

# TriStar News

## Message from Our Chapter President

Triangle Chapter Members,

I hope this newsletter finds each of you in good health and thawing out from the blasts of snow and ice this year. Thanks for your patience as leadership works to get up to speed as we work to setup for a successful 2025 and beyond. There's much work to be done to revitalize membership and bring in new events. Doing more events together and participating in community events will drive interest in club membership.

I've also recently attended an MBCA leadership forum for chapter presidents put on by the national level. It was very enlightening. It was a chance to talk with both other chapter leaders and the national level leadership on our challenges. More coming on this topic in a future e-mail blast.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next events!



## The Amelia

In a promising development - a resurgence of MBCA involvement in events around The Amelia are underway. MBCA is the featured club for this kickoff show. It promises to be a great show!

You can read more about the show specifics here:  
[www.ameliakickoff.com](http://www.ameliakickoff.com)

An MBCA-hosted dinner follows.  
Hope to see you there!

## Welcome New Members!

We want to extend a warm welcome to these most recent members joining the Triangle chapter:

Riley Gent  
John Paul  
Garth Arnott  
Roland Lewis  
John Jack

Looking forward to seeing you at upcoming events!

## Important Deadline Approaching

Many members often participate in the Sandhills Motoring Festival over Memorial weekend. If you're planning to participate, the deadline to register is March 31st. You can find more information at their website:

<https://www.sandhillsmotoringexpo.com/concours-application>



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## 2025 Q1 Business Meeting

Our first business meeting of 2025 was held at Manchester's Grill, on a chilly February day. It was great to see such a large turnout, with 27 members in attendance!

Topics covered at the business meeting – current membership numbers, new members and new membership drives, a review of both national and local events coming up, and an ask for volunteers.

On the topic of events, we covered The Amelia and planned MBCA events around that.



Additionally we discussed events put on by other organizations. A few members plan to attend. A discussion was also had around future events, with a volunteer stepping up to assist with some additional event planning (Thank you!) – more on that soon.

Please be sure to check out the later part of the newsletter for the Food Drive event in particular.

Finally, a raffle was held and some lucky winners received prizes - like MBCA "Koozie" cooler, gift cards, etc.

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## Community Engagement

Your community needs your help! Two events coming up are aimed at community engagement. Here's the details:

### Brain Injury Awareness at Learning Services

We are looking for folks who are available Friday to come out and present your cars in a short, private car show for patients recovering from traumatic brain injury. We need more cars! We will be there with some swag to give out as well, but this is for a good cause, and the patients really appreciate the opportunity since they cannot get out to see shows themselves. Please check out the details on the event page of the newsletter or on our website!

### Fuel the Food Bank

As we talked about during the Q1 business meeting, this is a great opportunity for MBCA members to come package food up for those less fortunate. It just requires some of your time. This event is being put on by the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC, and Mercedes-Benz Club of America and the BMW club are the two clubs bringing members to package things up. There will be a friendly competition for a good cause, and when the event is done we will go around the corner to the brewery for some food and beer! We need as many people as we can for this one!

**Registration is mandatory** (also provided in separate event notification): <https://cerv.is/0225rmbca>

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## Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for some of these coming events and volunteer opportunities. More events will be added soon!

As always, you can find all the events here: [www.mbca.org/section/triangle/events](http://www.mbca.org/section/triangle/events)

What's Coming Up?	What are we doing?	When is it?
Brain Injury Awareness @ Learning Services - 530 Building Futures Circle in Raleigh	Private car show for patients recovering from traumatic brain injury.	March 21, 2025 12:30pm - 2pm
Cars & Coffee Morrisville - put on by Cars & Coffee Morrisville, Inc.	Showing off our Mercedes-Benz vehicles and making new friends	April 5, 2025 8am - 11am
Sandhills Motoring Cars and Coffee - put on by Sandhills Motoring Club	Showing off our Mercedes-Benz vehicles and making new friends	April 6, 2025 9am - 11am
Fuel the Food Bank 1924 Capital Blvd in Raleigh Registration is Required: <a href="https://cerv.is/0225rmbca">https://cerv.is/0225rmbca</a>	Packaging up food at the food bank, and engaging in friendly competition with the BMW club.  After we'll head over to get beer and food to celebrate our win over the BMW club :)	April 19, 2025 9am - 12pm
2025 Q2 Business Meeting	Quarterly business meeting for Triangle chapter MBCA	April 26, 2025 (exact time/location TBD)
Cars & Coffee Morrisville - put on by Cars & Coffee Morrisville, Inc.	Showing off our Mercedes-Benz vehicles and making new friends	May 3, 2025 8am - 11am
Sandhills Motoring Cars and Coffee - put on by Sandhills Motoring Club	Showing off our Mercedes-Benz vehicles and making new friends	May 4, 2025 9am - 11am
Sandhills Motoring Expo <a href="http://www.sandhillsmotoringexpo.com">www.sandhillsmotoringexpo.com</a>	Interested MBCA members can choose to participate either in one of the many events or register for the Concours.	May 23 - 25, 2025
Cars and Carnivores Street Festival by Rotary Club of Wake Forest <a href="http://wakeforestrotary.org/cc-carshow">wakeforestrotary.org/cc-carshow</a>	Interested MBCA members can register (or just be a spectator) to show their car in this unique small-town car show featuring both a car show and steak cook-off competition, while supporting a local Rotary Club.	June 7, 2025 9am - 2pm
Motors for Minds Watch for registration link: <a href="http://motors4minds.com">motors4minds.com</a>	Interested MBCA members have option to attend as a car show participant or as spectator all for a good cause.	June 22, 2025

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## Blog - Car Show Culture

By Owen Hughes, MBCA Triangle President (also [www.mbca.org/section/triangle/blog/car-show-culture](http://www.mbca.org/section/triangle/blog/car-show-culture))

On a recent cold morning in January – unseasonably cold for North Carolina – I ventured out early to “Cars and Coffee Morrisville.” For those that don’t know, Cars and Coffee Morrisville is one of the larger monthly car events in the Southeast. If you ever wanted to understand “car culture,” whether you bring a car to show off or just show up to see what’s out there, attending this event is a sure-fire way to dive into the scene. On this particular morning – despite the cold – dedicated automotive enthusiasts from across the area (and often beyond) started arriving and setting up before the sun came up.

I’m often asked, “Why do you get up so early to go to this event?” or “Wouldn’t you want to wait until it’s warmer?” Sure, I could wait and show up later, or even hold off until it’s warmer, but there is a deep attraction to events like this that’s tough to explain at first.

Who goes to these events? What really is car culture? What drives (pun intended) us to attend them?

Car shows of all kinds attract a wide range of people from all walks of life. Most people wonder what the big deal is with these gatherings. It really comes down to the variety of cars – in this particular show’s case, LOTS of cars – and just as importantly, the people.

Wait, are you telling me car shows aren’t about cars? No, not at all. The variety of cars is the main driver. From exotics to collectibles, from modified to stock, American, European, or Asian, you can find pretty much anything at this event.

But beyond the cars, trucks, and motorcycles, there’s a huge culture behind these shows. These aren’t just your typical gearheads tinkering in their garages – there are die-hard purists representing their favorite makes and models, collectors who enjoy showcasing their rare vehicles, and “weekend warriors” who just appreciate cars for sure. But increasingly, there are also others like photographers, artists, and even social media influencers. Regardless of where you fall in that list, there’s a shared appreciation for automotive craftsmanship – whether it’s performance, mechanical ingenuity, or artistic design.

One of the best parts of car events like this, in my eyes, is meeting all of the people that fall into this spectrum of automotive fandom. It’s a chance to relate to others and connect on a personal level through this shared interest. I’ll give you some examples: an artist stopping by a rare vehicle, offering to do a free sketch for its owner; a photographer – with no car in the show, but a love of photography – offering to take and share some pictures; social media enthusiasts taking video of cars and people or interviewing vehicle owners. You might even meet fellow car club members or encourage someone to join a club aligned with their car. These people are trying to share their passion, intersecting with this car show on a cold January morning.

At this most recent show, I had a gentleman stop by and talk to me about the story behind my car. I happily shared the car’s history with him. At the end of our conversation, he shared his own story – his love for taking photos with his Fujifilm Instax camera, a retro throwback to the days of Polaroids. Before he left, he handed me a photo he had taken of my car. That moment of receiving the still-developing instant photo is one of those connections that make these events special. When I talk about what drives me to go to these events – it’s moments like this. The human connection is just as important as talking “shop” with fellow enthusiasts.

In the end, car culture isn’t just about the cars; it’s about the community and people that surrounds them. Whether you’re there to admire the engineering, share stories, capture moments, or simply enjoy the atmosphere, events like Cars and Coffee Morrisville bring people together in a way that transcends the vehicles themselves. It’s a reminder that behind every car is a person with a story, and that shared passion is what keeps the culture alive and thriving.



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## Classifieds

For Sale:

2012 Mercedes Benz SLK 350

80195 miles under 2 owners  
(only 7k of that was on the first owner)

All original no modifications & owned by older couple. 1 minor accident.

Serviced by AutoWorks, records available.

Price - \$13,000

Contact: Garth Arnott  
919-624-9789  
garth.arnott@gmail.com



## MBCA Links

**MBCA:**  
[mbca.org](http://mbca.org)

**MBCA Merchandise:**  
[mbca.ourproshop.com](http://mbca.ourproshop.com) (This will need a separate account with vendor than MBCA)

**Name Tags:**  
[engravedcompany.com/product/s/mercedes-benz-club-of-america-name-badge](http://engravedcompany.com/product/s/mercedes-benz-club-of-america-name-badge)

## Have a Story?

Have a great story to share with your fellow MBCA members? Send the details over for inclusion into the next newsletter!

## Stay Connected

Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, Threads, and X for the latest updates and news. Don't forget to share your experiences and ideas with us!

[instagram.com/trianglembca](https://www.instagram.com/trianglembca)  
[facebook.com/TriangleMBCA](https://www.facebook.com/TriangleMBCA)  
[x.com/trianglembca](https://www.x.com/trianglembca)

## Feedback

Please share feedback on how we're doing. You can always reach out to [president@trianglembca.org](mailto:president@trianglembca.org) and share feedback and ideas.

## Closing Note

The success of the Triangle chapter ultimately depends on its members. There are still opportunities to volunteer on the leadership board. If you are ready to help us with the projects we're taking on and interested in filling a permanent role, we're still looking for a volunteer for Secretary and a permanent Treasurer.