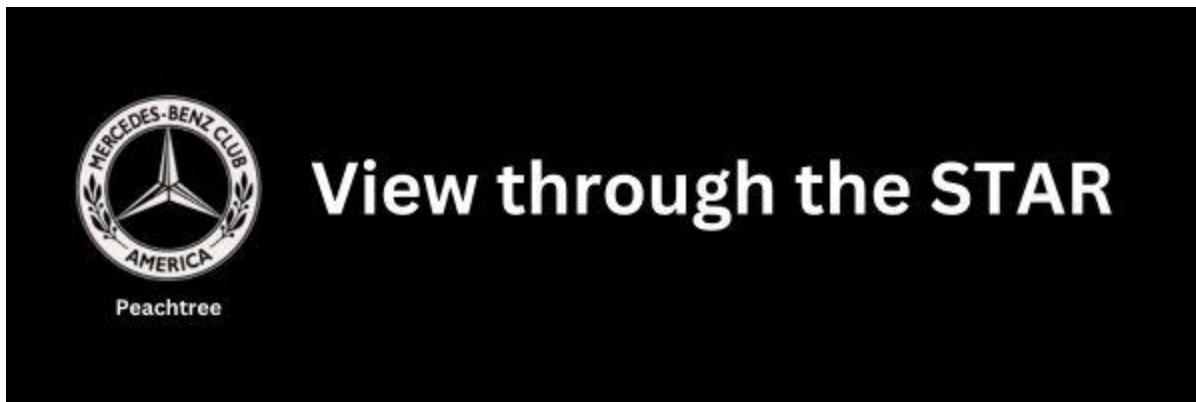




Volume 48 - Vol 4 | August 2026



View Through The Star

by Rusty Duncan, President

As I write my final *View Through the Star* as President, I find myself reflecting on what has been an incredible seven years serving on the MBCA Peachtree Board. I've had the privilege of serving as Secretary, Vice President, and finally President. Looking back, I'm grateful for every opportunity to help our chapter grow and, more importantly, for

the friendships that have come from serving.

During those years we've faced our share of challenges. None was greater than the COVID pandemic. Like every organization, we suddenly found ourselves wondering how we could continue bringing members together safely.



Fortunately, we realized that driving was the perfect socially distant activity. Instead of hiding in our homes, we explored the beautiful roads of North Georgia together. Our mountain drives really took off during that time, often ending at scenic overlooks where we would open the trunks of our Mercedes and enjoy picnic lunches together. Those drives became some of my favorite club memories. They reminded us that even during difficult times, friendship always finds a way. [Read More](#)

A promotional graphic for Import Auto Repairs. The background features a close-up of a person's head with a hair clip. Overlaid on this are several diamond-shaped images: a car on a lift, two technicians in a shop, and a car engine. Text elements include 'MERCEDES-BENZ SPECIALIST', 'TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED MECHANICS', a '10% OFF FOR CLUB MEMBERS ONLY' badge, a list of services (A & B services, Check engine light, Programming, Electrical Diagnosis), contact information (770.475.1090, IMPORTAUTOREPAIRS.COM), a QR code, and a small address line at the bottom: 6735 ATLANTA HWY ALPHARETTA, GA 30004.

**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 Terry Newby



by Marisa Hegyesi

Terry Newby

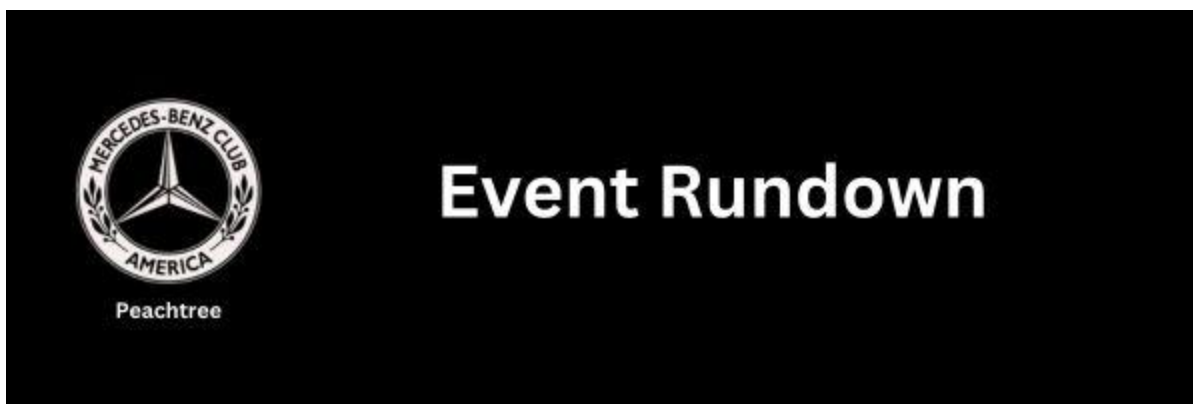
Terry is originally from Washington, D.C. He is fifty-eight and married to his beautiful, loving wife Ria. Terry has two sons in their twenties.

Terry's first job was the United States Army (Logistics). Before he went to active duty, he was in the Army Reserves. His unit went to Kaiserslautern, Volgelweh, Ramstein, and Frankfurt on humanitarian missions. During active duty (1999-2005), Terry was stationed at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

While attending Colorado Technical University, he studied Business Administration and Logistics and Supply Chain Management.

Later, Terry received his Veterans Affairs Training Certification for Nursing. He presently works for the Department of Veterans Affairs in the emergency room.

In his spare time, he loves watching American football. Terry has been a Pittsburgh Steelers fan since the 1970's. Of course, he also likes to "submerge" himself and Ria into the "automotive culture surrounding German cars." [Read More](#)



August and September

8/2 | STARS and Coffee | [register](#) | [map](#)
8/8 | Mountain Drive to Tellus Museum | [register](#) | [map](#)
8/18 | Tech Session - 722.6 Transmission | [register](#) | ZOOM
8/23 | GAS ATL Meetup Noon-3pm | [map](#)
9/6 | STARS and Coffee | [register](#) | [map](#)
9/17 | Concours Judging School | [register](#) | ZOOM
9/19 | Mountain Drive - Poker Run | *watch for details*
9/25 | High Tea at Ginger Room | [register](#) | [map](#)
9/26-27 | GT World Challenge | [Buy Tickets](#) | [map](#)
9/27 | GAS ATL Meetup Noon-3pm | [map](#)

October, November, and December

10/4 | Peachtree Concours | [register](#) | [map](#)
10/16 | Trunk Show at J. McLaughlin | [register](#) | [map](#)
10/17 | MBCA Peachtree Board Meeting | [Contact President](#)
10/24 | Deutsche Car Show | [register](#) | [map](#)
10/25 | GAS ATL Meetup Noon-3pm | [map](#)
11/1 | STARS and Coffee | *watch for details* | [map](#)
11/28 | Holiday Lights Drive | *watch for details* | [map](#)
12/5 | Holiday Luncheon | *watch for details* | [map](#)
12/6 | STARS and Coffee | *watch for details* | [map](#)

IT'S **ALL** ABOUT THE SERVICE.



GCR
GERMAN CAR REPAIR

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



Peachtree

Membership

Welcome NEW Members!

- Shandrea Pollard
- Scott Preacher
- Timothy Rehm
- Rod Robinson
- Corinthians Styron

THANK YOU Renewing Members!

- Steve Chapman
- Valerie Coleman
- Adrienne Donahue
- Jean-Marrie Girardot
- Reijo Haarla
- Brad Hammond

by Reijo Haarla, Membership Director

As of the end of June 2026, Peachtree Chapter has 261 members.

Summer is in full swing, and the Peachtree Chapter of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America continues to offer a wide variety of events for our members. Most recently, we enjoined the Membership Appreciation Luncheon – an annual favorite that always draws a great crowd. Peachtree Chapter organizes driving, technical and social events for members to enjoy. Coming up in August and September:

- STARS & Coffee, August 2nd and September 6th.

- Bonnie Hare
- Irvin Johnson
- William Kraeling
- Thomas Lammert
- Roger McKissick
- Marques McMillan
- David Murtaugh
- Steve Reynolds
- Chris Sears
- Jason Shah
- Bryan Shaver
- Jeremy Toothman
- Harrison Young



- Mountain Drives, August 8th and September 19th.

Please refer the event calendar in this Newsletter for more details and to register for these exiting events.

Membership Renewal is Easy!

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

- Logging into the MBCA website at mbca.org and renewing from your membership profile.
- Renew from the renewal reminder email from MBCA.
- Call the MBCA National Business Office at 719.633.6427, Monday through Friday 9 am to 5 pm MST
- Mail a check to: MBCA National Business Office, 3472 Research Pkwy Ste 104 PMB 464, Colorado Springs, CO 80920



Peachtree

Technical Digest

by Gary Edwards, Technical Advisor

Cheap SLS Struts Too Good to be True?

I was quite surprised when I saw 140-chassis Self Leveling System (rear) struts for \$225 for a pair on eBay. Since I have two 140 coupes with clunks from the rear suspension, I thought these were worth a try. They arrived quickly and I was pleasantly surprised that they included the upper mounting bushings as well. Installation was delayed, however, by the need to get the transmission out of limp mode (see a few of my other articles). This delay subsequently became important.

When I finally was able to do the installation, I noted a couple of differences between the original units and these cheap replacements. First, the alignment of the upper tube and the lower tube didn't match their orientation as installed in the car. This would normally be simply resolved by rotating the lower tube portion to match what's needed. However, as on the original item, there is a rubber bellows covering the area where the upper and lower portions meet. Unlike the original, however, the lower portion of the boot was secured with an Oetiker clamp (a crush clamp that cannot be loosened without cutting). I cut the clamp, rotated the strut to the correct orientation and used a hose clamp to replace it. This was minor.



Cheap Strut

[Read More](#)



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.





Events

MOUNTAIN DRIVE TO TELLUS MUSEUM Saturday, August 8, 2026



Marisa Hegyesi, Event Planner

Join us at 9:00 am at the Dunkin Donuts located at [651 Atlanta Highway, Cumming GA](#) (just off of Highway 400) for coffee and donuts if desired. We will leave at 9:30 am to drive to the Museum.

Tellus Science Museum is a natural history and science museum near **Cartersville, Georgia**, with a facility of over 120,000 square feet. It is an affiliate of the **Smithsonian Institution**. The museum holds the Bentley Planetarium and observatory. The largest displays consist of a large fossil exhibit and mineral gallery. The Museum opens at 10:00 am. Pay individually at the entrance.

Ticket Prices are:

- Members & Active Military: Free
- Adults: \$20
- Children & Students: \$16
- Seniors (65+): \$18

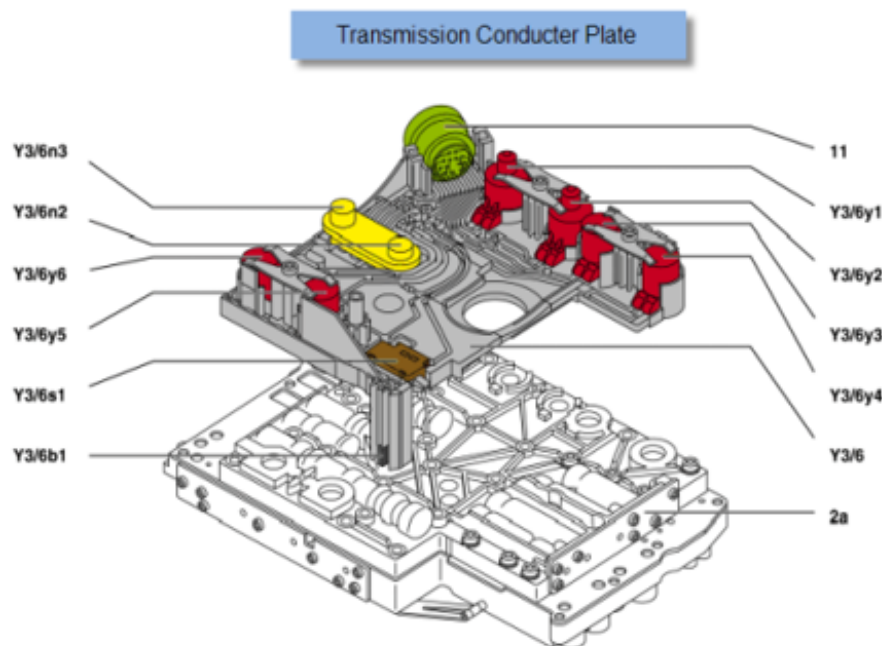
- Bentley Planetarium tickets are \$5 per show with a paid museum admission.

For those that would like to meet for lunch at 1:00 pm, please indicate when registering so that we may make a reservation at a local Cartersville restaurant.

Deadline for registration is August 6, 2026.

Tellus Museum

Virtual Tech Session Mercedes 722.6 Transmission Tuesday, August 18



Join us via Zoom at 7 pm **Tuesday August 18th** for a Tech Session on the Mercedes 722.6 Transmission by Peachtree Chapter Technical Advisor Gary Edwards.

The 722.6 5 speed automatic transmission was used in many Mercedes from the mid-1990s well into the 21st century. Though robust and reliable, these transmissions have some unique issues that can cause confusion and even prompt unwarranted replacement. Gary will cover limp mode, setting and checking fluid level, connector sleeve replacement, transmission control module inspection, cleaning and replacement and conductor plate replacement. The tech session is **FREE**, please register below.



A new chapter begins, built around you.

Our expansion is complete!
Enjoy a more spacious showroom,
upgraded facility, and an elevated
Mercedes-Benz experience designed to
make every visit more comfortable,
convenient, and exceptional.
We look forward to welcoming you.

In addition, we are now the new
destination for the MBCA Peachtree
'Stars and Coffee' events, effective
August 2, 2026. Gatherings occur
the first Sunday of the month from
10:00 AM to 1:00 PM and are open
to all Mercedes-Benz models.

RBM
of ALPHARETTA



345 McFarland Parkway | Exit 12 off GA 400
678-637-2333 Main | rbmofalpharetta.com

Events for the Ladies of Mercedes!

**High Tea at Ginger Room
Alpharetta
Friday, Sept 25 11:00 am**



Geri Whaley-Ewers Event Planner

Join the ladies for an elegant High Tea at [The Ginger Room](#) in Alpharetta, located in the historic Skelton-Teasley House. Enjoy a delightful afternoon of fine teas, finger sandwiches, scones, sweet treats, and wonderful conversation, all accompanied by a live performance from a talented cellist.

With attendance limited to just 10 guests, this intimate event is sure to fill quickly. Reserve your place today!

High Tea

**Trunk Show at J. McLaughlin's
Avalon
Friday, Oct 16 11:00 am**



Geri Whaley-Ewers Event Planner

Join the ladies for a stylish afternoon at [J. McLaughlin](#) in Avalon. Browse the latest fall fashions, enjoy great company, and shop for a good cause.

J. McLaughlin will donate a portion of event sales to *Second Chance Greyhounds*, helping retired racing greyhounds find loving homes.

Fashion, friendship, and philanthropy—all in one delightful afternoon!

J. McLaughlin's

**GT WORLD CHALLENGE
September 26 - 27 B
Barber Motorsports Park, AL**

Experience an exciting weekend of world-class sports car racing at Barber Motorsports Park! Enjoy the GT World Challenge, featuring Sunday's thrilling 3-hour endurance race, plus exclusive paddock access and



Mercedes-Benz display parking in the Fan Zone.

Thanks to connections with AMG race teams, attendees may enjoy special behind-the-scenes access, and Mercedes-Benz vehicles will be eligible for cash prizes in the featured car display.

BUY GT WORLD CHALLENGE TICKETS

BIRMINGHAM CAR FESTIVAL

Presented By **CORSA**



The inaugural Birmingham Car Festival Presented by Corsa Crew is your chance to show off your car, compete for cash prizes, and experience the UAB Medicine GT World Alabama Benefiting Teal Wings of Hope!

OVERALL WINNER WILL RECEIVE
\$1,000 CASH

SECOND PLACE: \$750 | THIRD PLACE: \$250

All winners must be present on 9/27 at 2PM to claim their prize

\$125

3-Day Pass

\$70

Single Day Pass

One General Admission Race Ticket for day(s) purchased

One car entry to The Birmingham Car Festival

Complimentary Parade Lap while supplies last
(3-Day Ticket Purchasers Only)

\$10 Donation to Teal Wings of Hope



SCAN TO
BUY TICKETS

Concours d'Elegance

Bertha Benz - 140th Anniversary

RBM of Alpharetta

October 4, 2026

9:30 am - 1:30 pm



Sam Kamber, Concours Chair

Join us for the the Peachtree Concours d'Elegance as we celebrate the **140th anniversary of the Mercedes-Benz automobile and the 70th anniversary of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America.**

Whether your Mercedes-Benz is concours-quality, a well-loved driver, a custom creation, or simply one you enjoy showing, there's a place for you! Classes include Concours, Street, Custom, and Show & Shine, along with Silver Star Preservation Certification for qualifying unrestored vehicles.

This year we are being hosted by Peachtree sponsor RBM of Alpharetta at their newly renovated facility!

The registration fee is \$45 per vehicle, and the event is open exclusively to Mercedes-Benz automobiles. Spectators are welcome, and parking is free.

Registration deadline: September 27, 2026.

Concours 2026

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
HOLIDAY LUNCHEON
December 5, 2026

Holiday Cheer!

Join us for a
**HOLIDAY
LUNCHEON**

DEC
5 | Saturday
11:30 am

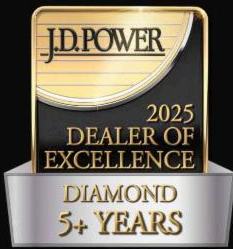
Table and Main Restaurant
1028 Canton Street
Roswell, GA 30075



Ernie Smallman, Event Planner

Join the Peachtree Chapter for our 2026 Holiday Luncheon at the award-winning Table & Main in historic Roswell. Known for its warm Southern hospitality and seasonal, locally sourced cuisine, this charming restaurant—housed in a beautifully restored 100-year-old home—offers the perfect setting to celebrate the season with fellow members and guests.

Guests will enjoy a plated lunch with entrée selections, salad, and dessert, along with a cash bar. Final menu details and registration information will be shared this fall.



8x Honoree

RBM of Atlanta is a 2025 J.D. Power "Dealer of Excellence"



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 12/31/2026 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

Event News

BBQ Rally Saturday, July 11, 2026



Ernie Smallman, Event Planner

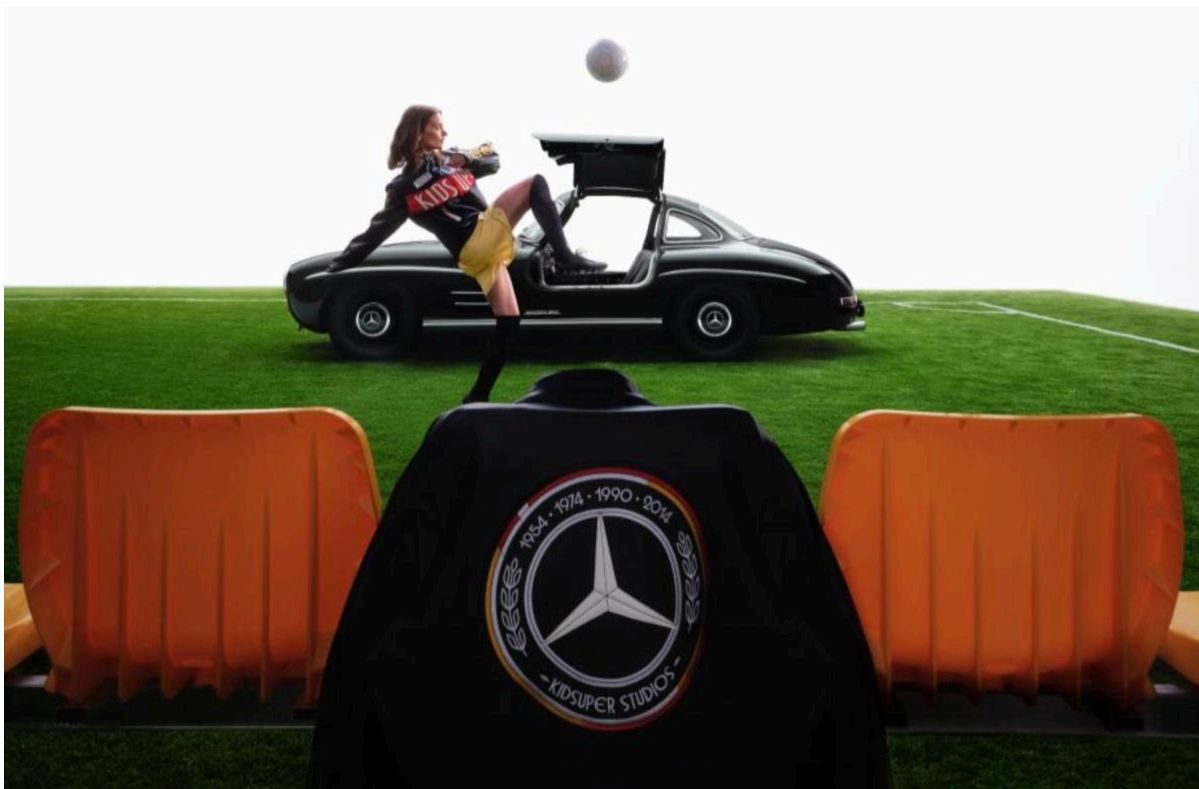
Eight Mercedes with ten passengers trekked across north central Georgia savoring BBQ and fix ins starting with North Carolina tawny slaw at JDs BBQ in Acworth. The location was an historic 1925 former school building modified to a restaurant. Second stop was Williamson Brothers BBQ in Canton, GA where members had the option to consume a Jumbo (half pound or double meat of a regular BBQ sandwich).

After waddling back to our Mercedes, the caravan motored to Big Easy BBQ at Hickory Flat for their specialty Corn Maque Choix. Some of the more adventurous had slabs of ribs, alligator bites, and Jambalaya . The day was topped off by desert (ice cream wiht chocolate brownie or banana pudding) at Rally Pointe Grill in Woodstock. Most checked their tire pressure when departing to insure that the vehicle could support the extra weight that they gained.



Mercedes-Benz News

Kick it Like Colm Dillane: Mercedes-Benz and KidSuper Are Inspired by Automotive Heritage and Soccer Culture



June 25, 2026 - Stuttgart/Miami

- Seven nations with legendary soccer legacies are paired with both historic Mercedes-Benz vehicles and exclusive KidSuper fashion pieces, celebrating 140 years of automotive innovation through global soccer culture
- Spectacular fashion show and runway premiere in Miami on June 25, 2026 – a moment marking KidSuper's first main collection show outside Paris
- Limited-edition capsule collection available fall 2026, exploring the emotional and cultural dimensions of soccer through menswear tailoring, leisurewear and bespoke accessories

Mercedes-Benz is once again uniting with Colm Dillane – the U.S. fashion designer and multi-talented creative head behind KidSuper – to create a new cultural collaboration that weaves together 140 years of automotive excellence, global soccer heritage and bold fashion expression. As international soccer excitement reaches its peak, the partnership celebrates seven nations who proudly wear at least one or more stars on their jersey. Bespoke combinations of cars and fashion will celebrate their legacies during the KidSuper special runway show in Miami on June 25.

[Read More](#)

MBCA RAFFLE

Just 2 More Weeks to Enter!

Raffle Ends 8/15/2026



Purchase Tickets Now!

Peachtree Chapter Officers

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

Rusty Duncan

Committees

Reijo Haarla - Membership

membership@mbcapeachtree.com

Diana Quinn - Newsletter

newsletter@mbcapeachtree.com

Rusty Duncan - Sponsors

president@mbcapeachtree.com

Marisa Hegyesi

vicepresident@mbcapeachtree.com

Brett Butler

secretary@mbcapeachtree.com

Diana Quinn

treasurer@mbcapeachtree.com

Directors

directors@mbcapeachtree.com

Reijo Haarla

Sam Kamber

Dietmar Schmid

Past presidents

Steve Chapman

Gary Edwards

Ernie Smallman

Directors at Large

Michael Leigh

Allan Smith

sponsor@mbcapeachtree.com

Gary Edwards - Technical

technical@mbcapeachtree.com

Diana Quinn - Webmaster

webmaster@mbcapeachtree.com

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 Chapter | www.mbcapeachtree.org



Try email marketing for free today!