registration as well as the StarTech tasks.

StarTech appreciation went also to: Brenda Brown, Pierce Williams, William Powers, Chad Stevens, Brenda Flowers, Terri Ritchie (MBUSI), Bill Hopper (Eastern Region Director), Bob Hinds (co-chair), and Jim Roberts (co-chair).

Not attending but also appreciated were Rhiannon Schlangen Gage, Carol Wadley, Diana Quinn (Peachtree), and Daryl Williams (Peachtree).

Finally Mason Beale presented Alabama Section founder and outgoing President Jim Roberts with a beautiful custom commemorative jacket in appreciation of several years of leadership.

---

## Alabama Section Gifts to Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum and to MBCA Education Foundation

---

Alabama Section President Bob Hinds, Vice President Mason Beale, Secretary Ken Champlin, and Past President Jim Roberts presented a check to Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum (a 501c nonprofit foundation) in appreciation for their hospitality in helping host StarTech 20013 as well as the many other ways they open their facility for Alabama Section.

Representing Barber were museum director Jeff Ray and automobile curator Lee Clark.

A similar gift was made to the MBCA Education Foundation which provides scholarships to students majoring in automotive restoration at McPherson College near Wichita, Kansas.

The MBCA Education Foundation has recently added a course in basic driving skills directed toward young drivers and their families. This will soon extend to include advanced driving skills with the upcoming Heimatfest 2014 event being part of this.

E.F. President Doug Dees accepted for MBCA.

From left: Alabama Section V.P. Mason Beale, Barber Museum Director Jeff Ray, Barber Museum Automobile Curator Lee Clark, Alabama Section Past Pres. Jim Roberts, Pres. Bob Hinds, & Secretary Ken Champlin presenting a check and certificate of appreciation to the Barber Museum.



# Event Recap

---

## Winterfahrt

---

In spite of torrential rains the night before a large group gathered at the Barber Museum on a January morning. The rain stopped by 7am, and as we departed at 9am we could see blue sky.

This has become an eagerly awaited traditional event for not only our MBCA members but also our friends in the Porsche Club.

Our Schlang (snake) of 30 cars was challenging to manage, but everyone kept up except for one Austin-Healey from the British Club. It's hard to understand this, as these cars cruise easily at 70+ mph with their two overdrive gears.

After that brief Autobahn run we turned off onto county roads for cornische ascent of Blount Mountain and a challenging scenic drive among the brow of this mesa. After passing through Oneonta we crossed the newly reopened Horton Mill Bridge which at 70 feet above the stream below is the highest covered bridge in the US. Since only one car at a time is allowed on the bridge (if you look at its tall slender piers you can understand why), it took about 20 minutes to get everyone across.



Members cars lined up at The Church of the Most Blessed Sacrament

The beautiful Palisades Park at the edge of Sand Mountain yielded beautiful views of the pastoral valley below and provided welcome relief for those who had consumed too much coffee. At least everyone heeded our admonition to start with a full tank of fuel: not a single car needed to stop for fuel or repairs.

Easley Bridge is very short, so there was minimal delay getting everyone across. Just past it, though we saw herds of zebra and llama behind the pristine white fences of nearby farms.

Swann Bridge near the picturesque village of Cleveland is the longest covered bridge in the US, so it took quite some time for all to get across.

More neat roads brought us to the 13th century Tuscan style Church of the Blessed Sacrament. This is a great photo-op, since the landscape around it look s very much like Tuscany.

The Church features magnificent deep bas relief bronze doors, brilliant German stained glass windows, wonderful Italian inlaid stone floors, and a finely carved and gilded altar.

From Tuscany we turned north to the Austrian settled village of Welts. At Berlin we turned west to Alabama's German town of Cullman for a great lunch at the "All Steak" restaurant.





# "Not Just a Road Trip But An Adventure" 2015 Chicago to Key West



Auburn Cord Duesenberg  
Museum  
Auburn, IN\*



Indiana

Churchill Downs  
Kentucky Derby Museum  
Louisville, KY\*



Kentucky

Tennessee  
Chattanooga Choo Choo  
Historic Hotel  
Chattanooga, TN\*



## This Trip Includes:

- Deluxe hotel accommodations for 10 days
- Private Museum tours & Entertainment pkgs
  - Guided trolley tours
- Catamaran Sailing at sunset in Key West
  - Gala dinner parties every evening
- All taxes, gratuities/service charges

Initial Deposit of **\$400.00 pp MUST**  
**be received on or before April 1, 2014**

**Make checks payable to:**  
MBCA Chicagoland Section

**Mail to:** Renee Welsch, 927 Shoreline Road,  
Barrington, IL 60010  
or log on to [www.mbclub.com/2015trip](http://www.mbclub.com/2015trip)

\* Guests need to make their own hotel reservations  
to guarantee availability at special rates

Contact Renee Welsch for hotel links at  
[rwelsch@yahoo.com](mailto:rwelsch@yahoo.com) or (847) 344-1153

**Exclusive group of  
50 Vehicles/100 Guests**  
Total cost for entire road trip:  
**\$3,975.00 per couple**  
**\$2,927.00 per single**

**August 16-26  
2015**  
MBCA Chicagoland Section



Georgia

City By The Sea  
Savannah, GA\*



'Oldest City' in the USA  
St. Augustine, FL\*

Florida



Dezer Collection Auto Museum  
Miami, FL\*



Three wild and fun days in  
'Party City' Key West, FL\*

\*Overnight Stop

# Members Stories

---

## Standing By Your Product

---

By Jim Roberts

---

Since I was planning to present a proposed event at the MBCA national board meeting in November in Colorado Springs, I elected to drive my 200,000 mile 1978 280 SE from my home in Birmingham, Alabama. It had performed well on several long trips in the summer and fall. Our esteemed expert and proponent of the "lifetime Mercedes-Benz", Pierre Hedary had checked it over, adjusted the valves (only one was out), and recommended new spark plugs. I had changed them and the air filter.

The trip west was uneventful.

An oil and filter change would be due in Colorado Springs, so I made an appointment with the dealer there for this. Mercedes-Benz of Colorado Springs was most gracious about taking me back to the meeting hotel and picking me up.

The dealer hosted a reception for MBCA that evening and left my car with its factory delivery badge and license plate on it prominently in front of the building. This led to much discussion among the attendees and too much praise on my part about its reliability and total originality.



After studying the weather reports, I concluded there was a chance of snow in the area by early Sunday. Now, I have had plenty of experience driving on snow both in Germany and in North America in this very car. I did, however, promise it that if it got me back from Vail in a blinding blizzard 22 years ago that I would never subject it to that again. I've also worked diligently over the last ten years to reverse the effects of driving it in snow on ski trips for the first 100,000 miles. There was no rust, but it took a lot of cleaning to get it to its pristine condition.

Thus I left for lower ground as the meeting concluded on Saturday and made it to the Kansas line before finding a room. Until you have experienced it, you can't conceive of a steady 40-50 mph wind in which in this case was usually at a right angle to the direction of travel. This went on for 24 hours.

Still the trip was uneventful and ahead of schedule until halfway between Little Rock, Arkansas and Memphis, Tennessee when the engine missed and then quit completely within sight of the exit on I-40 which is a steady stream of trucks at that point.

The engine had oil pressure and 180 degree water temp when it quit. All fluids were in range and there were no metallic noises. The starter spun the engine, but it would not start. Ominously, I could not hear the fuel pump.

I have AAA Premium (100 miles of towing) and Hagerty (200 + miles) but I noticed the Mercedes-Benz road service decal on the inside of the glove compartment door. For the first time in my life I was stranded by the side of the road, so I called the 800 number. Mercedes-Benz answered promptly. The dispatcher quickly accepted that I wasn't simply out of fuel or had a dead battery. She told me that she would dispatch a rollback truck to take me to Little Rock or Memphis at no charge, since I was the original owner. I was amazed they would honor this 36 years after I took delivery in Sindelfingen, Germany.

An automated return call said the truck would be there in 70 minutes. Seven minutes later the driver called me to say he was leaving West Memphis, Ark and would be there in 50 minutes.



At 71 minutes MBUSA made an automatic call to see if the truck had arrived. When I responded negative, a dispatcher came on and called the tow truck. He had been delayed by construction and would be another 20 minutes. He arrived in 18 minutes and had the car carefully loaded in under 5 minutes.

While waiting for the truck, I looked up Central Region Director, Cliff Reyle's number in The Star. He was still at the National Business Office in Colorado Springs, but he called me back and told me I should see Assistant Service Manager Don Blane at Mercedes-Benz of Memphis.

When we arrived, Cliff had obviously called ahead, because they knew who I was. By now it was 2pm, but Don pulled a technician experienced with this car off to attempt to repair it and get me on, my way. By 4pm he told me they got it to run but that it again overheated the relay, so I couldn't make it home. They arranged a rental car at a special rate, and I made it home in time to be well rested to see patients the rest of the week.

The Classic Center had the fuel pump, relay, and filter to Mercedes-Benz Memphis by Friday, so I could return the rental car and pick mine up on Saturday.

Cliff had already invited me to join with the Memphis Section for lunch, but the General Manager said that M-B of Memphis owner, Gunter Stephan wanted to meet me. When we were introduced and I responded in German I learned that Mr. Stephen had started with Mercedes-Benz in Stuttgart in 1951 as a mechanic for the race team with Juan Manuel Fangio and Sterling Moss. He told me he drove that special truck built to transport one race car rapidly back to Stuttgart. What a story! Being a racer myself I was absolutely spellbound. We really need to try to get Gunter to tell us more about his early adventures at a major MBCA event. I will make every effort to have him at our Advanced Driving Skills event on the Barber track on 14-15 June in Birmingham.

As it turned out, what could have been a horrifying disaster led to an excellent repair and meeting several very gracious interesting people thanks to Mercedes-Benz, MBUSA, MBCA Regional Director, Cliff Reyle, Mercedes-Benz of Memphis, and the Memphis Section of MBCA. I'm sure his would not have been the case, if I had been driving a Cadillac or Lexus.

## In Der Presse (In The Press)

---

### New Logistics Center Opens

---

**O**n 17 Dec 2013 Mercedes-Benz US International showed the newly completed \$70 million center that will organize the parts for the new C-class as well as the ML, GL, and R class production at the two Alabama factories. The 600 employees will handle 2.9 million parts a day.

This newly constructed facility at MBUSI at 900,000 square feet is as large as 5 Walmart supercenters.

Our previous visits to the MBUSI Factory you noticed over a hundred trucks backed up the factory doors. The new logistics center will take these parts in and send them through tunnels to the various places in the factories where they will arrive just in time to be incorporated into the four (soon to be five) different vehicles.

The new C-class sedan is in pilot production now with full production scheduled to begin in early May. A new GLK will be built on this platform, so it will be produced in Alabama as well.

Interestingly the station wagon, coupe, and cabriolet versions of the new C-class will be built in Bremen, Germany while the sedan and GLK for North America will be built in Alabama. The station wagon will not be marketed in America, but it makes up 40% of sales in Germany.



### Huntsville Membership Meeting

Where: Hildegard's German Cuisine  
256-512-9776

When: 4th Wednesday of every month

Time: 6:30pm

Hildegard's is located on the corner of Bob Wallace and Whitesburg Dr. at 2357 Whitesburg Dr.

From I-565 towards Huntsville; take South Memorial Parkway (exit 19A), turn Left on Governors Drive; turn Right on Whitesburg Drive.

Hildegards is approximately 1/2 mile on left.

### Monthly Membership Meeting

Where: Dale's Southern Grill, Hoover  
208-987-4757

When: 3rd Tuesday of every month

Time: 6pm dinner, 7pm meeting

Dale's Southern Grill in Hoover is south of I-459 and 1/4 mile south of the Alabama 150-US 31 intersection on the left



Mercedes-Benz Club of America  
Alabama Section  
2301 Arlington Ave S.  
Suite 200  
Birmingham, AL 35205