



SMOKY MOUNTAIN SECTION

233 Briarcliff Avenue

Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Sept 2010 Newsletter

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About the Newsletter
The Smoky Mountain Section, Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc. publishes this quarterly newsletter.

Opinions expressed are those of the authors. Express permission is hereby given to other Sections of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America to reprint articles contained herein, except as noted. Articles of general interest should be mailed to the Editor, 233 Briarcliff Avenue, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. Copy deadline is the 15th of odd-numbered months.

An Overview of the Club

Established in 1956, MBCA has more than 22,000 members in over 80 Sections across the nation. These local Sections organize hundreds of events each year, ranging from social gatherings to specialized technical sessions. MBCA is a non-profit organization.

Join the Club	Call 800/637-2360
One year	\$45
Two years	\$87
Three years	\$127

Moving? Send address change to:

MBCA, 1907 Lelaray Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
or call 800/637-2360 or www.mbca.org

Local Activities

Your dues include membership in the Section of your choice. Each Section publishes a newsletter with news of its activities and their year-round calendar of events, including rallies defensive driving courses, car shows, and dinner meetings. Many Sections host special events such as StarTech, our national technical meeting and StarFest, our National Convention. Any MBCA member may attend any Section, Regional or National event.

Trip Routing Service

MBUSA offers a free trip routing service for MB owners regardless of the age of your car. You must provide your complete VIN. Call 800/367-6372.

The STAR

A subscription The STAR, MBCA's award-winning national magazine is included with your membership. Each issue includes technical information, a historic feature car in color, and the latest news from Daimler-Benz and MBUSA, articles on restoration, new car road tests, and advertisements from companies providing products and services for your car, plus free classified ads to members.

Don't forget to patronize our advertisers . . .



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We've Moved! **A-1 Alignment**
has moved to
321 Brisbane Rd., Suite E
(previously Ecumenical Storehouse)

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Visit Troy & Bryan the "Best Alignment Guys in Town"
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CAR & TRUCK WHEEL ALIGNMENTS · FRONT END REPAIRS

We're located East End of Oak Ridge. Take OR Tpke to R at A&W Plaza/East End Oil Change onto Brussels, R behind Car Wash on Brisbane, L at deadend road, down the driveway, R to end of warehouse bldg. to Suite E. Look for our sign.

Reach out to area Mercedes-Benz auto owners
Advertising Rates – Newsletter – 6 issues

Full page – 8½ x 11 \$150 Quarter page – 4¼ x 5½ \$50
Half page – 8½ x 5½ \$100 Business card \$25

Our Smoky Mountain Section newsletter reaches about 150 Mercedes-Benz owners in East Tennessee from Chattanooga to the Tri-Cities. Send ad copy and check to: George Murphy (perfanalysis@comcast.net)



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Directions to SMS Oktoberfest at 246 Briarcliff Avenue in Oak Ridge:

From Knoxville – take Pellissippi Parkway to Oak Ridge. When you see tall Y-12 Credit Union bldg on your right, go right on to Lafayette Ave (4 lane). Go to second traffic light and go right again on to Emory Valley Road (4 lane). Follow EMR to second traffic light and turn right on to Briarcliff Ave. Follow Briarcliff Ave to Briarcliff Community Club on the left. (OK to park on the grass or in Briarcliff Park parking lot off Deerfield Ave).

From North Knoxville – take Clinton Highway (25W) north to light at Edgemoor Road just past Red's Auto Parts. Go left at the light on to Edgemoor Road. Cross bridge at Bull Run Steam plant, then turn right and follow Melton Lake Drive to Emory Valley Road (see marina on the right). Go left on to EMR to first traffic light (Briarcliff Avenue) - turn left on to Briarcliff Ave. Follow Briarcliff Ave to Briarcliff Community Club on the left. (OK to park on the grass or Briarcliff Park lot off Deerfield Ave)

Weather permitting; the pool will be open for those who wish to swim.

It is that time of the year, when we gather together with old friends, taste the wine, eat wonderful German food, drink some beer, sing, dance, and laugh . . .

OKTOBERFEST 2010

This year we are having our OKTOBERFEST on Saturday, September 11 at 3 p.m. MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Thanks to the efforts of George Murphy we have the use of the Briarcliff Community Club pavilion at 246 Briarcliff Avenue in Oak Ridge.

We will be under cover in case of rain and in the shade in case of hot weather. We can accommodate 40 party-goers. It is a beautiful facility.

We expect to start the celebration at 3:00 PM

Our menu will consist of:

**Bratwurst
Weiner schnitzel
Red cabbage
Sauerkraut
Hot potato salad
Apple strudel
Beer, Wine, Soft drinks**

For all of this the cost is only \$10.00 per person. At this price we expect an overflow crowd, but we can handle only 40, so get your reservation in early. First come first served. Please send reservations, with check, to:

**Walter Myer, Burgermeister
932 Laurel Hill Road
Knoxville, TN 37923**

For questions call 865-456-2632 (Myer cell) or 865-850-9175 (Murphy cell)

Reservation Form – Oktoberfest 2010 – mail in by Noon Wednesday, Sept 8.

Name _____

Phone # _____

No. in party _____ X \$10 each = \$ _____

(Enclose check made out to MBCA Smoky Mountain Section)



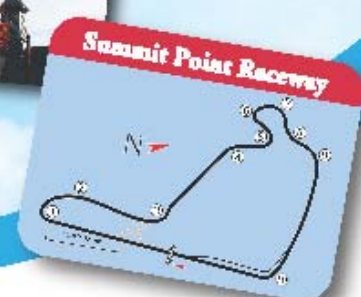
**MERCEDES-BENZ OF KNOXVILLE
PRESENTS
5TH ANNUAL SERVICE CLINIC
Saturday October 16, 2010
9:00 am – 2:00 pm**

The service clinic is free of charge and we will perform a 47-point inspection, wash your car, and provide you with an evaluation of your Mercedes-Benz so we can keep it running great! There will be food and door prizes (must be present to win)!

Remember, space is limited, so call today to guarantee your placement. RVSP to Marie at 865-777-2266 or clientcare@mercedesofknoxville.com.

2010 StarFest®

September 24 - 29
Winchester, Virginia



Enjoy the scenic and historic Shenandoah Valley... while sharing in the glory of being a Mercedes-Benz enthusiast.

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- Mercedes-Benz Concours d'Elegance
- Cocktail Parties, Wine Tasting, Banquets and social events
- Seminars and Clinics
- Road Rally through the Virginia Countryside
- Defensive Driving School
- Autocross
- 2 Track Days at Summit Point Raceway
- Club Store and Vendor Booth

Hosted by



twitter.com/starfest2010

Winchester, VA - www.hallofwinchesterve.com
 Courtyard Marriott Winchester - www.marriott.com/Augocny
 The Greater Washington Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America - www.gwc-mbca.org

Check the STARFEST® 2010 website often for the official schedule and updates • www.starfest2010.org

Information about StarFest® 2010

Dates: Sept 24 to 29, 2010

Website: www.starfest2010.org ww.twitter.com/starfest2010

Location: Winchester Virginia www.visitwinchesterva.com

Hotels: Courtyard Marriott Winchester Medical Center www.marriott.com/wgocy Towne Place Suites, Winchester www.towneplacesuites.com/wgots Room Rates \$85 per night, limited 2 bedroom suites at TPS @109 both include breakfast

StarFest® 2010 Mercedes-Benz Historic Jordan Springs VA Concours d'Elegance:
www.historicjordansprings.com

Seminars & Clinics SONAX M-B Detailing Clinic & Leatherique clinic on Friday. Mercedes-Benz Suspension - Pierre Hedary, M-B 107 Chassis Cars - Edward Owen, Becker Radios - Ed Able, MBCA Roundtable - MBCA Leadership, Tires- Rod Stotsenburg, The Intricacies of Coach building - Andris Paza, plus more on Saturday.

Rally and Autocross/Defensive Driving: Winchester Area Locations

Social Events: Historic Downtown Walking Mall, Winchester Virginia, Historic Jordan Springs, Family Drive-In Theater

Non Driver Events: Tour of historic Long Branch with brunch on Sunday, Middleburg VA tour & lunch on Monday, tour & lunch at Glen Burnie House and Museum of the Shenandoah Valley on Tuesday.

Race Track: Summit Point Raceway Main Course www.summitpoint-raceway.com

Other Attractions: Skyline Drive, Dinosaur Land, Patsy Cline Museum, Virginia Wine Country, Virginia Horse Country, Shepherdstown WV, Harpers Ferry WV, Luray Caverns, Skyline Drive, Winchester Civil War Museum.

Banquet Locations Historic Jordan Springs, Formal Banquet for the StarFest® Mercedes-Benz Concours and a more informal final awards event for the StarFest® Awards Banquet on Tuesday.

Driver's Meeting location Sunday night at the Towne Place Suites, including a Reception after the driver's meeting.

Schedule of Events (proposed):

Friday Sept 24, Arrivals, Rally, Pre-Concours Detailing Clinics, Flea Market Welcome Reception

Saturday Sept 25 Concours d'Elegance, Technical Seminars, Rally, Concours Awards Banquet

Sunday Sept 26 Defensive Driving, Autocross, Local Area Tours, Rally, MBCA Drivers School and Reception.

Monday Sept 27 Summit Point Raceway Track Time, Local Area Tours, Drive-In Movie Night & Picnic under the stars.

Tuesday Sept 28 Summit Point Raceway Track Time, Local Area Tours, StarFest® 2010 Awards Banquet.

Wednesday Sept 29 Farwell Breakfast and Photo Swap, Departures.

A fun way to get to StarFest

By Jim Roberts, Alabama Section

It is becoming an MBCA tradition to make road trips into adventures by embellishing the trips to tours with interesting sights and challenging roads. In addition to visiting places you might not know and driving great roads, you get to enjoy the company of many interesting MBCA members who you will find share much more than the appreciation for these fine Mercedes-Benz automobiles with you.

This year's StarFest is an easy drive for Smoky Mountain Section, Alabama and Peachtree Section members, and the most direct route (I-75 to I-40 to I-81) is common from Chattanooga to Winchester. Since these sections would be following the same route, we thought it would enhance the experience to use the great roads in the nearby Smoky Mountains to reach interesting places and to invite other MBCA members to join us on the way to StarFest 2010.

You will note that this entire drive allows different routes depending on the interests of each participant. It is not a solid caravan, so there should be no pressure to maintain a specific speed or to stay together.

Everyone should have at least AAA state map quality maps. Navigation systems may get you to your next destination, but they won't always take you the most scenic way.

Tuesday, 21 September

The Peachtree and Alabama Sections will start with a short run up I-75 to get us to US-129 aka the infamous "Tail of the Dragon" with its 218 turns in 12 miles. Because everyone has heard of this road, it is very crowded with slow moving Harley's, motor homes, and police. A great alternative 10 miles south is the 52 mile long "Chero-Hala Skyway" which was built to be a scenic highway in 1993. It is similar to the Blue Ridge Parkway and has moderate to light traffic with beautiful scenery. It joins US 129 at Robbinsville, N.C. And you can even get the "dragon" t-shirt.

US 129 takes us to US 74 near Andrews, N.C. We, however will drive north through the Nantahala Gorge with its multiple whitewater rafting opportunities. The road then becomes 4-lane and ascends the Blue Ridge Mountains. We will stop for lunch and visit Silver Star Restorations in Topton, N.C. Owner Piet van Russom races a 280SL that he will bring to StarFest. Piet is quite entertaining and usually has some interesting projects. In less than an hour we reach the Blue Ridge Parkway which runs 460 miles along the crest of the easternmost chain of the Appalachian Mountains connecting Shenandoah National Park and Smoky Mountain National Park.

Biltmore House

People can either turn north on the parkway for a 58 mile drive to Asheville through the highest elevation on the parkway (6056'), or drop off the north slope to join I-40 for a quicker way to Asheville and the Biltmore House which is one of the few true palaces in North America. The parkway is far more challenging and scenic, but it does have a 45mph speed limit and moderate traffic. This should be fairly light at the time of year and midweek.

Wednesday, 22 September

After a night in Asheville, there are different ways to get to Charlottesville, VA. Obviously you could just follow the Blue Ridge Parkway north for 380 miles. The first 150 miles is some of the most scenic of the entire BRP, but it is challenging driving. If you only stop at the most important sights (e.g. Craggy Gardens, Mt. Mitchell), you will have about 10 hours of scenic mountain roads that are beautifully manicured with a combination of breathtaking vistas and tunnels of trees.

The alternative is to take I-26 west (really north) through the Smoky Mountains to Johnson City and Bristol TN/VA. Even though this is an interstate, it passes through a very scenic area. This will connect you to I-81. It is a full 5-6 hours of interstate driving to just north of Roanoke where the BRP is only 10 miles from I-81. This northern most 100 miles of the parkway is at a lower elevation and is much more open and hence faster than the southern portion near Ashville.

Blue Ridge Parkway south of Asheville, N.C.

Those who really don't want to drive in the mountains can continue on up I-81 to I-64 east to Charlottesville. The BRP ends at Shenandoah National Park where it crosses I-64. It is then only 15-20 miles down to Charlottesville where we have arranged another nice hotel. We will also have a dinner there as well.

Thursday, 23 September

On Thursday we will visit Monticello, the magnificent Italian baroque villa that Thomas Jefferson designed as his home, and have lunch at the 18th century Mitchie Tavern. Some may want to visit 5th president James Monroe's nearby home which is now a working plantation while others might want to continue carving the turns and seeing the sights in Shenandoah National Park.

Friday, 24 September

We should arrive in Winchester by Thursday night. This should give us time to clean up our cars on Friday morning and attend seminars or go on tours Friday afternoon. By the time you reach StarFest you should have many new friends to share your adventures with and you should have learned about some areas that you might want to visit again.

For more details contact:

Jim Roberts: jertoosaver@bellsouth.net

or 800-228-2997

Daryl Williams: dwilli3038@aol.com

Bill and George's Excellent Adventure at AMG Driving Academy May 2010

On Sunday, May 16, 2010 the US AMG Driving Academy hosted the first AMG Private Lounge day of 2010. George Murphy and Bill Lenihan attended the event. Below are images from the day.



We had driving experience in all the AMG Models - SLK 63, C63, E63, SL63, CLK E63 Black Series and the new SLS AMG. We both got to drive the new SLS AMG at speed on the track. Our last time out on the track was in the SLS, and I have to believe we had the best possible rotation of cars. The SLS is an amazing car, both in power and handling, and working it around the track really was a breeze. On the back stretch of Road Atlanta I saw 137 mph while catching up to our instructor as we rotated the lead car, yet it felt as if I was cruising at highway speeds. I really wish this part of the day could have lasted much longer, but anyone who really enjoys the track time and would like some more extensive training should consider the AMG Driving Academy Advanced program.