



Das Heimatblatt

Sternblick (Star View)

September 2020

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ALABAMA / NORTHWEST FLORIDA

President's Message

Dear Alabama/Northwest Florida Section Members,

Wild swings in the Corona Virus statistics have set our country on edge. To mask or not mask takes on a Call of the Wild tempo. In the novel we all read as kids, our hero lived by the mantra kill or be killed. Eat or be eaten. It is a fact that the virus is spread by aerosol droplets. Block the droplets. Wear a mask in public.

Sometimes facts and common sense need to override emotions.

Enough of that. We have had several actual driving, technical, and social activities since Alabama and Florida lockdowns were lifted a bit on 1 May while following CDC Social Distancing, and mask guidelines. One of the best was the beautiful drive Jim Roberts arranged taking us through some close by mountain scenery , the view and lunch at Blount county's Palisades Park culminated with a spiritually up lifting tour of the Blessed Sacrament Church and abbey in Cullman. By the way the original name of Cullman was the German version, Kulhmann. Another fun drive is scheduled for the end of July ending up at the Guntersville Yacht and Sailing Club. We will continue to arrange fun trips with the safety of our members first and foremost.

A name change is in our future. In the recent past, we absorbed the membership located on the Gulf coast of Alabama and the Florida panhandle. Going forward with the results of the recent board member poll , our new name will become *Alabama/Northwest Florida Section*.

Other issues of financial problems our national club has recently experienced hopefully will be corrected with new membership programs. To attract more members, Mercedes is upping the current rebate program and dealers are encouraged to promote membership with the purchase or lease of new Benz.

Please keep the families of our recently deceased members , Ken Champlin and Bob Steber in your thoughts and prayers. Ken was our former section president and was very instrumental in the success of Starfest 2018. His energy and positive personality will be missed ! Bob was a more recent member and coincidentally recruited by Ken and was very fond of our driving adventures. Both passed away in June of non - Corvid causes.

Stay safe and protect others.

Jim Sparacio

Schedule Of Events

July

- 25 Bucks Pocket, Lake Guntersville, Car Collection
- 28 Huntsville Stammtisch

August

- 8 Gulf Coast Drive & Stammtisch
- 29 Tech with Klink MB Irondale
Birmingham
- 18 Birmingham Stammtisch
- 25 Huntsville Stammtisch

September

- 4-5 Sandhills Motoring Festival -Cancelled
- 12 Drive to Blackwater SP & Defuniak
Springs, Florida Panhandle
- 15 Birmingham Stammtisch
- 22 Huntsville Stammtisch

October

- 17 Drive to Rattlesnake Saloon
and Dismals Canyon
- 20 Birmingham Stammtisch
- 27 Huntsville Stammtisch

November

- 7 Mt. Drive or Coast Drive
- 17 Birmingham Stammtisch
- 26 Huntsville Stammtisch
- 7 Performance Driving
Talladaga Grand Prix Raceway

December

- 5 Nord Weihnachtsfest
- 13 Süd Weihnachtsfest

Please watch your email for possible changes

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ALABAMA/NORTHWEST FLORIDA
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das Heimatblatt

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Stammtisch *noun* <Regular's Table>

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

Editors Note: My apologies to all for lateness of this newsletter. I had a bout with the Covid-19 virus , I ran a fever for 14 days, Visited the Huntsville Hospital Emergency Room for an evaluation. Was given a steroid and I recovered rapidly afterwards. But Now I cannot smell a thing, and what really bummed me, was my mind was foggy for several weeks, concentration was an effort. But now I am feeling pretty well except lack of smell and taste.



°°°°°North 2020
Holiday Party
December 5th
**AT THE CLUB
BIRMINGHAM**

Lunch with Friends, enjoy a delicious meal, view the city, start the Holidays!

Watch emails for more information

NEWS

Section Member WINS !!!

Congratulations to Sonja Jiles, Mobile



Winner of the Summer 2020
MBCA Raffle.

Section Business:

Scott Paul, Long time Section member and a Member of the Section Board has moved to Dallas.

Election October: We will elect a New "Board Member at Large"
Watch your email for details

Thank You Scott!

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 17, A drive to Dismals Canyon, Natural Bridge, and Lunch at the Rattle Snake Saloon

Jim Roberts leads this drive

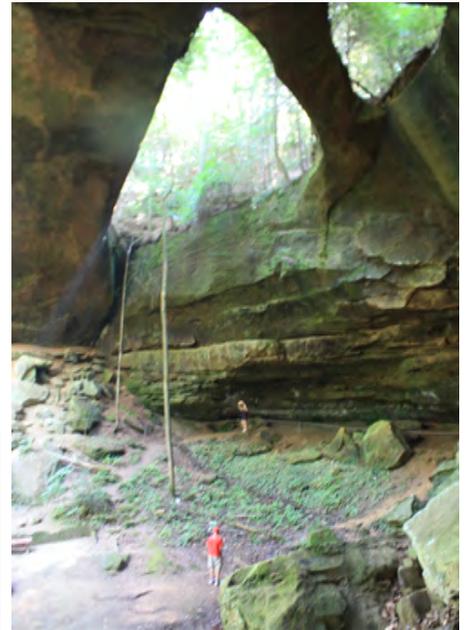
Last September the Members of our section drove to beautiful Forests and natural delights of Western Alabama. This year we will again drive to the Natural Bridge, Dismal Canyon, and Lunch at the unique Rattle Snake Saloon.

We will gather at Mercedes-Benz of Birmingham, Irondale Campus at 7:30 am with departure by 8:30. A 70+ mile drive along beautiful undeveloped countryside of I-22 where we will exit the interstate and travel the Forested roadway to Natural Bridge, a short 30 minute stop, then to lunch at the Rattle Snake Saloon. Sitting under an ancient rock formation, makes this one of the most unique settings for any restaurant.



Rattle Snake Saloon

Dismals Canyon



Natural Bridge

After lunch we stop at Dismals Canyon, a micro ecosystem left over from the last ice age 10,000-15,000 years ago with wild Hemlock, Fir, Sugar Maple and other flora from 1000 miles north of Alabama today mixed with our native poplar (largest in Alabama), Dogwood, etc. The rock formations and clear brook running through it remind me of the Teutoburg Wald, Schsische Schweiz, or Schwbische Alb near my home in Germany.



This November 7 th

Performance Driving at Talladega Grand Prix Raceway Near Munford, AL

We will be partnering with the local chapter of the Ferrari Club of America to use this 1.5 mile 6 turn road course that is located near the base of Alabama's tallest mountain.

This is an executive track for novices or to improve your skills with plenty of runoff areas free of obstacles. This is not a race, but we will teach you the basics of Performance Driving Skills. This will not only make you appreciate your Mercedes-Benz's engineered design, but it may save your life.

Toto Wolf is not going to call you Monday morning to test the Mercedes-AMG Formula One car even if you are the fastest driver, but you will have fun!

Cost is \$279 and we will rotate sessions all day. You should get 6-8 sessions.

Contact Jim Roberts for more details Also will be posted via email

Herzlich Willkommen!

(Sincere Welcome)

To our **Members, 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 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, Read back issues of The STAR, view articles for Enthusiasts, Classifieds, Tech articles, all with your Mercedes Benz Club of America membership.

<https://www.mbca.org>

Thank You to our Renewing Members

Marie Nelson	Pensacola, Florida
Heinz Neunzig	Tuscaloosa, Alabama
Curtis Pilot	Point Clear, Alabama
Donald Robbins	Andalusia, Alabama
Jim Sparacio	Birmingham, Alabama
David Stallworth	Monroeville, Alabama
Elton Stephens	Birmingham, Alabama
Sherif Tewfik	Tallahassee, Florida
Susan Warner	Tuscaloosa, Alabama
Steve Watkins	Birmingham, Alabama
Charles Wells	Decatur, Alabama
Richard Williams	Decatur, Alabama
Michael Wilson	Pensacola, Florida
Daniel Zirbes	Fairhope, Alabama

WE now have 188 Members

Welcome New Members

Lisa Machesney *	Destin, Florida
William Sackheim *	Gulf Breeze, Florida
Tommie Lacefield *	Niceville, Florida
Chris Preston	Athens, Alabama
Christopher Edwards*	Athens, Alabama
James Jones	Dothan, Alabama
Stewart Ramsey	Pensacola, Florida
Brian White	Birmingham, Alabama
Michael Robinson	Mobil, Alabama
Quill Briggs	Albertville, Alabama
Wade Ramsey	Birmingham, Alabama



Donald Allinder	Birmingham, Alabama
Darrell Bittle	Fort Walton Beach, Florida
Doug Bloomberg	Meridianville, Alabama
Michael Brown	Pensacola, Florida
Frederick Bryan	Milton, Florida
Tate Casey	Chelsea, Alabama
Barry Cline	Huntsville, Alabama
Harold Cochran	Alexander City, Alabama
Tommy Cosgrove	Birmingham, Alabama
Jeff Davis	Birmingham, Alabama
Rick Dodd	Oneonta, Alabama
Christopher Downs	Opelika, Alabama
Terrel Fears	Huntsville, Alabama
W Patrick Harkins	Birmingham, Alabama
Oliver Harris	Huntsville, Alabama
Scott Harvey	Langston, Alabama
Sonya Jiles	Mobile, Alabama
Edward Jones	Birmingham, Alabama
David Kalinkiewicz	Birmingham, Alabama
John Kirk	Madison, Alabama
James Kotis	Mobile, Alabama
Tommie Lacefield	Niceville, Florida
Roman Legdan	Tallahassee, Florida
Stephen Levet	Hoover, Alabama
Robin Losh	Dothan, Alabama
Ted Love	Destin, Florida
Carlton Mason	Tallassee, Alabama
Stephan Mihacevich	Destin, Florida
Jimmy Moore	Cullman, Alabama

Viewing the New Members this quarter. We have noticed many Mercedes Owners who look to other means to travel the Highways of America. Note the * above



AIRSTREAM Interstate

We heartily Welcome the Benz owners who, travel in Luxury and bring their home with them.

I count almost a dozen Mercedes Members who own one of these beauties. A thought is why not an Organized weekend camping of Benz Class B campers. With an invitation to other Section members to join for a combined picnic, bar-b-que! Send your thoughts to MBCA.Alabama@gmail.com

Birmingham Car Shows/driveins resume.

The Birmingham area has several car culture events that are resuming with the COVID restrictions. Masks are required.

Dixie Vintage organizes a cruise-in on the first Saturday morning from 7-11 am at Hoover Tactical . This is mostly older mostly domestic cars. There are a few Mercedes-Benz, air cooled VW's and the occasional BMW or Porsche.

Birmingham Octane meets on the second Saturday morning from 7:30-11:30 am at the lower level of The Summit (i.e. in front of Flemming's and Saks Fifth Avenue). There are all types of cars, but most are newer, performance oriented cars. There are many more Mercedes-Benz vehicles, including 2 door G-Wagen and Sprinter off road along with several AMG's including our current raffle car. The E63 station wagon drew their biggest crowd of all. There are also several vendors.

There were 250-300 cars and many times that many spectators. We definitely need a presence at this event.

A similar event in Atlanta draws 1200 cars and 10,000 spectators.



Sept 22 Huntsville Stammtisch

Gary Andrew and son Neal joined members at Hildegard's German Cuisine. They met us in their beautiful 1966 230 SL. The Pagoda was purchased in 1978, as he was serving one of three Army tours in Germany.

Recently as father and son they restored the car. See upcoming story in "The Star"

Please welcome them to our
Alabama/NW Florida Section

The Rear View Mirror

Looking at Past Events

Despite The Nations Lock Down
The Alabama/Northwest Florida Section
Continues to be busy!

Our New Name

Since February the world has been in turmoil - Cancel this, postpone that, but our section goes on. For example, We changed our sections Name. Now we are the

The Alabama / Northwest Florida Section

Western Florida was merged with the Alabama Section. The Officers and Board Members felt the name change was appropriate as it represented All of our section's members. Also, this has encouraged the Members in Florida to put together and sponsor some interesting drives. Besides how many sections can claim to Have the Capitol cities of Two states as part of their section.

Within our section we have a unique opportunity to be with friends, sharing a passion for driving, viewing new vistas and favorite roads through the windscreens of our wonderful Mercedes Benz. When stopped, we know what we must do to be safe for our friends and loved ones. But on the road, it is as we had been just a year ago, open roads and conversation with family in our rides.

Alabama / NW Florida Section The first drive for our renamed Section

September 12, 2020

Blackwater State Forest to Defuniak Springs and Chautauqua Winery



Hurricane Lake, Florida

By Jim Roberts

Longtime Alabama-NW Florida Section member Ted Love grew up in Fairhope, AL and lives in Destin, FL as a retired airline pilot. He is also a motorcycle enthusiast who is very familiar with the roads in NW Florida as well as south Alabama and SW Georgia.

As those of you in the area know, there are many roads in Florida that don't have county road numbers. Even dirt roads in Alabama have county road numbers, if they are county maintained. It is therefore crucial to have someone with local knowledge like Ted to show us these treasures.

(continued)

I met Ted at our agreed starting place in late July and we preplan the course making notes and a few adjustments for road conditions, traffic, etc. Our mutual goal is to avoid traffic and traffic lights as much as possible. This drive is a treasure for both: we did not get delayed by a single car, and the only 2 traffic lights were at the end in Defuniak Springs.

People who don't live in Florida think of the state as primarily the beautiful beaches. This attraction makes the area along the coast extremely congested. I would venture that aside from Orlando, the vast majority of those north of the northern state line don't even stop except for fuel or potty before they reach their beach destination. The fact that the Emerald Coast is 4-6 hours from most of Alabama's population centers results in a mass exodus from these areas on Friday afternoon followed by a rush hour traffic returning on Sunday afternoon.

The drive that Ted laid out opens a beautiful world of "The Other Florida" for both coastal residents as well as those of "upper Alabama".

We assembled at the most prominent building in Holt, FL. The First Baptist Church, which was gracious enough to let us use their parking area.

Our participants from Birmingham to Pensacola to Destin brought cars ranging from a 1964 230 SL to a current SL63 AMG with a nicely spaced assortment from the 1970's, 80's, 90's, and 2010's. While I've heard complaints from some sections that only new cars are at their events, we always have a variety of models and years at ours.

On the way I had a nice run through the Conecuh National Forest on the Alabama side of the state line. Florida's Blackwater River State Forest abuts a major part of this creating a wonderfully extensive natural preservation/recreation area. It is really like a different world.



Two Jim's at Hurricane Lake Florida

Jim Roberts

Jim Sparacio

National Board Member

Section President

If you look at a map you will notice that US 90 is parallel to I-10. Look closer and you will see the railroad paralleling them both. Look even more closely and you will notice the "Old Spanish Trail" that connected St. Augustine and Pensacola and earlier Mobile. By the 18th century Mobile was French, so the Perdido river was an international border.

The reason for relocation of all four routes was topography. The roads followed the higher ground and crossed rivers where the crossing was easier. This left the low lying swampy or easily flooded areas relatively less populated and therefore more pristine for us and the wildlife.

We enjoyed a stop at Adventure Outfitters which features canoe trips of varying lengths on the Blackwater River system which is a myriad of delta like small streams. The name comes from the tannin of the Cypress Trees that also prevents mosquito larvae from developing.



Our picnic lunch at Hurricane Lake was far enough from the water to avoid attracting the numerous alligators.

We enjoyed surprisingly twisty roads with elevation change – even a true hairpin – the only one I know of in Florida and passed very close to the highest elevation in Florida at 340 ft.

Forest gave way to cotton fields and horse farms before reaching the prosperous town of Defuniak Springs. This was a railroad stop that resulted in the Chautauqua Institute from New York establishing the “daughter chapter” in 1880. This grew to require a 400 room hotel which burned in 1920 -24 and was never rebuilt. Remnants of the Chautauqua assembly are still visible as the Presbyterian Church and the Brotherhood building. The nearby library is the oldest public library in Florida even though St. Augustine is the oldest permanent city in the US.

The Chautauqua movement and timber certainly left some impressive homes around the spring fed lake. There is no outlet, but it seems to maintain a constant level.

The Chautauqua Winery has very pleasant grounds and a tasting room with a view of the vats and bottling. Many thanks to Ted Love for letting us see “The Other Florida” while enjoying our wonderful Mercedes-Benz cars.





Alabama/NW Florida Section *Tech with "Klink"* at Mercedes-Benz of Birmingham

August 29, 2020

BY Jim Roberts, DMD Event Planner
MBCA| Director at Large

COVID - 19 Guidelines

The COVID pandemic has forced us to adapt and completely rearrange our schedules to provide events that our members enjoy.

While some sections suspended all activities, and some developed innovative online activities, Alabama section has done a complete rearrangement of our schedule to allow real car and social events while following the Alabama COVID guidelines.

I have a scientific background in practicing what we refer to as "universal precautions" in dentistry as well as full operating room surgical sterility. I have worn not only a mask but cap, gown, eye protection and gloves 5 days a week for over 50 years. It has simply been a matter of adopting these principles to allow our members to have their own household members in the car with them, bring their own food which is eaten outside with the recommended social distancing from other households.

Scientifically this makes a mask redundant outdoors, but Alabama's Governor and Health Officer have mandated masks in all "public places" with multiple exemptions (e.g. being the speaker). You will note that everyone except the presenter is wearing a mask, because it was difficult to see and maintain 6 ft spacing.

Jim Roberts, DMD

Section Member and Master M-B diagnostic technician David "Klink" Kalenkiewicz went over several features of the current cars including letting us hear the sounds of starting and the direct injection which probably saved him answering questions about the unusual sounds or lack of sounds.

David seems to have total recall of the new pioneering mechanical features of all 15-18 member owned cars that ranged from current back to 1977 in a rather even progression with no duplicates. What could be better than a 40+ year historical technical progression to the present.

It was most gratifying to see a large number of participants ranging from 30+ years to several first event and new members.

Many thanks to Mercedes-Benz of Birmingham public events coordinator Eden Gosney as well as diagnostic technician David Kalenkiewicz for an enjoyable and stimulating event. The weather cooperated so well that most of our event took place outside. This was safer, freed the showroom for the many customers, and let us see and hear more cars.



Klink explaining the new GLS 580 SUV

Direct injected, dual turbo 4.0L V8 with EQ boost technology. 483HP 516 lb-ft torque

The EQ boost can add an additional 180 lb-ft torque and 20+ HP for a short period

Mike Black's, beautiful 1985 560 SEC with original paint.

Klink is explaining that 1985,86 560 SEC had a superior German engineered suspension, 1987 out DOT felt it had a better idea which completely changed for the detriment how the suspension reacted to acceleration and deceleration.



Here David is explaining the Clatter one hears from a direct injected engine. The direct injection is unusually noisy compared to the Multi Port injected Older Mercedes. But Mercedes' clever engineers have several layers of sound abatement materials. When installed ameliorate the noise heard.

Below removing some of the engine covers



The Bi-Turbo EQ technology V8

The twin turbos are on top of the engine, off to either side slightly. A water based intercooler is also on top. The Catalytic converters are snuggled very close to the turbos, this to insure quick warm up of the Cats.

Thank you Klink

Drive to Buck's Pocket and Guntersville State Parks

July 26, 2020

18 Alabama NW Florida section members, families, and friends participated in a drive across the Sand Mountain, Alabama plateau to Buck's Pocket and Guntersville State Park.

Participants ranged from teens to 70's and vehicles from 60's SL's to current G63 AMG.

The participants all dutifully wore masks and kept 6ft social distance between household units as per CDC and State guidelines.

We used 2 ways radios to be sure everyone makes each turn. Our first hundred twenty-five miles only had one traffic light!

The roads are well paved and great fun to drive with very light traffic.

The scenery is spectacular with dramatic views over the gorges at Buck's Pocket and over the massive Guntersville Lake.

Additional treats included a visit to an AMG collection as well as some of the most adorable baby animals ever. Following this we made our way to the Guntersville Sailing Club where Bill Hicks had made arrangements for us to use the club's pavilion for our picnic lunches. This was great, because we had a typical afternoon rain shower. I took advantage of this to squeeze and dry my car and have no spots.



By the end of July we have had 9 real Alabama NW Florida Section events since the first of May when the stay at home order was lifted. We also staged 8 events in Jan- Mid march with most of those being in the southern part of the section. It has taken a completely new schedule due to COVID-19 restrictions, but we have enjoyed mostly increased participation. We are fortunate to have enjoyed such mild, pleasant weather as well as members with flexible schedules and sensible behavior.

Jim Roberts, DMD
MBCA | Director at Large



© Jamie Tyler Photography

The Great Covid-19 Rallye

May 2, 2020 Jim Roberts,

After moving the date to allow Alabama's "Stay at Home" orders to soften, Alabama Section members gathered maintaining the 6 ft "social distancing" directive. We had to divide into two groups at the start to follow the guidelines. Our cars ranged from 1978 to 2018 models and included models ranging from classic sedans to SLK to Alabama built ML including both gas and diesel models.

The participants ranged from 19 to 77 years old, with 40% women. All were enthusiastic about Mercedes-Benz and driving, and fuel was very inexpensive.

After a very wet winter and spring the weather was perfect: 60's in the morning rising to about 80° in the afternoon.



After signing in and a brief tutorial on proper hand sanitizing and mask use we set out with the oldest cars first and the track ace Kristen Jebeles and her dad Dr. Chris Jebeles serving as the sweep car in their ML. It was easier for me to keep it in sight, and I knew she could keep up.

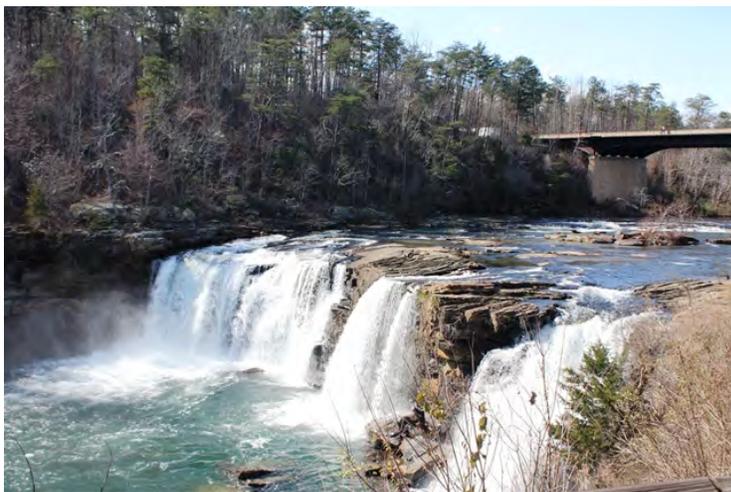
The first stop was at Gadsden's Nockalula falls. The recent rain had produced an inspiring display of the power of falling water. This is literally the southern end of Lookout Mountain which is a plateau., Little River is the only river in the U.S. that starts and flows its entire course on top of a mountain. Actually, it has cut the canyon so deep that it flows directly into Weiss lake. This makes for a dramatic canyon. The longest and deepest east of the Rocky Mountains. Fortunately for us Alabama has carved out a scenic road that runs along the rim of the canyon for 23 miles (i.e. up to the falls of Little River).

After a dramatic cornice road down the Eastern face of Lookout Mountain we entered the National Park Services Canyon Mouth Park area and made the steep ascent to the rim of the canyon. The road seems to be simply asphalt laid over the forest floor. The elevation changes are as dramatic as the turns. After a short tutorial on the technique of downshifting, using all the road/ lane width, and acceleration through the turns everyone kept up the pace and had great time. The biggest problem was that the most popular viewing areas were overfilled. We found a relatively empty one and we were soon overcrowded by a large group of motorcyclists who were most interested in our Mercedes-Benz cars. I recommended a restaurant that seems to be popular with motorcyclists, so they set off for it.

We found a nearby completely empty viewing/picnic area that we could completely fill while keeping the required 6 ft distance. We were able to make a round in this area and visit with each other. The vista of the canyon with hawks gliding just over our heads as these large birds used the updrafts from the sheer walls of the canyon was mesmerizing.

Continuing north we found a squadron of National Park Rangers directing us around the filled parking lot for the falls of Little River

I have been visiting the area for over 50 years and have never seen so many people taking advantage of this little known treasure. If this is any indication the future for economic recovery seems bright.



Little River Falls



Little River Falls

Covered Bridges and Medieval Italy

June 13, 2020

Jim Roberts, Event planner



As the COVID-19 restrictions are decreasing, Alabama Section members are responding with record participation in events. Perhaps the ideal weather: sunny, highs in the 70's with low humidity has played a role.

Mercedes-Benz of Birmingham provided wonderful breakfast treats from their in house branch of Edgar's Bakery. Our Huntsville group enjoyed similar faire at a favorite bagel shop.

Led by Doug Bloomberg from Huntsville and Jim Roberts from Birmingham the two groups took scenic routes to Oneonta (Own-é- own-ah) which was named after Oneonta, NY where about half picked up take-out barbeque. The others had brought lunch from home.



After carefully crossing the spectacular 74 foot high Horton Mill covered wooden bridge we proceeded along the narrower winding but little traveled back roads of Blount County to Palisades Park operated by the City of Oneonta.

We were able to find beautiful shaded picnic areas with enough space to allow the recommend 6ft physical spacing between family units. We found that we can easily converse in a quiet outdoor setting with the arrangements.



Shortly after Palisades the roads become wider and the topography allows more sweeping than tight turns. In fact, the countryside is reminiscent of the North Central Italian region of Umbria and Assisi. It is fitting then to find the 13th century of Italian Romanesque gothic "Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament" pilgrimage/cloister/church. This was built in the late 20th Century with inspiration from EWTN's Mother Angelica. It is always surprising that we invariably have a few who were previously unaware of this architectural and artistic jewel.

The photos here show the diversity of our member's cars: 1969 280 SL to current AMG's including Alabama built SUV and C-Class models.

Jim Roberts, DMD
MBCA| Director at Large



TIP!

Have you ever gotten out of your Mercedes locked to doors but forgot to roll up a window?

No need to get back into your vehicle, just stand about 4 or 5 ft from the drivers door. Aim the 'Smart' keyfob at the door handle, press and hold the lock button for 5 seconds. All of the windows will close. Also, push the unlock for 5 seconds, opens all of the windows

IN DEN NACHRICHTEN

(IN THE NEWS)

Much Mercedes news
this quarter

MBCA Rebates have increased Now you can Save up To \$6500.00

To take advantage of this great offer You must
go to this web page.

<https://www.mbca.org/mbusa-incentives>

MBCA primary members are eligible for exclusive rebates on the lease or purchase of select Mercedes-Benz vehicles. Members must login and scroll to the bottom of this page, click the **Generate Rebate button**, then submit their information. This will create a Control Number, CAN and Generated Date, to give to the participating dealer at time of purchase. After the form is submitted, the rebate information can be found at the bottom of the rebate page while logged in, or in the My Membership area of your Profile. If you have any problems generating your Rebate information, please contact the NBO at 800-637-2360 .

BUT

Along with the Above good news there is a dark side.
Daimler AG, Mercedes-Benz
has withdrawn their monetary support of our club.



How to compensate?

The Club has decided to cut costs overall. But this is not enough on it's own. there are new programs to retain Membership such as Auto Renew. <https://www.mbca.org/renew/national> (click auto renew YES)

From Peachtree's Stars in Georgia:

Many of you know that MBCA has been in a downward spiral with membership growth and retention. In January the club implemented the Auto-Renew program as way to help members insure that their memberships renew on time, never accidentally lapse, and relieve them of having to handle their membership renewal manually by either going on line or calling the office to renew their membership and most importantly to help stabilize the clubs cash flow. Our section currently has 38 members who have opted into Auto-Renew. Thank you to those who chosen to do so. My goal is to have fifty percent of the section's membership enrolled in Auto-Renew by the end of the year.

Savings up to \$6,500_s

MY20 CLA Coupe
From \$36,650_s



Save \$500

MY20 GLA SUV
From \$34,250_s



Save \$1,500

MY20 C-Class Sedan
From \$41,400_s



Save \$1,000

MY20 GLC SUV
From \$42,500_s



Save \$1,000

MY20 E-Class Sedan
From \$54,050_s



Save \$2,000

MY20 GLE SUV
From \$53,700_s



Save \$500

MY20 S-Class Sedan
From \$94,250_s



Save \$5,500_s

MY20 GLS SUV
From \$75,200_s



Save \$500

To reach that goal we need 204 more members to opt into Auto-Renew. Please consider taking a few minutes to do so. Log into your MBCA account <https://www.mbca.org/> select the Auto-Renew option. When you select Auto-Renew you will be prompted to enter or update your credit card information if not already on file. You can also contact the NBO at 800-637-2360 and someone on the staff will assist you to opt into the Auto-Renew program.

Obviously Peachtree has double our sections membership, but we believe the goal of having 50% of our members having "Auto Renew" is a valuable and doable goal. Please consider supporting MBCA by using the auto renew option.

So What do you get by being a member of MBCA?

Number One is Belonging to the Best Section in MBCA **The Alabama/Northwest Florida Section**

MBCA Benefits....

The Star® Magazine - Your membership to the Mercedes-Benz Club of America includes a subscription to our bi-monthly magazine, **The Star®**

Section Newsletter – Our Section newsletter is published four times a year

Membership Rebate Program - Save as much as \$6,500 on the purchase or lease of a new Mercedes-Benz. MBCA primary members are eligible for exclusive rebates on the lease or purchase of select Mercedes-Benz vehicles.

Classified Ads - Mercedes-Benz Club of America, may sell merchandise, goods and services through this website and in our award-winning magazine, **The Star®**.

Club Trips to Germany - Membership benefits include the exclusive opportunity to experience a first-class European vacation and VIP tours that places you at the heart of Mercedes-Benz rich history.

15% Discount on Parts from the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center - Club members receive 15% off hard-to-find parts from the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center in Irvine, California.

Discounts on Parts, Service & Accessories at Participating Mercedes-Benz Dealers - As a Mercedes-Benz Club of America member, the presentation of your membership card may entitle you to 5%, 10% or (up to) 20% off parts, service and accessories from participating U.S. and Canadian Mercedes-Benz dealers.

Refer a Friend Program - Refer a friend to the Mercedes-Benz Club of America and get one additional month of Club membership FREE, for every friend who joins.

Local, Regional & National Events - As a member of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, you'll be able to attend a wide range of driving events and activities in your own back yard, your region of the country and in five-star destinations across the U.S. and Canada

Club Raffle - Up to twice a year, the Mercedes-Benz Club of America conducts a Raffle for its Members. Members purchase tickets for a chance to win great prizes.

Questions about membership benefits? Other aspects of the Club or related events?

CONTACT: Membership / Reiseführer

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OR

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MERCEDES COST CUTTING !

Mercedes-Benz Tuscalosa.

Production of the C model is leaving Alabama to free up space for popular and profitable crossovers, SUVs and electrics. This year the Mercedes-Benz GLC and GLE crossovers both outsold its most popular sedan, the C-Class, 3 to 2. C-Class production is relocating to Germany, South Africa and China while the A-Class is leaving its production facility in Mexico.

Mercedes-Benz Will Ax 7 Coupes and Convertibles

Mercedes-Benz is looking to save some cash by axing approximately seven versions of its low-roof vehicles, according to [Automotive News](#). This from a dealer meeting with MBUSA CEO Nicholas Speeks in late June. He didn't say what vehicles would be cut, but the S-, C- and E-Class coupes and convertibles could be the first to go.

As much as we love two-doors, luxury car sales declined 37 percent in the past five years while luxury crossovers went up 73 percent. Mercedes is in the business of selling cars, not keeping the few remaining coupe fans happy.

"Do we need all the products that we currently have?" Speeks told [Automotive News](#) in May. "We also have to play our part in cutting our costs to meet our means."

What is a Stammtisch?



May 19, 2020 Birmingham Stammtisch

In traditional German restaurants a table near the entrance is reserved for the "regular patrons". There is a stanchion or banner on it proclaiming this as the "Stammtisch", the regular's table. Sitting there is by invitation only. It took me several years and an intro from a member of that group to get an invitation to sit at the Stammtisch in the 1468 "forella" (trout) on the bank of the Blau (Blue – my mother's family name) River in Ulm about 80 km (50 miles) from Stuttgart, the home of Mercedes-Benz

Heinz Neunzig, the man who saved the G-wagen who splits his time between Tuscaloosa, AL and Stuttgart, Germany dubbed our Alabama section monthly social gathering in Birmingham, "Stammtisch" several years ago.

This year, of course we had to adapt. We used the same technique as our drives two weeks earlier by gathering outside in the same park in front of the Mt. Brook City hall on a Tuesday evening.

It was pleasant and easy to maintain social distancing with perfect weather in the low 70's / high 60's as the sun sank slowly in the west. There are multiple restaurants with take-out service in the village (no fast food chains). The fountain and our cars provided nice backdrops.

Interestingly we had about the same attendance as usual. Some were regular attenders, but others were new. This was gratifying.

Many thanks to Bill Hicks for suggesting the location and getting the blessings from the city of Mt. Brook.



Jim Roberts, DMD
MBCA | Director at Large

The Alabama / Northwest Florida Section

Schedules monthly Stammtisch's in Birmingham, 3rd Tuesday, and Huntsville, 4th Tuesday. With plans to have a regular Stammtisch in the Northwest Florida area. Please watch your email for the locations.

How can I get a MBCA Name Badge?

✓ Look for these check marks, click nearby for a web link

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>

Have You looked at the MBCA web site Lately??? NO!!!

Check it out, <https://www.mbca.org>

Click *For Enthusiasts* for a beginning point Did you know there are 3 auto museums in the Birmingham area? 4 Museums in Nashville. 3 in Atlanta?

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)

=====

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

Join us for our Monthly *Stammtisch* a casual get together for dinner
<Regular's Table>

Huntsville Stammtisch

Due to Covid-19, 4th Tuesday Dinner meetings are being held at Alternate Locations, such as nearby parks in Huntsville.
Please see your email for locations.

Click link to Google Maps, Hildegards

Birmingham Stammtisch

Due to Covid-19, 3th Tuesday Dinner meetings are being held at Alternate Locations, such as nearby parks in the Birmingham area.
Please see your email for locations.



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