



Volume 45 - Vol 1 | February 2023

View Through



View Through The Star

by Gary Edwards, President

Happy New Year! We're off to a great start with our January Cars and Coffee and our January drive already in our rear-view mirrors. I hope to see a bunch of Mercedes at the PCA HPDE on February 18th and I'd love to see a great turnout for our 45th anniversary celebration on March 18th.

Goals and Vision for 2023

Stepping back for a bit, I want to cover our vision and goals for 2023, which we adopted at our October Board of Directors meeting.

- Deliver diverse variety of quality events to our members, and to those that should be members, including performance driving events as a key to outreach, a TSD rally series, cars and coffee, mountain drives, destination/weekend events, concours, social events and monthly tech sessions via either ZOOM or in person.
- Continue to adapt and improve our policies and procedures to meet the challenges of our changing environment, keeping an open mind as we look at the communications policy, sponsor policy, and social media to see what we can improve.
- Identify our future leaders. Who will be our future Vice President, Directors, and

event planners.

- Establish and maintain strong relationships with other sections and other similar organizations, conducting joint events with other sections, other organizations such as the Porsche Club of American, and helping other sections whenever possible and appropriate.

Of course, the officers and directors can't do this without your help. Follow our event schedule which we try to keep updated on our website and follow us on Facebook, but most importantly - come to our events and tell your friends! [Read More](#)

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The Event Rundown

February

- 2/4 - [Cars and Coffee at Halcyon](#)
- 2/11 - Tech Session at DC Motorwerks
- 2/18 - [High Performance Driving and Education](#)
- 2/25 - [Savoy Automobile Museum - Cartersville](#)

March

- 3/2 - 3/5 - [Amelia Island Concours](#)
- 3/4 - [Cars and Coffee at Halcyon](#)
- 3/11 - Mountain Drive
- 3/18 - [Peachtree 45th Anniversary](#)

April

- 4/1 - [Cars and Coffee at Halcyon](#)
- 4/2 - [Karting at Lake Lanier](#)
- 4/27 - 4/30 [Choo Choo Spring Fling Weekend](#)
- 4/30 - PCA Autocross

May

- 5/6 - [Cars and Coffee at Halcyon](#)
- 5/20 - [Augusta Cars and Coffee](#)

June

- 6/3 - [Cars and Coffee at Halcyon -](#)

FULL EVENT SCHEDULE 2023

MEMBERSHIP***Welcome our
Newest Members***

- Marisa Hegyesi
- Beverly Johnson
- Chris Landry
- Tom Minner
- Daphne Oliver
- Keerthi Ponugoti
- Jonathan Roth
- Will Thomason
- James Wilkinson



Peachtree
Section

by Reijo Haarla, Membership Director

***Thanks to our
Renewing Members***

- Abel Beck
- William Bernays
- Billy Boguski
- Michael Cavin
- Dewey Chase
- Eldon Collier
- Walter Darnetko
- Patricia Davis
- Douglas Edwards
- Allen Farlow
- James Fekete
- Pete Garcia
- Scot Gibson
- Otto Gogolin
- Darin Good
- George Hair
- Bruce Herstowski
- Tim Hurst
- Paul La Penta
- Jennie Langer
- Mark Loftin
- Kenneth Parks
- Craig Petek

At the end of December 2022 Peachtree Section of the MBCA has 505 members. After a continuous increase of membership numbers in 2021 and until June 2022, we have experienced a decrease in the numbers of the membership during the months from July to December. In order to get the membership numbers going up again, Peachtree Section keeps focused on organizing interesting events for recruiting new members and providing events for having an enjoyable time for members with their Mercedes.

Membership has it Benefits!

The Star Magazine® – Your membership of the MBCA includes a subscription to the bi-monthly magazine The Star.

Section Newsletter – Section newsletter, “Stars in Georgia” for the Peachtree Section is published six times a year. It contains articles on events and other timely articles, technical information, the event calendar and membership information of the Peachtree Section.

Local, Regional and National Events – Club members are invited to participate in a wide range

- Joseph Pirola
- Robert Roy
- Joyce Scanlon
- John Seguin
- Alan Smith
- Brandon Taylor
- Donald Tucker

of events and activities near your neighborhood, in your region and in destinations across the U.S. and Canada.

Member Rebate Program – If you are planning to purchase or lease a new Mercedes-Benz vehicle, you should consider participating in the MBCA Member Rebate Incentive program. The Member Rebate program is an incentive program sponsored by MBUSA to encourage MBCA members to purchase or lease a new Mercedes-Benz vehicle and receive cash incentive towards the purchase or lease of the vehicle.

Discount on Parts, Service & Accessories at Participating Mercedes-Benz dealers - As a Mercedes-Benz Club of America member, you may be entitled to 5%, 10% or up to 20% off parts, services and accessories from participating U.S. and Canadian Mercedes-Benz dealers.

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[RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP](#)

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CARS & COFFEE HALCYON

Cars and Coffee at Halcyon Continues in 2023

Join us for our monthly Cars & Coffee sponsored by RBM's Mercedes-Benz Experience at Halcyon. Please arrive by 9:30 am, we'll begin at approximately 10 a.m. when everyone has finished prepping their cars. The **Fuel** coffee shop is ready to serve up a hot cup of coffee to enjoy while chatting with fellow members.

This year some months will have a theme to them. Here is our upcoming dates:

2/4 - [Cars and Coffee at Halcyon](#)

3/4 - [Cars and Coffee at Halcyon](#)

4/1 - [Cars and Coffee at Halcyon - R107/R129](#)

5/6 - [Cars and Coffee at Halcyon](#)

6/3 - [Cars and Coffee at Halcyon](#) - Bruno Sacco (See article below)



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[2/18 PCA HPDE at Atlanta Motorsports Park](#)

Gary Edwards, Event Planner

[2/25 Savoy Automobile Museum - Cartersville](#)

Joseph Ruda Jr., Event Planner



This year, instead of running our own High Performance Driver's Education (HPDE) event, we'll take a group of Mercedes to the Porsche Club of America's event.

Join us on February 18th for a one-day HPDE at Atlanta Motorsports Park (AMP) in Dawsonville. AMP is a challenging and technical track with elevation changes and a variety of slow and high-speed turns. If this proves to be a popular event, we'll plan for follow-on events at Road Atlanta in June and September. These events fill up fast so register immediately!

REGISTER FOR PCA HPDE

Hello fellow car enthusiasts! Come join us for a fun filled afternoon at the [Savoy Automobile Museum](#), in [Cartersville GA](#), on February 25th. We will meet at the museum at 12:00 and have a Guide give us a tour at 12:30pm. The museum has many classic cars ranging from a 1957 Corvette to a 1981 Delorean plus many others.

REGISTER

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[Peachtree Section 45th Anniversary Celebration](#) **March 18, 2023 11:30 a.m.**

Rubin Howard, Vice-President, Event Planner

We cordially invite you to attend the Mercedes-Benz Club of America Peachtree Section's 45th Anniversary Luncheon on March 18th, 2023. Cash bar will open at 11:30 a.m. The luncheon will be held at the [Cross Creek Golf & Tennis Club](#), located in the heart of the historic Peachtree Battle neighborhood in Buckhead ([1221 Cross Creek Pkwy NW, Atlanta, GA 30327](#)). The Cross Creek Cafe is well frequented and highly regarded by true Buckhead Locals.

In fact, the Peachtree Section hosted one of its first events at Cross Creek, bringing our anniversary celebration full circle, just 45 years later. A Tuscan Buffet will be served, featuring antipasto salad and garlic bread to start. Main options include Chicken Parmesan, Ricotta, Parmesan, & Mozzarella stuffed shells in a slow cooked tomato sauce, Italian meatballs with angel hair pasta in Marinara sauce, and sautéed zucchini with garlic and parmesan. Italian Cannoli will be served for dessert. As well, a cash bar is available for your convenience. The venue is located right off I-75, in a quaint residential neighborhood. There is plenty of free parking on site, and is accessibly convenience from every direction. Cost will be \$27/per person. We hope to see you there to celebrate our incredible club. **Don't delay and register now!**

**REGISTER to Celebrate our
45th!**



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[Karting at Lake Lanier - 4/2](#)



Gary Edwards, Event Planner

Great fun, Great people, Great karts. Hone your driving skills in a high-fun, low-risk environment - Join us for karting at Caffeine and Octane Lanier Raceway Sunday April 2nd. We're returning to the morning Karting with an optional pizza lunch afterwards. Four sessions for \$110. Pizza lunch \$10

[REGISTER](#)

[Join us at PCA Autocrosses](#)



Gary Edwards, Event Planner

Silver Star Motorsports returns to the Autocross course this year! The PCA autocross schedule is below; registration links aren't up yet but keep these dates open for autocrossing. All are at the Champions lot at Atlanta Motor Speedway. Autocrossing is fun, and it's a great way to learn car control! You'll need a helmet, though they do typically have loaner helmets available. Mark your calendars for April 30, May 28, June 25, July 23, August 13, September 24, October 8, and November 5

[Choo Choo Spring Fling
Weekend - 4/27 - 4/30](#)



Doug Geganto, Event Planner

We're planning our annual Spring Fling Weekend from April 27-30 in Chattanooga. Hotel Marriott Courtyard Downtown will be our base. \$169.00 /night includes Free Breakfast. Parking is \$18.00 per day with unlimited in and out. Many attractions are within walking distance. It's going to be a fun weekend with lots to do. A group dinner at Nics & Normans (in the Chattanooga Cho Cho Hotel) will be held on Saturday evening. Seating is limited to 30, so reserve your spot early!!! **Registration deadline is April 14, 2023.** [Click here to see the schedule of activities for the weekend.](#)

REGISTER

[Cars and Coffee at Mercedes-Benz of
Augusta - May 20](#)



Gary Edwards, Event Planner

We return to Mercedes-Benz of Augusta for Cars and Coffee on Saturday May 20th. Last year's participants will tell stories of a huge amount of wonderful food from Reinhardt's Restaurant. Don't miss this event – it's worth the drive!

REGISTER

BRUNO SACCO
In-person and Virtual CAR SHOW
Cars and Coffee at Halcyon
June 3, 2023

Bruno Sacco



“A Mercedes-Benz should always look like a Mercedes-Benz.”

**Bruno Sacco, Mercedes-Benz
Design Chief 1975 – 1999**

Peachtree Section will be hosting a live charity car show at Halcyon, Alpharetta GA to display the cross section of all vehicles that Bruno Sacco was instrumental in the design of these fine vehicles.

Bruno Sacco's contributions to Mercedes-Benz design will surely outlive other's efforts, if for no other reason than his unique perspective on automotive design. As an icon in the motor industry and probably the most respected design engineer at Mercedes Benz we would like all you to mark your calendar for an incredible event that will take place on the 3rd June 2023 at Halcyon, Alpharetta GA. In addition to the live Car Show we will have a Virtual Bruno Sacco Car Show for all the Eastern Region Section members. If you own a "Bruno Sacco" vehicle we would love for you to be a participant in this event, [registration](#) is open so please reserve you spot early. [For More on Brunco Sacco](#)

REGISTER

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anywhere
else?



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TECHNICAL DIGEST



[R320 Fuel Pressure Woes](#)

by Gary Edwards

Last edition I mentioned my challenge of the 2008 R320 CDI which wouldn't restart after our drive to Hilton Head. I had changed the battery hoping that might fix it, and it wasn't. Well, I think I've got it fixed, but the process was painful and expensive, though not as bad as it could have been.

To refresh your memory, it was a crank/no start issue when hot that showed no fault codes. Researching the problem online, I learned that there were a lot of potential causes for the OM642 engine to do this while showing no fault codes. Everyone talked about changing the crank position sensor, though most I saw said that it didn't solve the problem. Since I now knew I had a good battery, I had to look elsewhere. [Read more](#)

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POST-EVENTS

Peachtree Holiday Luncheon 2022

by Ernie Smallman and Pat Duer, Event Planners



Fifty-three members, and significant others, and two guests attended the section Holiday Luncheon at Petite Violette restaurant in the Atlanta neighborhood of Brookhaven. Lunch followed by remarks from President Gary Edwards and National President Mercedes-Benz Club of America (MBCA) Doug Geganto. Gary reviewed highlights of 2022 and addressed upcoming events in the first quarter of 2023. Doug gave an overview of the goals for the national organization in 2023.

Doug, a former Peachtree Section President and still an active member, recognized Reijo Haarla as Regional Section Membership Director of the Year. Doug lauded Reijo's efforts in securing renewals and addressing new members. Reijo's recognition places him first among eighty-eight MBCA section membership directors.

Tenor August Bair accompanied by pianist Catherine Giel, members of the Atlanta Opera, performed a medley of Christmas songs and Broadway numbers.

Special thanks to Patricia Duer and Cheryl Edwards for facilitating registration, and to all those who brought toys to contribute to the Marine Corp Toys for Tots Christmas

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Mercedes-Benz reports 21% growth in Q4

Jan 10, 2023 Atlanta – Mercedes-Benz USA (MBUSA) today reported 21% growth in sales of its luxury passenger car portfolio in Q4 2022 over the comparable quarter in 2021. Strong, sustained demand for Electric Vehicles (EQ) and Top-End Vehicles propelled Q4 growth of 21% for a **total of 73,019 vehicles**. Additionally, Mercedes-Benz Vans recorded Q4 sales of 15,474, bringing MBUSA to a grand total of 88,493 vehicles. On a year-to-date basis, MBUSA recorded sales of 286,764 Mercedes-Benz passenger vehicles in calendar year 2022, a growth of 4% versus 2021, and 64,185 Vans, an increase of 20% versus 2021. This brings MBUSA's total year-to-date sales to 350,949 units, an increase of 6.5% versus 2021.

"Strong year-end results and exponential volume growth of our EV portfolio are a testament to the strong demand for Mercedes-Benz EQ, luxury and commercial vehicles in the U.S. market," said Dimitris Psillakis, President and CEO of MBUSA. "With a full lineup of five EQ models and a renewed focus on Top-End Vehicles, we will continue to advance our strategy and offer the most desirable luxury cars, SUVs, and commercial vehicles."

Mercedes-Benz USA Top-End Vehicles sales accounted for 29% of total deliveries, driven by strong sales of the S-Class (+12%), Maybach (+8%) and the EQS Sedan (+1,507%). With the EQS Sedan, EQS SUV, EQE, EQB and soon to be released EQE SUV the Mercedes-Benz electric product offensive is in full-swing for 2023. Q4 2022 sales of Mercedes-AMG high-performance models totaled 9,974 units, an increase of 54% versus Q4 2021.

Separately, Mercedes-Benz Certified Pre-Owned (MBCPO) models recorded sales of 35,458 vehicles during the fourth quarter of 2022, an increase of 7.1% versus Q4 2021.

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SOCIAL MEDIA

Social Media

by Rubin Howard, Social Media Director



Peachtree
Section

If you haven't already, Join our Facebook group [MBCAPeachtree](https://www.facebook.com/groups/mbcapeachtree) . Keep up to date with the latest events, chat with members, and make the most of your membership with our Facebook group. As well, follow us on Instagram @MBCAPeachtree. Our Youtube Channel [MBCA Peachtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) is full of excellent resources for club members. We feature videos such as technical sessions, concours judging schools, Rally schools, as well as features from events.

Facebook Group link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mbcapeachtree>
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MBCA PeachTube link: [MBCA Peach Tube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Peachtree Section Officers

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Gary Edwards

president@mbcapeachtree.com

Rubin Howard

vicepresident@mbcapeachtree.com

Rusty Duncan

secretary@mbcapeachtree.com

Jim Fekete

treasurer@mbcapeachtree.com

Directors

directors@mbcapeachtree.com

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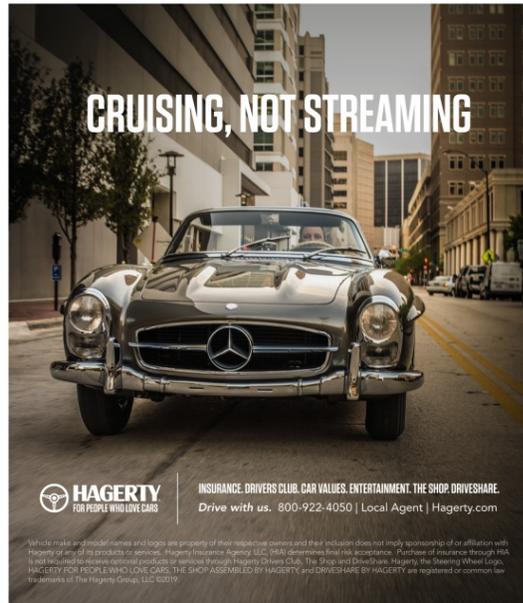
Reijo Haarla - Membership

membership@mbcapeachtree.com

Diana Quinn - Newsletter

newsletter@mbcapeachtree.com

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Events

events@mbcapeachtree.com

Rusty Duncan

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For information or questions about the Peachtree Section, please contact us at 770-376-0669.

sponsor@mbcapeachtree.com
Dean Prince - Technical
technical@mbcapeachtree.com
Diana Quinn - Webmaster
webmaster@mbcapeachtree.com

Eastern Regional Director
Diana Quinn

mbcadirectoreasternregion@gmail.com

National President

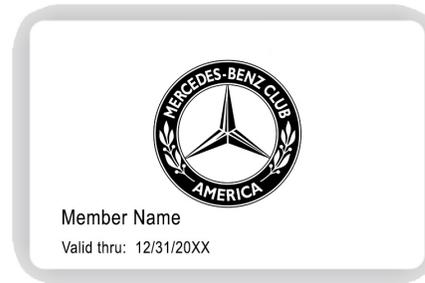
Doug Geganto

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- Log into MBCA (www.mbca.org) with your username/password
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- Click **Print Member Card**
- Print to your printer

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

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