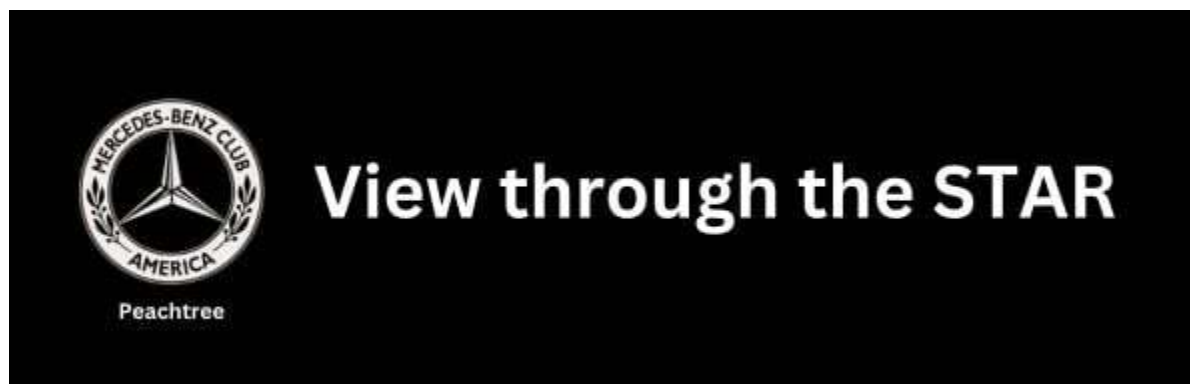




Volume 46 - Vol 6 | December 2024





Rusty Duncan and instructor Phil Hallenback in Rusty's 2007 CLK 63 at AMP Raceway for Star Summit '24.

Photo credit: Will Coloma

Rusty Duncan, President

Happy Holidays!

I hope everyone has a fantastic end to 2024 and is excited about the promise of 2025!

My name is Rusty Duncan, and I am honored to serve as your President in 2025. I look forward to continuing the progress we have made over the past few years.

I want to express my gratitude to all the volunteers who dedicate their time to making our club the best it can be. It is truly a labor of love, and it requires a lot of hard work. Star Summit was the culmination of these efforts—an incredible collaboration between our board, members, and sponsors, all guided by the vision of our former president, Rubin Howard.

I am pleased to announce a few changes to our Board of Directors. Marisa Hegyesi is our newest Board Member. She has graciously agreed to help Reijo Haarla with membership along with continuing to write our Member Spotlight articles. Sam Kamber has assumed the duties of Vice-President and Event Chair. Sam's dedication to quality events such as Star Summit and our Concours events is commendable. Abel Beck and Austin Hoffer is joining our board as Directors at Large. We thank them for their service to MBCA Peachtree.

Our members enjoy a wide range of activities, including driving events, social gatherings to celebrate our shared passion for cars, travel, and more.

We love to explore and learn, and we are fortunate to live in a region that offers many opportunities.

Rubin believed that our club could—and should—do something to demonstrate to MBCA that Atlanta and our region has active and vibrant members. With the support of our sponsors, he envisioned a multi-day event that would celebrate the Mercedes-Benz marquis. He also suggested partnering with a brand that shares our appreciation for fine craftsmanship, IWC Watches, in collaboration with the Atlanta Watch Society, given the overlapping interests of fine watches and fine motor cars. The result was a four-day event that included:

- A welcome cocktail party featuring both IWC and Mercedes
- A Concours d'Elegance followed by a Gala Awards Dinner at RBM Alpharetta's showroom
- A Sunday Cars & Coffee event at MBUSA Headquarters, followed by a mountain drive
- A full track day at Atlanta Motorsports Park on Monday, including classroom and on-track instruction

This event was a grand undertaking, requiring nearly a year of meticulous planning. Thanks to prudent and conservative financial management, our club was in a position to provide the needed financial resources to make the event truly memorable. Our esteemed host sponsor, RBM of Alpharetta, generously provided venues for the Friday cocktail party, the Concours, and the Gala. They also contributed hors d'oeuvres, tables, staff, and casino equipment for a Monte Carlo-themed Gala as well as raffle prizes for the event.

[Read more President's Message](#)

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Member Spotlight - Rusty Duncan



by Marisa Hegyesi

I wanted to introduce or reintroduce our new MBCA Peachtree President. Rusty was born in Dallas, Texas, but only stayed there a year or two. He grew up in western Massachusetts, when he wasn't in boarding school in Connecticut. Rusty attended Northwestern in the Chicago area, where he received his BA in Comparative Literature. Then, he moved to Atlanta in 1988. Rusty completed his MBA at Georgia State.

Rusty is in his 50's and married to his high school sweetheart, Michele. They married a year after finishing college, and celebrated their 35th anniversary this year (2024). ***Congratulations Rusty and Michele!*** They have three grown children – Lauren (28) and twin sons Brent and Russell (26).

His first job was in Sales with Toshiba Copiers. He is now an IT Consultant with XXLERATE, Inc. Since he is self-employed, he has some flexibility which helps to balance work and personal time. His time is split in the Atlanta area between client sites and his home office. Usually, he only travels for pleasure. [Read More about Rusty](#)



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Event Rundown

December Events

12/7 | Cars and Coffee | [register](#) | [map](#)

12/14 | Holiday Luncheon | [register](#) | [map](#)

2025 Events

1/4 | Cars and Coffee | [register](#) | [map](#)

1/11 | Mountain Drive | *watch for details*

2/1 | Cars and Coffee | [register](#) | [map](#)

2/8 | Motoescape Tour | *watch for details*

2/22 | Gander Mountain Shoot | *watch for details*

3/1 | Cars and Coffee | [register](#) | [map](#)



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Peachtree

Membership

Welcome NEW and Rejoining Members

Peter Barrio
Debra Donovan
Fred Harwell
Samuel Konrad
Allen Lynn
Mark Mele
Tom Murray
Dwight Pratt
Dee Staples
Mark Wallace
Roger Williams

Peachtree Anniversaries

45 Years

Roger McKissick

40 Years

Gary Alexander
Greg Maynard
Richard Werner

35 Years

Bruce Gorsak

30 Years

Marion Glover

25 Years

David Benoy
Alfonso Jessie
Anthony Miles

By Reijo Haarla, Membership Director

I am pleased to announce that the Peachtree Membership Committee has been now updated, the Board of the Peachtree Chapter named new members for the Committee. Members of the new Membership Committee are Marisa Hegyesi, Abel Beck, Austin Hoffer, Sam Kamper and Reijo Haarla. One of the important tasks of the new Committee is to recruit new members to join the club.

As well as for the current year, Peachtree Chapter is organizing also for the next year a large variety of interesting events members can participate. Next year's events, such as monthly Cars & Coffee, Mountain Drives, Tech sessions, social events and many others are already marked on the event calendar.

There are still a couple of events scheduled for the remaining of the year, the Cars & Coffee and the Holiday luncheon. Please check the event calendar in this Newsletter and register to attend for an upcoming event.

Attending club events is the best way to meet members that share your passion in Mercedes-Benz vehicles.

In addition to recognizing new members who joined recently the Mercedes Benz Club of America, we are honored to announce MBCA membership

Marvin Psalmond

announce MBCA membership
Anniversaries for 2024.

20 Years

Maria Marlowe
Uwe Nischan
David Tatum
Stuart Virgin

15 Years

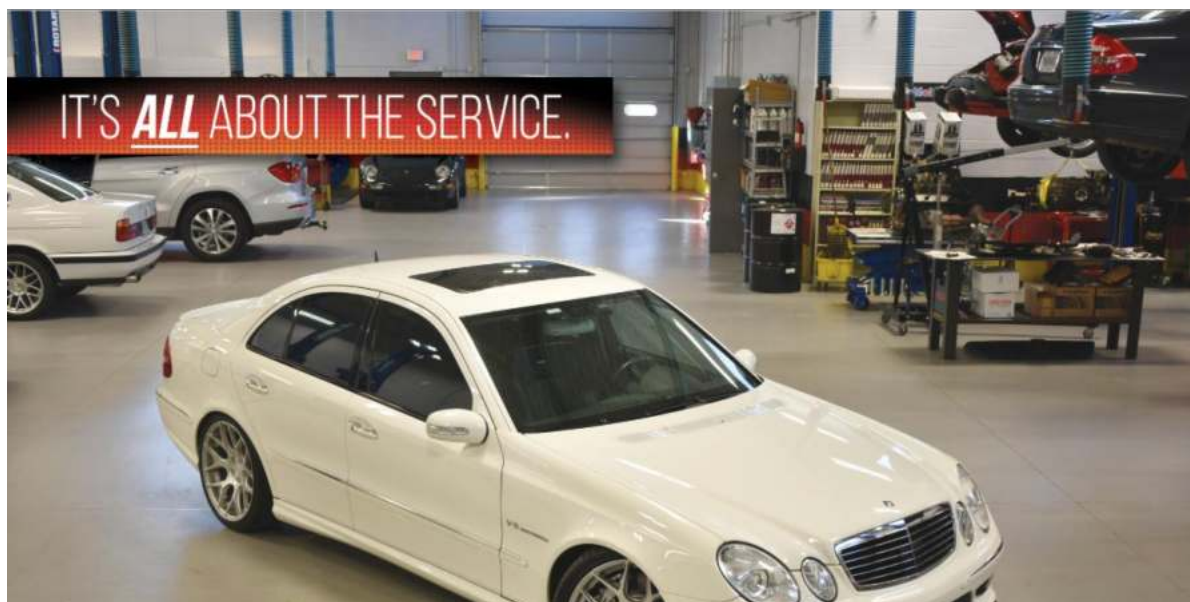
Mark Enzmann
Doug Lackey
William B Norris Jr
Byron Shanklin
Betsy Smith

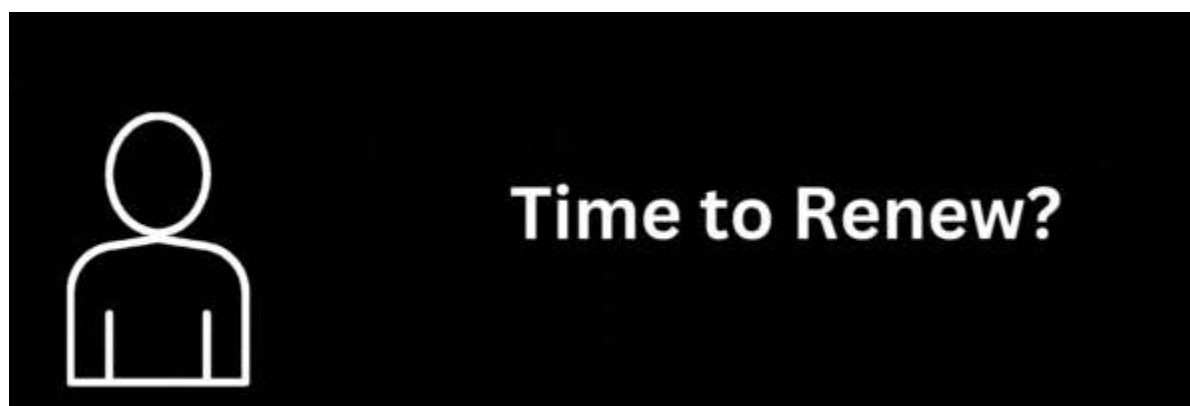
10 Years

Dan Anderson
Priscilla Cherry
John Diestel
Adrienne Donahue
Peter Eisemann
Rubin Howard
Ira Isaacson
Kelt Kindick
Carl Maier
Wayne Novy
Jose Rodriguez
Eddy Sayed
Robert (Bob) Smith
Thomas Statham
Robert Watson

5 Years

Billy Boguski
Hans Ehrnrooth
Ben Everest
David Garcia
Scott Gibson
Darin Good
Alan Granath
Joseph Habachy
Phillip Hungate
Alan Kidson
Oluwagbemiga Kuye
Mike and Dotti Lackey
Thomas Lammert
Everett Price
Gary Samoluk
H Sardelli





Renewing your Membership is EASY!

1. Renew from the email reminder that comes in your email *
2. Log into your MBCA account and Renew from your Membership profile *
3. Mail a check to the National Business Office:
 Mercedes-Benz Club of America
 10 Boulder Crescent St, Suite 200
 Colorado Springs CO 80903
4. Call the National Business Office and renew over the phone Tues-Thurs:
 9 am - 3 pm MT Phone: 719.633.6427

** 60 days before membership expiration, must log into mbca.org*

Logging into your Glue Up Account with your MBCA login credentials. If you have not established your MBCA login, you can easily register by clicking on "**Register**". ⚠️ *If the system warns you that the email is already linked to an existing Glue Up account and you forgot your password, click "forgot password" to recover it before logging in.*



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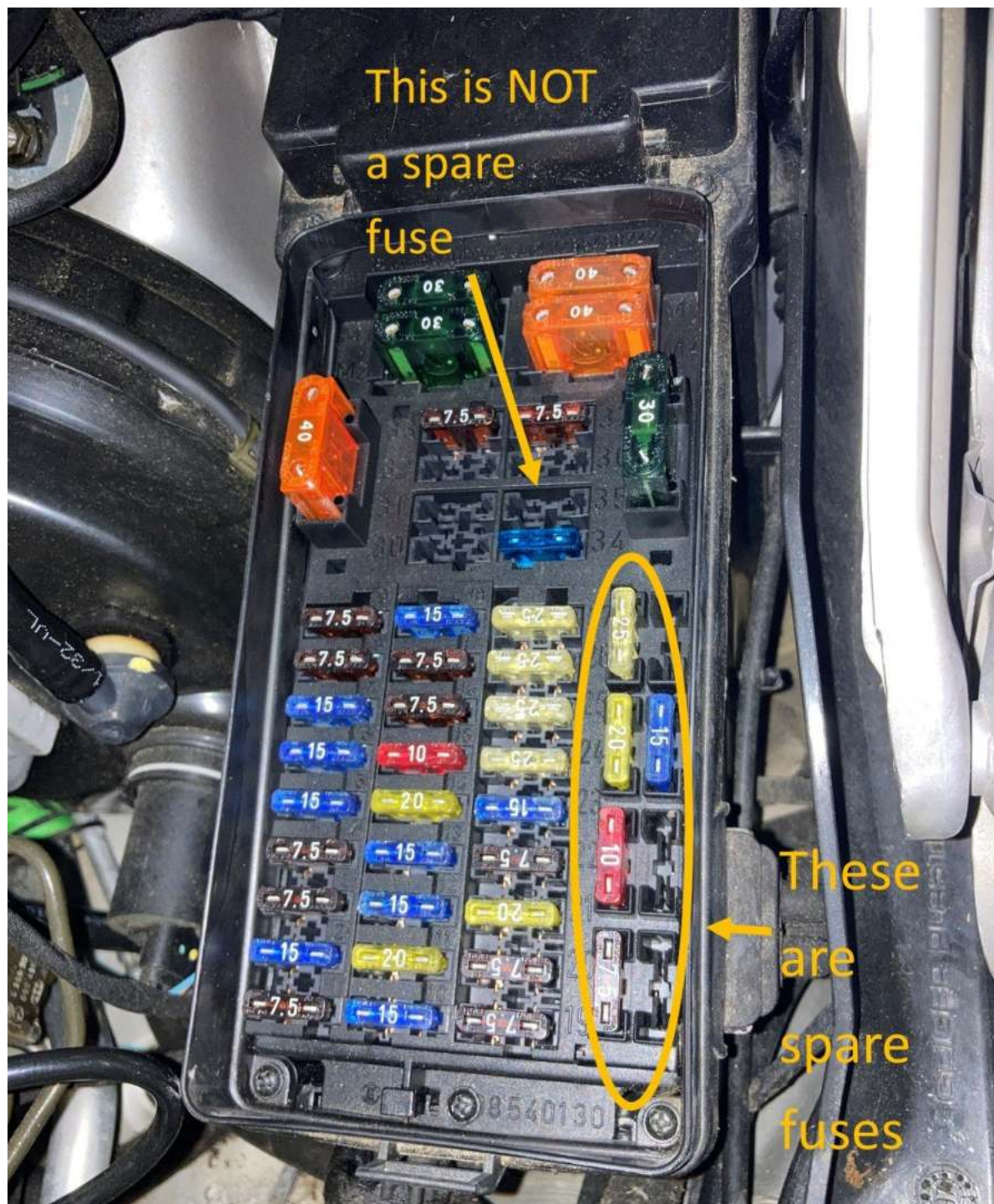
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Technical Digest

Peachtree

How Could I Be this Stupid? Oh the Fuse Confusion





by Gary Edwards, Technical Advisor

Sometimes you do something incredibly dumb, not realizing it at the time. Sometimes it costs a lot and inconveniences your friends and relatives too. Sometimes it even causes you to waste your most precious commodity, time. I did this; I thank the folks that helped me get through the predicament I created, and I will now confess how I screwed it up.

I love R129s and I consider them to be very reliable. Since I haven't had a lot of problems with them, there are some areas I haven't dug deeply into. One of those areas bit me here. We were on our Fall Foliage Drive in October and were making our way to Tail of the Dragon; I was driving my 1998 SL500 Sport. We had indications that Route 129 was closed south of Robbinsville, so we were taking an alternate route from our hotel in Murphy NC. Waze routed us through Tatham Gap, on a one-lane dirt road. Wasn't really what I wanted to do, but it was sort of fun – the few times we got up to 20 MPH it felt like we were really going fast, and I had to back down once to get where I could let oncoming traffic pass. I turned on my lights as we came down the mountain and got a bulb failure warning which I isolated to the parking lights. On this era of Mercedes, you can figure out in general which bulbs might be bad since the bulb failure light only comes on when the errant light is energized.

When we got to Deal's Gap, the entry to the Tail of the Dragon, Cheryl wanted to stop at the gift shop, so I pulled in and shut down the car. I looked at the lights and noted both right front and rear parking lights were off. This had to be more than a bulb, so I looked in the fuse box and found that the 15A fuse for the right parking lights had blown. Mercedes fuse boxes generally have a place for spare fuses, so I picked a 15A fuse and restored the right parking lights. I then wiped all the dust off the car and got ready to depart. [Read More about Fuse Confusion](#)

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Peachtree

Events





Ernie Smallman and Patricia Duer, Event Planners

**Olde Blind Dog Irish Pub
Milton, GA
December 14 | 11:30 am**

Shepherd's pie is believed to have an Irish origin during the Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland in the 12th century. The dish has long graced Irish tables and also has achieved international acclaim. Irish peasants repurposed leftover mutton and beef roast in order to avoid the waste of food and money. Modern versions include a series of vegetables such as corn, peas, and carrots forming a three-layered pie of vegetables, meat, and mashed potatoes on top. The name is derived from Shepherds that were responsible of taking care of the sheep where the meat came from and mashed potatoes on top represented the wool covering the sheep.

Possibly the most popular dish served at Ole Blind Dog pub, their version used an old-world recipe of ground lamb, carrots, onions, leeks, and colcannon (mash potatoes and cabbage).

This year's holiday lunch fare will top that of last year by including Shepard's pie with the return of popular entrees broiled salmon and corn beef and cabbage.

- Broiled Salmon
- Shepard's Pie
- Corn Beef and cabbage, potatoes, carrots
- Seasonal vegetables
- Irish Cheese Grits
- Side salad
- Tea, Coffee, or Water

The pub cash bar has an exhausting array of beer on tap and can mix cocktails to order.

Door prizes, memorabilia raffle plus chapter awards to follow desert.

Please RSVP by December 9, 2024 and **bring an unwrapped toy for the Toys for Tots Christmas Drive.**

Event cost is \$31.00 per attendee.

Register for Holiday Luncheon



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The new Mercedes-AMG GT3 Edition 130Y Motorsport





November 20, 2024 – Atlanta.

Mercedes-Benz USA today announced that the all-new Mercedes-Benz E-Class is the winner of [MotorTrend's 2025 Car of the Year](#) award. The new E-Class, available in both Sedan and All-Terrain body styles, combines timeless elegance and luxurious appointments with modern design and innovation. The Mercedes-Benz E-Class has long set the benchmark in the midsize luxury segment, earning this prestigious honor from MotorTrend in 1996, 2021 and once again today.

"We are pleased to accept this award and are particularly honored that it represents back-to-back wins for the E-Class from MotorTrend. With every generation, the E-Class redefines customer expectations in the luxury segment with its highly compelling combination of sophisticated design, advanced technology and thoughtful details. We are proud to celebrate the triumphant and class-leading heritage of the E-Class and the incredible technological advancements presented in this new model that seamlessly combine to provide an exceptionally refined and luxurious experience for our customers."

Dimitris Psillakis, President and CEO, Mercedes-Benz USA

MotorTrend carefully selects a field of new and significantly updated vehicles to compete for its coveted "Golden Calipers" each year. An expert team of editors and guest judges thoroughly evaluates every contender

based on six key criteria: safety, value, advancement in design, engineering excellence, efficiency and performance of intended function, to determine which car receives MotorTrend's highest accolade.

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Event News

Peachtree

STAR SUMMIT

ATLANTA 2024

Star Summit Atlanta 2024 was so much fun and so successful. We want to share with you some photos from each of the events throughout the four days from October 4 - 7. Winners from the Concours were announced and presented their trophies during the Casino Royale Gala. Winners of each category are listed below.

We thank **Will Coloma** for his photographic coverage of Star Summit Atlanta 2024.

Friday - October 4 - Tech Session DC Motorwerks



[View AMG Buyers Guide Tech Session Photos](#)

Friday - October 4 Stars of Road and Wrist



View Stars of Road and Wrist Photos

Saturday - October 5 - Concours Royale

STAR Summit Concours Winners

Class	Place	First Name	Last Name	Year	Model
Show Class	BEST OF SHOW	Diana	Quinn	1995	E320 Cabriolet
	1st Place	Robert	Sutter	1991	420SEL
	2nd Place	Anthony	Miles	1991	560SEL
Show Class - R107	1st Place	Dale	Garber	1985	380SL
	2nd Place	Teresa	Gourlay	1987	560SL
Show Class - SL Early	1st Place	Lynn	Prothero	1969	280SL
	2nd Place	Otto	Gogolin	1970	280SL
Street - SL Late 1990 to Current	1st Place	Sam	Kamber	2000	SL500
	2nd Place	John	Olsen	2003	SL 55 AMG
Street - Cabrio 1990 to Current	1st Place	Alan	Smith	2021	S63 AMG Cabrio
	2nd Place	Stephen	Hegyesi	2023	AMG C43 Cabrio
Street - Sedan 1990 to Current	1st Place	Phillip	George	1997	C280 Sport
	2nd Place	Austin	Hoffer	2002	C240
Street - Sedan Late - S Class	1st Place	Otto	Gogolin	2005	Maybach 57
	2nd Place	Randy	Muecke	2002	Guard S500 LWB
Custom	1st Place	Karl	Daniel	2020	GTC
	2nd Place	Michael	Leigh	1986	500SLAMG
Show & Shine	1st Place	Louis	Capolino	2016	S63AMG COUP
	2nd Place	James	Duncan	1978	450SL





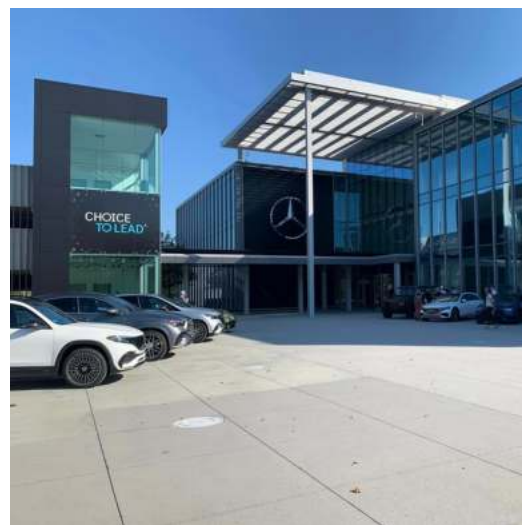
View Concours Royale Photos

Saturday - October 5 - Casino Royale Gala



View Casino Royale Photos

Sunday - October 6 - Stars and Coffee at MBUSA

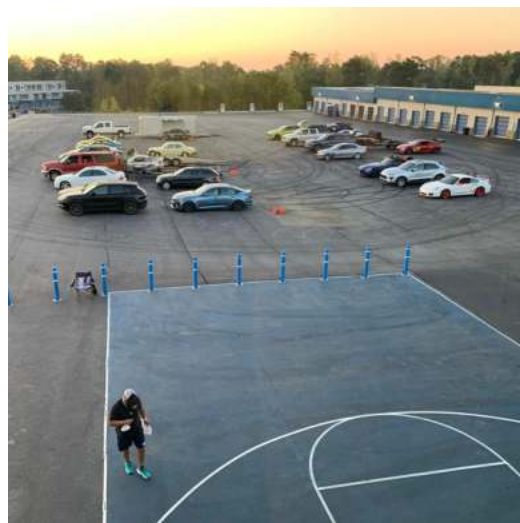


View Stars & Coffee at MBUSA Photos

Sun day - October 6 - Mountain Drive



Monday - October 7 - High Performance Driver Education



STAR SUMMIT FB Post links: (Can't see these links? Join the MBCA Peachtree FB Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mbcapeachtree/>)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mbcapeachtree/permalink/3898194820421635/?>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mbcapeachtree/permalink/3899306833643767/?>
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RETURN TO THE DRAGON



L to R: Steve and Marisa Hegyesi, Brandon Berry, Ken Sauter, Jim Quinn

MBCA Peachtree members gathered for the weekend of Oct 17-19 for the annual Harold Wilson Memorial Fall foliage weekend. On Friday afternoon the group started the weekend with a visit to the John C Campbell Folkschool located in Brasstown, NC.

On Saturday the group went a driving on the Trail of the Dragon or across the Cherohola Skyway. Some had more adventures than they bargained for. With the recent flooding Google Maps indicated that the direct route from Murphy, NC to Robbinsville, NC to start the Tail was closed (this was not true!). Some ventured over the Tatham Gap to avoid the supposedly closed road and other went the longer route. Ultimately everyone found their way. (See Gary's Garage article about their adventure at Deal's Gap at the base of the Tail of the Dragon and the non starting R129).

Good times were ultimately had by all and all returned safely back home on

[illegible]

32 of 35

**Peachtree Chapter, MBCA Officers
and Board of Directors and
Leadership Support Members**

Rusty Duncan

president@mbcapeachtree.com

Sam Kamber

vicepresident@mbcapeachtree.com

Brett Butler

secretary@mbcapeachtree.com

Jim Fekete

treasurer@mbcapeachtree.com

Rubin Howard

(Ex-Officio)

exofficio@mbcapeachtree.com

Directors

directors@mbcapeachtree.com

Reijo Haarla

Marisa Hegyesi

Joseph Ruda Jr.

Past presidents

Steve Chapman

Ernie Smallman

JoAnne Taylor

Committees

Reijo Haarla - Membership

membership@mbcapeachtree.com

Diana Quinn - Newsletter

newsletter@mbcapeachtree.com

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Gary Edwards - Technical

technical@mbcapeachtree.com

Events

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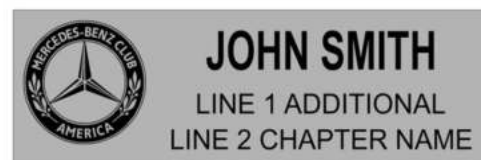
Sam Kamber

Gary Edwards

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For information or questions about the
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MBCA Name Tags



Order Name Tag



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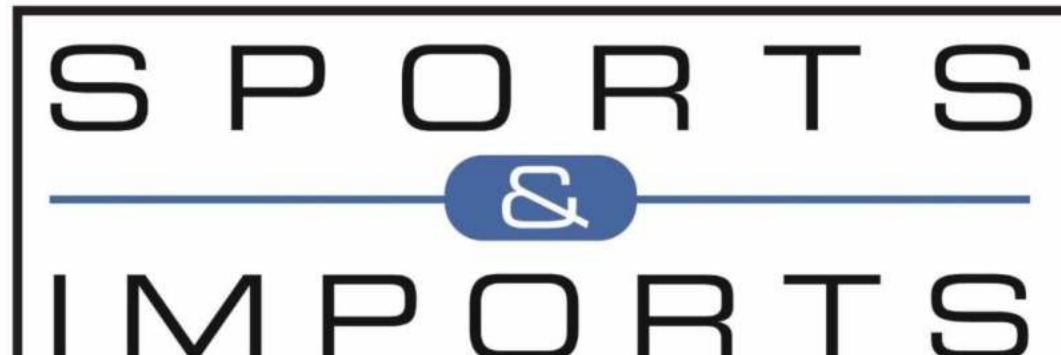
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Diana Quinn
dianaquinn@me.com

Your MBCA Membership card is now in the **My MBCA** mobile app (Available for IOS and Andriod).

- Log into the app with your MBCA email and password. To set/reset your password go to www.mbca.org > Login > Forgot Password
- Select the **Mercedes-Benz Club of America** organization
- Click on **Profile**
- Click on **Memberships**

***TIP:** Take a screen shot of your membership card and save to your photos in your phone*



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