



Das Heimatblatt

Newsletter for the Alabama Section
Mercedes-Benz Club of America
2014 Printed Newsletter of the Year

January • 2017

Inside this Issue...

Sternblick	1
Calender of Events	2
Coming Events	3-6
Club Events	7
Event Recap	10-11

Sternblick

(View through the Star)

Mason Beale
President, Alabama Section MBCA

Alabama Section has been busy this Fall and Winter.

During December we held Holiday Parties in Birmingham and North Florida with individuals from North Alabama to Florida Panhandle attending. In January our annual Winterfahrt was well attended as club members enjoyed the beautiful weather and culminated with great German food at Hildegard's Biergarten in Huntsville.

Our next event is "Ask Klink" scheduled for February 25 sponsored by Mercedes-Benz of Birmingham. Be sure to make plans to attend this popular event followed by lunch at Jim & Kicks BBQ restaurant. On March 10-12 the Amelia Island Concours will be held with a large Mercedes-Benz car display. Indy racing at Barbers is scheduled for April 22-23 with our own car corral. On May 20-21 Historics racing at Barbers will also offer a car corral. Our own Jim Roberts and George Smith will be driving in their respective classes. Be sure to attend and help cheer them on to victory. Other events are being considered and E-mail "blasts" will be sent as friendly reminders.

StarFest 2018 is only 16 months from today. Expectation is that attendance will exceed any previous StarFest. We estimate that 600 or more will register for the event. With this large member number attending the biennial event, which is the largest gathering of Mercedes-Benz Club members in the world, we need your assistance. We are scheduling StarFest 2018 teleconferences to allow members to participate without having to be physically present. Let us know of your willingness to help and identify any special area of interest you may have. There are plenty of great activities to plan.

I look forward to visiting with you at our next event.

Upcoming Events Spotlight

What: Pensacola - Atmore Drive

When: February 4th

Where: 9 Mile Plaza, just east of US 29 on 9 Mile Rd.

More information on page 3

ALABAMA & FLORIDA PANHANDLE

Schedule Of EVENTS

February

- 4 Pensacola-Atmore Drive
 15 For the Love of Lotus, Barber Museum
 21 Birmingham Stammtisch- Hickory Tavern
 25 "Ask Klink" Tech Session
 28 Huntsville Stammtisch - Biergarten

March

- 10-12 Amelia Island Concours d'elegance & Dinners. See page 4 for more info
 21 Birmingham Stammtisch - Hickory Tavern

April

- 18 Birmingham Stammtisch - Hickory Tavern
 21-23 Indy Car Grand Prix of Alabama, Barber Motorsports Park
 25 Huntsville Stammtisch - Biergarten

May

- 16 Birmingham Stammtisch - Hickory Tavern
 19-22 Heimatfest

June

- 10 Naval Air Museum Car Show, Pensacola
 20 Birmingham Stammtisch - Hickory Tavern
 27 Huntsville Stammtisch - Biergarten

Birmingham Membership Meeting

Where: Hickory Tavern at Brookwood Village

When: 3rd Tuesday of every month

Time: 6:30pm dinner, 7pm meeting

From 280: Take Exit to Ala 149 (Homewood/ Mt Brook).
 Turn left onto Lakeshore Pkwy/ Shades Creek Pkwy.
 Hickory Tavern is located in the perimeter of Brookwood Mall

Huntsville Membership Meeting

Where: Biergarten - 1010 Heathland Drive
 (just off University Drive)

When: 4th Tuesday of even numbered months

Time: 6:30pm

Directions: From I 565: Take exit 15 Sparkman Dr/ Bob Wallace;
 Continue on Sparkman Dr NW to University Drive; Turn right to
 merge onto US 72/ University Dr.; Heathland Dr. will be on your
 left, but go just past the Subaru dealership and make a "U" turn.
 Heathland Dr. is the first right past Suberu. Biergarten will be
 on your right.

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Coming events

Pensacola-Atmore Road Rally

When: February 4th
Time: Registration 9:50-11am
Where: 9 Mile Plaza, just east of US 29 on 9 Mile Rd. (US 90 Alt)

This traditional event seems to grow every year. It takes a slightly different route each year, as Atmore, AL is not very far from Pensacola, FL by the most direct route. Bill Moseley takes anything but the direct route as the drive crosses the Alabama-Florida line several times on lightly traveled interesting roads.

Several area car clubs participate, so try to find the other Mercedes-Benz cars. Try to park in a far corner.

David's Catfish House at the end is worth the drive for great lunch and kick off the new year. The start and the finish look like giant car shows.

"For the Love of Lotus"

When: February 15th
Time: 6:30-7:30pm
Where: Barber Motorsports Museum

Our first tech event for 2017 takes place in the newly expanded Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum with the automobile restoration staff reviewing the restoration of a new acquisition. No, their emphasis is not Mercedes-Benz, but you will be able to be up close and personal with how a professional restoration is planned and executed.

This program is no cost to museum members and \$25 for nonmembers.

Contact Jim Roberts jertoosaver@bellsouth.net for more information

"Ask Klink" Tech Session led by David "Klink" Kalinkiewicz

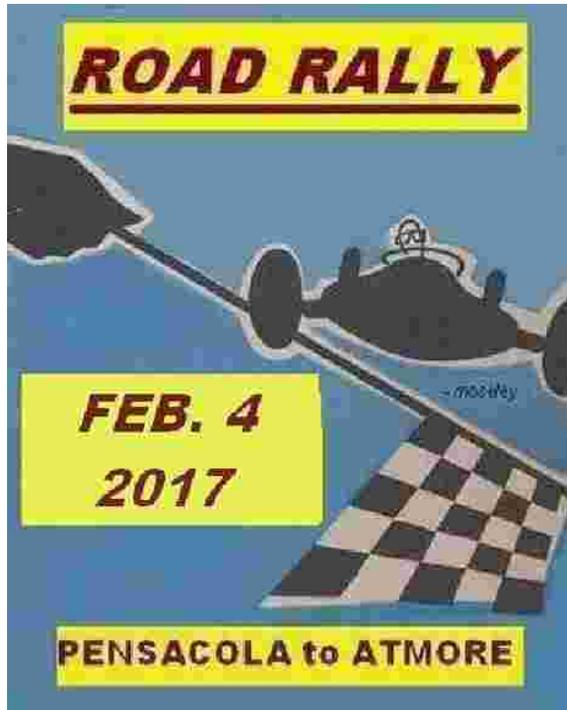
When: February 25th
Time: 9:30am, lunch at 11:30
Where: Mercedes-Benz of Birmingham

As "Ask Klink" Tech Session led by David "Klink" Kalinkiewicz.

Park at the adjacent Jim N' Nicks where we will have lunch.

David will start with the interesting new features on cars in the show room. We then retire to the meeting room for an interactive best practices/problem solving experience. This invariably continues through lunch at Jim N' Nicks.

Let us know that you will be attending and if you will stay for lunch, so both the dealership and the restaurant can prepare.



**WHAT? TWELFTH ANNUAL
Pensacola-Atmore Road Rally**

A planned cruise from Pensacola, Florida to Atmore, Alabama – Regular drive – A fun event - non-competitive – The Road Rally is sponsored by the **PANHANDLE CRUISERS** and the **PENSACOLA AUSTIN-HEALEY CLUB**

Drive your show car, sports car, hot rod, custom, or your family vehicle. All cars must have valid license plates.

Speed limits must be obeyed!!!

WHEN? Saturday Feb. 4, 2017

WHERE? Registration and Start Registration opens 9:50, closes at 11:00 Register at east side of Nine-Mile Plaza, 312 E Nine Mile Road.

Located on east Nine-Mile Road (Hwy ALT 90) about 2 miles east of Hwy 29.

NO FEE TO REGISTER, No need to pre-register Register, get easy-to-follow course route sheet, and start whenever you like. You may drive individually or in a group. Your choice to drive solo or with a navigator – Families welcome - Hang around, socialize, and enjoy the cars!

FINISH David's Catfish House, Atmore, AL – David's food is outstanding! David's is reserved for us. The whole crew at David's turns out and can easily serve 250 people. David's favorite is two-piece catfish, side dishes and drink. You can order anything else you like from the menu. Afterwards, some of us drive 6 miles north to Wind Creek Casino, which is optional.

WHO? For All clubs, All makes and all individuals who love to drive. 18 car clubs have participated in the rally -

COURSE DESCRIPTION 50 plus miles. With good weather, we will have a large number of entries so special attention is paid to avoid slow-downs and "choke points". It's a scenic route over Roads Less Traveled - No "ugly roads" – Many entrants will see 60% or more of the roads for the first time. A little different course will be used this year.

WEATHER? If heavy rain, rally will be postponed to another day. (Road flooding on course)

Questions: Warren Peacock, Panhandle Cruisers President, capsoda@gulftel.net , 251 946-3327
Bill Moseley, Rallymaster, moseley1@cox.net, 850 456-9040

Coming events

Amelia Island Concours d'elegance

When: March 10-12

Mercedes-Benz was the first national sponsor and continues as the largest for this prestigious invitational concours. Its stature is second only to Pebble Beach in North America. MBCA hosts several activities with this event, and Alabama Section is prominent in the activities. Please let me know which events you will be attending at jertoosaver@bellsouth.net

Dinner at the Millhouse Restaurant

Kingsland, GA I-95 exit 3
Friday, March 10th
6:30pm

Hotels in Kingsland are a great value. The 20-25 min drive to the Ritz Carlton is about the same time as the drive from the Jacksonville Airport.

Cars & Coffee at the concours

Saturday, March 11th; 9am-1pm

MBCA members display their cars on the show field in front of the massive Mercedes-Benz USA pavilion. The Classic Center always adds a few interesting cars to the club field. Pete & Josie Lesler organize this: I just arrange the meals.

Lunch at Brett's Waterway Cafe

Right on the waterfront in historic Fernandina Beach
Saturday, March 11th; 1:30pm

The Cars & Coffee cars have to remain in place until 1pm and then must leave by 1:30pm. I planned this originally for their owners, but all MBCA members are welcome to join us.

Dinner at the Crab Trap

Saturday, March 11th; 5pm Happy Hour, 6pm dinner

A favorite of MBCA members from all over North America. Peachtree Section started gathering here 20 years ago. It is now an "additional duty" of the Eastern Region Director.

Mercedes-Benz Gala at the Ritz Carlton

Saturday, March 11th; 7pm

Some MBCA leaders and many famous people including race car drivers are in attendance. Tickets sell out a year in advance as do rooms at the Ritz.

Amelia Island Concours d' elegance

Sunday, March 12th; 9am-3pm

Founder and chairman Bill Warner selected the theme, this concours is unique in giving race cars equal standing with other collector cars.

Some entrants add to their cars' provenance by dressing in attire from the era of their cars—especially those from 1890-1930. There are always several breathtaking Mercedes-Benz examples from all eras. MBUSA brings several, including an 1885 Benz Patenwagen that they drive from the hotel across to their pavilion on Saturday afternoon. Seeing the first automobile ever travel under its own power is unforgettable.

Coming events

Indy Car Grand Prix of Alabama & Pirelli World Challenge

When: April 21-23rd
Where: Barber Motorsports Park

We will have our MBCA car corral. You actually get a discount on parking to be in the car club corral, and it is the very best spot.

Go to barberracingevents.com get your three-day car corral parking pass and make sure to select Mercedes as your car club when purchasing.

In addition to the Indy cars there are other support races. One of these, the SCCA Pirelli World Challenge© features the new Mercedes AMG GT 3 R racing against Ferrari, Aston Martin, Porsches, Corvette, and others. We will work on a visit to the Mercedes AMG teams.



Last year's car corral at Barber Motorsports Park

Alabama Heimatfest

When: May 19-21

This year's event will feature driving at Talladega as well as Barber and a concours at the historic races at Barber Motorsports Park.

Yr obt svt will be driving a 1966 Lotus 47 that dominated the 2-liter class in the 1967 season.

You will notice that the historic cars slide more in the turns. The historic Formula One cars from the 1970's & 80's will be here. Typically there are more of them than the current Indy cars a month earlier.

Naval Air Station (NAS) Museum European Car Show

Where: Naval Air Museum, Pensacola
When: June 10th
Time: 10am-2pm



Hayden Hudson's 1972 black 280 SE 4.5 at last year's European Car Show

The seaside setting is grand for this laid back car show. Entry fee is minimal. We try to have lunch in the Subic Bay Officers Club which was moved from the Philippines to the museum. Each squadron that came through left items that added to the décor.

There is no admission charge for visiting the museum which shows the entire history of U.S. Naval aviation. The exhibits are beautifully displayed and include the first plane to cross the Atlantic Ocean. Hint: it was not Linbergh.

Car show entry is \$5 which helps fund the museum. More details will follow. Hold the date for now.

Club Events

Welcome, New Member(s)	Thank You, Loyal Member(s)		
<p>Craig Babb Montgomery, AL</p>	<p>George Acker Christi, TX</p>	<p>J. Leonard Henry Albertville, AL</p>	<p>David Shepherd Pensacola, FL</p>
<p>D. Adams Brewton, AL</p>	<p>Edward Van Anderson Birmingham, AL</p>	<p>William James Huntsville, AL</p>	<p>Jerry Tucker Madison, AL</p>
<p>George Borinski Niceville, FL</p>	<p>Nick Brown Hoover, AL</p>	<p>Jim Keirstead Madison, AL</p>	<p>Steven Wagner Flowood, MS</p>
<p>Randy Darden Birmingham, AL</p>	<p>Roger Bruce Birmingham, AL</p>	<p>Robert Marchman Guntersville, AL</p>	
<p>Sam Mitchell Daphne, AL</p>	<p>Rebecca Falcon Huntsville, AL</p>	<p>Scott Paul Pensacola, FL</p>	

Cruise-ins and Gatherings

If you are close enough to Birmingham for a Saturday morning visit. The 3 events listed welcome Mercedes-Benz cars. Even if you don't see one already there, chances are that many participants own a car with the three pointed star. In order of seniority.

Krispy Kreme, Hoover US 31

1st Saturday year round

Older cars start to gather about 7:30 and dissipate by 11:30 -12 noon. You will get a free cup of coffee and a donut, if your car is at least 25 years old. This event is staged by the Dixie Vintage Car Club which was founded back in the 1950's. This will be about 75-80% domestics as well as a few street rods. Euros are mostly British with 4-6 Mercedes-Benz's.

Logan's on US 280

11:30- 1pm Most Saturdays

This is organized by M.O.B., INC, so you will see mostly newer European exotics. Most of them own and occasionally bring a Mercedes-Benz SL, SLR, or SLS. Don't be put off by them, as they love cars and greatly respect Mercedes-Benz. They will almost certainly invite you to have lunch with them.

Cars & Coffee, US 31 S (Where old Bruno's was)

Every Saturday 8:30-10:30am

Yes, the name is the same and the ambiance is similar to the event in Los Angeles that you have seen on T.V., because a recent California transplant was not satisfied with the existing car club scene.

The location is the lot on US 31 just south of the intersection with I-65. This firearms store was the site of the Bruno's grocery in the past. This attracts both Asian and European cars including exotics.

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put into caring for your baby...



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Event Recap

Holiday Party North

Jim Roberts, Event Planner

I have not heard of another section that has two holiday partys, but then we do a lot of things differently in the Alabama-West Florida section.

On 10 December members from the Birmingham and Huntsville areas gathered at "The Club". This is another of the grand venues in our beautiful area with wonderful food and impeccable service that is situated atop Red Mountain at about 600 feet (200 meters) above the central part of Birmingham. The view is unforgettable, as airplanes approaching from the west have a glide path that allows you to look down at them as they seem to barely clear the taller buildings downtown.

By having the events at Point Clear as well as Birmingham 275 miles apart we were able to have holiday events accessible to more of our members.



Above: Members socializing at the holiday brunch at The Club



Holiday Brunch at the Grand Hotel at Point Clear

Jim Roberts, Eastern Region Director

In short, there's really not, a more delightful spot, to have your Mercedes-Benz fit than here in Point Clear", with apologies to "Camelot".

The Gulf Coast area MBCA members led by Leo terHaar planned and executed a very special holiday event on the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay. This is precisely between Mobile and Pensacola in a strikingly beautiful and affluent area.

The resort includes a yacht basin, sailing, golf, tennis, spa, horses, and even a polo pitch.

Leo worked out a beautiful drive across the horse farms and picturesque German planned villages of Baldwin County, Al to the live oak canopied roads of the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay and Fairhope to the elegant Grand Hotel at Point Clear.

We all know that part of the value of art is in the difficulty of achievement (e.g. Sistine Chapel). It is difficult to get a group reservation, because the brunch is so popular with locals. It's even harder to be able to park inside the gate, but Leo arranged both.... then it rained... torrentially.

It was gratifying that all of our participants brought their nicest, best detailed cars in spite of the weather.

Whether you preferred breakfast, dinner, or both, the food and service were wonderful as we celebrated Nico Rosberg's and Mercedes AMG Petronas' Formula One World Championships.

After lunch the break in the weather allowed us to enjoy the semi and full tropical plants still blooming in the balmy 70 degree weather. The grounds alone are worth a visit.

This will certainly be part of a southern route StarTrek to StarFest©2018.

Left: Holiday brunch at Grand Hotel Left to Right: Leo terHaar, Beth terHaar, Scott Paul, Penny Swiebel, Bob Swiebel, Prosit!, Jim Roberts, David Shephard, Bill Vickery, Margo Vickery

Event Recap

Winterfahrt 2017

Jim Roberts, Event Planner

“It’s not driving if you are not turning the steering wheel.”

We have all heard that it’s better to be lucky than good – especially when you are planning a driving event in the winter. This ninth iteration of our MBCA Winter Drive was run in sunny and partly cloudy 70-76 degree weather after enduring snow and ice with temperatures below 20 degrees the weekend before, and a forecast for torrential thunder storms the following weekend.

This year most of our friends in the Alabama Region of the Porsche Club in Birmingham decided they wanted their own Porsche exclusive event the next weekend since ours had gotten so big. The Heart O’ Dixie PCA region in North Alabama enthusiastically stepped in to replace them, so we had even more cars than last year.

In fact they met us about 20 miles north of our starting point. One of our members remarked at how massive and organized PCA president and area PCA director Jim Cambron’s group was. Likewise they were impressed by our group as we arrived at precisely the agreed upon time from bases 110 miles apart.

We drove some of my favorite roads that we have not used in Winterfahrt before. As you can see from the photos, we could not have fit another car into the parking area at Clarkston covered bridge or into Hildegard’s Biergarten Restaurant in Huntsville.

The MBCA FM radios helped keep the group together – especially as we encountered traffic lights near Decatur. Interestingly, after the starting traffic light, it was 86 miles before we encountered another. Placing the curve advisory signs overwhelm the Alabama D.O.T so much that they just put up a squiggly sign with “next 10 miles” under it. Now that’s what we like to see.



Above: We jammed the parking area at the covered bridge



Left: Through Bankhead National Forest. The sign indicates it is twisty for the next 10 miles. You have to struggle to make it at the 55mph speed limit. The curve sign is a suggestion for a heavily loaded truck in the worst conditions.



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