



Volume 47 - Vol 6 | December 2025



Peachtree

View through the STAR

View Through The Star

by Rusty Duncan, President

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday



and enjoyed time with family and friends. As we close out the year, I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at our Annual Holiday Luncheon at Osteria Mattone on Canton Street on Saturday, December 13th.

Rusty and wife Michele at Mercedes Club Murder Mystery Dinner in November.

This is always one of our most enjoyable gatherings of the year—and the food is fantastic. (Thank you Ernie Smallman for planning!) Please remember to bring a new, unwrapped toy as we continue our tradition of supporting Toys for Tots. And don't forget: you must sign up online to attend. Space is limited each year, and we'd love to see a great turnout.

As always, I want to extend an open invitation:

If you've ever considered getting more involved - whether as an event planner, a judge, a volunteer, or just an extra pair of hands - we would love to have you. This club thrives because of the people who step forward to help, and I can personally say that some of my closest friendships have come through MBCA Peachtree. I'm certain you will experience the same.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our recent *Murder Mystery Dinner* and especially Marisa HeGyesi who planned it. We had a thrilling evening of intrigue, laughter and camaraderie - I was assigned the role of "Professor Phineas Purple" along with Diana Quinn who played the murderous "Cherry Bomb." It's events like these that remind us what a fun, welcoming community the Mercedes Benz Club of America - Peachtree Section really is. I have more to thank, but you will need to come to the holiday luncheon to hear about that.

As 2025 comes to a close, I hope you and your families enjoy a terrific holiday season filled with joy, good health, and happiness. We're already planning an exciting 2026 calendar full of adventures both on and off the road, and we look forward to sharing the journey with you. Here's to new memories—and new friends—we will meet along the way.

See you soon.

**MERCEDES-BENZ
SPECIALIST**

TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED MECHANICS

10% OFF
FOR CLUB
MEMBERS ONLY

- ✓ A & B services
- ✓ Check engine light
- ✓ Programming
- ✓ Electrical Diagnosis

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO:
770.475.1090

IMPORTAUTOREPAIRS.COM

6735 ATLANTA HWY ALPHARETTA, GA 30004



Member Spotlight Ernest "Ernie" Smallman III



by Marisa Hegyesi

Ernie is originally from McMinnville, Tennessee. He is 81 and for the last eight years has had a lovely significant other, Patricia Duer. Ernie has two sons: Ernest IV (age 53) and William (age 47).

Having qualified for an ROTC scholarship, he obtained a BA in Economics

from Vanderbilt University. Later, he utilized the GI Bill and received an LLB (Bachelor of Law) from Tulane University.

Ernie's first job in high school was a newspaper route. Then, Ernie served twenty years in the Army, including a tour as an Infantry Platoon Leader with the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam ("The Big Red One"). (*Thank you for your service!*) The money he saved while in Vietnam was utilized to purchase his first Mercedes - the SL 350. [Read More](#)



Your Convertible Top/Hydraulic Cylinder Specialists

- general diagnostics on convertible top problems.
- canvas, hardtop, and metal roof SLs from the 50s - today.
- hydraulic cylinder repair/replacement for 124, 129, 170, 230, 208, 207 chassis & more.
- headliner replacement
- sunroof repair/replacement





BUD'S
PARTS . SERVICE . UPHOLSTERY .


Contact Us

770 942 8444

www.budsbenz.com

7773 W Strickland St
Douglasville, GA
30134





Peachtree

Event Rundown

December

12/7 | STARS and Coffee | [register](#) | [map](#)

12/13 | Peachtree Holiday Luncheon | [register](#) | [map](#)

2026 EVENTS PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

1/3 | STARS and Coffee | [register](#) | [map](#)
1/17 | MBCA Peachtree Board Meeting | contact [President](#)

2/7 | STARS and Coffee | [register](#) | [map](#)

3/7 | STARS and Coffee | [register](#) | [map](#)

3/14 | German Shepard Rescue Fundraiser/

4/11 | McDaniel Techenor House Tour - Monroe GA

5/16 | Mountain Drive

6/7 - 6/8 | Alabama Drive, Dinner and Performance Driving Talladega
Grand Prix Raceway



Membership

Welcome NEW and Rejoining Members

- Rashaun Bosley
- James Hughes
- EJ McCargar
- Allan Raulerson
- Mark Soesman
- Scott Werner

THANK YOU RENEWING MEMBERS!

- Billy Boguski
- Chris Bradley
- Robert Curlee
- Dale Garber
- Philip George
- Roy Francois
- Bryce Johnson
- Zackary Johnson

by Reijo Haarla, Membership Director

Peachtree Chapter is one of the most active chapters within the Mercedes-Benz Club of America. We organize a large variety of events members can participate. In addition to this year's activity, Peachtree Chapter has already planned a full schedule of events for the next year. These include our monthly STARS & Coffee car shows, Mountain Drives, tech sessions, social gathering and many more events.

We still have a couple of events scheduled for the remaining of the year; the STARS & Coffee at Halcyon and the Peachtree Holiday luncheon. Please check the event calendar in this Newsletter and register to attend for an upcoming event. Attending club events is the best way to meet fellow members who share your passion for Mercedes-Benz vehicles.

- Stan Mays
- James Miller
- Tom Murray
- Richard Neary
- Eddy Sayed
- Ernest Smallman
- Robert Tincher
- Logan Trembley
- Axel Vorpahl
- Roger Williams
- Richard Zeits



Peachtree

Membership Renewal Made Easy!

When it is time to renew your membership, you have several convenient options:

- You can do it online by logging into the MBCA website at mbca.org and renewing from your membership profile, or just simply proceed your renewal from the MBCA reminder email.
- You can call the MBCA National Business Office at 719.633.6427, Monday through Friday 9 am to 5 pm MST, to renew your membership over the phone.
- Mail a check to the MBCA National Business Office: 3472 Research Pkwy Ste 104 PMB 464 Colorado Springs, CO 80920

To ensure your membership stays active, simply select **Yes** to the Auto-Renew option during renewal.

MBCA Anniversaries

35 Years

Karl Boegner
Tom Durr
Bryce Johnson

30 Years

Robert Bingham Roy
Steve Chapman
Noel Francis

25 Years

Allen Farlow
Lloyd Parker
James Roberts

20 Years

Carl Frasher
James Miller
Bryan Shaver

10 Years

Maurice Linares
Joe Martin
Richard Neary
David Parker
TJ Sharitz

5 Years

Beverly Bell
Grant Cleaveland
Eldon Collier
Mike Dougherty
Douglas Forrester
Keith Hawkins
Stuart Jackson
Nelson Loh
Chris Seastrom
Robert Sutter
Demian Torres-Bohl

15 Years

Jack Fishman

Henry Krebs

Kenneth Sabo

Pierce Williams

MY MERCEDES & BIMMER PLACE

www.mymercedesplace.com



MERCEDES-BENZ | BMW | SERVICE



Home of
Southern Cross
GSD Rescue

770-205-4011

**4345 GA Hwy 400
Cumming, GA 30028**



Peachtree

Technical Digest



Idler Arm Bushing Replacement

by Gary Edwards, Technical Advisor

Replacing the idler arm bushing is mostly straightforward job with some potential complications. This applies to many Mercedes; any of the Mercedes that do not have rack and pinion steering have an idler arm and its bushings are a wear item. Mercedes started using rack and pinion steering with the 210 chassis in 1995, so just about all older Mercedes have an idler arm,

up to the 124, 129, 140, and 202/208.

With the recirculating ball steering on most older Mercedes, the steering gear box is on the driver's side of the car and provides its inputs to the steering linkage with a link called a pitman arm. This is connected to the left tie rod directly (for a left-hand drive car), but it's a long way from the right tie rod, so an arm called the drag link connects to the pitman arm and goes horizontally across the car. To ensure that the linkage is symmetrical and that the input to the right tie rod is the same as the input to the left tie rod, an arm kinematically identical to the pitman arm is positioned on the passenger side of the car. This arm is called the idler arm, and it is hinged to the chassis with a large bolt which has upper and lower bushings. When these bushings get worn, there is play in the steering linkage.

[Read More](#)



Peachtree

Events



by Ernie Smallman, Event Planner

Join us for a festive Holiday Luncheon at Osteria Mattone, a charming trattoria on Canton Street in Roswell known for its award-winning Italian cuisine and exceptional wine list.

We'll enjoy a family-style feast featuring arancini, fresh salads, classic pastas, grilled chicken, Neapolitan meatballs, and seasonal vegetables — all for just \$45 per person (tax and gratuity included, thanks to a club subsidy!).

Accolades of Osteria Mattone include:

- Added to DIRONA (Distinguished Restaurants of North America) in 2025.
- Vote best Italian Restaurant in the metro area by many publications and magazines

- Awarded by Wine Spectator the “wine list of distinction” designation each of the thirteen years that the restaurant has been open.
- Selected to participate as a visiting invited chef at the James Beard House in New York City, preparing multi-course meals for dining guests and reviewers.
- Distinguished as an “Outstanding Restaurant” each of the last thirteen years by Open Table.

Valet parking will be available. Space is limited, so register by December 8, 2025. **And don't forget to bring an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots to help spread holiday cheer.**

**Holiday
Luncheon**



The Mercedes-Benz Experience at HALCYON-FORSYTH

Conveniently located at McFarland Parkway and GA 400.



Mercedes-Benz
Experience
by RBM of Alpharetta

All in-store merchandise

10% off

Excludes vehicles. Must show
this ad to redeem offer.

Expires 12/31/2025

6345 Halcyon Way, Suite 835 | Alpharetta, GA 30005 | 678-726-6726



Event News

CONCOURS 2025

Concours 2025 Winners

Class	Place	First Name	Last Name	Year	Model
Show Class	1st Place	Sam	Kamber	2000	SL500
	2nd Place	Otto	Gogolin	1979	280 SL
	3rd Place	Austin	Hoffer	1997	SL320
Street - Sedan	1st Place	Stephen	Hegyesi	2023	C43 Cabriolet
	2nd Place	Austin	Hoffer	2002	C240
	3rd Place	Otto	Gogolin	2005	Maybach 57
Street - SL	1st Place	Karen	Myers	2002	SL500 Silver Arrow
	2nd Place	Bob	Best	2000	SL500
	3rd Place	Jill	Gilmer	1995	SL500
Custom	1st Place	Phillip	George	1997	C280 Sport
Show & Shine	1st Place	Diana	Quinn	1995	E320 Cabriolet
	2nd Place	Richard	Mabie	1999	CLK 430
	3rd Place	Alan	Sinram	1979	280E

Show Class



Sam Kamber
First Place



Otto Gogolin
Second Place



Austin Hoffer
Third Place

Sedan Class



Steve Hegyesi
First Place



Otto Goglin
Second Place



Austin Hoffer
Third Place

SL Class



Karen Myers
First Place



Bob Best
Second Place



Jill Gilmer
Third Place

Custom Class



Phillip George
First Place

Show and Shine Class



*Diana Quinn
First Place*



*Richard Mabie
Second Place*



*Alan Sinram
Third Place*

A photograph of a white Mercedes-Benz E-Class sedan parked in a well-lit garage. In the background, there are other cars and a sign that reads "IT'S ALL ABOUT THE SERVICE." The GCR logo is visible in the bottom left corner.

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE SERVICE.

GCR
GERMAN CAR REPAIR

6070 ATLANTA HIGHWAY
ALPHARETTA, GA 30004
770-649-8700
GERMANCARREPAIR.COM

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER



November 15, 2025

EXTRA - EXTRA - READ ALL ABOUT IT! Two murders occurred at the Murder Mystery Dinner last night. Our very own Rusty Duncan played the role of Professor Phineas Purple. Professor Purple was a highly intelligent novelist, or so you thought until you found out his novel was being ghost written by a Starlet who was shot in her apartment. The Professor was also upset about his novel being made into a movie, but he agreed to the "Chancing" (\$).

Then the movie's financier was poisoned. But who knew about the poison - the butler, the dead financier, the Professor, the maid Oola La, and Cherry Bomb. Cherry Bomb, from Columbus, Ohio, had come to Hollywood to learn from her mentor Starlet and get a role in the movie. Cherry Bomb was played by our very own Diana Quinn!

One person killed both individuals. Who was it? Well, Oola La was really an undercover FBI agent investigating the host Warren Peace. She figured out the murderer was **CHERRY BOMB!**

Cherry found out her role was being stolen by the Starlet who was sleeping with the financier. She had a motive and had access by being the understudy. **Crime solved!**



"Cherry Bomb" aka Diana Quinn



"Best Dressed" table of Gangsters.





The Enthusiasts' Service Center



640 James Road
Alpharetta, GA 30004
678-631-9028
Admin@DCMotorWerks.com



Dealer trained. Over 35 years of experience. No flat rate. Enthusiasts first.
We are the difference in providing the best service to you and your vehicle.



Welcome Club Members! We are offering complimentary inspections with 10% off of your first visit and 10% off all subsequent visits.



Mercedes-Benz News



Mercedes-Benz USA Awarded for Impactful Child Injury Prevention Efforts

October 20, 2025

Mercedes-Benz USA (MBUSA) received the Safe Kids Champion for Children Award at [The Safe Kids Worldwide Childhood Injury Prevention Convention \(PrevCon\)](#). This award recognizes an individual, business, government agency, or organization that has made a significant impact in the field of child injury prevention. Vehicle safety has been a cornerstone of Mercedes-Benz since its inception, and MBUSA has carried this legacy forward into meaningful community initiatives — efforts that are proudly reflected in this prestigious recognition.

[Read
More](#)

6x Honoree

RBM of Atlanta is a 2023
J.D. Power "Dealer of Excellence"



BEST OF THE BEST
Mercedes-Benz Dealer
Recognition Award
8x Award Winner



Take 10% off your next repair or
parts and accessories purchase
at RBM of Atlanta - Sandy Springs

Excludes specials, tires, and certain menu items.
Offer good thru 06/30/2025 on one service visit per member. Discount
available to Club Members only & you must show Club ID at time of use.



7200 Roswell Road + 7640 Roswell Road | 770-390-0700 | www.RBMofAtlanta.com

Peachtree Chapter Officers

**Peachtree Section, MBCA
Officers and Board of
Directors and Leadership
Support Members**

Rusty Duncan

president@mbcapeachtree.com

Committees

Reijo Haarla - Membership

membership@mbcapeachtree.com

Diana Quinn - Newsletter

newsletter@mbcapeachtree.com

Rusty Duncan - Sponsors

sponsor@mbcapeachtree.com

Sam Kamber

vicepresident@mbcapeachtree.com

Marisa Hegyesi

secretary@mbcapeachtree.com

Diana Quinn

treasurer@mbcapeachtree.com

Directors

directors@mbcapeachtree.com

Brett Butler

Reijo Haarla

Dietmar Schmid

Past presidents

Steve Chapman

Gary Edwards

Ernie Smallman

Gary Edwards - Technical

technical@mbcapeachtree.com

Diana Quinn - Webmaster

webmaster@mbcapeachtree.com

Directors at Large

Abel Beck

Austin Hoffer

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

MBCA Name Tags**JOHN SMITH**

LINE 1 ADDITIONAL
LINE 2 CHAPTER NAME

**Order Name
Tag**

S P O R T S & I M P O R T S COLLISION INC.

Guaranteed Satisfaction with Original Factory Parts and
Factory-Trained Technicians
Factory Recommended Celette Repair Benches

3400 McDaniel Rd
Duluth, GA 30096
770-623-6300

WE PROUDLY SUPPORT MERCEDES-BENZ
ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR MEMBERS



Mercedes-Benz Club of America Peachtree Section | www.mbcapeachtree.com