



# Old Dominion Star



## President's Message

I hope you are enjoying the new (old) newsletter and the revised format. I trust you find it easier to read and more informative. Make sure you catch Ken Brasfield's story about his "new" W108, which starts on page 5. Set aside 3 October for *CVS Dominion Fest am Flussufer*, fun, food and Mercedes-Benz for all.

We are still looking for a **NEW** editor of *Old Dominion Star*. The format is simple and the content is limited. Being a quarterly publication it will not take much time putting it together. As editor you will be free to develop format, content and style, or you can simply use what we already have. No experience or CV necessary. If you are interested in becoming our new editor, please contact me at [cvsmbca@gmail.com](mailto:cvsmbca@gmail.com).

We had 36 CVS members attend our recent Lunch on the Lake event at Tim's at Lake Anna. This is a pretty good showing for a small Section like ours. I'm glad to see we are getting out and finally enjoying our cars and fellow MBCA members after the long

**INSIDE**

- 1 - PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
- 2 - MEET WILDER
- 4 - MEMBERS
- 5 - KEN'S NEW RIDE
- 8 - CVS OFFICERS
- 9 - MERCEDES FREUDE
- 10 - EVENTS
- 11 - CARS & COFFEE
- 12 - MINUTIAE
- 13 - THE END

Old Dominion Star is a quarterly newsletter publication of the Central Virginia Section of the the Mercedes-Benz Club of America.



p a n d e m i c - i n d u c e d sequestration. The food was delicious and if you took the backroads to the lake you no doubt enjoyed some fabulous Old Dominion countryside. I would like to make this an annual event. What do you think?

We are still hashing out future events. It is not always an easy process to get everyone on the same page and put together events which appeal to

everyone. That said, we can't do it alone, so if you have an idea or wish to host or organize an event, please contact me or our Event Planning Director, David Hay at [chatntoo@gmail.com](mailto:chatntoo@gmail.com).

On Page 11 check out *Did You Know?*. If you have an interesting tidbit of unusual Mercedes-Benz trivia you would like to share then send it to [cvsmbca@gmail.com](mailto:cvsmbca@gmail.com).

The biggest MBCA event of the year is rapidly approaching. Mercedes Freude will take place November 2-5 at the Omni Hilton Head Oceanfront Resort. It is held just ahead of Legends of the Autobahn East and the annual Hilton Head Concours d'Elegance on Saturday and Sunday respectively. This is an event you will not want to miss.

I attended the Regional Presidents Conference in Dobson, NC on 15 August. Look for a full report in the next *Section Update* or issue of the *Old Dominion Star*.

That's about it for now. I look forward to seeing many of you at our next event.

Hals und Beinbruch!

**Brad Purvis**

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## Meet Wilder Hickman Mercedes-Benz of Midlothian

How long have you been at the dealer and how did you get started in the business?

*I have been with MB of Midlothian for 14 years (this November). I always loved cars and have been a MB ever nerd since I got my first one (a 1989 190E). I went to tech school and began my career here as a technician. My technical background has given me a tremendous edge in parts.*

What is the typical parts availability through your department? What types of items do you stock and what's the turnaround for parts you have to order?

*We typically have a 1-2 business day turnaround for parts orders (one of the best in the industry). We stock a very wide variety that spans almost 20 years of regular service items. This would include brakes, filters, hoses, clips, bulbs, tires, belts, and batteries. We also stock a large range of electronic components and body parts.*



What parts would people be surprised you can still get?

Many of our customers who own classic cars are pleasantly surprised to learn that we can get almost every part they need for their projects. This includes not only wear and tear items, but body parts and interior parts as well.

Are your prices typically competitive? How much do MBCA members save?

*We find our parts are priced very competitively with high end aftermarket alternatives. This makes getting a top quality, factory produced part from the dealer a much more attractive value proposition. Additionally, MBUSA is always improving their pricing thanks to their commitment to customer service - they listen to their dealers' feedback on pricing and adjust wherever they can to ensure that we stay competitive.*

What do you do when you're not working?

*When I'm not working, I tend to spend my time just relaxing with my family and friends or playing the guitar. I'm a fairly low key guy.*

What's the best way to contact you to order parts?

*The best way to place a parts order would be either calling in or submitting a request on [our website](#) (please include the VIN number as our catalog is very specific). If submitted online, one of us will either call or email you to confirm we either have what you need, or get it ordered.*

Dealer location and info:  
Mercedes-Benz of Midlothian  
12200 Midlothian Turnpike  
Midlothian, VA 23113

Order parts online - <https://www.mbofmidlothian.com/parts/order-parts/>  
Link to staff profile and photos - <https://www.mbofmidlothian.com/about-us/staff/>



## Welcome New Members

Here are our new fellow Central Virginia Section members:

**John Chichester - Reedville**  
**Robert & Carole Fields - Glen Allen**  
**William Hargis - North Chesterfield**  
**Oliver Leonard - Gloucester**  
**Nancy Mars - Richmond**  
**Seth Mela - Lynchburg**  
**Jennifer Termeer - Mechanicsville**  
**Mark Jones - North Chesterfield**

## Renewing Members

Thank you loyal members:

**Forrest Wilson - Richmond**  
**Jean Enroughty - Henrico**  
**Fred Luxton - Irvington**  
**Ramona Stith - South Chesterfield**  
**S Dawson - Lancaster**  
**Thomas Bridgers - Greenville**  
**Todd Miller - Maidens**  
**Luke Gergoudis - Henrico**  
**Erich Faber - Hardy**  
**Jay Clark - Midlothian**  
**Franklin Bailey - Fredericksburg**  
**Steven Foster - Richmond**  
**Don & Karen Lily - Roanoke**  
**William Shields - Luray**  
**Ryan Loose - Roanoke**  
**Martina Sibley**



**Total Membership: 186**

## Ken's Kleening Korner

Recently, our own Ken Brasfield acquired a 1972 Mercedes-Benz 280SE 4.5. Instead of giving you a long preamble, I'll let Ken tell his story in his own words and how he recovered this W108 to its original beauty.

*In* June of 2021 a friend told me about a vintage Mercedes-Benz he glimpsed under cover in the machine shed of a young man doing landscaping for him located just outside the Staunton, VA city limits that might be for sale. After contacting the owner, Diana and I visited the car and it was for sale. It was filthy, but solid and all there. It started, ran, steered and stopped. No rust and under all the dirt I could see that it was cosmetically perfect. Its service history was sketchy and the young man knew nothing about the car. It was given to him by his father-in-law about two years ago who had purchased it from a New Jersey dealer in 2013. The father-in-law knew nothing about the car either and neither of them are "car guys" or mechanically inclined. It came with some documentation (stuffed away in the glove box) but neither of the recent owners had bothered to read any of it. I learned that it was actually built in 1972, sold in California in 1972 (however registered as a 1973), and had regular and complete servicing from 1972 until 1980 when the records stopped and picked up again in 2013 at the New Jersey dealership. Under their ownership it suffered benign neglect but a few things were done in-terms-of maintenance.

The car is better than I thought. I found documentation stuffed in the glove box that the two recent owners knew about but had not read. I learned the car was built in 1972, sold from a California MB dealership late 1972 and registered as a 1973. I don't know the original owner's name. It received regular factory recommended service from 1972 until 1980 (from 0 to about 90,000 miles). The records stop and pick up again at a dealership in New Jersey in 2013. Brian's father-in-law bought it in 2013 from this dealer and gave it to Brian in 2018. The records from 2013 till 2015 show significant history of service and repair, to brakes, air conditioning, transmission, and engine. I've already made repairs to the dash board, glove box, A.C. switches, interior and exterior lights, door and trunk rubbers, replaced missing screws for the door wood trim, pulled the aftermarket radio and C.D. player/changer, and removed the stuck antenna. I have removed both valve covers, exposing the valve train. I've just received the special tool I need to rotate the engine using the crank shaft which will enable me to adjust the valves, check timing chain and guide wear. I'll also check the rocker bushing lubricating tubes and their holders. Other parts that have just come in are correct air filter, oil filter, Bosch spark plugs, Bosch windshield wipers, new ignition wire holders/mounts, new wing nuts to hold on the air filter housing cover, missing bolt/nut holding the air filter housing to engine, new valve cover bolt copper sealing washers, new valve cover gaskets, replaced missing 17mm lug nut wrench (rest of original tool kit is in the trunk in original canvas tool roll), refurbished original Becker Europa II stereo radio with correct mounting brackets, new NOS left outside lens for headlights, automatic transmission filter and gasket, new car cover, replacement battery hold down top and bolts, power steering filter and low pressure hose, camshaft oiler tube with clips, correct and matching touch-up paint. Of course I'll need to lubricate the chassis, change engine oil, power steering pump oil, transmission fluid, and service the air conditioning. I also needs the cold start injector/valve checked/replaced as it has a small leak and this is most likely why the car runs rich and smells of gasoline on start up. Once warmed up the engine stops missing and the smell disappears. I also need to pull the distributor and look at the fuel injector trigger points.

I've taken the wheels off, cleaned and painted them. I'm taking them to a shop I use (Foreign Affairs) to have new Michelin Defender tires mounted and balanced and I will put them back on the car. Since it needs an entire new exhaust system I will take it to foreign Affairs for that because I will get them to inspect and replace if necessary the drive shaft flex disks, carrier bearing and bushing, and universal joints at the same time because you have to remove the exhaust system anyway. I will have Foreign Affairs replace the cold start valve/injector too.

*And now for something really exciting. (Continued next page.)*

**This** is my process and the order of doing things:

Engine and engine bay:

- Warm it up by running the engine.
- Try and protect distributor, engine control unit, relays, alternator with plastic sandwich/food storage bags.
- Spray down the engine and engine bay with water from my garden hose soaking everything. Parts that have been protected by baggies get sprayed but carefully and indirectly.
- Soak everything (excluding hood padding) by spraying on undiluted Simple Green and letting it sit for 5 minutes or so.
- Wash off Simple Green then do another application and wash that off.
- Start engine and leave running with hood up until reasonably dry. Stop engine and leave hood up.

Exterior paint, chrome, stainless steel, glass:

- Make sure the car is parked in the shade.
- Soak the exterior really well with water from the garden hose.
- I use Dawn dish washing soap diluted in a bucket of water and a hand mitten type sponge glove. Many experts don't like using Dawn as it really strips away any protective wax-like finish. However, I think that is the point you are starting over.
- I like to wash then rinse one section at a time. This way the soapy water and rinse water never has a chance to dry as I move around due to overspray. I like to wash the top first, then front and rear glass, then trunk lid, move to one side and go around the car till the front. All the time respraying already done sections with water as I rinse.
- Once I reach the front I close the hood and continue around till finished. Repeat by washing the car again as it can surprise you how much you have missed.
- Once this is done I move the car indoors quickly so the water does not have time to evaporate.
- Once indoors I dry the car (by hand) using any good product designed for not allowing and/or removing water spots. McGuire's and Griot's are excellent choices and I use their products. I use this on the glass too (outside only). Now that the "frantic" stuff is over you can take your time and see what you have.
- Next I turn my attention to the chrome and stainless steel on the outside by using Brasso or any good liquid metal cleaning/polishing product designed for brass, silver, or chrome and rub it on hard, letting it dry, wiping off, in small sections at a time. That way I clearly can see progress and decide if second or even a third time is needed. I do this on all the chrome and stainless steel shiny bits (bumpers, guards, grill, surrounds, trim, screws; anything shiny and not painted).
- Now comes the paint clay. I use Griot's paint clay and my random orbital polisher. You have to use a lubricant designed for this that allows the clay to move along the paint, otherwise it will stick. I use Griot's; McGuire's is also good and many other brands. You have to do small sections at a time and remove by hand with either a 100% cotton towel or a microfiber towel. I know everyone raves about microfiber but I really like 100% cotton towels without any decorative fringe as these are usually made of non-cotton materials. You have to continuously turn the towel, have several on hand as it gets loaded up with clay and will start to smear. You can wash them in the laundry for additional use. This takes a very long time but the results are wonderful. In doing this you are cleaning remaining dirt and impurities off the paint that you can't see but you can feel if you rub your hand on an area before and after.
- At this point I could see some unevenness in the paint mostly due to light oxidation and minor scratches. I decided to use my random orbital polisher to apply cleaner wax and then remove by hand using cotton towels. I had some Mother's liquid cleaner wax on hand so I used that. I ended up doing that twice. The directions don't say to do this but I like to

remove the pad from the random orbital polisher at the end of each panel being done and clean it with water and squeeze it out. I do this because I know I'm continuing to remove dirt and old paint as I can see it in the bucket and it just makes sense that I just don't want to continue spreading that around on the car. So with each panel I start with a just cleaned out pad.

- Next I went through the same procedure twice again but this time using two different grades of machine polish because I felt the cleaner was just not aggressive enough.
- After this I found about 4 small areas of mild scratches and imperfections and hit this again this time totally by hand using the cleaner wax.
- By the way...all the above was also done to the shiny bits and the glass.
- Next came two coats of Griot's liquid carnauba wax applied with the random orbiter polisher, allowed to completely dry, then wiped off by hand. Lots of elbow grease here.
- Next I cleaned all the black rubber parts (bumpers, side guards, all sealing rubbers) with Armor All vinyl and rubber cleaner and then applied a protectant.

#### Lights:

- I took apart all exterior lights and cleaned them, bulbs, lenses, reflectors. Makes them pop.

#### Interior:

- I started with cleaning the seats (all surfaces) with leather cleaner finishing up with a leather feeder. There are lots of good products available for this. Most don't say to do this but I like to apply using a damp sponge rinsing the sponge often in a bucket of water. I found this spreads the product easier allowing for good hard scrubbing and penetration and removal. I repeat the process with each surface until the cloth I'm using for removal remains clean. Next apply any good leather feeder.
- I then vacuumed and shampooed the carpets.
- I gently cleaned all the wood, the entire dash, steering wheel, all knobs and controls with glass cleaner. I find this really cuts the dirt, is gentle, comes off cleanly and leaves no residue. I applied vinyl cleaner to all the vinyl surfaces until my removal cloth remained clean then a protectant.
- I then carefully, and I mean carefully, cleaned all those lovely chromed details with Brasso. Don't miss those beautiful A/C and heater vents and all those shiny screws, bezels, and knobs (front and rear). You would be surprised how that little and often over looked detail really makes the interior pop. Be careful to not get this stuff on the wood or vinyl as it dries to a white haze and is difficult to get off these surfaces.
- I cleaned all the glass inside and out.

#### Trunk and other bits:

- Vacuum with liner/pad in and out. Repair any sagging interior fender panels. Inspect, clean, repair all rubber seals.
- Don't forget to clean out and vacuum the glove box and any other storage areas inside the car.

Well that's about it. Takes a lot of time but from now on it is a matter of keeping things clean and presentable. The brand of products are less important than the time, effort, and care that is put in. I detail my collector cars like this once every 12 to 24 months. After each drive I clean off the bugs in an effort to keep up. The really hard part is when you allow all these details to pile up. I believe this cosmetic maintenance is just as importance as mechanical maintenance and it is something anybody can do and you get to know your car very well. Oh...and the feeling of accomplishment is great too.

-Ken Brasfield-

You can watch Ken's YouTube video here: <https://youtu.be/Pw12-GH4Seg>

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# REGISTRATION FOR MERCEDES FREUDE IS NOW OPEN! <https://www.mbca.org/registration-details>

## MERCEDES FREUDE “The Joy of Everything Mercedes”

MBCA’s newest & greatest National Event EVER!

Combining the best and most-popular activities of both **StarTech** & **StarFest** into one fabulous Gathering!

**LOCATION:**

OMNI HILTON HEAD OCEANFRONT RESORT  
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

**DATES:**

Mercedes Freude - Tuesday, November 2nd - Friday, November 5th, 2021  
Legends of the Autobahn East - Saturday, November 6th (@Port Royal Golf Course)  
Hilton Head Island Concours d’Elegance - Sunday, November 7th (@Port Royal Golf Course)

**Event Registration COMING SOON !**

PRIMARY REGISTRATION will include the ability to participate in most events and activities, as well as the Meet & Greet Reception and Final Banquet. PRIMARY PLUS REGISTRATION will include everything noted in the Primary Registration, as well as the ability to attend the Tech Sessions on Wednesday.

Along with our MBCA Event, we will be able to experience the kickoff of Legends of the Autobahn-East, as well as the renowned HHI Concours d’Elegance.

ACTIVITIES INCLUDED, BUT NOT LIMITED TO a Welcome Reception, Historic & TSD Rallies, local shopping & potential cruises, Tech Sessions, Cars & Cocktails, our final MBCA Banquet, and a Special Limited Visit to the Robert Jepson Collection Tour.

*The hotel reservation link is open and available to book hotel rooms:*

<https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/hilton-head/meetings/mercedes-benz-club-of-america-10302021>

*OR reservations can be made by calling Omni central reservation at 1-800-843-6664.*

*Ask for the group code:110221MERCEDES. Cost per night, for a Resort View Studio Suite, is \$169, plus taxes and daily discounted resort fee.*

Further details coming your way in the near future!

Rick Siefert  
National Events Chair



Advertisement Photo credits:  
Hilton Head Island Visitor & Convention Center  
Omni Hilton Head Ocean Resort  
HHI Concours d’Elegance

## Events

*If you wish to help plan and organize any of the below CVS events please contact our Events Planning Director, David Hay.*

### **Deutsche Marque Concours d'Elegance**

Sunday, September 19, 2021 - 9 am - 4 pm

Occoquan Regional Park

9751 Ox Road, Lorton, VA 22079

<https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/2021-deutsche-marque-concours-d-elegance-mbca-occoquan-regional-park-345770>

### **Greater Washington Section MBCA Track Event**

September 25 & 26

Summit Motorsports Park

Summit, WV

<https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/mbca-gws-2021-shenandoah-circuit-track-event-summit-point-raceway-greater-075356>

### **CVS Dominionfest am Flussufer**

Fun, Food & Mercedes-Benz

October 3, 2021 - 11:00 am - 3 pm

*Further information shortly via email*

### **1st Annual Oktoberfest Car Show & Festival**

October 23, 2021 - 9 am - 3 pm

Southern Roots Farm, LLC

16300 Jefferson Hwy, Bumpass, VA 23024

Info: [southernrootsfarmva@gmail.com](mailto:southernrootsfarmva@gmail.com)

Entry: <https://www.ticketsource.us/booking/select/NMhFjqoGQOIZ>

### **MBCA Mercedes Freude**

November 2 - November 5, 2021

Omni Hilton Head Oceanfront Resort

Hilton Head, NC

<https://mercedes-freude.mbca.org>

### **Hilton Head Concours d'Elegance**

November 5 - November 7, 2021

Port Royal Golf Course

Hilton Head, NC

<https://www.hhiconcours.com>

### **Legends of the Autobahn East**

November 6, 2021

Port Royal Golf Course

Hilton Head, NC

<https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/legends-of-autobahn-east-port-royal-golf-racquet-club-523733>

### **Cars & Coffee**

Charlottesville C&C  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month  
8:00 am to 10:00 am  
Greenberry's Coffee at Barracks Road Shopping Center  
1049 Emmet St N, 22903

Richmond C&C – Every other Saturday 8:00 -10:30  
Regency Square Mall, 1420 N Parham Rd, 23229

Roanoke Valley C&C - 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month  
Tanglewood Mall, 4420-A Electric Rd, 24018

Williamsburg C&C - 3rd Saturday of every month; 9:00-11:00  
Topsy Bean Cafe  
1430 High St. Williamsburg, VA 23185

***Check with local organizers for correct dates and times. C&Cs may be cancelled due to weather or as a result of the continuing pandemic.***

***Please send any updates to the above information to: [bradpurvis@mac.com](mailto:bradpurvis@mac.com) and put Cars and Coffee in the subject line.***

### **Did You Know?**

Did you know Studebaker dealers used to sell Mercedes-Benz cars in the USA?

In 1957 Daimler (parent company of Mercedes-Benz) signed a marketing deal with Curtiss-Wright, owner of Studebaker, to take over sales and distribution of Mercedes-Benz cars in the USA. The agreement served two purposes. First, to provide Mercedes with a vast dealer and service network, and second, to get out from under the disjointed dealer and service network and one-sided marketing agreement with Max Hoffman.

The agreement was initially for Studebaker to sell from 1,000 to 2,000 cars per year, however, growth was so rapid that by 1963 Mercedes-Benz were selling nearly 20,000 units each year in the USA.

This explosive growth was great for Mercedes-Benz, but it came on the heels of a declining Studebaker company, which closed its doors in December of that same year. Daimler then bought out their contract with Curtiss-Wright in 1964 and established its own dealer network in the aftermath.





**Visit us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/Central-Virginia-Section-Mercedes-Benz-Club-of-America-652612551444306/>**

**MEMBERSHIP**

**SUBMISSIONS**

Membership in the MBCA is open to any Mercedes-Benz enthusiast regardless whether you own a Mercedes-Benz or not. For more information please visit <https://www.mbca.org/join-today>. To renew your current or lapsed membership visit <https://www.mbca.org/user/renew>. If you have any questions please Email our Membership Chairman Todd Lusby at: [tlusby@gmail.com](mailto:tlusby@gmail.com).

We encourage our members to submit articles, stories and pictures for publication in *Old Dominion Star*. We kindly ask you follow the specifications listed below. To submit an article, please send to [bradpurvis@mac.com](mailto:bradpurvis@mac.com). Make sure you reference *Old Dominion Star* somewhere in the subject line.

Membership count: 160

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

15th of the month preceding the issue month,  
i.e., Spring edition:  
15 February

Visit us online at: <https://cva.mbca.org>

SUBMISSION SPECIFICATIONS

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Central-Virginia-Section-Mercedes-Benz-Club-of-America-652612551444306/>

Text: any Arial, Verdana or Helvetica

Font Size: 10-12 pt

Format: Word, Pages or Text file

Photos: max size 1MB, jpeg or gif  
(min 800 x 800 pixels)

**A hi-res version of *Old Dominion Star* is always available at:**

***Make sure to add [cvsmbca@gmail.com](mailto:cvsmbca@gmail.com) to your email whitelist.***

## The End

DISCLAIMER: *Old Dominion Star's* purpose is to disseminate news, technical information and superfluous minutiae related to *Mercedes-Benz* automobiles. Any maintenance technique, modification or hack published in *Old Dominion Star* should be weighed against conventional, traditional, and generally archaic maintenance practices and procedures established by Trappist Monks. *Old Dominion Star* is not the authority on maintaining or improving *Mercedes-Benz* automobiles. The views expressed are those of the author of the article or person quoted and not necessarily that of the Editor, CVS, MBCA, Mercedes-Benz NA, Daimler AG or any of their affiliated organizations (*although maybe they should be*). Owners should consider possible techniques or modifications in light of common sense, and compromises involving economy, longevity, performance, reliability, drivability, legality, and resale value not to mention the affect on one's virtue,

morality, integrity, dignity, honor, respectability, nobility, purity, ethics and good character. Any modifications possibly affecting emissions or safety are just silly and should not be attempted. Neither this publication nor this organization, Editor or his minions will assume any liability for ensuing consequences for your inept application of those techniques described herein. So there.

- Editor



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