



Newsletter for the
Alabama / NW Florida Section
Mercedes-Benz Club of America

2014 Printed Newsletter of the Year

Das Heimatblatt

Sternblick
(Star View)

July• 2021
2nd quarter

Inside this Issue...

Presidents Message pg 1

Alabama Section Officers
and Board Members pg 2

Future Events pg 3-6

Past Events

Barber's Indy Car Race pg 7,8
Performance Drivers School
pg 9-14

Amelia Island
Concours d'Eligance pg 15-18

In The News pg 19

Our sections News pg 20

Mercedes Gliding pg 21

New Renewing Members pg 22

Advantages of Membership
pg 23

Last Page, Name Badges pg 24

President's Message

I'm sitting here now recalling the great meal and good time at Hildegard's German restaurant in Huntsville last week. Sharing quips with our talented editor, Doug Bloomberg (he's a retired rocket scientist) makes me eligible for continuing educational credits. On top of this the German food and superior service at Hildegard's, I can't think of a better way to "car talk" and enjoy great German schnitzels. Do yourself a favor and carpool to Huntsville soon!

If you are looking for a good road trip, try visiting Asheville and the surrounding area. We recently visited friends at Mountain Air, Burnsville, and in the Cashier area. Beautiful mountain scenery and fun roads on which to appreciate the many high-end features of your Mercedes. Our 300C performed fantastic in the sport mode on the twisty roads and luxuriously on the 4 lanes. What a great grand touring car....and room for your "stuff". Have lunch at the Corner Kitchen in Asheville (try the best Reuben in the Southeast) and a great Italian dinner at Osteria in Cashier/Sapphire. If you really plan, tour the Sierra Nevada Brewery, and have a fabulous lunch. Call for reservations to avoid being very disappointed,

One very pleasant exercise was the good service I had from Mercedes of Birmingham installing my new Pirelli P7 run flat tires. Tire Rack prices and the dealer's super service at competitive prices made the whole operation smooth and efficient. Patronize your dealer for good discounts on parts as your membership allows and enjoy someone who knows and cares for your car.

Keep tuned in to the Nicht Vergessen updates to continue to enjoy the summer time and your good sense to choose a Mercedes Benz. Hope to see you at the fun events planned for the rest of this year!

Enjoy your Summer, drive safe.

Jim Sparacio

Schedule Of Events

July
 20th Birmingham Stammtisch
 27th Huntsville Stammtisch
 31st Natural Bridge, Dismals Canyon

August
 14-16 MBCA Concours & Leadership Conference
 17th Birmingham Stammtisch
 24th Huntsville Stammtisch
 28th Barber's Museum

September
 21th Birmingham Stammtisch
 28th Huntsville Stammtisch
 Please watch email for September event

October
 19th Birmingham Stammtisch
 26th Huntsville Stammtisch
 9th North Alabama Mountains, Crow Mtn Orchard
 30th Performance Driving at Talladega Grand Prix

November
 2nd-5th Mercedes Freude

December
 11th Section Christmas Party

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA
ALABAMA/NW FLORIDA SECTION
<https://alabama.mbca.org>



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das Heimatblatt

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*Please watch your emails
 for schedule changes!*

Stammtisch *noun* <Regular's Table>

A gathering of friends, at a large round or oblong table, trading tales, adventures, becoming comrades in a common passion.

For more information on advertising rates please
 e-mail jertoosaver@bellsouth.net or call 205.529.0071

FUTURE EVENTS

Stammtisch

The Alabama/ NW Florida Section Monthly Dinner meetings

We hold our Monthly meetings in Birmingham and Huntsville. The Birmingham meeting is the 3rd Tuesday of the month, Huntsville's is the 4th Tuesday. Both at 6PM.

The Huntsville meeting is held at 'Hildegard's German Cuisine' each month. Our Birmingham group has decided to visit different locals each month, watch for *Nicht Vergessen* emails of upcoming events. (see last page for more information)

Below are photos of past Stammtisch's.

Birmingham, March 2021



Huntsville April 2021



July 20, Birmingham. CharBar 7,
6PM 900 Jemison Lane, Mountain Brook 35223
(Mountain Brook shopping center)

July 27 Huntsville Hildegard's
6PM 2357 Whitesburg Dr, Huntsville, AL



Birmingham, April 2021

Huntsville May 2021



We encourage our More Southern Members to start their monthly Stammtisch. Need help doing this? Contact Jim Roberts, or other Board member.

2021 Christmas Dinner

December 11, 2021

**AT THE CLUB
BIRMINGHAM**

reserve send email to Jim Sparacio

jim506@charter.net



YES! We will have our Annual Christmas Dinner. Except it is 366 days later than planned. Location: The CLUB, Birmingham, AL
Watch for Updates in your email.

July 31, Time Travel: Drive to Natural Bridge and Dismals Canyon

by Jim Roberts

According to Albrecht Einstein's calculations time slows as your speed increases. In northwest Alabama we don't have to exceed the speed of light to see what this area looked like 10,000 years ago as the last ice age started to retreat.

In addition to seeing the longest natural arch bridge east of the Rockies we will see the massive Canadian Hemlock and tulip poplar trees that you now have to travel to Canada to see. These cool secluded preserves have maintained the earlier climate conditions that allow these ancient trees to survive.

Both rare geologic formations make for interesting sights every few meters. Dismals Canyon offers various length trails among massive boulders along a beautiful stream that makes you feel you are a continent away. The Black Forest comes to mind.

For more details check the website for each.

Dismals Canyon,

<https://www.dismalscanyon.com>

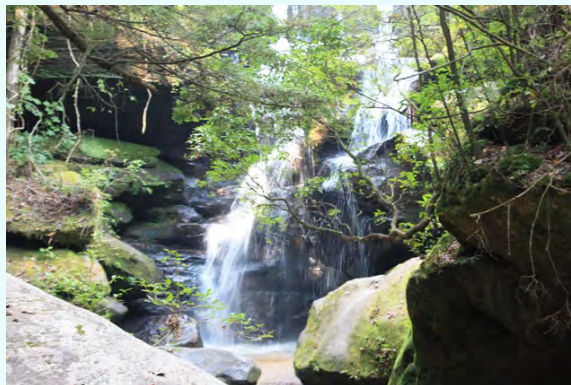
Our Birmingham and Huntsville members are urged to travel this day.

The beautiful drives to Natural Bridge from M-B Birmingham and M-B Huntsville take almost exactly the same time.

We will meet at both dealerships at 9am to leave by 9:30. We should meet at Natural Bridge about 11 am where we will enjoy the striking geology and plants followed by *our picnic lunches that we have brought along*. We will then proceed the 35 miles to Dismals Canyon for an even greater adventure.

For more information contact jertoosaver@bellsouth.net

Natural Bridge



Huntsville Drivers, Pls bring FRS 2-way radio if you have one <https://tinyurl.com/bamas-natural-bridge>

This will be an excellent time for Both M-B communities to share time and the adventure together..

Barber Vintage Motorsport's Museum

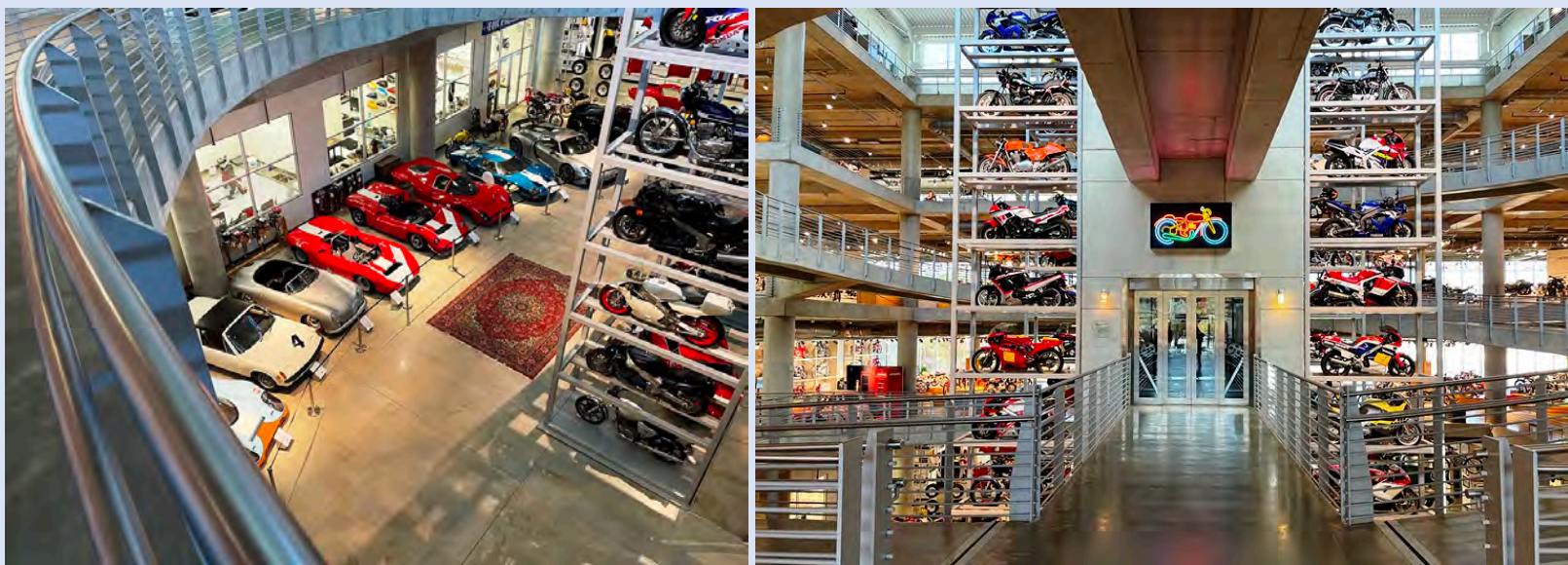
28 August

Event planner: Jim Roberts

As you know, the Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum has become a prominent bucket list item for motorcycle enthusiasts. You may not realize that they also have over 100 cars with almost 70 being of the Lotus marque. Like Mercedes-Benz, Lotus has been very innovative – especially in race cars. MBCA

"National Director at Large Jim Roberts has managed for auto curator Lee Clark to guide us through the Lotus collection along with other recent additions in the new expansion area. Lee has located and arranged purchase of most of the cars. He knows their specifications and the backstories. This should be a special treat."

The new techno teaching center with its C.A.D. - C.A.M. lab is most interesting.



We will start off from Mercedes-Benz of Birmingham Irondale at 9:30 AM
OR

Meet us at Barbers Museum at 10AM

Barbers Vintage Motorsports Museum
6030 Barber Motorsports Way,
Leeds, AL

We will arrange a Mercedes-Benz parking area at the museum.
After our visit we will retire to Billy's at Liberty Park, for lunch
Normal museum admission is \$15/ person.

We will be arranging a discount for MBCA members and guests
please contact jertoothsaver@bellsouth.net for more details

MAP of Barbers: <https://goo.gl/maps/YchYimavbJnAzyUQA>

MBCA Eastern Region Concours and Leadership Conference

Dobson, NC

August 14-16, 2021

Shelton Vineyards has been staging this large, laid back Mercedes-Benz car show/Concours every August for several years.

When I was Eastern Region Director, we started holding the *Eastern Region Leadership Conference* on the day after. The Friday event is usually a drive in the adjacent Blue Ridge Mountains that makes this a nice long weekend event.

The onsite Hampton Inn gives us a MBCA discount.

There are exceptional restaurants in the area and the local Tarheel, Triangle, and Carolinas sections are very welcoming.

What could be better: beautiful Mercedes-Benz cars and people, nice hotel, good food, great roads , and a chance to learn.

Contact Jertoothsaver@bellsouth.net for more information.

MERCEDES FREUDE

“The Joy of Everything Mercedes”

**MBCA's newest & greatest
National Event EVER!**

Combining the best and most-popular activities
of both StarTech & StarFest
into one fabulous Gathering!

Location:

Omni Hilton Head Oceanfront Resort,
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

Along with our MBCA event, we will be able
to experience the kickoff of the Autobahn-East,
as well as the renowned HHI Concours d'Elegance.

Dates:

Mercedes-Freude - Tuesday, November 2nd - Friday, November 5th, 2021

Legends of the Autobahn East - Saturday, November 6th (@Port Royal Golf Course)

Hilton Head Island Concours d'Elegance - Sunday, November 7th (@Port Royal Golf Course)

**Enjoy the camaraderie of being together with old and new friends alike!
Mark your calendars NOW for a NOT-TO-BE-MISSED event!**

Further details coming your way in the near future!

Rick Siefert - National Events Chair - ricksiefert@att.net

Click here to make hotel
reservations at Omni Resorts.

For details, click here to email
Rick Siefert, National Events



This will be an event not to be
missed! Hotel reservations
now open. Stay tuned for updated
details on [this website](#), our Face-
book page, and newsletter, includ-
ing The Star® magazine.

Advertisement Photo credits:
Hilton Head Island Visitor & Convention Center
Omni Hilton Head Ocean Resort
HHI Concours d'Elegance

PAST EVENTS

INDY CAR RACE, Barber Motorsports Park

April 17, 2021

A Marvelous Spring Day in the South allowed Indy Car Fans to enjoy a great day of racing at Beautiful Barber Motorsports Park at nearby Leeds, Alabama. This the first Indy Car Race of the season, did not disappoint the crowd of 16,500 spectators. Down from the normal 85,000 due to Covid restrictions. The Car Corral was filled by mid morning, several Alabama-NW/Florida members arrived early. Throughout the day many section members joined in the Car Corral. The event was a success, a race enjoyed, spending time with friends, and several applications for MBCA were given to Mercedes Owners interested in the MBCA and the Alabama-NW/Florida Section.

Thanks to Dr Jim Roberts, MBCA Director at large for organizing the Section and the Car Corral.



Photos by: Doug Bloomberg

Dr Jim Roberts	Doug Bloomberg	Ralph Neely	Randy Darden	Dr Tommy Cosgrove
1978 280SE	2005 SLK55	1969 280SL	1966 230S	1994 E320 Cabriolet

Of the above cars Randy Darden's 230S drew the most attention especially from younger ladies.



As the day went on the Car Corral filled to overflowing. We were unable to park other Members of the Section in our area. But all were welcomed.

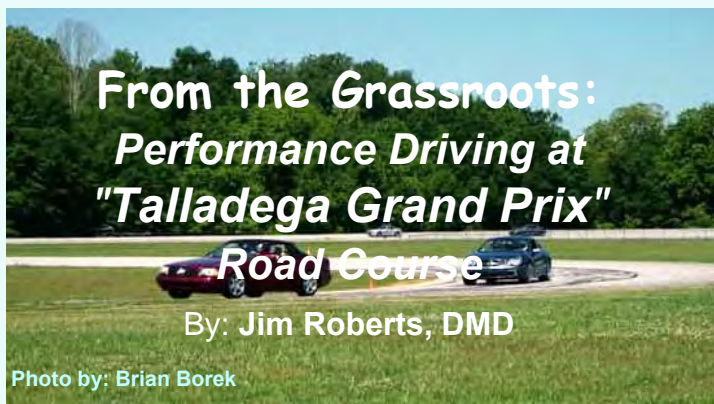
If you have not been to Barber Motorsports Park, it is worth your time to do so. The track and grounds are kept in superb condition. Example, we sat in the trees, overlooking the hairpin Turn 5, also viewing the S's from Turns 8, 9 and 10 and the straight leading to Turn 11. But what struck me, was track management had laid down pine straw under the trees. Now if it would have rained, it didn't, that would have been a tremendous help. (No the trees were not pine trees!)



Turn 5, the Hairpin, beyond turn 5 are the pits and Start/Finish line, foreground is the Straight to turn 11

The S's Turns 8,9,10. The building in background is the Barber Motorcycle Museum. Over 1000 restored motorcycles, and the largest Lotus Car collection in the world, this open year round, well worth the visit.





Alabama/NW Florida and Peachtree

Sections combined expertise and geography to stage a very successful **MBCA Performance Driving** event between Birmingham and Atlanta on 15 May.

The track has 5-7 turns depending on how you count them and 3 good passing zone straights in its 1.4-mile length. There are very wide grassy runoff areas with no barriers that cars can hit. Owners and staff are very easy to work with and the price is very affordable.

Our 25 students drove mostly Mercedes-Benz vehicles and 70% of them were AMG's. We had 15 PCA instructors plus several others to help. Four of the students were women and four students/volunteers were under 21. The average age was 10-15 years less than the MBCA average, or about the same as AMG and Porsche Club members.

No one left the track surface, and no cars were damaged. You can see how delighted everyone was: the smiles never stopped.

The event resulted in a \$10 surplus: \$5 for each section.

Now, this was not like an old movie where the kids use an old barn and grandmothers' attic to stage a Broadway production.

Peachtree V.P. Gary Edwards and Director at Large Jim Roberts worked on this for over 2 years.

Jim showed Gary and Peachtree Pres. Joe Martin TGPR, the Talladega Superspeedway's Road Course, the Barber Motorsports Park's main road course as well as its newer proving ground track (also known as the "Mercedes Track", since it was built for the Brand Immersion Program).

Performance

May 15, 2021



Drivers

School

TGPR was about the same price as the Barber Proving Ground, but overtaking was easier, and it was almost an hour closer to Atlanta. The biggest advantage was that the owners and staff were so easy to work with.

Gary started building enthusiasm in Peachtree's massive member base with an autocross series they shared with the local Porsche club. He also started a go-kart racing series for MBCA members, associates, and guests. Each series built momentum and desire to drive their Mercedes-Benz and AMG's on a real road course.

Meanwhile Jim worked on relationships with his fellow instructors in MBCA, the Porsche, Lotus, Miata, and Ferrari Clubs to help provide instructors for all the students.

Bear in mind that much of this occurred during the COVID pandemic. Yes, it was possible to do this safely with sound scientific principles. It helps to have a medical background.

We have plans for a greatly expanded multi day National event next year.

Gary and Jim are willing to share their knowledge and experience with other sections and even assist with staging the events.

Contact us at

jertoothsaver@bellsouth.net or

edwardsgw@nu-z.net

Mach Spaß!

(Have fun)

Jim Roberts, DMD "MBCA Director at Large"



Jim Roberts reviewing the days event and safety



Photo by: Rusty Duncan

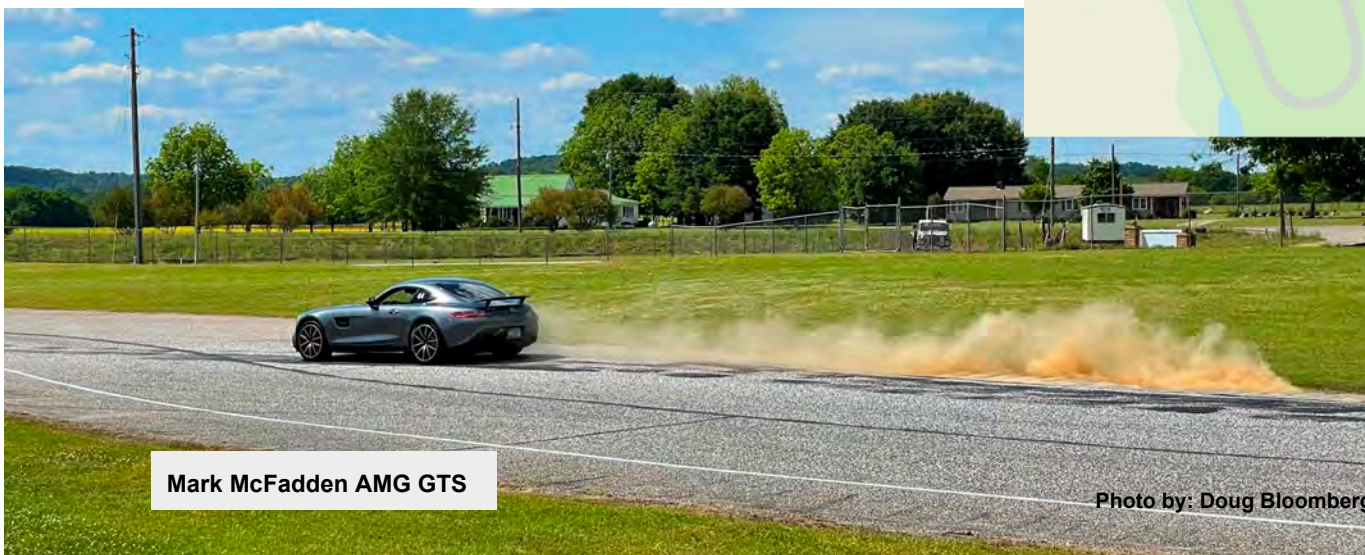
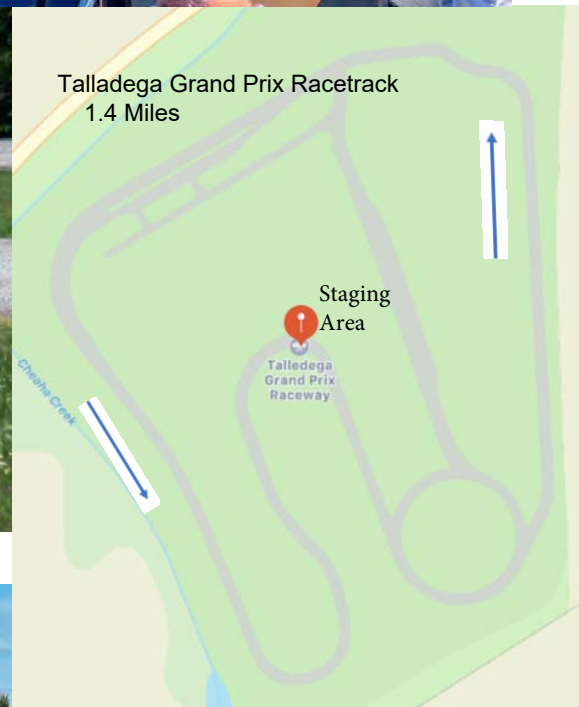
Photo by: Rusty Duncan



drivers Brett Butler, Cheryl Edwards and in the background Samantha Schrader learning how to handle their cars on the track and having fun with their Mercedes!

Photo by: Gary Edwards

Talladega Grand Prix Racetrack
1.4 Miles



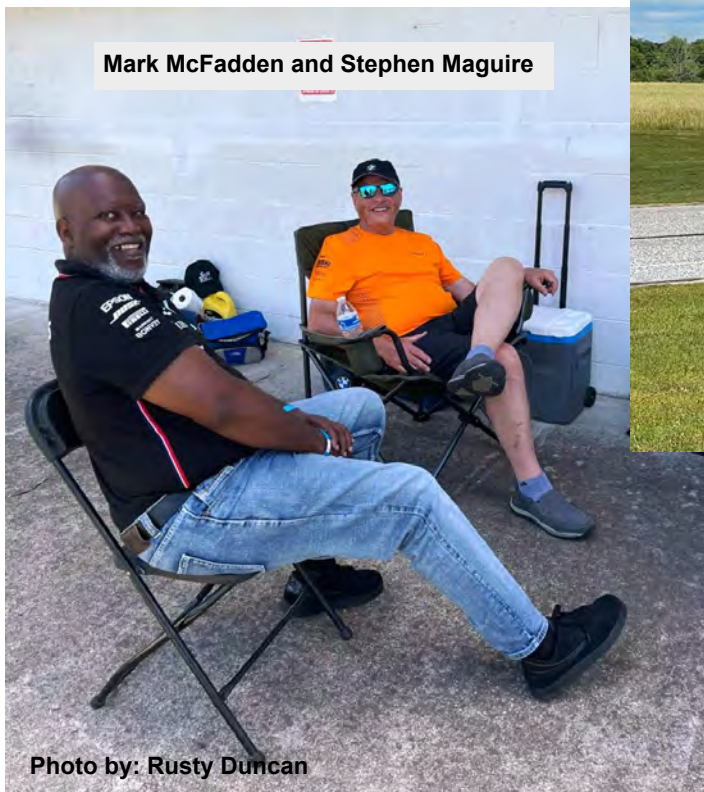
Mark McFadden AMG GTS

Photo by: Doug Bloomberg



- Left is Nicole Jebeles, Gary Edwards, Brandon Berry (standing), Rusty Duncan (seated), Steve Chapman (way in the background), I don't know the woman standing in the distance, Samantha Schrader, I think Todd Bolon, Rubin Howard, Kristen Jebeles, and Chris Jebeles.

Photo by: Rusty Duncan



Mark McFadden and Stephen Maguire

Photo by: Rusty Duncan



John Gilbert, 2006 E55 AMG

Photos by: Doug Bloomberg



MBCA Member Kristen Jebeles Alfa 4C Spider

Photo by: Doug Bloomberg

Mercedes-Benz Club of America

Performance

Drivers

School



A First Time Drivers experience

Doug Bloomberg

Alabama/NW Florida Section

The Alabama/NW Florida and Peachtree **MBCA** Sections, sponsored a Performance Drivers School at "Talladega Grand Prix Raceway" on May 15, 2021.

My section, Alabama/NW Florida partnered with the Peachtree section planning and organizing this **MBCA** Performance Drivers School. Dr. James Roberts, **MBCA** Director at Large, and Gary Edwards, Peachtree Vice President were the lead organizers.

What were my thoughts leading up to the event and actually driving the track, and what was my takeaway knowledge?

History: I have always been a car guy, first fixing cars, and tractors, then when legal, driving on the roads. My first true sports car was a Triumph TR-3A while I was in the Army. After an overseas tour, the TR-3 was history, I bought a New AMX. This was a two seat, short wheel base V8, with a 4 speed. Hot dog this was a quick car. But also remember in 1968, American cars were not noted as well handling cars... Some Koni shocks and a disk brake upgrade helped. As years progressed, I owned 3 Porsches, a MGA, an early Mazda RX-7, in 2005 I acquired a Mazda Speed Miata, this the turbo charged version, I still own this car it now has 150,000 miles. But when I retired, I wanted a car with more power, which still handled well and was comfortable to drive long distances. Now there are many brands to consider, and I was looking for a used car. My fortunate decision was to go with a Mercedes

Benz AMG. Much searching online I found my car, about 70 miles from home. Joan and I went to the dealer, negotiated, and a I drove home with a 2005 SLK55 AMG. Now this car had some miles on it, 98,000, but the Carfax came back clean. Being cautious and a believer in preventive maintenance I had Mercedes Benz of Huntsville service the automatic transmission and the cooling system. I changed the oils in the engine and differential, also swapped out the flex couplings on the driveshaft, and replaced the motor mounts. Religiously I changed the brake fluid, using Motul 660 brake fluid, which has an extremely high boiling point.

Now to the present: My **MBCA** section, Alabama/NW Florida was having a Performance Drivers School. In all my years I had never had an instructor sit with me and teach me the proper lines to enter, negotiate and leave a corner. Also, I had never driven as powerful a car as my AMG on a road course. Dr. Jim Roberts, my friend, also a noted **SCCA** road race Championship holder, several times over. Jim agreed to be my instructor for the day.

I signed up, online, for the event, but as the day came closer, I began to have butterflies. Would I drive well enough, would I go off track, would I hurt the car? But, ever onward, time to worry about stuff when it happened, just be prepared in my thoughts and trust the car.

I stayed in a nearby hotel the evening before, 7 AM I appeared at the track along with 50 or so other people. We signed in, I made some new friends, met with old buds too. It was a cold Alabama Morning 43 degrees, but sunny and light fluffy clouds, with the promise that it would warm up to a very pleasant 80 degrees with a light wind.

After registration, my car and helmet were inspected. For **MBCA** events your car must be pre-inspected before arriving at the track, by a competent mechanic, which includes having the brake fluid changed within 6 months. I handed the form to the inspector, it passed! Next the helmet had to meet current SNELL

2015 2020 Car type helmet safety dates.
Helmet passed. Now my battery is checked for security, floor mats removed. All was accepted. Yay good to go!

Now feeling better about this adventure, talking to people who were first timers as well, we all had had butterflies and just plain wondering about this day. We were called to the classroom. This was the first of 4 classes we attended. Each class built upon what we had experienced so far. But the primary message was 3 parts...

- 1. Be Safe**
- 2. Learn Something**
- 3. Have Fun**

As beginners we were advised to brake while in a straight line, before entering the turn, and accelerate after the turn. The turn itself is viewed in 3 parts. The Turn-IN, the Apex, and the Track-Out. We were shown where our car should be for each of these points in a turn. Also, it was pointed out no two turns were alike, we had to adapt. The various corner safety flags and their significance was demonstrated. Last lesson was signaling other drivers, in particular notifying the driver behind it was ok to pass. 1st Class Dismissed.

Out to the track. There are 21 student drivers, split into 3 groups. There were 17 instructors. I paired up with Jim Roberts my instructor, after donning my helmet, I slide in an ear speaker, now Jim and I could communicate. Jim was very easy to listen to, he pointed out what to do in steps, the first lap was slow, learning the Turn-in, Apex, and Track-out for each turn. Subsequent laps I increased my speed, learned where to brake, and just the right amount of steering to apply. My Gosh this Was FUN! I loved the sound of my AMG as I applied full throttle at the track-out point, how the nose of the car dived down while braking, and the G-force felt while turning. None of this is ever felt on public highways. Accelerate, Brake, Start the turn, Apex, Accelerate, Track-Out, Full Throttle. A car wants to pass, My left arm out the window, and the car passes. I

approach a car, the drivers arm comes out, Zoom I pass. Get into the proper Turn-In point, brake, steer, accelerate. What FUN. WOW... Too soon the Checkered Flag is displayed, the session is Over. I paddle down shift, no braking on this last lap, must let the brakes cool somewhat. Jim is going over each turn as I slowly drive the track. Into the pits, after letting the engine idle a minute, I shut it off. I open the hood, my SLK does not have much hood clearance, I didn't want the heat to be trapped there. Jim was off to his next driver. Now Jim Roberts was the Only instructor to have three student drivers. I applaud his stamina.

During the day I drive 3 more sessions. Each session I learn something new, finessing my driving, finding I can go into a turn deeper, be more aggressive, and apply power sooner and with more gusto. Never once left the pavement, any sliding was controlled.

My SLK55 worked as designed. AMG's are built for this type of driving. The brakes, engine, transmission, suspension all worked together. I, being a novice, let the car determine the shifting. I may have used the paddle shifter a few times. The tires were Michelin Pilot Sport A/S 3+ an all-weather tire. I had 36/39 lbs. nitrogen in the tires. They wore perfectly, I still had plenty tread left. Also, they gripped as well as I wanted. The brakes, not a problem. Those AMG 6 piston front brakes are amazing, always worked as expected, slowed the car down at each turn, never fading. Also, in 2005 Mercedes did not have an intelligent suspension, nor was there an air suspension for the SLK. The suspension was stock coil springs and Bilstein Shocks.

Out of the student drivers, 16 drove Mercedes-Benz's, a Lotus Evora, an Alfa Romero 4C, a Corvette, and a Porsche Boxster. Oldest Mercedes was 1984 300TD most unique Mercedes a 1999 12-cylinder SL600, Smallest car was a Fiat 500 Abarth (an instructor's car). Also, a Mercedes C230 Sport Coupe, and SL550, SL500. BTW, 4 of the students were

female drivers. "Ladies come on out to Performance Drivers Day."

Most of the Mercedes-Benz were AMG's. AMG's were designed and built to do exactly what we did on that Saturday, there were no issues.

I must thank the sections for sponsoring this event, Jim Roberts and Gary Edwards for the work putting this together. Gary Edwards and Steve Mina, from Rocket City Miata Club for the class room sessions. And all the other instructors, some Mercedes Club members, but also some Porsche club members.

BTW, I, and the other **MBCA** students, were awarded the "*Sport Fahrer Verein*" certificate, or "*Sports Drivers Association*" which allows us to purchase a grill badge signifying our new skill as a Mercedes Driver. I have talked to Nicole Noll at the National Business office and it's on its way to me.

Conclusion: What did I find out about my car and my driving skills? My car can take whatever I demand of it, to a reasonable point. I found the car is capable of going faster and safer than seen in ordinary day to day driving. My skills are still novice level, much to learn about Trail Braking, when to apply power, etc. But for every day driving, I am much more in tune with the car, I know where I can have fun at speed, and more importantly how to drive in a more precise safe manner on the street.

By Golly it was FUN, and I am ready to go again, same or different track, I am ready.

About the track, <https://www.talladegagap.com>
Thank You Talladega Grand Prix!

I am still waiting for Toto Wolff's call



Photos by: Doug Bloomberg



Scott Smith 2016 AMG GTS



Gary Edwards, 12 Cylinders of FUN!

Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance

May 21-23, 2021

By Jim Roberts
MBCA | Director at Large

In its 26 years the Amelia Island concours d'elegance has long since achieved a stature second only to Pebble Beach. In spite of attracting 25,000+ spectators, the cars are not separated from the people. One of my favorite things to do is to stay around after the Cars & Coffee at the concours to see the invited street and race cars drive onto the show field. You are even able to talk with the owner and the crew as they re-detail their treasures. Interestingly most of them use off the shelf products you can easily get yourself.

The concours is split between street and race cars, so the performance minded enthusiast gets to see the past track masters up close.

During the first year of Cars & Coffee I was able to point out to my friend and founder of the concours, Bill Warner that there was a Mercedes-Benz Club. Bill made sure that we had a place on Saturday, so I've been involved with that part of the concours almost every year since.

Various sections with enough people attending would get together for dinner on Saturday night. Then MBCA V.P. Laura Simonds suggested several years ago that I should get all the MBCA members together for dinner "Since you live so close" (420 miles by my odometer). It is most gratifying to see our members enjoying themselves so much. The biggest challenge is finding the space—especially with COVID-19 not completely behind us. This year's crowd was off a bit. The date was moved back 2 ½ months, and there were still some concerns about COVID.



MBCA Amelia Island Dinner, Gary Edwards, Flora & Ralph Neely, Nancy & Ed Jones



Piet van Russom restored Carlos Malpartibla's 280 SL

Carlos Malpartibla, his sister, and girlfriend

Only about 40 Mercedes-Benz cars are allowed to show on Saturday. I talked with several of our members and got some very interesting stories.

Silver Star Restoration owner Piet van Russom restored a nice 1968 280 SL for Carlos Malpartibla. Who recalled that is dad had one like this when he was a child in Peru. His place was between the seats which let his feet change the radio stations.

Southeastern Region Director Hank Webb brought his beautiful R230 SL 500. Visitor Dave Roth decided to join MBCA as we discussed the car.

Mario Fuente is a native of Columbia who has a business in Ft. Meyers, FL. and is President of Southwest Florida Section. His 2005 S65 AMG has been upgraded to 704 HP by Renntech. His tow vehicle is a ML 63 AMG.

30 year member Ted Love brought his 1974 450SL that he has owned since 1978. Ted does much of the maintenance himself.

Local Amelia Island resident Chuck Belinski brought his 89 W216 560 SE with 274,173 miles and only routine maintenance, while my 1978 280 SE has been just as reliable for 332,000 miles.



70's style, Ted Love's 1974 450SL and Director At Large Jim Roberts' 1978 280SL



Hank Webb's R 230 SL 550



**SE Region Director Hank Webb,
Carol Ross, Nat VP Steve Ross**



Chuck Belinski with his 250,000 ICM badge

Nichol & Kristen Jeebles, Gary Edwards

G63 AMG and CLK 63 Black Series



Michael Fuente's 2005 W220 S65 AMG towed by his ML 63 AMG

Michael Fuente (SW FL Pres) and his dad

IN DEN NACHRICHTEN

(IN THE NEWS)

Mercedes-Benz US International Completing Major Alabama Expansion

By Jim Roberts

The Birmingham News/AOL reports that the Mercedes-Benz US International factory is in final stages to start producing the fully electric EQE and EQS SUV's. They will be built alongside the current GLE and GLS.

Production will start in 2022. These will be among the first six electric vehicles that Mercedes-Benz will produce. The nearly complete battery factory in Bibb County near Bessemer is key to electric vehicle production in Alabama.

The almost complete \$1,600,000,000 expansion will result in 3,200 more jobs for MBUSI and the suppliers. Lear/VDO has announced they have made a \$28.9 million capital investment, adding 454 new jobs.

These new jobs are not limited to production. Some will be in engineering as well as research and development. Even more announcements are possible this year.

Meanwhile the Mazda Toyota Factory in Huntsville is nearing completion. The combined employment will be about 4500. Production will begin later this year. Both companies will be producing SUV's.

Hyundai in Montgomery will be adding a pickup to production before the end of June. They will soon produce their one millionth vehicle.

In spite of microchip shortages Honda is adding about 100 jobs to its workforce at its Lincoln, Alabama facility.

Mercedes-Benz

For Sale

For Sale

Magazines, Literature and Books Available to Good Homes
Clearing out my "car room" - clearing out books, literature and brochures.

- **Mercedes-Benz Club Star Magazine, current issue and back 50 issues. \$1 each or all 50 for \$25.**
- **Mercedes-Benz W124 "Bible" reference and repair guide - (unique and great item) \$15**
- **Mercedes History Book (1990's) - \$5**
- **Mercedes-Benz Dealer Brochures and Catalogues (50+), from late 80's/early 90's to current, many prestige brochures - including a rare Maybach brochure - \$2 each (or all for \$60!)**
- **Mercedes-Benz Misc. Dealer Items, post cards, Collection Catalogues, Special mailers, inserts, SMART brochures, etc. 50 items - \$1 each, or all for \$25**
- **Mercedes Large Full Line Prestige Brochure, 1983 - excellent - \$15**
- **Mercedes Vintage 190 Brochure - orig. dealer marks/stamps - \$20**
- **Mercedes 250 Vintage Brochure - 60's (beautiful!) - original - \$20**

Also available...over 200 1/43 Mercedes Factory Promos...with boxes...50's to current models. Inquire for details.

Forrest Cook, 205-901-7684, text or call, email forrestcook@bellsouth

Stammtisch, Our Monthly club dinner.

Once a month we gather in Birmingham and Huntsville. This month The *Birmingham Stammtisch* was at Martin's Bar-b-que Joint, proving to be a popular place. *Huntsville's Stammtisch* at Hildegard's German Cuisine, Mmmm the food was terrific. "YES We would like to have a *Stammtisch* for our Florida and LA Section Members. We will need a volunteer to step up, pick a location and time/date for each *Stammtisch*"



Stammtisch noun <Regular's Table>
A gathering of friends, at a large round or oblong table, trading tales, adventures, becoming comrades in a common passion.

**June Stammtisch,
Martin's Bar-b-que Birmingham**
Liz Roberson, George Smith, Rick & Harriet Dodd, Joan Bloomberg, Glenda Sparacio, Flora Neely, Yelena Bradley

**June Stammtisch,
Martin's Bar-b-que Birmingham**
Jim Roberts, Tommy Cosgrove, Ralph Neely, Bill & Victoria Hicks, Merrill Bradley



June Stammtisch, Hildegard's, Huntsville.
Jim Keirstead, Jim Sparacio, Jim Roberts, Francois & Rebecca Falcon, Joan Bloomberg

Gliding, SAVE FUEL While Driving.

By Doug Bloomberg

Did you Know, in your New Mercedes-Benz you can *Glide*?

Yes you can, if your Benz has **ECO Drive Mode**.

Mercedes-Benz with the EQ-Boost

Technology? If you do own this Amazing Technology Vehicle, you too can *Glide*. Gliding is easy, just drive the car, at a set speed, say 35 mph, or 60 mph or whatever you wish, just let off the gas pedal? Your speed will be maintained for up to 30 seconds, while the engine has shut off. Check the tachometer. It should show ZERO RPM's.

Your Drive indicator will turn Green **D**. You are not using any gasoline. Now after 20 seconds or so you will have to apply the accelerator again, this restarts the engine. After a short while, the battery will be recharged and you can once again *Glide*. Depending on your driving style this can increase your Miles Per Gallon by 15%, 20% or even up to 30%.

How do I check if I have the **EQ-Boost** on my Mercedes? **EQ-Boost** was incorporated in the 2020 and 2021 Model years. Not all Mercedes-Benz automobiles have this option. It is used with the Inline 6, V-8 gasoline engines. (Want to know more about the **EQ-Boost** System, read pages 11-12 of the March 2020 issue of "**Das Heimatblatt**") Ok, so how do I check if I have this? Easy, look at your tachometer on the dash display, at the bottom of the tachometer will be the **EQ** symbol. If the **EQ** is there you have the **EQ-Boost** system.

OK I have **EQ-Boost**. So, what's Gliding and how does it work? Gliding happens when your Driving Mode is set to **ECO**. Look for the "Dynamic Select" switch on the center console, it moves either forward or back. Move the switch back several times. You may see a selection menu, which indicates the Dynamic Mode the Mercedes is in. Select **ECO Mode**,

you will see an **E** inside a box on the instrument panel near the Drive selected info. Your car is now able to *Glide*. You can glide when you are at a steady speed. If you touch the brake or accelerator, you drop out of the *Glide* mode. Also, *Glide* will disengage with cruise control set, downhill, uphill, when too warm, and a varying traffic condition. But while gliding, your sound, air conditioner/heater, various powered options continue to work. Just how do I know I am gliding? Two things, your tachometer will go to Zero RPM's and the **D** (drive indicator) will turn **Green D**.

You Don't have EQ-Boost! Your car might have the M-B *Gliding* option. Again, change the Dynamic Mode to **ECO**. Let off the gas pedal and the car goes into neutral. Granted you do not go as far, and the engine is still running, but you do save a bit of gasoline. I found a slight downhill works best for this mode of gliding. *Gliding* may not be important here in the South, but in California, or Germany where the price of fuel is rather high, it might make a difference. But heck we own a Mercedes we know that we use the best gasoline, hang the cost. But you do have to admit, this technology... *Gliding* is interesting.

Some cars, i.e. the C43, or other AMG's ECO mode is not specifically indicated. But with your C43, Viewing the Data screen, set to Drive, then in drive mode set to reduced. This enables ECO mode. Now when you remove your foot from accelerator, the car will go into neutral, the dash indicator for the transmission display turns green **D**.

➡ In your Owner's Manual lookup in the Index... **Glide Mode**... If your Benz has *Glide Mode*, this will describe for your vehicle how you set it up.

While in ECO Mode, Your Benz's engine will Stop/Start when you come to a complete stop, ie traffic, STOP sign or traffic light. The engine will immediately restart once you depress the accelerator pedal.

ECO Mode has been available for 10 years.

Herzlich Willkommen!

(Sincere Welcome)

Welcome to our **New Members**, and those who found our section worth **Renewing** their membership.

Your Officers and Board are working hard to open opportunities for you to participate in Section events. This Newsletter, and updates will appear in your chosen emails.

The Board and Officers Welcome your participation and efforts in suggesting and preparing for a Section event, we are most willing to help you succeed.

Attending Section events is the best way to make new friendships, sharing your passion for Mercedes-Benz vehicles.

As a member you will receive copies of the newsletter *das Heimatblatt* and timely email updates.

Please visit our web page

✓ <https://alabama.mbca.org>

Here you can browse old and current newsletters, a calendar of future events, view past events and much more.

PLUS + as a member of MBCA you can visit and log into the National web page. Try it, there is so much to read, learn, and become acquainted with.

✓ <https://www.mbca.org>



The Alabama/ NW Florida Section

Welcome New Members

Jeremy	Sellers	Vestavia Hills	Alabama
Karen	Saiger	Miramar Beach	Florida
David	Schosker	Lillian	Alabama
Lars	Runar	Valparaiso	Florida
David	Schmitt	Hoover	Alabama
Carlos	Blum	Birmingham	Alabama
Robert	Pattillo	Birmingham	Alabama
Ray	Morgan	Gardendale	Alabama
Andy	Lowery	Huntsville	Alabama
Peter	Knight	Mtn Brook	Alabama

Many Thanks to our Renewing Members

Andreas	Bergmann	Navarre	Florida
Charles	Stratton	Tallahassee	Florida
Dan	Bodiford	DeFuniak Springs	Florida
Darrell	Bittle	Fort Walton Beach	Florida
Don	Birdwell	Shoal Creek	Alabama
Kenneth	Smoot	Navarre	Florida
Marie	Nelson	Pensacola	Florida
Chad	Stevens	Huntsville	Alabama
Stephen	Levet	Hoover	Alabama
Cecile	Dolan	Destin	Florida
Elton	Stephens	Birmingham	Alabama
Tate	Casey	Chelsea	Alabama
Frederick	Bryan	Milton	Florida
Michael	Brown	Pensacola	Florida
Neil	Gutowski	Hoover	Alabama
Roman	Legdan	Tallahassee	Florida
Charles	Wells	Decatur	Alabama

We Encourage you to Auto Renew

It's easy to do, and you will never miss a STAR again. Login to <https://www.mbca.org> look at the Blue column on the left, click auto renew. Enter the data asked. (note: credit card information is not kept by MBCA, but by a bonded firm.)

Now wasn't that easy?

Thank You!



Don't Just Drive Your Mercedes - Benz Experience It

Visit mbca.org
or
Call 800.637.2360

See Member's Cars at
Mbca.org/mbca-cars



www.facebook.com/MercedesBenzClubofAmerica



www.linkedin.com/groups/1196647



www.instagram.com/mercedesbenzclubamerica

MBCA Membership Road Map of Benefits

As a MBCA member you will enjoy these benefits plus many more.

The Star Magazine

Club membership includes a subscription to our award winning bi-monthly Star® magazine which features classified advertising.

Local, Regional & National and selected International Events

Club members are invited to attend and participate in exclusive Mercedes Benz activities including driving events.

Section Newsletters

Local Club Sections produce and send Club members a fun and informative newsletter which features classified advertising.

Discounts on Parts, Service & Accessories at Participating Mercedes-Benz Dealers

As a Mercedes-Benz Club of America member you may be entitled to 5%, 10% or (up to) 20% off parts, service and accessories from U.S. and Canadian Mercedes-Benz dealers. **Check with your dealer first.**

Germany Trips

Several times a year, MBCA invites its members to go on an exclusive trip to Germany which features guided tours of Mercedes Benz factories, its headquarters and museum! Club members are treated like Mercedes Benz royalty

15% Discount on Parts from the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center

Being a Mercedes Benz Club of America member may entitle you to 15% off hard-to-find parts from the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center in Irvine, California.

Membership Rebate

Save as much as \$3,000 on the purchase or lease of a new Mercedes-Benz.

Club Raffle

Win a new Mercedes! Up to twice a year, the Mercedes-Benz Club of America conducts a raffle for its Members.

Mercedes-Benz Club of America
More Than a Car Club. We're a Community.sm

How can I get a MBCA Name Badge?

Name badges are available from the MBCA Club Store.
You can choose blue, silver, or gold. Magnetic or safety ping clasp.
2 lines \$13.00, 3 lines printed \$14.00 (25 characters/line)
mailing costs included.



Click this Link to order online... <https://www.mbca.org/name-badge>

Should you prefer to use US Mail.

Please send: _____ Name badges.

Backing Type: Magnetic: _____ Safety Pin: _____

Color: Blue _____ Silver _____ Gold _____

Name: _____ (line 1)

1 **Alabama/NW Florida Section, MBCA** (line 2)

(line 3)

Name: _____ (line 1)

2 **Alabama/NW Florida Section, MBCA** (line 2)

Ship to: Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Enclose Check for amount, send to:

MBCA

1907 Lelary, Street

Colorado Springs, CO 80909

TIP!

Do you have a powered tailgate on your Mercedes-Benz SUV?

You can set the Maximum Height it will open.

To Do: Open the rear tailgate. Manually move the gate to the desired opened height. Press and hold the STOP button until you hear a beep. Now retract the tail gate, and open it. The tailgate should stop at the height you selected. Want to restore the full opening height? Just open the tailgate, press and hold the STOP button until you hear the beep. Now the tailgate will open fully on opening.

Handy if your garage door is low.

Join us for our Monthly **Stammtisch**, a casual get together for dinner

<Regular's Table>

Huntsville Membership Meeting

Where: **Hildegards German Cuisine**

When: 4th Tuesday every month

Time: 6:00pm Dinner

Directions from I 565:

Exit 19A, South on Memorial Pkwy, In 1 Mile exit "Bob Wallace Ave", Left at intersection onto "Bob Wallace", Travel 1 mile to Whitesburg Dr., Across intersection Hildegard's will be in the NE Corner Shopping center.

2357 Whitesburg Dr, Huntsville, AL 35801

Birmingham Membership Meeting

Where: Watch your email different places

When: 3rd Tuesday every month

Time: 6:00pm Dinner

Watch for email from jertoosaver@bellsouth.net subject:

MBCA Alabama/NW Florida Section Upcoming Events



Mercedes-Benz Club of America
1907 Lelary Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
1.800.637.2360

<https://www.mbca.org>

Alabama/ NW Florida Section, MBCA
3834 Cove Dr.
Mt. Brook, AL 35213

<https://alabama.mbca.org>