



Das Heimatblatt

Newsletter for the Alabama Section
Mercedes-Benz Club America

April • 2011

Inside this Issue...

Calendar of events	2
Coming events	3-7
Event recap	9-12
In Der Presse	13

ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI, GULF COAST

STERNBLICK

(View through the Star)

James Roberts
President, Alabama Section MBCA

We are having a very active spring with trips to the Amelia Island concours and a visit to Bellengrath Gardens in Mobile in March. In addition to this we have had increased attendance at our monthly meetings in Hoover.

We are also working closely with our friends in the Lotus, Ferrari, and exotic car clubs to have a great experience at our regional event, Heimatfest on 20-23 May where the event will culminate with a visit to the MBUSI Factory near Birmingham and Tuscaloosa.

I hope you already have your car corral passes for the Indy car race at Barber on 9-10 April.

We are working on adding a more socially oriented dinner event every couple of months in or near Birmingham and one every 3-4 months in the Gulf Coast area. Please let us know of your favorite restaurants where we can gather.

If your taste is antique cars that run, we will base Heimatfest around Bobby Rahal's "Legends of Motorsports" upscale vintage races at beautiful Barber Motorsports Park with its world class collection of vintage motorcycles and Lotus race cars.

In June we will join with our Peachtree Section friends to cheer on Peachtree past presidents Ken Jarrett and Jim Mitchell as they compete in "The Great Race" vintage rallye starting from Chattanooga on 10 June, in Ken's 1968 280 SL.

On July 16 we will join with both Peachtree and Central Georgia sections for a very special visit to the Infantry Museum in Columbus, Georgia. This is great interactive experience that will help family members of those who have served in the U.S. military over the last 70 years understand what life was like for them.

In late April Alabama Section Vice-President Bob Hinds and I will be attending the MBCA national board meeting and "Startech" national

event in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Please let us know about any issues you would want to bring up to the board. This will be the last Startech before our proposed Startech National meeting in 2013. Bob and I will be driving, so you are welcome to join us to learn about how this event is handled.

With all this activity our new officers and board members have stepped up to enthusiastically address their new responsibilities. Brenda Brown has graciously agreed to be Treasurer, and Carl Cullison is helping with the transition. Carl would also like to have someone else help with the website.

Ian Lamb has taken the next step to establish a Facebook Page for Alabama Section.

It is really nice to have such a talented group of Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts work with us. We are always looking for more people to help everyone gain more enjoyment. If you want to be more involved, we will be delighted to include you.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

- 17- Stammtisch (monthly meeting)
- 20-23- Heimatfest (MBCA Regional event)

June

- 10-11- The Grest Race Sendoff- Chattanooga, TN
- 20- Stammtisch (monthly meeting)

July

- 16- Infantry Museum Tour- Columbus, GA
- 17- Defensive Driving- Atlanta, GA
- 19- Stammtisch (monthly meeting)

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das Heimatblatt

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Coming Events

Heimatfest 2011

20-23 May

We have made arrangements with a Drury Inn that is convenient to Barber Motorsports Park and the other venues. As you probably know, Drury's policy is to have a hot breakfast and even hot snacks and drinks in the evening. We have found that the rooms are up to date and clean. The hotel is in an upscale area, and the parking area is gated. There should be no anxiety for your cars.

We have also negotiated a discounted rate of \$79, but you must contact them by 23 April to get this rate.

The only downside is that they will not let us connect a hose outside to wash cars. Fortunately our Vice President, Bob Hinds, lives nearby, and can accommodate up to four cars at once for washing and detailing. There are also several detailing services in the area.

This year the events begin by noon on Friday, 20 May at Barber Motorsports Park with a special paddock visit for our members. I will be racing my Lotus 47, so, of course, everyone is welcome in my paddock area. Of even more interest to most will be the 25-30 Formula One cars from the 1969-1981 era. Legends of Motorsports will conduct a tour of these and other significant cars in early afternoon on Friday. By 3-3:30 pm (central time) MBCA and other clubs will have a "rallye": more like an escorted high [40-50mph] speed parade over the 15 miles from the Barber Motorsports Park to the very upscale Mountain Brook Village in English Tudor or German "Fachwerk" where the cars will be arranged around the center circle. There are many unique shops, restaurants, and bars in this area as well as the Birmingham Botanical Gardens with its extensive rose garden and traditional Japanese Gardens. We will provide guided shopping and garden tours.



Elton B. Stephens and his 300 SL roadster in last years "rallye"

The vintage race cars will leave the track around 5pm to arrive by 5:30 in



Entrance to Barber Motorsports Park

the village. They will assemble in the center of the circle.

We have reserved the balcony of "Avo" restaurant for 6pm. This overlooks the assembled club cars and race cars, and the food is great!

On Saturday you will have many choices:

- 1) There will be another shopping tour to a new outlet mall near the Barber Motorsports Park.
- 2) There is another garden tour to Aldridge Gardens which developed the "snowflake" version of the native Oak Leaf Hydrangea. These 6-14" white flowers should be in full bloom as will our stately 80 foot tall Magnolia trees.
- 3) There are a variety of scenic drives through our mountainous but lightly traveled roads. We have routes of 1 1/2 -6 hours.
- 4) The Barber Museum's collection of 1600 motorcycles and 50+ Lotus race cars both qualify it as the largest in each category. They also have cars and motorcycles that have taken the top awards at Pebble Beach and Goodwood and others that have been featured at both the Guggenheim and Balboa Art Museums.

We have arranged discounted admission to the museum and are arranging morning and afternoon guided tours of the Lotus car collection for our participants.

- 5) There will be practice and qualifying for the Saturday and Sunday afternoon races. Due to the ages of the cars, Saturday is the first half of each race.

Bobby Rahal's Legends of Motorsports attempts to attract the very highest quality and historically



SPECIAL REGIONAL EVENT

HEIMATFEST

20 May- 23 May 2011
Birmingham, Alabama

- Vintage races at Barber Motorsports Park
- Concours d'Elegance and entrants choice classes at the beautiful Barber Motorsports Park
- Visit to the Mercedes-Benz Museum
- Tour the Mercedes-Benz US Factory
- Visit to Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum
- Scenic Drives
- Shopping and Garden Tours
- Social Events Every Evening

**For more information: <http://section.mbca.org/Alabama>
or jertoosaver@bellsouth.net
Jim Roberts at (800) 228-2997**



Legends of Motorsports 20-23 May 2011 Registration for Mercedes-Benz Heimatfest , Lotus Legends & Ferrari Festa and MOB, INC

Name: _____ Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ Cell Phone: (that you will have with you): (_____) _____

Registration fee: \$10 per person Total # of registrants: _____ Total fee: \$ _____

Your registration for Heimatfest includes concours d'elegance, the Mercedes-Benz Factory tour on Monday and drives on Friday & Saturday.

Car(s)	Model	Type	Year	Silver Star Eligible?
1.	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Admission tickets are required to enter the park and park in the car corral area. These can be purchased at www.artscenter.com/depends/Default.aspx?TicketSales.aspx or 877-332-7884. You will need to say that you would like to be in the Mercedes-Benz, Ferrari, M.D.R. Inc. or Lotus car corral and be driving these cars in order to receive the discounted rate of \$25 a day per person or a 3-day pass for \$50/person. The 3-day pass includes exclusive paddock access on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday and will allow you to participate in the rally to Mountain Brook Village on Friday. These passes are discounted 20% if you had car corral passes for the Indy car race.

Barber Museum Passes:

Discount passes are available to the Barber Motorsports Museum for 12.00/day.

Total passes ordered: _____ Total for passes: \$ _____

Friday Reservations:

Friday rally to Mountain Brook Village	Yes _____	No _____
<i>Note: To participate in the rally you must purchase the 3-day car corral pass from Barber</i>		
Dinner at Avo	\$ _____	
Shopping tour	\$ _____	
Botanical Garden tour	\$ _____	

Saturday Reservations:

Car Corral	Yes _____	No _____
Track touring at lunchtime	Yes _____	No _____
Tour of Barber Motorsports Museum	\$ _____	
Dinner at Village Tavern	\$ (people) _____	\$ (cars) _____
Scenic Drives:		
<i>"The Copperhead" - ALA 25 and Morgan Creek Memory- 2hr</i>	Yes _____	No _____
<i>Mt. Cheaha/Motorsports Hall of Fame/Tokodays Speedway- 4hr</i>	Yes _____	No _____
<i>Little River Canyon National Park- 5 hrs round trip</i>	Yes _____	No _____

Sunday Reservations:

Concours d'elegance	Yes _____	No _____
<i>Note: Participation in the concours is a prerequisite for the MBUSA factory tour</i>		
Track touring at lunchtime	Yes _____	No _____
Tour of Barber Motorsports Museum	\$ _____	
Dinner at ZEA	\$ _____	

Factory Tour: Visitors to the factory must be registered in the concours and have a photo id. Additional rules for the factory tour can be found on our website: www.arts.org/mbhhome

_____ Yes I would like to participate in the MBUSA factory tour

Additional person joining me on the factory tour: _____

Host Hotel: Drury Inn & Suites Southeast located at the Coliseum at the intersection of U.S. 280 and I-69. The discounted rate for Mercedes-Benz Club and Lotus Club participants is \$79.99 + tax for 1 or 2 beds. Contact them at: www.druryhotels.com or 205-967-2458. Hotel Reservations must be made by April 21 to receive the discounted rate.

Total # participants	_____	\$ _____
Total # museum passes	_____	\$ _____
Total due:		\$ _____

Mail this completed form with check or money order payable to:
Alabama Section, MBCA, 2301 Arlington Ave. S., Suite 201, Birmingham, AL 35205.

For questions call 205-933-5833 or 800-228-2937

Coming events

Continued from page 4

accurate vintage race cars that you rarely see in North America. The beautiful park like, setting and F-1 approved track is a wonderful place for these historic machines to race wheel to wheel in relative safety. You can see 70-80% of the track from the concours area where there will be a hospitality tent for your comfort.



Car corral at last years Heimatfest

We have another nice restaurant reserved for Saturday night which will also reserve us a parking area near the door. Again, we need a head and car count for space.

Sunday is the main show and race day, so there should be even more spectators admiring our star cars. This will be an MBCA participants judged show plus Silver Star Preservation awards.

On Friday and Saturday from 12-1 and on Sunday from 11-12 our participants will get to drive a few laps on the fantastic Barber Track. They don't allow racing speeds but most tell me it is rather brisk!

Sunday night we have another dining experience that will give us a chance to go over last minute details of our Monday visit to the Mercedes-Benz US International Factory about 35-40 minutes from the hotel.

MBUSI would like for us to assemble by 8-8:30 at the visitors' center/museum/gift shop. They want us to double up as much as possible to minimize the impact on the parking for factory visitors.

There is yet another gift shop in the factory where you can buy the same shirts the workers wear.



We get a very special tour, because I've told them we want to know as much as possible about the cars. Every time we go it is different, and we go once or twice each year. This time we will visit factory one, because factory two is starting to prepare for 2013 production of the next generation C-class.

Members visiting MBUSI last year

Follow Me!

*1100 hr July 16, 2011
Columbus, GA*

Event Planners:

Charles Utrias (Middle Georgia)

Ernie Smallman (Peachtree)

Jim Roberts (Alabama)

Follow Me past the statue of Iron Mike at the entrance to the 190,000 square foot National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center to their new ten million cost plus privately funded site that is the cornerstone for the history for the Queen of Battle, the Infantry Branch of the U.S. Army. The event staff of the museum has arranged for dedicated parking for our group with shuttle service from the parking area to the museum for those fearful of participating in the South Georgia July heat version of the Bataan Death March. The shuttle will run from 1030 hr to 1115 hr.

The shuttle will deliver you to the World War II (WW II) company street chapel, a cool respite to wait for others to join us for the tour that begins promptly



National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center

at 1100 hr. The authentic WWII Company Street includes seven era barracks, a headquarters building utilized by General George Patton's third Armored Division training for deployment to the European theater, other assorted structures, and a "mess hall". The tour of this area will conclude at 1200 hr in the chow hall with a catered lunch featuring:

-Cole slaw, potato salad, baked beans, roasted corn on the cob, and dill pickle spears

-From the grill ½ lb Angus Beef Hamburgers (w/ Kaiser Rolls and fixings plus Swiss and cheddar cheese) and Herb Marinated Chicken Breasts

-Fresh Fruit Cobbler

Coming events

We will depart for a short trek at 1245 hr to the first world class museum to pay tribute to the U.S. Army Infantryman and his two hundred and thirty year history. The museum and WWII village tours will be in guided groups of twenty attendees. The museum traces the history of the Infantry from Colonial times to Afghanistan in a series of era galleries that feature a state of the art immersion experience which allows attendees to taste the bitter air of battle and touch the sacred soil of our nations defining moments.

The guided tour will conclude at 1515 hr (3:15 in the afternoon for civilian types) followed by a forty-five minute I-Max film of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Drink and snack during the movie are included. Those electing to do so at 1600 hr will traverse to the M-4 rifle simulator at an adjoining rifle range.



General George Patton's headquarters building and sleeping quarters are the only fully-preserved set of series 700 buildings in existence. The structures are fully furnished with realistic touches like period music, photos and furniture

You can experience semi-automatic and single shot burst simulation in the same trainer currently utilized for training twentieth century infantry marksmen. The shuttle will return you to the designated parking area after the museum tour, IMAX presentation, or M-4 simulator exercise.

Those wishing to dine before leaving the area can do so at a cost above the registration fee in a group at Chef Lee's Peking, located in Columbus fifteen minutes and twelve miles from the museum. Chef Lee's has been serving Columbus for over forty years and is described in one review as having cuisine "on par with New York and San Francisco Chinatown restaurants" with "fantastic décor". Chef Lee's has the "best Peking Duck served anywhere in the south" from another national review. Entrees are reasonably priced.

Tour of the Infantry Museum Columbus, GA

Saturday 16, July 2011

Name of Attendee(s): _____

Guests: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ e-mail: _____

Total: \$40.00 per person for tour, of WWII Street and museum, buffet lunch, I-Max presentation of Lewis and Clark

\$10.00 for marksmanship simulator

\$ _____

Please make checks payable to Peachtree Section, Mercedes Benz Club of America and respond by 08 July 2011 so the caterer can prepare. The museum needs adequate notice to arrange for the guides we will require.

Send reservation form and fee to Ernest Smallman, 2008 Forest Avenue, Columbus, GA 31906

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Event Recap

Amelia Island

Exotic Cars, Famous People, and MBCA

Since my friend, Bill Warner, called some of his collecting friends to show their cars on the fairway of the Ritz Carlton at Amelia Island eleven years ago the event has grown into the premier concours d'élégance of the east. Mercedes-Benz has always been one of the main sponsors and has a display with test drives of the latest models as well as a pavilion at the show field of historic street and race cars from the Mercedes-Benz Museum. In addition to that they had Bobby Rahal and Stirling Moss to sign autographs.

The absolute greatest treat, however was seeing the 1886 Benz "Patent Wagen" actually drive from the hotel to the display area under its own power:

125 years old, and the first automobile and first Benz ever still runs! The Classic Center technician who drove it declined to do the same for the 1886 Daimler, since it really takes two people to operate it, and the brakes are simply small wooden blocks that slide on the tires—just like the carriage it was made from. He said it was far too dangerous to actually drive.

This year's featured marques were Deussenberg for street (there were at least 30 present). That is more than you see on a visit to the Auburn-Cord Deussenberg Museum in Auburn, Indiana. Indianapolis race cars were the racing "marque".

Bobby Rahal was the honored guest, and many of his race cars including the Lotus 47 like I raced at Barber last year and Montgomery native Pat Ryan's Indy car that Rahal drove to victory in 1986 Indy 500. Pat, Bobby, and I race vintage cars with each other with great passion as none of us likes to lose.

The Mercedes-Benz concours contestants consisted of 300SL Roadster and Gullwing as well as a brace of 300 4-doors: a 4-door hardtop, an "Adenauer" 4-door cabriolet, and a Coachbuilt station wagon. I had never seen the wagon other than in photographs.

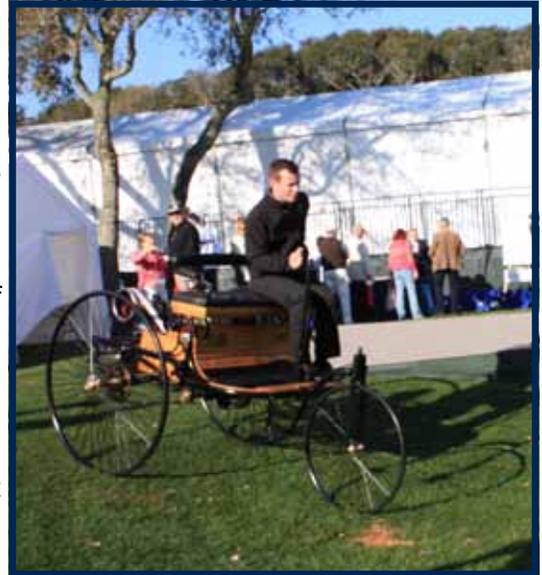


1910 Mercedes

These were balanced by a brace of very special 600's, dubbed, "the singer", "the saint", and "the sinner" for their owners Pavarotti, Pope Paul VI (complete with its Landau top, throne, papal seal, and Vatican license plate), and Hugh Hefner respectively. Tommy Cosgrove wondered out loud whether the seats had been cleaned in that one. It was presented complete with Playboy bunny.

The Bugatti and Ferrari areas made us salivate as well. The latter contained the Brock Yates/Dan Gurney 365 GTB Daytona that won the first "Cannonball Run" to protest "The dumbest law since prohibition" the 55 mph speed limit. When asked how fast the car would go, Dan Gurney laconically replied, "We never exceeded 175mph".

My former mechanic, Rick Cline and his friend Jack actually did a faster time from New York to Las Angeles—by one minute in 35 hours 58 minutes a couple of years later in a 2 liter (Ferrari) Dino (like the one in the Barber Museum). It was also displayed and Jack still owns it.



*1886 Benz Patentwagen
moving on its own power*



1934 Mercedes-Benz 570K

There was an entire program by the participants in the various "Cannonball Runs" that read like a "Who's who" of auto enthusiasts and race driving: Brock Yates (Car and Driver), Dan Gurney (race driver: Formula One, LeMans, NASCAR), Pete Brock (designers of the Corvette "Stingray" and Cobra Daytona Coupe), Oscar Koveleski (Can-Am race driver and founder of the Polish Race Team), Bill (The NASCAR hat man), Bill Warner (wealthy industrialist, race car driver, and really nice guy who offered to let me drive with him in it one year), Judy Stropus (Ms. Timing and Scoring and my student at a racing school). That's only the half of the panel that I knew. Their hilarious stories were the same I have heard from some of them for years. All of them together was priceless.

Bob, Tommy and I were able to see the cars that were in the auction. Some were interesting, but most were not presented as well as most of our MBCA members do for a local concours.

The other famous people: TV's Wayne Carini (Chasing Classic Cars), David Hobbs (Formula One on Speed), the guys from Two Guys Garage, race drivers: Bobby Rahal, Stirling Moss, Dan Gurney, Don Prudhomme, Don Garlits, Denise McCluggage, Janet Guthrie, Lyn St. James, Brian Redman, Sam Posey, Hurley Haywood, then literary: William Jeeves (Car and Driver), Pete Lyons, Keith Crain (Autoweek), Matt Delorenzo (Road and Track), Dan Davis (Victory Lane), Keith Martin (Sports Car Market News), Matt Stone (Motor Trend).

The list goes on and on. These are just the ones I saw. Tommy got several autographs for his Ferrari owners' manual.

Best of all, we ran into several MBCA leaders including Eastern Region Director, Bill Hopper(D.C.), Central Region Director, Cliff Reyle (Memphis), Northeast Region Director, Doug Nees (Toronto) and presidents of 6-7 sections as well as The Star columnists Pierre Hordny and John Bleimaier and a host of Peachtree and Central Georgia Section friends.



Mercedes-Benz Ponton 1958

The whole event has become truly world class, and Mercedes-Benz is a major player. Put it on your calendar for next year. If you wear your MBCA shirt, people think you are part of Mercedes-Benz and ask if they may sit in the display cars. You can blithely reply, "I don't mind"....

*Pope Paul VI's
600 Pullman
Mercedes-Benz limousine with its
"Landau" top that would fold down
and papal throne that would rise
up from the rear seat.*

*Note the Vatican license plate with
number 1 (of course).*

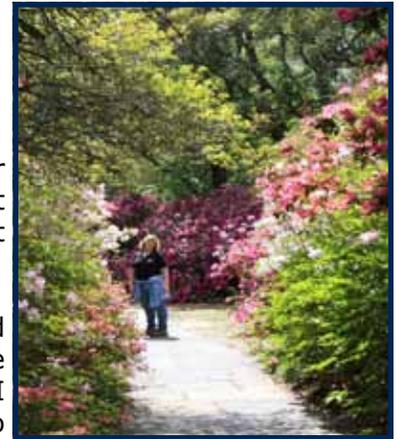


Event Recap

Mobile and Bellengrath Garden

David Rice had planned a great event in Mobile and made arrangements for discounted rooms at a very nice LaQuinta Inn and for discounted admission at the renowned Bellengrath Gardens. David also made arrangements at great restaurants for the normally very busy Friday and Saturday nights.

We also visited Mercedes-Benz of Mobile where we were warmly welcomed by General Manager, Jim Sullivan who outlined exciting building plans for the dealership. He reminded us that they had filmed a commercial at the MBUSI Factory at Vance (between Birmingham and Tuscaloosa). We promised to return at the projected November completion of construction for a tour of the new facility.



Dodie Roberts admiring the gardens

Continuing south to Bellengrath Gardens we were gasping at the profusion of color from the giant Azalea shrubs which have become 15-30 foot tall trees in the 80 years since their planting. Colorful plants were in full bloom on this 70 degree day with brisk winds that conveniently blew the pollen away. There is no place in the world that is better suited to the giant Azalea than Mobile. We were all gasping as we worked for 2 ½ hours through forests of these and other subtropical plants as well as a natural preserve showing the indigenous plants and animals of this part of the Mobile Bay estuary.



Bellengrath Gardens

An additional treat was a history and ecology cruise on the Fowl River. We were fortunate enough to spot a pair of rare nesting Ospreys and learned more about the ecology and history of Mobile Bay which is home to 20% of the animals in the Northern Gulf of Mexico.

After a visit to his home, David's final treat was the popular Oyster House Restaurant on the Mobile causeway. The taste of the truly fresh seafood along the Gulf Coast simply can't be duplicated very far inland. David was able to even enhance the great food with his own garnishments. As he said, "Not bad for a Minnesota Yankee!"

Indy Car and Grand Prix Race at Barber Motorsports Park

Many thanks to those who brought their great cars to the car corral at the Grand Prix of Alabama at Barber Motorsports Park featuring the Grand-Am Sportscars and the Indy Cars.

Many more were disappointed as the car corral filled early with its ideal position just 100 yards from the hospitality tent/ fan zone and even closer to the ideal shaded and most popular spectator area that was really packed for the entire weekend. Be sure to make your reservations early for next year.



Mercedes-Benz car corral at Indy Car/ Grand Prix race at Barber Motorsports Park

It was nice to see so many familiar faces and cars and to meet other Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts who were not aware of MBCA. Most seemed inclined to join if they had not already done so. We are looking forward to even more participation at our upcoming Heimatfest.

Event Recap



Race fans admire the Mercedes-Benz car corral

Legends of Motorsports President, Rena Shanaman, and owner, Indy 500 winner and Indy car series Champion, Bobby Rahal, paid us a visit. Bobby and Rena were both impressed with the cars and asked us to be sure to bring them to the 20-22 May Legends of Motorsports vintage race that Heimatfest is built around this year. They feel that this area is a real center for auto enthusiasts nationally. Their very up-scale vintage event fits so well.



James Coate's 1953 300d (Adenauer)

We are truly blessed to have MBUSI, the Mercedes-Benz Museum branch, Barber Motorsports Museum and Track, the Motorsports Hall of Fame Museum and Talladega Superspeedway that are all the finest facilities in their respective fields in such close proximity. This would be like having the Louvre, Berlin's Pergamon, and the Vatican Museum all centered around Zurich! We will try to cover at least three of the five at Heimatfest.

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In Der Presse

All 3 Bama Benz Models Increase Sales

The Birmingham News reported sales of the ML increased 29.6% in March 2011 vs 2010. The GL increase was 4% while the R-class was up a whopping 77%.

Typically sales decline in the last year or two of a model's run. The new ML is due to be released by summer. 2010 sales were up from 2009 & 2008, so this is really counter to typical trends that are showing a decline in SUV sales due to sharply higher fuel prices.

Mercedes-Benz is unique in this segment by offering both diesels and hybrid versions of SUV's that have 25-30% lower fuel consumption than competitors' vehicles. By contrast sales of the Alabama built Honda Pilot SUV fell 8 %.

Sales Increase

Alabama built Mercedes-Benz vehicles continued significant U.S. sales increases in Feb 2011 vs 2010:

ML sales increased 23 percent
GL increased 15 percent
And R Class sold 40 percent more than in Feb 2010
Mercedes-Benz overall sales were up 4 percent.

Daimler, AG to hire 10,000 globally

Mercedes-Benz parent company, Daimler, AG with production, sales, and service facilities all over the world announced plans for hiring an additional 10,000 people this year. The Alabama Factory is not part of this, but its workforce will be substantially augmented as the construction and equipment installation is completed for C-class production which should begin in 2013.

Mercedes-Benz exports from Alabama

The Birmingham News reported Alabama exports rose dramatically in 2010 led by Mercedes-Benz US international which accounts for about 1/4 of all exports from the state. MBUSI's shipments to other countries led by Germany, Canada, and Mexico increased 29%.

The MBUSI Factory in Alabama exports 65% of its production. No other company in Alabama is even close to this level.

MBUSI hires 600

Mercedes-Benz US International in Vance has completed hiring 600 additional "temporary" workers to supplement the full time workforce of 2800.

Neues aus Mercedes-Benz

New ML Nears Production

Trial production of the third generation ML has been going on at the Mercedes-Benz US International Factory in Alabama since November with occasional 2012 models coming down the line. The frequency has now increased, and you might be seeing slightly disguised examples driving around the area.

They appear to look more like current GL and GLK with the distinctive ML angled "C" pillar. The headlights appear to wrap around more due to the more angled front fascia.

The new ML will be introduced for sale sometime in the summer as a 2012 model.



A camouflaged production trial model of the 2012 Mercedes-Benz M-Class SUV was spotted near the automaker's Vance factory last week. The redesigned SUV will be launched on the market this summer. (The Birmingham News Photo/Tamika Moore)

It will also serve as a reference if you lose your newsletter

Visit to stay informed on the exciting events planned
and registration information.

<http://sections.mbc.org/alabama>

We have a new web address!



Mercedes-Benz Club of America
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Birmingham, AL 35205