



## MBCA | SMOKY MOUNTAIN SECTION

233 Briarcliff Avenue  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830



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#### About the Newsletter

The Smoky Mountain Section, Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc. publishes this quarterly newsletter. Opinions expressed are those of the authors. Express permission is hereby given to other Sections of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America to reprint articles contained herein, except as noted. Articles of general interest are solicited for inclusion in the newsletter and should be mailed to the Editor, 233 Briarcliff Avenue, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. Copy deadline is the 15th of odd-numbered months.

**Mercedes-Benz Roadside Assistance**  
Call 800-FOR-MERCEDES 24 hours a day

#### An Overview of the Club

Established in 1956, MBCA has more than 23,000 members in over 80 Sections across the nation. These local Sections organize hundreds of events each year, ranging from social gatherings to specialized technical sessions. MBCA is a non-profit organization.

**Join the Club** Call 800/637-2360  
Enroll as a member in MBCA:  
One year \$45  
Two years \$87  
Three years \$127

**Moving?** Send address change to:

MBCA, 1907 Lelaray Street  
Colorado Springs, CO 80909  
or call 800/637-2360 or [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org)

#### Local Activities

Your dues include membership in the Section of your choice. Each Section publishes a newsletter with news of its activities and their year-round calendar of events, including rallies defensive driving courses, car shows, and dinner meetings. Many Sections host special events such as

StarTech, our national technical meeting and

StarFest, our National Convention. Any MBCA member may attend any Section, Regional or National event.

#### Trip Routing Service

MBUSA offers a free trip routing service for MB owners regardless of the age of your car. You must provide your complete VIN. Call 800/367-6372.

#### The STAR

A subscription The STAR, MBCA's award-winning national magazine is included with your membership. Each issue includes technical information, a historic feature car in color, and the latest news from Daimler-Benz and MBUSA, articles on restoration, new car road tests, and advertisements from companies providing products and services for your car, plus free classified ads to members.

#### Technical Manuals

MBUSA has a number of Technical Manuals, Wiring Diagrams, Owner's Manuals and other technical information available for owners. CD-ROMs or DVDs of Technical Manuals for your car can be ordered from MBUSA at 800/367-6372.

- **NEXT EVENT** –  
- **Saturday, March 26, 2011 : 10 am to 1:30 pm**

## **DO-IT-YOURSELF TECHNICAL SESSION - USI Motors**

121 South Gallaher View Road - Knoxville  
(Behind Buddy's Barbecue on Kingston Pike)

Don't miss Smoky Mountain Section's spring "Do it yourself" tech session! How many times have you shadetree mechanics wished you had a lift in your garage or driveway? Come to USI Motors in Knoxville on **Saturday, March 26, 2011** and you will have just that.

We can all appreciate the gracious hospitality for a dealer to open his service facility to club members to work on their own cars. Accordingly, to insure equity between the dealership and the club membership, we need to have a few ground rules:

1. First, insurance coverage is provided by the club for the event. Each participant will have to sign in and sign a release agreement waiving any claim against the host for any property damage, injury, or death resulting from your participation in the event.
2. Only members can enter the shop area.
3. You must furnish your own tools – USI Motors may have some specialized tools as required.
4. You must bring your own parts or confirm that USI Motors has them in stock so that you may purchase them there.
5. A USI technician will be available for advice, instruction and diagnostic assistance, not to do free work on your car. You and your fellow club members must do all the work.
6. If you get involved in a job which cannot be completed by closing time, and your car can't be moved, you must allow the USI shop to finish the job on Monday at their regular shop rates.
7. Last but not least, during this event we are guests, not customers; we can make requests but no demands. We want this to be a positive experience for both USI Motors and the Club so we may be invited back again.

Please don't fail to personally express your gratitude to USI management and technicians for their hospitality and assistance.

In order to organize resources efficiently, and estimate participation, we ask that you pre-register for this event. **The cost will be \$5.00 to cover morning coffee and**

**donuts and a gratuity for the USI Technicians.** Please indicate in your registration what jobs you intend to do so that we can schedule lift times. You do not have to have any previous mechanical experience to participate, just an interest in learning. If you're an MBCA member, you can watch and assist others if you don't feel competent enough to work on your car or your car doesn't need any work at this time.

USI has 8 bays with 6 lifts; most of which will be exclusively available to our members from 10 am to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 26, 2011. In addition, USI's parts counter will be open for the event and the service manager and a technician will be available for advice and instruction. **National Technical Director George Murphy may be there to help also, depending on his recovery from knee joint replacement.** Note: USI does not have any wheel balancing or alignment equipment.

USI Motors is located at 121 South Gallaher View Road.

To get to USI Motors, take the Gallaher View Road exit off I-40, and go across Kingston Pike. USI Motors is on the right behind Buddy's Barbecue.

We will have a no-host group lunch at Buddy's Barbecue after the event.

For information, you may e-mail Tony Moore at [tonynkaren@earthlink.net](mailto:tonynkaren@earthlink.net) or George Murphy at [perfanalysis@comcast.net](mailto:perfanalysis@comcast.net) or call him at 865-482-9175. Should it be necessary to limit participation, attendees will be accepted in the order their registration is received. Use of the service bays and lifts will also be assigned in registration order. We will maintain one lift with a one hour time limit to accommodate fluid changes. You may register by E-mail as long as your check is received within 5 days prior to the event. We look forward to seeing you there.

Tony Moore  
Smoky Mountain Section President

## Registration Form

DIY Tech Session - USI Motors  
Saturday March 26, 2011 10 AM to 1:30 PM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ MBCA Member# \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Job(s) you wish to do \_\_\_\_\_

Your experience level: Hardcore DIY \_\_\_\_\_ Occasional \_\_\_\_\_ Novice \_\_\_\_\_

# of Participants \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Send this registration form w/check payable to Smoky Mountain Section MBCA to:

Tony Moore  
130 Creek Rd.  
Powell, TN. 37849.

To get your newsletter by computer - we need your E-mail address . . .

In order to get your Smoky Mountain Section newsletter to you in a more timely manner, we are asking section members to send your E-mail address to our newsletter editor. Don't worry - MBCA rules are very clear: your address will not be sold or otherwise distributed to any outside party. We respect your right to privacy - the list is used only for MBCA and SMS events and announcements. Please send your address to newsletter editor George Murphy at [perfanalysis@comcast.net](mailto:perfanalysis@comcast.net)

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Reach out to area Mercedes-Benz auto owners  
Advertising Rates - Newsletter - 6 issues

**Full page - 8½ x 11 \$150 Quarter page - 4¼ x 5½ \$50**

**Half page - 8½ x 5½ \$100 Business card \$25**

Our Smoky Mountain Section newsletter reaches about 150 Mercedes-Benz owners in East Tennessee from Chattanooga to the Tri-Cities. Send ad copy and check to: George Murphy ([perfanalysis@comcast.net](mailto:perfanalysis@comcast.net))



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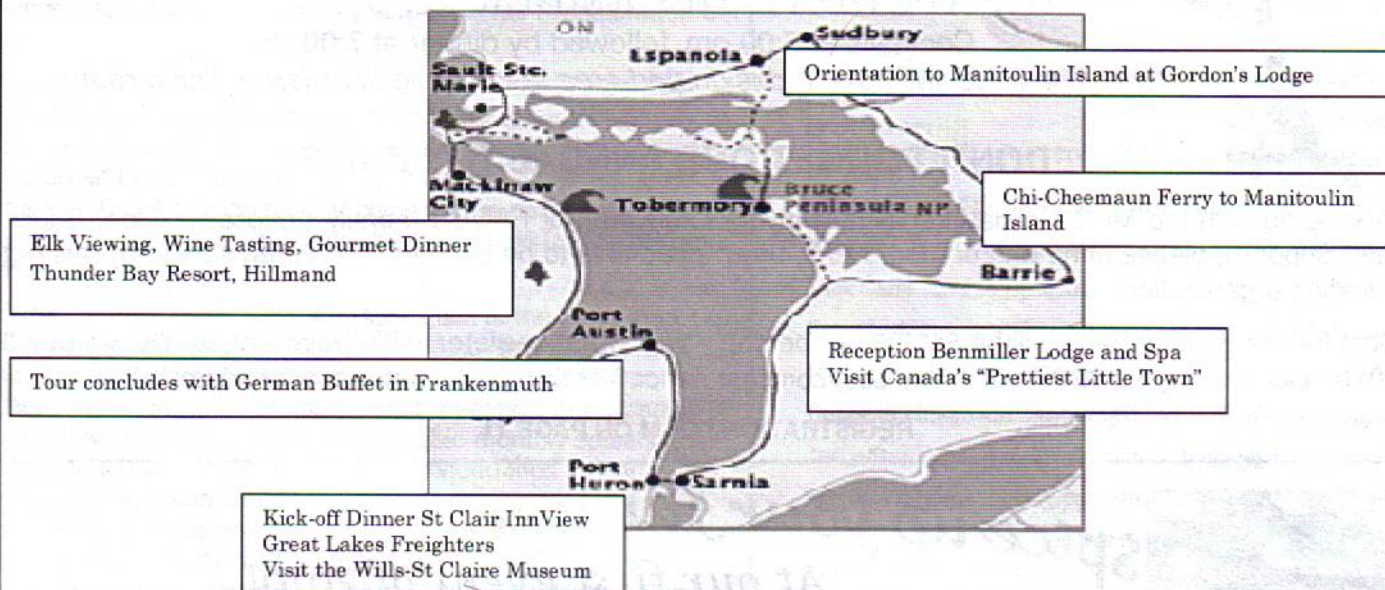
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865-690-3886 • [www.usimotors.com](http://www.usimotors.com)

Sponsor of our March, 2011 Do-it-Yourself session . . .

You are invited to join fellow MBCA members in the Second Great Lakes Mille

September 24 -30, 2011

## The Circle Lake Huron Tour



### INVITATION

You are invited to join fellow MBCA members in the second Great Lake Mille, a tour around Lake Huron including the Bruce Peninsula and Georgian Bay. You may apply for participation with an interesting car of any marque as long as you are, or become, an MBCA member. Registration fee will include Kick-off Dinner, Reception at Benmiller, Ferry to Manitoulin Island, concluding German buffet, and commemorative vest.

### REQUEST FOR REGISTRATION MATERIALS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
Car for tour: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number participating: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail or Scan this form to :  
Ron Harshman, Tourmeister  
33 W Delaware Apt 10J  
Chicago, IL 60610  
[r\\_harshmen1234@msn.com](mailto:r_harshmen1234@msn.com)



## Mercedes Safety Systems In-Depth by J. Davis

*"...learn more  
about our  
vehicles'  
safety sys-  
tems."*

With the worst winter in years only half over, there is no lesson more fitting than to learn more about our vehicles' safety systems. All of these systems work hand-in-hand to provide the safest driving experience possible.

**4MATIC all-wheel drive:** This is Mercedes' full time, all-the-time, all-wheel drive system. The term "four-wheel drive" applies to any system powering all four wheels, and the term "all-wheel drive" generally refers to passenger car 4WD systems. 4MATIC is standard on all five families of Mercedes-Benz sport utility vehicles, as well as the CL550 coupe, and it's an option on certain C-, E- and S- Class sedans.



**Three Differentials:** The Mercedes-Benz 4MATIC system uses a mechanical center differential that distributes engine power to the front and rear wheels,

while differential units at the front and rear distribute power to the left and right wheels.

**Breakaway Clutches:** Working in conjunction with four-wheel traction control, the center differential in 4MATIC passenger cars is equipped with a clutch that provides the traction benefits of a limited-slip differential while allowing the front wheels to rotate faster in turns. S-Class, E-Class and C-Class 4MATIC models now come equipped with a multi-plate "breakaway" clutch, and other models use a single-plate clutch.

**Rear-Biased Torque Distribution:** 4MATIC passenger cars feature a planetary-type center differential that provides rear-biased power distribution – approximately 45:55 front-rear power distribution that makes for more car-like handling. The R-, M-, G- and GL-Class have 50:50 torque distribution.

**Four-Wheel Traction Control:** 4MATIC vehicles use an innovative four-wheel

electronic traction control system. It applies the brakes to any of the four drive wheels whenever the wheel speed sensors indicate the wheel is going faster (slipping) than the others. Whenever one wheel begins to rotate faster than the other three, the traction control system momentarily applies the brake on that one wheel. The system can also reduce the throttle electronically if necessary to restore traction. Thus, it limits wheel spin when conditions are slippery, thus allowing power to go to the wheels with more grip. Traction control is standard on all models.

**ABS anti-lock brakes:** Releases the brakes momentarily whenever wheel speed sensors indicate a locked wheel during braking. ABS does not "pump" the brakes; ABS action is actually like "pumping in reverse." The purpose of ABS is to preserve directional stability by allowing the driver to continue steering during emergency braking, but it does not necessarily provide shorter stopping distances. All Mercedes-Benz models come with standard ABS.

**ESP (Electronic Stability Program):** Applies one or more of the brakes momentarily to any wheel to correct oversteer or understeer, based on signals from several sensors, including those for steering angle, vehicle yaw and wheel speed. Designed to restore vehicle stability in the event of incipient skids, ESP works under all conditions: during acceleration, coasting or braking. Mercedes-Benz' ESP is standard on all of its models and has been mandated by the Federal government on all future cars.

**Brake Assist:** Applies full braking power automatically during emergency braking whenever the driver's foot is on the pedal. Brake Assist uses a pedal speed sensor and a computer to determine emergency situations and operates a valve on the brake booster unit that can provide full brake boost. Although it's a separate system from ABS, Brake Assist does rely on ABS to prevent wheel lockup. Brake Assist is standard on all Mercedes-Benz models.

*"...it limits  
wheel spin  
when condi-  
tions are slip-  
pery...."*