

# Tri-Star News

*Mercedes-Benz Club of America Triangle Section*

January, February, March 2009



## Triangle Section Holiday Luncheon Buffet

December 6 was a gorgeous day for members to motor to the beautifully decorated Wakefield TPC Clubhouse in north Raleigh for our annual holiday event. The delicious buffet was enjoyed by a full room of M-B enthusiasts. Aside from a quick business meeting, the lively conversations between new friends and old acquaintances was only temporarily interrupted by the drawings for over 60 door prizes, tickets for which were carefully selected by Master Miles Pitulle. He is the four year old son of members Chris and Monika. His brother, Finn, was the youngest attendee at age 2. A surprised Mike Dowdy received the coveted regional Officer of the Year award, during a much applauded presentation by Juel Duke. Members and their families generously brought gifts to donate to Toys-For-Tots. Our thanks to Leith Mercedes Benz of Raleigh and their sales person, Tim Martin, for donating many of the door prizes.



### Editor's note

More info about the Officer of the Year award is inside. The Marine is pictured with a small portion of the toys donated by the Brunch attendees.

### HAVE YOU MOVED RECENTLY?

All change of address requests must be sent to mbca, 1907 lelaray st., colorado springs, co 80909-2872 or you may submit the change through [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org)

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## 2008 Triangle Section Officers

### President

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(919) 810-2093

## Board of Directors

Sherrill Allen

Dr. Robert & Sandra Chandler

Terry & Nancy Crawford

Jane Davison

Fred & Cathy Hayes

Dan Mahoney

Bjorn Nordemo


Jay Evans

## Treasury Notes

First Quarter, 2009

Yes, you have me as treasurer for another year-despite my best intentions. The Chapter ended 2008 with \$2438.17 less than we began the year, therefore we have approximately \$3900 in the bank. The main source of revenue for the club is the rebates that are paid from the National Business office. The rebates are based on new and renewing membership dues and on Section member participation in the National raffles. The businesses that advertise in the newsletter make up the second most important source of income. We actually posted no advertising income

for 2008 because the cut-off date for ad contracts was earlier and the income came in 2007. Advertising income for 2009 will actually be deposited in early 2009. Yes, we do charge for the Holiday Brunch and the Pinehurst Brunch but the club actually loses money on these events and considers it money well spent. So, where did the money go? By far, our most enduring expense is the production and mailing of the newsletter which totaled \$3050 in 2008. If you would like to see any of the treasurer's reports or the year end reports(as they go to National) please contact me and I will be happy to provide the info to you.  
Juel Duke



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<b>Bjorn Nordemo</b> <i>President</i>	(910) 235-0500 Fax: (910) 235-0741
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 517 Pinehurst, NC 28370-0517	Street Address: 110 Mid South Drive West End, NC 27376
<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.sportsleicht.com">www.sportsleicht.com</a>	<b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:nordemo@sportsleicht.com">nordemo@sportsleicht.com</a>

## Technical Session for all Triangle Members

Yes, by popular demand, the Triangle Section has scheduled a Technical Session for February 21st. The most important aspect is that it covers both **OLD & NEW** Mercedes.

A major supporter of the Triangle Section, as well as one of our oldest advertisers – A Better Wrench, has stepped up and volunteered their shop and personnel for this technical event.

We will meet at their facility at 9:30 AM for refreshments. The sessions will begin promptly at 10:00 AM and end at 12:30 PM.

There will be several members gathering for lunch in Chapel Hill afterwards, and everyone is invited to attend.

**Date:** February 21, 2009

**Time:** 9:30 AM

**Place:** A Better Wrench  
102 Northfield Drive  
Chapel Hill, NC  
(919) 929-6921  
(800) 445-5214

### Directions:

From I-40, take exit 266 (Hwy. 86) and travel East on Martin Luther King Blvd. towards Chapel Hill. After approximately eight stop lights, turn right on to Northfield Drive. A Better Wrench is located on the right.

We hope to see you there!!!

## MARKETPLATZ

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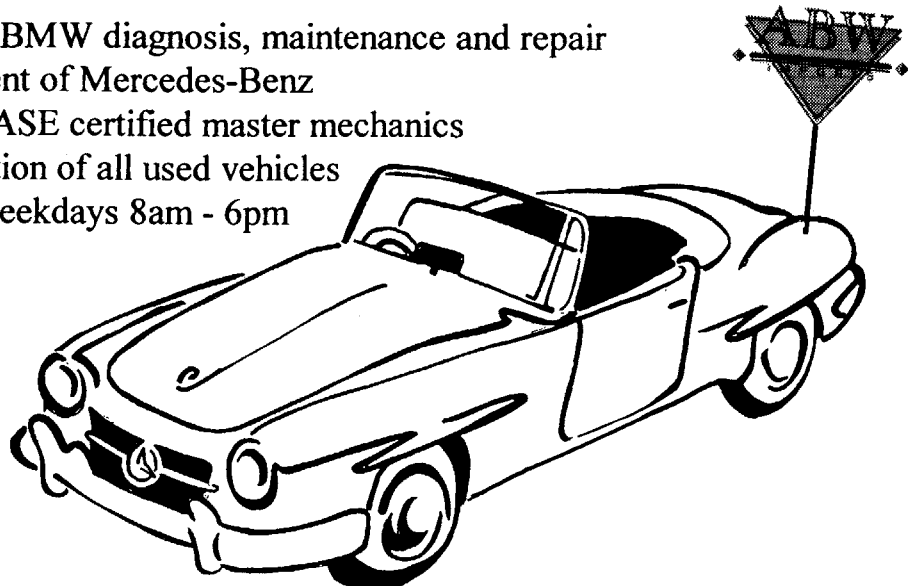
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Mike Dowdy  
Secretary

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## From the President

Hello Triangle Section -- What an exciting time to be the newly elected President of the Triangle Section - MBCA! Before I dive headlong into my new assignment, I wish to thank immediate past-president, Tom Lewis, and his team for their hard work and dedication. This was evident in Mike Dowdy's selection as MBCA 2008 Regional Officer of the Year Award recipient. Congratulations Mike! As a result of their efforts, your new officers and board are well positioned to deliver a year full of activities and fun to the membership. (See the listing of the new Officers, Board members, and 2009 Calendar of Events elsewhere in this newsletter.)

I hope you were among the savvy members who took advantage of the Section's fantastic Holiday Brunch at the TPC-PGA Wakefield Plantation Country Club. It was great to see so many new faces at this year's event. Camaraderie and "car-talk" were the order of the day, not to mention enjoying door prizes and the scrumptious and bountiful buffet. Where else could you have enjoyed such holiday cheer, food, service, beautifully decorated facility and have a chance to look at the S65 which Leith Mercedes-Benz supplied, all in one spot? It was also a great feeling to come together so generously for a deserving charity, Toys-For-Tots. What a way to end 2008.

With all the year-end celebrations over and 2009 now in front of us, what do we have planned for you? Well...

I believe in tradition, and the Triangle Section has many well-established ones. There are four family-friendly events that are favorites among the membership and we will continue them again this year. As in the past, we will strive to provide added value to members by defraying some cost with Section subsidies.

1 - The annual springtime caravan to Pinehurst, brunch at the beautiful Pinehurst

Country Club, followed by a visit to nearby Sports Leicht Restorations, Inc. (One of the country's foremost restoration facilities for classic Mercedes-Benz.) [www.sportsleicht.com](http://www.sportsleicht.com) Our host for the tour will be long-time section member and supporter, Bjorn Nordemo, President. Believe me, if you love classics and craftsmanship you do not want to miss this event. With the many new C, M, GL and R class cars I am seeing on the roads around Raleigh, our caravan could be quite long. Mark your calendar and watch for details in this newsletter.

2 - Since driving and eating are essential components of our Section, the next tradition will be the mid-summer caravan and tour of Shelton Vineyards and Winery in Dobson, NC, followed by lunch on the property at the Harvest Grill. [www.sheltonvineyards.com](http://www.sheltonvineyards.com) There will be a photo op in front of the winery with all of our Mercedes, new and old; if they have a three-point star they're in. (This vineyard is a pleasant surprise for those who enjoy the vineyards of Napa Valley, but a whole lot closer.)

3. - KIDS OF ALL AGES TAKE NOTE! The hot sticky days of late summer and early fall means we will all need to cool off, so what better way than an Octoberfrost? What is an Octoberfrost you ask? It is an event designed to show off our cars, recruit new members, and have some refreshing ice cream made at Maple View Farm in Hillsborough, NC. [www.mapleviewfarm.com](http://www.mapleviewfarm.com) This event is a favorite of children of all ages. (I hear their banana split will hurt you.) The pastoral setting and beautiful sunset, as viewed from the long front porch of the diary, provide a fantastic backdrop for displaying our cars and setting up our recruiting tent. Things this good need to be shared with other M-B drivers! Pictures below.

4. - Once again, when the Holidays are upon us, we will share the joys of the season in December with good friends, food, and drink at the PGA-TPC Wakefield

Plantation Country Club. What more need I say? If you are a member of the Triangle Section- MBCA and miss this event, you lose the chance to enjoy what we are all about - cars, family, food, and fun. See you there!

In addition to the above schedule of traditional activities, we will also squeeze in a tech session or two, a road rally, and numerous business meetings. There will be "fun" work arranging, coordinating, and managing all of the activities, so please don't miss out - volunteer. We volunteer because we love our cars and we love gathering to show them off and talk about them. If you haven't added the pleasure of "working" as part of an events team, please consider it.

As Section president, I need your help to make us even stronger. We need chairpersons for member contact and recruiting. I know we are all busy people with more obligations than time. By sharing just a little of yourself, I can promise you will meet new friends and enjoy the best of what the MBCA has to offer. (I also realize many members are content to just receive The Star and enjoy their M-B in solitude. That is fine and I respect that.)

My top business priority for the coming year will be to promote membership. I am committed to enhancing our web presence and reaching out to members to become more involved in the management of the Section. Your time is valuable and I promise business meetings will follow an agenda, start and end on time. Please consider a New Year's Resolution of attending at least one business meeting. It is, after all, your club!

Terry

Next letter topics:  
Web page progress  
Dealer relations

## Notes From The Editor

Although I was responsible for the last two newsletters of 2008, I am just now officially the newsletter editor. (If you received a newsletter with a blue and white cover then your newsletter may still bear the name and address of the previous editor, Bruce Adams.) I also wear the treasurer hat for the Section and am keenly aware of the cost of producing and distributing the newsletter. We will be making some changes to the newsletter designed to save money but we do not intend to sacrifice the quality and amount of communication that our members deserve. We have added a pull-out calendar for the year in an effort to keep the section activities on your mind. Please post it on your fridge or other prominent place.

An updated calendar will be a part of each quarterly newsletter. Note the cut-off dates for submissions to the newsletter. This is your newsletter, please feel free to submit articles or info about activities of interest.

I also ask that you join me in thanking the advertisers. Returning advertisers A Better Wrench, Sports Leicht Restoration and Beckmann Technologies are joined by new advertisers European Performance and Pinnacle Automotive. Please consider our advertisers when you need their services. By advertising with us they are showing their dedication to the marque.

Again, this is your newsletter. I welcome comments, critiques and articles or photos for publication. My contact info, as well as that of officers and board members appears in the newsletter. Please don't be a stranger. Juel Duke



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*There were coupes coming and going at Octoberfrost*

**Pinehurst Brunch**

Sunday, May 3, 2009

1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Pinehurst Country Club  
Pinehurst, NC

The annual **Triangle Section Champagne Brunch** at the beautiful and historic Pinehurst Country Club will be held May 3. The cost to MBCA-Triangle Section members and spouse (or one guest) will be only \$25.00 each. Children 4 -12 years old will be \$12.50. Children 3 and younger, free. The price for all additional guests is \$37.00 each.

Advance reservations and payment are required, as is a jacket for gentlemen.

As in the past, following the brunch we are invited to view classic Mercedes-Benz at a tour of Sports Leicht Restorations, Inc. Driving directions will be available at the brunch.

**Directions to Pinehurst Country Club:**

**From Chapel Hill/Durham:** Take 15-501 south to the Pinehurst Traffic Circle, then take the exit to Pinehurst (Hwy 2).

**From Raleigh:** Take US Hwy #1 south and exit at Midland Road (Hwy 2 West) in Southern Pines. Turn right onto Midland Road and follow to traffic circle. When you enter the circle, follow the signs to stay on Hwy 2.

**Then From Hwy 2:** Follow to Carolina Vista. Before the next traffic light turn left in to the Pinehurst Country Club. The parking lot is on the right, or valet parking is available at the door.

A caravan to the event will be leaving the parking lot of The Ocean Stars Seafood Restaurant located on the corner of Hwy #1 and Hwy 55 in Apex. If you wish to travel with the caravan please make sure to arrive by 11:15 a.m. **The caravan will pull out at 11:45 a.m.**

**Complete the form below and mail it with your check.**

Please print:

Member name: \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00

Spouse or Guest name: \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00

Children name(s) age 4 thru 12: \_\_\_\_\_ \$12.50 X EA = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of other guests: \_\_\_\_\_ \$37.00 X EA = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

IMPORTANT: Member phone number OR email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Check made payable to Triangle Section MBCA**

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Your check must be received before April 25, 2009**

**Mail to:** Juel Duke  
1904 White Plains Rd  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517-7933

## Officer of the year

Those of you who attended the Holiday Brunch know that one of our officers won a Regional award. Officers from larger and more active clubs were his competition and I am proud that I was able to contribute to Mike Dowdy being named Officer of the Year for the Eastern Region. Following are excerpts from the nomination that will help you who don't know Mike understand why he deserved the award. The plaque is pictured in this newsletter, also. Mike will be leading the Tech Session in February so please join us and experience, in person, his enthusiasm for our favorite cars.

I am writing to nominate Mike Dowdy, Vice President of the Triangle Section, for the Officer-of-the-Year award. The first thing to know about Mike is that he is a Mercedes Benz Master Mechanic whose love for the marque has spilled over into his faithful participation in club events and in the regular tasks performed by officers. A long-time friend of Section President Tom Lewis, Mike stepped forward to help two years

ago when we were seriously considering taking steps to close down the Section. He said that if Tom and I would give it another try that he would be Vice President and do what he could to help us keep the Section alive. Step-up he did and his relentless energy on behalf of the Section has been a reason for my continued efforts as Treasurer.

He is a regular contributor to the newsletter with his Did You Know? articles. When we were without a newsletter editor, Mike was the one who kept Tom and I focused on the work we needed to do to get a newsletter out, despite our combined lack of experience. He is almost always the first one to come forward with event ideas and meeting place suggestions.

Mike also took on the task of reviving a popular section event-our "annual" Pinehurst Champagne Brunch that had not happened for several years. He contacted Section Board member Bjorn Nordemo, also a member of the Pinehurst Country Club, to ask if he would consider hosting the event as he had in the past. With Bjorn's okay and

support, Mike made all the arrangements for the event from the insert and registration form in the newsletter, the menu selection and coordination with the clubhouse, collection of fees and the post event article in the newsletter. He even had the Section banner made as a surprise for the Section. Mike is always on hand to help with the planning and execution of other events such as our First Historic Road Rally.

At our last meeting, Mike entertained us with the story of delivering the toys that were collected for Toys-for-Tots at our 2007 Holiday Brunch. I think he is eagerly awaiting the task this year. It's great to have a Vice-President as devoted and enthusiastic as Mike Dowdy. I can say without question that I would not be as active in the club without Mike's presence as Vice President.

Juel Duke, Treasurer  
Triangle Section  
September 24, 2008

**Have something you'd like to share  
with section members?  
Have something you'd like to see  
in the newsletter?**

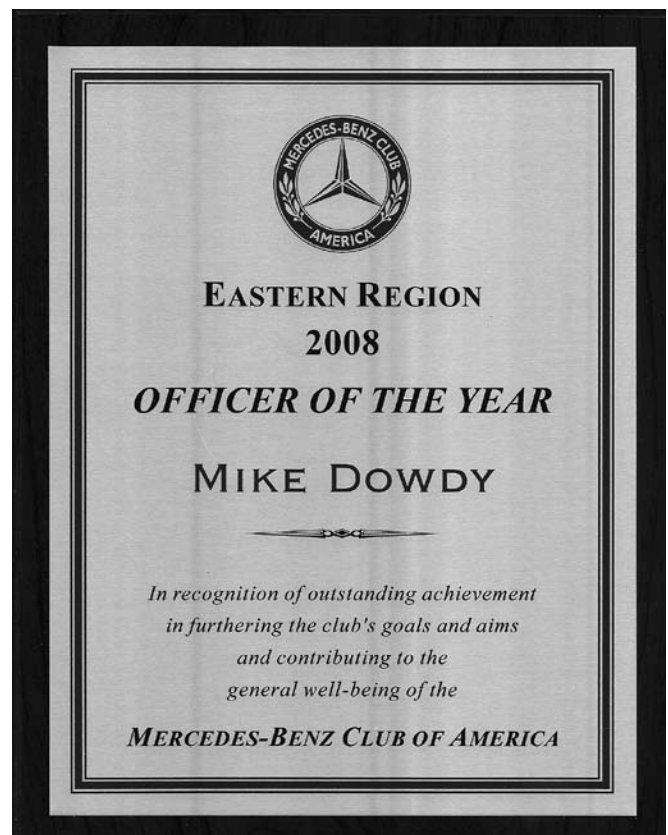
Members are encouraged to contribute newsletter info such as event listings for the calendar, photos, free ads for the Market Platz and articles.

Please send your submission, via snail mail or email

(.doc or .jpg only please)

to Juel Duke 1904 White Plains Road Chapel Hill, NC 27517 or [realjuel@mac.com](mailto:realjuel@mac.com) with "Triangle section" in the subject line  
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Please have submissions to the editor at least two weeks prior to the publication date.





# Tri-Star News

*Mercedes-Benz Club of America Triangle Section*

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Southern Pines, NC 28387

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## Triangle Section Calendar

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