

TriStar News

Message from Our Chapter President

Triangle Chapter Members,

Hope everyone is doing well, and this newsletter finds you in great health! As we are halfway through Q3, it's been a productive 2025 so far with a variety of events, but more must be done. I am setting up an event planning workshop to kick this off for 2026 so we can get a wider variety of events - and planned more in advance. There continues to be good improvements into revitalizing MBCA at a national level, and we've taken on new members locally. MBCA National has been working to partner with dealerships via MBUSA to re-engage dealers into MBCA activities. While this work is just getting started, there's some confidence this can help bolster support from local dealers. It will be interesting to see where this goes.

2026 MBCA Triangle Officer Nomination

It is that time of the year, and we are looking for individuals who would like to open nominations from our chapter membership:

We have 4 positions to fill:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

There are also other volunteer opportunities open, including Event Coordinator and/or Membership Coordinator.

If you are interested in serving, please fill out the nomination form by clicking here:

[MBCA Triangle Officer Nominations for 2026 Year](#)

If you have any questions about the officer positions, please feel free to contact us at info@trianglembca.org

Q3 Newsletter Content

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Try Performance Driving in Your Mercedes-Benz

By John Swansey, MBCA Triangle Chapter Member

I've had my 1999 SL500 for about 3 years now and aspire to have the most fun possible with it. Part of that quest now includes performance driving, specifically autocross and track days. Most people would say the SL is not an ideal sports car, that it's more of a GT or Grand Turismo, designed to cover long distances at speed with style and comfort, and I suppose that's true.

But I've found that my SL, of the R129 generation, built from 1990 to 2001 has enough power and handling chops to make a decent showing, even against many modern cars. To prepare for more aggressive driving I've updated a few parts and checked everything over. Worn out shocks and struts were replaced with Bilsteins and brake lines, pads, fluid and tires were changed with suitable upgrades.

My first foray was to autocross, driving the car around a course outlined by orange cones, against the clock. A typical course will have 8-10 elements in different configurations: tight turns, long sweepers, or slaloms. The challenge is to follow the course through the sea of orange cones in the shortest time. Runs are typically in the 30 – 60 second range. The most competitive drivers may have years of experience and heavily modified Miatas, but there are so many novices in their street cars that there is competition at every level.

My local club, Tarheel Sports Car Club has an excellent novice program which provides classroom training, and in-car instruction from experienced drivers. Through this I've progressed to being confident in attacking the courses, and working on technique to improve, a second at a time. The events have usually over 100 cars and are very well run. It is rare to see another Mercedes-Benz, but I've seen a couple of C-class AMG's and an E63 AMG wagon. I've found the people to be, without exception friendly, welcoming and truly enthusiastic about driving and cars, and there is more than a bit of gray hair underneath the helmets. These events are safe, and unlikely to damage your car, except for increased tire wear. Though my car is quite heavy, the torque of the V8 engine and holding second gear, allows me to get around the course with some haste, if not grace. It is a real adrenaline rush, pushing to the absolute limit of traction, and beyond. Throughout the day, many cars will spin out, knock over cones, and earn penalties, part of the process of learning handling dynamics, and a bit of entertainment for spectators. Next up the scale is track days, in which an organization will rent a road course, and set up organized runs at full speed. Without the collision risks of wheel-to-wheel racing, the point is to learn how to handle your car at speed, optimizing steering inputs, braking and acceleration, combined with proper placement on the track for the fastest lap times.

Each run session is 15-20 minutes, or about 4 or 5 laps. Cars are grouped by driver experience, and passing is by "point-by" in places deemed safest. Preceding each event is a technical inspection looking for fluid leaks, loose parts, or cargo likely to fly around. At the track events, there are Corvettes and Mustangs, and many cars arriving in enclosed trailers full of tools and racing tires, however it is mostly low-key amateur racing with friends and families. A fair number of nearly stock sports cars and sedans are represented from Subaru, Hondas, Toyota, Porsche, and BMW.

Last month's bucket-list thrill for me was driving at triple-digit speeds around the banked oval at the Nascar track in Charlotte with Corvettes ahead and behind. MBCA has a couple of events each year, and there are a few national MBCA people who are fanatics for this sort of thing. Next I plan to attend a High Performance Driver Education (HPDE) event which includes classroom and in-car instruction on the high-speed tracks.

Through these events I've found a new appreciation for the capabilities of my car and learned how to drive it more skillfully. I highly recommend it for those interested. Contact me if you'd like to learn more, or come along.

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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

| What's Coming Up? | What are we doing? | When is it? |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| Shelton Vineyards | Visiting Shelton Vineyards for backroads drive and car show | September 5-6, 2025 |
| Cars & Coffee Morrisville - put on by Cars & Coffee Morrisville, Inc. | Showing off our Mercedes-Benz vehicles and making new friends | September 6, 2025 8am - 11am |
| Sandhills Motoring Cars and Coffee - put on by Sandhills Motoring Club | Showing off our Mercedes-Benz vehicles and making new friends | September 7, 2025 9am - 11am |
| Breakfast/Brunch & Q3 Business | Breakfast/Brunch & Meet-Up Q3 Business Meeting | September 21, 2025 10am - 12:30pm |
| MBCA Triangle and PCA Triangle Meet-Up @ Red Oak Brewery | Join us as we visit Red Oak with Porsche enthusiasts in the season of Oktoberfest! | September 27, 2025 11am - 1:30pm |
| Cars & Coffee Morrisville - put on by Cars & Coffee Morrisville, Inc. | Showing off our Mercedes-Benz vehicles and making new friends | October 4, 2025 8am - 11am |
| Sandhills Motoring Cars and Coffee - put on by Sandhills Motoring Club | Showing off our Mercedes-Benz vehicles and making new friends | October 5, 2025 9am - 11am |
| Event Planning Workshop for 2026 | Planning out Events for 2026 and having lunch! Location TBD | October 11, 2025 |
| Fun in the Sun www.funinthesunclassiccars.com | Enjoy a 3-day trip to New Bern with a variety of classic car enthusiasts! | October 16-18, 2025 |
| Cars & Coffee Morrisville - put on by Cars & Coffee Morrisville, Inc. | Showing off our Mercedes-Benz vehicles and making new friends | November 1, 2025 8am - 11am |
| Sandhills Motoring Cars and Coffee - put on by Sandhills Motoring Club | Showing off our Mercedes-Benz vehicles and making new friends | November 2, 2025 9am - 11am |
| MBCA Triangle Christmas Luncheon & Q4 Business Meeting | Enjoying a great lunch and celebrating holidays and friendship! | December 6, 2025 |
| Sandhills Motoring Cars and Coffee - put on by Sandhills Motoring Club | Showing off our Mercedes-Benz vehicles and making new friends | December 7, 2025 9am - 11am |

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Classifieds

For Sale:

2003 Mercedes CLK Cabriolet:
Quartz Blue Metallic (935); Beige
Leather (215); Blue Soft Top;
6-Disc CD Changer; Premium
Wheels; 30.8k miles; VIN
WDBLK65G23T140830.

-Recently serviced at MB Cary
with any issues corrected.

-Needs: Headlight polishing;
Exterior detailing to polish out
some surface scratches; Rear left
interior side panel leather piece
separating; small dent in right
quarter panel.

-Second owner
-located in Sanford, NC
-Price: \$8500.00

Contact: Karen Tatum (919)
721-0300



MBCA Links

MBCA:
mbca.org

MBCA Merchandise:
mbca.ourproshop.com (This will
need a separate account with
vendor than MBCA)

Name Tags:
engravedcompany.com/products/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!

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[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 and
share feedback and ideas.

Closing Note

The success of the Triangle chapter
ultimately depends on its members.
Consider volunteering for an officer
position, or taking up work on social
media.

As always, thank you for being a
MBCA member!