



Das Heimatblatt

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

Sternblick April • 2020
(Star View)

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President's Message

My dear fellow members of MBCA Alabama,

Resisting the greatly used and maybe overused references to the invasion of our lives by the infernal Coronavirus, I wish you all total avoidance of its infectious personality.

Amelia Island `s annual Concours d'Elegance dodged the viral bullet and came off beautifully celebrating the appearance of truly the most beautiful cars in the world. On top of the many "Stars" of the show, the weather was perfect car show weather. Brilliant sunshine really complimented the many hours our members like David Shepherd put in cleaning and prepping his elegant S 600 V 12 Black beauty.

Cool dry conditions made it a real "walk in the park" viewing the cars. Since the cars were displayed on the manicured fairways of the golf course , glowing green grass and crystal clear blue skies really made these beauties POP.

Things got rolling with a group dinner at the Double Tree Hotel attended by our Birmingham and gulf coast members plus many of the regulars from Jacksonville and south Florida. It was a jovial group and a good to realize the solid people that make up our membership. More Mercedes owners need to attend to really appreciate how the friendly members with a variety of Mercedes love to talk about their cars and car activities. The festivities continued Saturday evening at the Crab Shack in Fernandina Beach. Really good , fresh seafood added to the fun of reliving the extravaganza of what was our favorite Mercedes , including a spectacular and unique 2021 Maybach SUV. An event of this magnitude has been done twice a year for over 60 years at Pebble Beach and 25 years at Amelia Island. Check the website and book your condo or hotel EARLY.

We will be watching the events carefully and will inform all of the latest. Optimistically, the nasty virus will get sick and tired and fade into history very soon. In the meantime , I urge you to create a very unfriendly environment for this bug. April `s schedule will be reviewed at the end of March. Look forward to seeing you in Birmingham and Huntsville in April..

March in good health,
Jim Sparacio

ALABAMA & FLORIDA PANHANDLE

Schedule Of Events

- March
- 17th Birmingham Stammtisch Canceled
 - 24 Huntsville Stammtisch Postponed to 28 April
 - 28-29 Huntsville Performance Driving School and Auto-X – Postponed
Make up date to be determined
- April
- 3-5 Indycar Grand Prix of Alabama
Canceled
 - 18 Little River Canyon Drive and Picnic start at Attalla
 - 21 Birmingham Stammtisch , Hickory Tavern at Brookwood Mall **Canceled**
 - 25 MBCA National Board Meeting
 - 28 Huntsville Stammtisch , Hildegard's **Canceled**
- May
- 15-17 Barber Historic Races, MBCA Car Corral, Paddock Visit
 - 19 Birmingham Stammtisch
 - 26 Huntsville Stammtisch
- June
- 3 or 4 Gulf Coast Stammtisch, Pensacola
 - 16 Birmingham Stammtisch
 - 13 or 27 Tech at Mercedes-Benz Birmingham

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA

ALABAMA SECTION

<https://alabama.mbca.org> ✓



Executive Board

President
JIM SPARACIO
Birmingham, AL
205.243.7727
jim@sparmedical.com

Vice President
WAYNE NOVY
Birmingham, AL
wnovy@att.net
205-994-4520

Treasurer
BILL HICKS
Mt. Brook, AL
wmehicks@gmail.com
205.871.5601

Secretary
DONNA KALINKIEWICZ
Birmingham, AL
dmktimes2@att.net

Past President
KEN CHAMPLIN
Hoover, AL
homescan@bellsouth.net

Board of Directors

Member-at-Large
HEINZ NEUNZIG
Tuscaloosa, AL
Heinzj90@aol.com

Member-at-Large
MASON BEALE
Hoover, AL
masonbeale@msn.com

Member-at-large
DAVID SHEPHERD,
Pensacola, FL
dshepherd@sei-group.com

Member-at-Large
SCOTT PAUL
Perdido Key, FL
spaul@appraver.com

Member-at-large
GEORGE SMITH
Vestavia, AL
georgehsmith@bellsouth.net

Member-at-large
JOHN MURRAY
Albertville, AL
Ala.jmm@att.net

Member-at-large
DOUG BLOOMBERG
Meridianville, AL
mbca.alabama@gmail.com

Membership / Reiseführer
JIM ROBERTS
Mt. Brook, AL
205.529.0071
jertoosaver@gmail.com

Eastern Region Director
DOUG GEGANTO
dgeganto@charter.net

das Heimatblatt

EDITOR: **DOUG BLOOMBERG**
mbca.alabama@gmail.com

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Alabama, More than a Car Club. We're a community!

Please watch your emails for schedule changes!

Stammtisch *noun* <Regular's Table>

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

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

FIVE RIVERS AND BELLINGRATH
CANCELED do to Social Distancing

TIP: Use a paper towel when filling Gas tank!

Little River Canyon Drive... April 18th

Meet at the Cracker Barrel Parking Lot .

Attalla, Al. I-59 at exit 181 9AM

This is a beautiful drive. The mountain flowers should be blooming!
Little River Canyon parkway is along the Western side of one of the few rivers in North America that flows exclusively on a mountain top. View points are many.

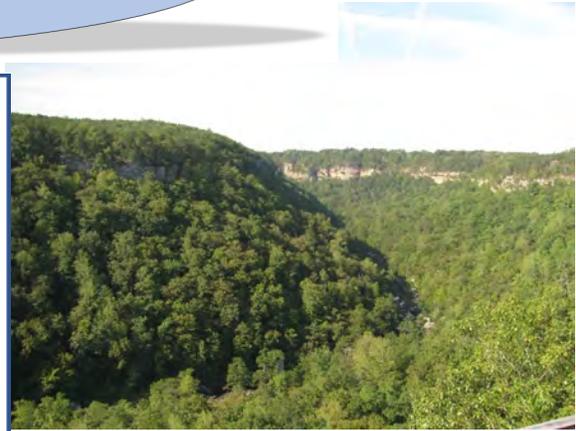
This is a Social Distancing Safe event, as only you and your family member will be in the Mercedes.

When we meet, and stop at view points.

PLEASE Observe the 6+ foot separation.

Cracker Barrel and other restaurants have take out if you wish.

But this may be a great time to bring a picnic lunch.

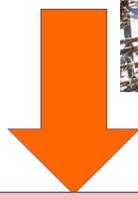


Photos from Jim Roberts Scouting Run, Little River Canyon Drive April 18th.

MBCA Alabama Section, Member of the year 2019
2019 President Ken Champlin and the current President Jim Sparacio present Doug Bloomberg with the 2019 Member of the Year award.



WOW. Many Thanks. DB



Barber Historic Races, MBCA Car Corral May 15-18
At this date NOT Canceled
Please watch your email for updates

Alabama Section's Past Events



The 11th annual Winterfahrt January 18, 2020



Jim Roberts

Starting out on a typical Alabama Winter day
Cloudy, rain in bands, and temps in the 50's



Jim Roberts, Winterfahrt leader explains
the routes to be taken, and planned stops.

MBCA Alabama Section's 2020 Winterfahrt

It seems like such a short time ago. January of 2010 the leadership of the multi-mark "Polar Bear Run" decided that the light snow earlier in the week and the predicted 23° F high discouraged the British cars. A quick call to our MBCA members who was President of the local chapter of the Porsche Club confirmed that both clubs were still game along with whomever of the other European clubs wanted to join us.

As it turned out, MBUSA's new President, Markus Schäfer joined us. He was replacing Ola Källenius who is now CEO of Daimler, AG.

We encountered only a few small patches of ice or snow. All 40 cars made the trip, and a new tradition was born. Over time the Brits opted out, and the event grew to 80+ cars. This was a bit unwieldy, so the Porsche Club started having a drive on a different date.



Brierfield Furnace SP

Wayne Novy, Glenda Sparacio, Fiona Pratt



Brierfield Furnace SP

RtoL Dave and Fiona Pratt, Ralph Neely, Jim Roberts,
Ken Champlin, Ellena and Merrill Bradley



AMG Proto type parked at the MBUSA Reception Center

✓ *Brierfield Furnace State Park*



The Brierfield Furnace (also known as the Bibb Furnace) was first constructed in 1862, a blast furnace, initially producing cast iron for farm implements, such as plows. But production quickly changed to wrought iron, a rolling mill was added. 1863, The Civil War at it's halfway point, when the Confederacy purchased the property, furnace, rolling mill and other assets for \$600,000.00. Becoming the only iron works owned by the Confederacy. Large amounts of money was spent adding another furnace and completing a railroad spur to the nearby Alabama and Tennessee River Railroad. The end result was to supply iron to the Selma foundries, used to produce over 100 massive Brooke naval cannons. Production lasted until March 31, 1865 when the Tenth Missouri Cavalry, Union Army destroyed Both furnaces, the roll mill, and other buildings. After the war, by late 1866 one furnace was back in production only to be shut down 6 months later due to failure of the furnace.

The site found various uses, even an attempt in 1896 to reuse the furnace, but the property lay abandoned until 1976 when Bibb County made the area a park, which later became an Alabama State Park

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



LtoR Tommy Cosgrove, Ed and Nancy Jones



One of the several New buildings in the Bibb County Mercedes-Benz USA complex. Truly massive facility

This year we had about 15 autos on a blustery rainy day. While some of us like to drive any time, we always have several new and first time participants. This year was no exception as we tackled the sinuous Sicard Hollow, "Copperhead", and the roads through the Cahaba Wildlife Management area.

Along the way we paused at the 1862 Brierfield Furnace. This was destroyed in March 1865 by Union forces and is now a state park.

We also visited the new \$1.6 billion expansion of Mercedes-Benz US International as well as the visitor center of the current factories. Mercedes-Benz has now invested almost \$7 billion in Alabama with 8,400 people working in the MBUSI factory every day and another 15,000 for the suppliers in the area.

The group speed picked up significantly on I-20/59 as we headed for our delicious lunch in a private room of the historic Bright Star restaurant in Bessemer.



We stopped at the MBUSA Reception center



✓ **Great Food and reviewing the days drive. Bright Star Restaurant, Bessemer, Alabama**

Mercedes-Benz in attendance

AMG C43 560 SL 280 SE GLC 300 GLS 450 E 350
SLK 300 SLK 350 AMG SLK55 Five--C300's

February 8, 2020

Two, Yes Two events on February 8th in Western Florida they were, "Seaside Car Show" and long time favorite "Pensacola-Atmore Rallye"

Seaside Car Show

Jim Roberts

This was a new event that was staged in conjunction with Seaside Institute and arranged by Lawrence Pugh's wife, Victoria Lee. Alabama/N.W. Florida, Section President, Jim Sparacio and National Director at Large Jim Roberts along with Nashville Section members Steven & Patti Undercoffer and others participated. About 25 from the Porsche and Tesla car clubs and dealers also attended.

It was amazing to have two very different events so close to each other on the same date and time. Let's hope they can change the Seaside date for next year, so we can support both events better.



Pensacola-Atmore Rallye

Ralph Neely



The 15th Pensacola-Atmore Rally was held February 8, 2020. Flora and I went down to Pensacola, FL Friday, with my R 107 and participated in the Pensacola-Atmore Rally on Saturday. Jim Roberts, National Director at Large, was there with his W116 during the registration period in the morning but did not do the run to Atmore. I understand Jim went on to Seaside Beach to another event being held on Saturday.

David Shepherd from Pensacola, FL. was also in attendance with his W140 V12.

David made the 50 mile run to Atmore, AL with us and we joined approximately 200 others for an enjoyable lunch at David's Catfish House. In South Alabama they advertise David's as purveyor of the best catfish in the country.

Given the number for lunch. I estimate that there were approximately 100 vehicles at the event. I am attaching a few pictures taken in Pensacola just before the start.



Dave Shepherd's S-600 V-12

2006 Ford GT



Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance

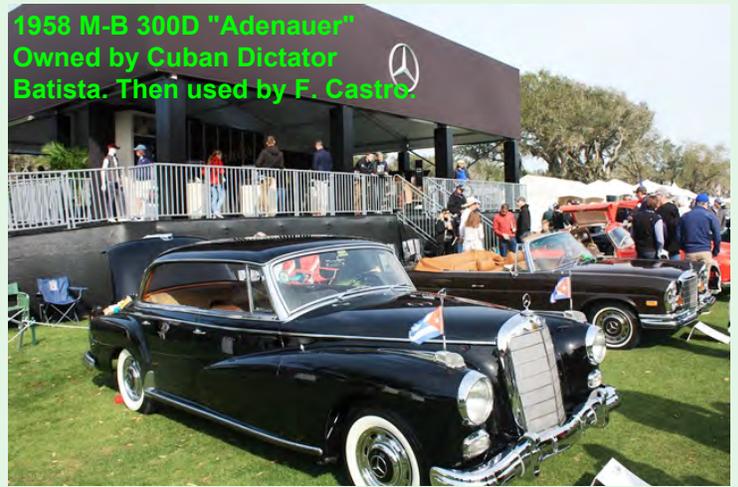
March 5-8th

For the last 7 years the Alabama/N.W. Florida section has taken responsibility for the Friday and Saturday dinners for MBCA members from all over North America.

We were surprised this year to learn that our traditional Millhouse location in Kingsland, GA had closed. Josie Lesler suggested that I speak with S.W. Florida section past President Peter Blackford who organizes that section's annual drive from Naples, FL to Kingsland, GA. Peter told me that everything in Kingsland was full by the time they called for reservations last year. He was able to secure rooms at the Jacksonville DoubleTree Hotel where they also had dinner.

When I was finally able to get a response back from the DoubleTree Hotel manager, Cedric Jones, who is a Mercedes-Benz enthusiast, was willing to make a change in policy and accommodate us with a buffet. S.W. Florida section was willing to join us for the buffet. The result was 70+ for dinner in spite of the Corona virus scare. Alabama Section accounted for 8-10.

M-B Pavilion



Cars & Coffee at the concours was taken over by the Amelia Island committee rather than by the MBCA concours chairman, Pete Lesler as has been the custom. We still had a large crowd around the cars. Josie Lesler and her team at the tent and among the cars stayed busy greeting members and recruiting new members. I even recruited 3 new members after the tent area closed down.

It is a special treat to me to remain in the afternoon as the cars start to enter. You get to see them and hear them move. The owners are usually with their cars and are glad to talk with you. The 30+ cars of Roger Penske were impressive, but the 6-foot-tall Borg Warner trophy from the Indy 500 was an amazing and unexpected treat. The Mercedes-Benz pavilion displayed the new Maybach from MBUSI in Alabama as well as the 1905 American Mercedes from the display at the MBUSI Visitor's Center.

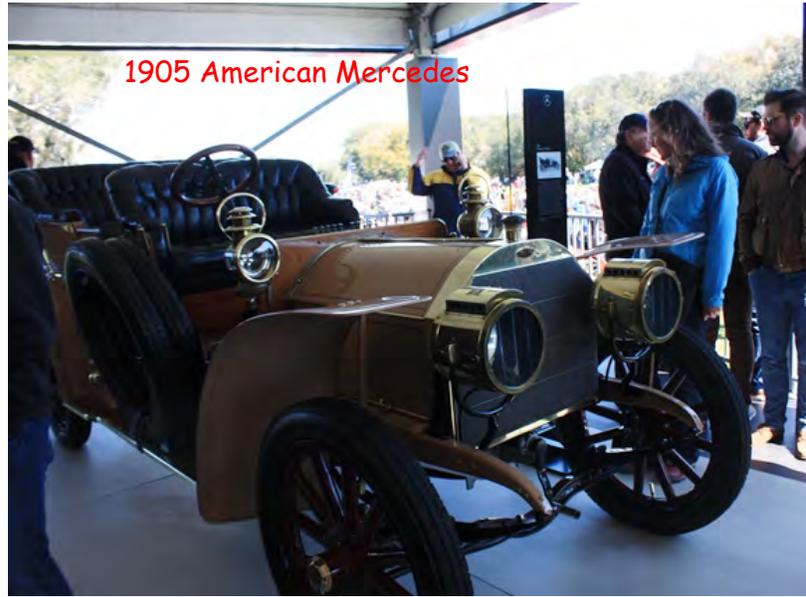
Alabama/ N.W. Florida section hosted the Saturday night dinner at the Crab Trap in historic Fernandina Beach. This was attended by 80+ members and guests from 20+ sections including 10 from Alabama Section .

The Sunday invitational concours d'elegance included an unimaginable array of exquisite cars. It was most exciting to see many I talked with the day before receiving their awards.

If you have never attended be sure to make plans to be part of this great event.

Jim Roberts
MBCA | Director at Large

Cars and Coffee at Mercedes Benz Pavilion



1905 American Mercedes

✓ 2021 Mercedes-Maybach GLS



✓ The American Mercedes was made by Daimler Manufacturing Company of Long Island City, New York, USA from 1904 to 1907



Alabama Section Hosts Friday Night dinner at the DoubleTree



Cars and Coffee at Mercedes Benz Pavilion

New Models and Tech at Ingram Mercedes-Benz

Jim Roberts, Event Planner

Montgomery, Al

On 29 Feb several members of Alabama Section gathered at Jack Ingram Mercedes-Benz in Montgomery, Al to see the newly introduced GLB as well as the new GLS 450.

General Manager David Ingram greeted us with breakfast from Chick-Fil-A and nice gift bags.

Tony Campbell went over the new MBUX "Hey Mercedes" system which all agreed was extremely intuitive.

We were especially impressed with the fit and finish and the spaciousness of this model. Chris Dowd is 6 ft 2 and he could easily "sit behind himself" with plenty of room.

One of the technicians went over the 3 liter 400 hp inline EQ six in the GLS 450.

This engine sports a single, twin-scroll turbocharger. Motive power is increased by utilizing the 48-volt **ISG**, **I**ntergrated **S**tarter **G**enerator. The **EQ** system has no belts as electric motors are now powering the water pump, air conditioning, suspension air compressor and electric super charger. This is directly from the Mercedes-AMG formula one racing technology. (Read *EQ Technology* pg 11-12)

We retired to Jim & Nicks for lunch discussing the great technical strides Mercedes-Benz is making.

Many thanks to David Ingram and his staff.

M-B GLB filled with Alabama Section Members



note: Ingram Mercedes Benz is the second oldest continually owned/operated M-B dealer in the US.



M-B GLB w/Alabama Section Pres. Jim Sparacio

M-B GLS w/Inline 6 EQ engine

The Alabama Section Grows

Herzlich Willkommen!

(Sincere Welcome)

Welcome to our **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, there is so much to read, learn, and become acquainted with.

✓ <https://www.mbca.org>

The Alabama Section, MBCA Welcomes New Members

Michael Black Meadow Brook, AL

James Dittman Tuscaloosa, AL

Erine Johnston Destin, FL

Renewed Members

Cecile Dolan Destin, FL

Dan Bodford DeFuniak Springs, FL

Douglas Hughes Niceville, FL

Jack Tribble Birmingham, AL

Terry Newby Tuskegee, AL

Chris Jebeles Vestavia, AL

Charles Stratton Tallahassee, FL

James Trum Alexandria, VA

J Leonard Henry Albertville, AL

William Hicks Mt. Brook, AL

TIP! Brake Hold feature

Have you ever been stopped for a period of time in traffic? Tired of holding the brake while waiting? The newer Mercedes models have a Brake Hold Feature. Easy to operate. While stopped, press hard on the brake, Brake Hold will activate. The cars brakes will remain locked until you press the accelerator to begin movement. Off you go, less stress. A plus, the brake lights are on while in hold mode.

Quiz:

What feature incorporated in Rolls Royce wheels, is also found in Mercedes Benz wheels? How is this feature Used?



Mercedes-Benz NEW TECHNOLOGY

Doug Bloomberg

In the February issue of *"Das Heimatblatt"* Jim Roberts had written that Mercedes-Benz is investing heavily in Electrified and All Electric vehicles. By 2022 Mercedes will market more than 20 models which would be pure electric, hybrid, or electric assist models. Curious by nature I spent some time researching via the "web" what exactly is Mercedes-Benz doing. As you may surmise, there is not a lot of information out there, but some things of interest did come up. Such as **EQ Boost**.

✓ Mercedes-Benz 3.0L I-6 with 48Volt EQ Boost...

Electrification? What is it? We are familiar with 'Electrified' or commonly known as Hybrid cars, such as the Prius. 'Electric autos,' the Tesla for example. But Mercedes-Benz is currently selling a different sort of electrified automobile. Where the gasoline engine has an adjunct electrical motive power source.

In this case Mercedes has developed the **Integrated Starter Generator (ISG)**. The **ISG** is the heart of **EQ Boost**. Unlike a hybrid, which can be propelled entirely on electric power, the horse power and torque of the **ISG** is added to the power provided by the straight 6 cylinder 3.0L all aluminum engine. Yes, Mercedes is back producing a straight 6. Think two less camshafts, only one head, smoother operation.

The base 3.0L 6 cylinder engine (code M256) produces 362 hp and 369 lb.-ft. peak torque. But craftily placed between the engine block and transmission is a 48 Volt **ISG**. A 0.9kWh battery powers the additional 21 hp and 184 lb.-ft. torque, this helping accelerate the vehicle. This as you may have guessed is not a slap on electric motor that you energize it when you press down on the accelerator.

We know that Mercedes hires some very talented engineers, and this power source is no different. **EQ Boost** is very well engineered.



The **ISG** uses 48 volts, outputting 48V as a generator, and using 48V as a motor/starter. Higher voltage, allows a beefier more powerful motor than with a 12V power source. Using the **ISG** to start the engine, particularly in Stop/Go traffic you will not notice the restart. It is as if the engine never shut down. Driving the vehicle, the added torque feels as if driving a V8. When coasting, (MB lingo "Sailing") the engine is disengaged allowing the motor to enhance the motion, saving fuel. (My Uncle's SAAB 93 had a switch on the dash, that put the car into free wheel mode. I think the Mercedes is a bit more sophisticated.) But another advantage of this **ISG/ EQ System**, is the air conditioner, and water pump are now, electric powered. No More Belts to break.



Using the **EQ Boost** I-6 All models incorporate an intercooled twin-scroll turbocharger. The AMG versions additionally have in tandem with the twin-scroll turbocharger an electric powered compressor. Low speeds and when just cracking the accelerator open, proper boost is supplied by the electric compressor until the twin-scroll turbocharger has spun up and is now providing the needed intake pressure boost. Either version gives one the economy of a 6 cylinder, but the sense of power of a Mercedes V-8.

Which Mercedes' have EQ BOOST ?

- ✓ CLS 450 Coupe, 3.0L I-6
- ✓ AMG CLS 53 Coupe, 3.0L I-6
- ✓ AMG E 53 Coupe/Sedan 3.0L I-6
- ✓ GLE 450 3.0L I-6
- ✓ GLE 580 4.0L bi-turbo V8 EQ
- ✓ GLS 450 3.0L I-6
- ✓ GLS 580 4.0L bi-turbo V8 EQ
- ✓ AMG GT 53 4 dr Coupe 3.0L I-6

YES There is an ALL Electric Mercedes-Benz

“EQC 400” The first Mercedes ALL-Electric vehicle is a compact SUV seating 5, based loosely on the GLC platform. Rated at 402 H.P. and 561 lb-ft of instant torque, enough to move the 5,500 lb SUV to 60mph in 4.8 seconds. Range estimate is +200 miles.

Charge time, at a fast charger 10% to 80% in 40 Minutes. From a home 240V/35A charger, complete charge in 10 hours.

When available? Late 2020...

✓ *Click here for video from M-B exposing the AMG version of this 3.0 L power plant*

When I started writing this article (January) only 3 electrified USA Mercedes models were available, Now in March there are 9+ Benz models.

✓ **GLC 350e Hybrid EQ Powered**

Browsing www.mbusa.com I found that now MB offers the **GLC 350e 4MATIC SUV**. A True Hybrid, utilizing a 85kW electric motor. Boosting the Turbo charged inline 4 cylinder from 255hp 273 lb-ft torque, to a combined 315hp 413 lb-ft. The battery can be charged by the gas engine, at home or at a public charging station. 55 mpg city, 57 mpg highway. Features such as use of radar to help recoup energy while braking, GPS map data to calculate your routes, improving the GLC 350e's highway efficiency, are utilized by Mercedes-Benz.

✓ *note: S 560e Hybrid Sedan coming in 2020 v6 bi turbo, +electric motor*



IN DEN NACHRICHTEN

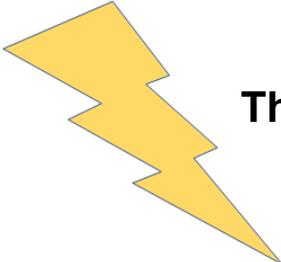
(IN THE NEWS)

Mercedes-Benz Leads Others In Alabama Exports

Jim Roberts

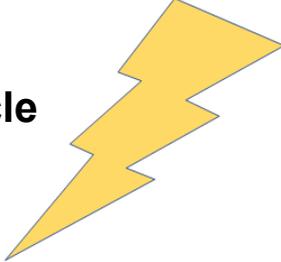
AI.com reports that while Alabama's total exports were down about 3% with China down 26% for 2019, auto and aerospace exports were up with Germany up a whopping 45% in auto vehicles. While Honda sends a few minivans and SUV's from its Lincoln, Alabama facility, the vast majority of Alabama built vehicles sent to Germany are the GLE & GLS SUV's from Mercedes-Benz US International between Birmingham and Tuscaloosa.

Alabama is the 4th largest auto exporting state.



The First Mercedes-Benz Electric Vehicle

Jim Roberts



The EQC built on the GLC platform has been delayed for North America due to unexpected demand in Europe. Battery production is the limiting factor according to Panorama, the Porsche Club's magazine.

Alabama's Mercedes-Benz US International is constructing a battery production facility in Bibb County between the existing factory and Birmingham. These batteries will be installed in the "EQE" version of the new GLE that went into production last year.

Panorama also reports that Mercedes-Benz showed a new battery at the recent Las Vegas Consumer Electronics Show. It uses seawater and agricultural waste for storage rather than lithium cobalt and nickel. This is, of course less expensive to manufacture. It charges 50% faster, and is not dependent on rare earth metals that occur primarily in China.

How can I get a MBCA Name Badge?

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>

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 Section, MBCA** (line 2)
 _____ (line 3)

Name: _____ (line 1)
2 **Alabama 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

Did You Know?

This may already be known to Birmingham M-B drivers, but this season, like most of last, M-B owners attending the BhamLegionFC soccer games get free parking if they drive their M-B's. The Clutch parking service will wave them through to close-in parking, which usually costs \$10+\$1.50 service charge.

<https://us.soccerway.com/teams/united-states/birmingham-legion/45614/matches/>

FYI the Soccer League playing field is at the UAB sporting complex just South of University Ave @ 800 11th St. S., At the East side of I-65 Exit 259

THX 2 Steve Horn...

Quiz Answer:

Holes. Each wheel has 5 holes (other than lug nut holes) These holes are used to facilitate the M-B wheel alignment tool.



[View Video here](#) ✓

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

Huntsville Membership Meeting

Where: **Hildegards German Cuisine**
 When: 4th Tuesday of **odd** numbered months
 Time: 6:30pm Dinner

Directions from I 565:
 Exit 19A, South Memorial Pkwy 1 Mile exit "Bob Wallace Ave" Left at intersection onto "Bob Wallace" 1 mile to Whitesburg Dr. Hildegard's will be on the NE Corner.

[Click link to Google Maps, Hildegards](#)

Birmingham Membership Meeting

Where: **Hickory Tavern**, Brookwood Village
 When: 3rd Tuesday of **every** month Time:
 6:00pm Dinner

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

[Click link to Google Maps, Hickory Tavern](#)



Mercedes-Benz Club of America
 1907 Lelary Street
 Colorado Springs, CO 80909
 1.800.637.2360

<https://www.mbca.org>

Alabama Section, MBCA
 3834 Cove Dr.
 Mt. Brook, AL 35213

<https://alabama.mbca.org>