



the capital STAR

www.mbca.org/sacramento

The MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB of America • Sacramento Section May-Jun 2013

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July-
July 13th Tri Star Dinner with Dan.

August-
August 3rd CAM Auto Cruise
(Matias)

August 10th- Auto Detailing event
at Scrub Boys Car Wash
Don Owen

August 16th Sacramento River
Train Dinner
Rhonda Harrigan

16th Legends of the Autobahn

September-
September 7th Sacramento to
Africa
Anisha Harper
MB-Sacramento Tech Event New
Cars with Scott Bayliss.
Matias

October-
(Regional) 4-6th Sierra Nevada
Rally with SFBA.

18-20th Sacramento International
Auto Show.
Matias

November-
Nov. 9th- El Dorado Hills Von
Housen Technical Event (VH
Classic Car Club) (Matias)
Planning Meeting (Matias)

December-
Christmas lights drive
Christmas Party

An Evening of Q & A Saturday, July 13, 5PM Woody's Bar & Grill Rocklin

Have you ever wanted to detain a Police Officer, put that officer under the spotlight and have their undivided attention for an evening of questioning? Well here is your opportunity! The Sacramento Section has detained a local police officer for the evening and we will have him at our disposal. He currently works as a motorcycle officer.

Do you have questions about traffic laws, enforcement and accidents? What's the difference between an infraction, misdemeanor and felony? What does "Prison Realignment" mean anyway? Is it true an officer can only pull you over in the city they work in? How is DUI investigated? What are speed traps? How are speed limits determined? No question is too odd or too crazy!

The interrogation will take place at 5pm at Woody's Grill & Bar at 6502 Lonetree Bl., Rocklin. This opportunity should not be missed! Reservations are requested by Wednesday July 10th. Please email mbzsac@hotmail.com or contact Anisha at 916-600-9069.

(Dinner is no host and the restaurant will provide separate checks with 18% gratuity added)

Sacramento River Train Sunset Dinner with Music Friday, August 16, 2013 Departing West Sacramento 7:00 p.m. Deadline June 30

All aboard the Sacramento River Train for a sunset dinner Friday, August 16th!

Sunset Dinners with Live Music features music in the Club Car. The combination of a delicious dinner in the dining cars, a relaxing visit to the open air observation cars to catch the sunset, and then fun listening to music in the Club Car are a terrific way to enjoy an evening.

During the trip we will enjoy a delicious three-course dinner while watching the countryside roll by through large windows at every table. Once it gets dark they turn on undercarriage floodlights. It is recommended that you visit the open-air cars that are very popular. Some favorite open-air car experiences are riding across the Fremont Trestle at sunset or quietly rolling next to the mighty Sacramento River at night.

The Gold Ticket includes premium seating that ensures a private table and higher staff/guest ratio. Your Gold Level Service includes a bottle of champagne or wine (your choice) per couple. You receive complementary soda and coffee throughout your trip. And finally, every lady in Gold Ticket service receives a rose.

Regular rate is \$100 per person (incl. tax & gratuity) However, if 20 more reservations from our club are received by June 30th, we'll get the "group" rate. Group rate is \$85 per person which includes: priority boarding, dinner, 1 bottle of wine/champagne/sparkling cider per couple, and complimentary non-alcoholic beverages. *Reservation coupon is on page 5.*



President's Message

by: Tony Otis

Arlienne, Baron and I have returned from Star Tech 2013 in Birmingham, Alabama. We drove, of course!

My 1983 300D turbo diesel wagon performed flawlessly for 6,000 miles.

The event opened with a tour of the NASA U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville (Also the home of the Redstone Arsenal dating from WWII) Two Saturn V moon rockets, one outdoors, vertically displayed and the second, hung above the interior of the museum. They are HUGE!

Do you remember where you when Neil Armstrong landed on the moon? Our docents were Alabama Section members who had worked at the center at that historic time. Their insights into

the space program were fascinating.

This Mercedes-Benz factory is a marvel of modern auto production. Robots do most of the fabrication of the inner body shell and outer panel assembly. Much welding, sparks and noise. The people at this stage keep the robots supplied with parts and panels. With gloved hands and micrometers, top quality control is the order of the day, as the technicians measure and feel for any flaws.

On to the paint shop where the body is immersed and inverted in an anti-corrosion dip then primed and painted. Then, on to the various lines where people are more hands on, installing Interiors, seats, doors, glass, dash, lights, and wiring. Then the "marriage", where the descending body is mated to the engine, transmission and running gear. With wheels and tires on, plus six liters of fuel the newborn is on its own. It then goes through a wet booth to

check for leaks, followed by final inspections, and then it is driven off the line to await shipment to any of 135 markets around the world. All ML's GL's and R class vehicles are built here, about 700 per day, including right hand drive models.

The Sacramento Section was well represented at the Star Tech 2013. Out of three awards offered, we received two of them. President Tony Otis got the award for longest distance travelled (3000mi.) and Western Regional Director

Allen Wrenn received the award for the longest ownership of a Mercedes. He bought his 1966 230S finback at the factory in 1965. Had Allen lived a few miles further west, and if had been an MBCA member for 3 more years (joined in March 1966), it would have been a "hat trick"

Tony

Contact Information for "the Capitol STAR"

Submit articles to:

Bill Brandt

5910 Gloria Dr.

Sacramento, CA 95822

e-mail:

CapitolStar@sbcglobal.net

Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month.

For changes to articles or ads:

Bill Brandt

5910 Gloria Drive

Sacramento, CA 95822

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Deadline for changes to articles or ads is approximately the 26th of each month.

New article ideas:

Bill Brandt

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Tri Star Traffic By Dan

Recently I started a new adventure in my career of law enforcement. I have completed the motorcycle officer course and am now riding a brand new Harley Davidson Road King.

Some of you may have motorcycles or know people who ride. While I knew that riding a motorcycle as a police officer was challenging- I had no idea how challenging. Anyone can go straight or ride around town. The basics in motor school include u-turns and figure eights on steep hills within an 18' wide lane, cone patterns with such names as the "Eliminator" which requires the rider to quickly push the handle bars to lock at each turn, and "pull-outs" which require taking off from a stop within six feet from the edge of the pavement (or a sheer drop down below on a hill) and turning left or right. Doing several tight circles was my thing (until I got dizzy of course). After a few scrapes and bruises we went on to the second week which was all about riding out in the real world. We rode through canyon roads with no shoulders in pairs- side by side.

It required us to use everything that we had been taught and use it quickly at times. We rode on the freeways of the East Bay Area and up and down Mt. Diablo. For our final ride, we rode almost 300 miles from South Alameda County up to Napa and Sonoma Counties. Nice scenery, but that was not what we were there for. There were ten officers in my class and three of them were repeating the course because of prior failure. The training really turns us into professional riders. So, the next time you talk to a motorcycle officer, ask them how they liked motor school. Chances are we'll say it was difficult and challenging but fun.



VonHousen.com

Sacramento | El Dorado Hills | Rocklin



MBCA Members get a 10% discount on Parts and/or Labor when you show us your membership card.



June FSD - stopping at Coloma - thanks Dan & Anisha for planning this!

A Talk With An Olympian Of The MB Technician World

Cars have gotten so much more complicated since 1996, the real start of computer-run cars. Think your fuel injectors are just an engine part? Today they are actually actuated via piezo crystals inside getting applied over 120 volts and have 200 bar (2,940 psi) of pressure running through them. They report via the engine-management network giving the computer their individual status.

It is this efficiency throughout that allows your newer Mercedes to have 400 hp, handle superbly at any speed, and yet return 20 mpg. Today, if your Mercedes-Benz is fairly new, thanks to an army of sensors and networks, there are multiple networks guarding everything from performance to your simple comfort to your safety – both passive and active. That is why those who maintain our automobiles are no longer “mechanics” but “technicians”. They can spend as much time now diagnosing networks as drive trains.

MB-Sacramento’s Scott Baylis was kind enough to give me a few minutes in the service bay, and he said that for difficult problems, sometimes a technician can spend 50% of the total time researching a problem. I remember – in the 1990s, our Section attended a lecture given by the MB-Sacramento’s service manager. He was talking about a difficult problem they all had. The cruise control was cutting out on a W140 – the current S-Class at the time. *It always cut out at the same speed.* Finally they discovered the problem – the customer replaced one of the Michelin tires in the rear and the new Michelin, made in the US, had a casting that was perhaps a 1" taller in height than the OEM factory Michelin even with

the same sizing on sidewall of tire. At the precise speed the difference in rolling speed RPM between the wheels in the rear axle finally confused the computer enough to just “give up” the cruise control. It was using a “safety off switch” built into the software by Daimler engineers. And while the networks have certainly gotten more involved and sophisticated in the intervening years, the need for technicians to successfully diagnose those networks has also grown. Which brings me to the point of this article.



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From the US, an estimated 8,000 technicians in the US alone competed to go to Germany with the winners of 15 other countries and compete in Daimler’s Techmasters International Competition. To even get to be one of the 7 winning technicians going from the US, contestants here went through 5 tiers of competition – first tests through the Internet to regional meets to the final meet in Florida. Along with 5 others around the country, MB-Sacramento’s

Scott Baylis and MB-Rocklin’s Ralph Johonnot were in the US finals. According to Ralph at the recent event at Rocklin, of the 32 US finalists were another 4 from Von Housen! Scott & Ralph made the US team. I told them both that is something to be proud.

In Germany their team of 7 took the Gold Medal for “Best Workshop Team” at this biannual meet. Team Germany took the silver medal, with Team Japan taking the bronze. In addition, Ralph got an individual Bronze Medal for World’s Best Maintenance Technician, while Scott placed 4th. And this wasn’t Scott’s first trip to Germany – he was there as a winner in 2010! Pretty amazing considering an estimated 20,000 technicians from around the world – from China to South Africa to Russia to Brazil - started the competition.

As I told Scott, just getting to Germany to me was akin to finishing a grueling marathon. So congratulations to Scott & Ralph, Team USA, and all the contestants in Germany. If Scott or Ralph wants to let us know about their most challenging problem in the shop, I will be glad to print it in the newsletter.

When George Grinzewitsch started his independent import service facility 56 years ago, his motto was “No Better Service Anywhere” Word is, at least from a slightly curmudgeonly Englishman I once knew, is that he was awarded the franchise based on his service expertise. The tradition seems to be continuing.

Bill Brandt

Park and board at: 400 North Harbor Blvd in West Sacramento 95605. You will approach the very tall I-80 Highway overpass. Located practically underneath the overpass. Take an immediate left into parking lot at **Bryte Bend Water Treatment Plant**.

After 30 yards, turn right into the parking lot.

Send your reservations with checks by June 30, 2013 to:

Rhonda Harrigan



September 7th - Safari West - Deadline July 19th

Sacramento goes to Africa! Ok it's not quite Africa but it's a tiny taste of Africa in the wine country. Safari West is a wildlife preserve located in Santa Rosa on 400 acres of land that is home to over 400 exotic mammals and birds. Some of the animals include antelope, zebras, giraffes, cheetahs, monkeys, flamingos, lemurs, cape buffalo and so much more!

The day will start with a meeting at Starbucks in West Sacramento. Departure time will be 9:30am sharp. We will caravan down the highway to Santa Rosa arriving at Safari West just in time for lunch at noon. Lunch is a barbecue buffet. Following lunch will we depart on our African safari tour which starts at 1pm and will last until 4pm. The tour includes a 45 minute walking tour and a 2 hour driving tour in a open air authentic safari vehicle. The safari vehicle does travel over rugged and bumpy terrain and does not have seatbelts (except on top level seating). Due to the nature of the vehicle this tour is best suited for children over 3 years old and may be uncomfortable for pregnant women.

This is a fantastic adventure not to be missed! Here are the details: The date of the adventure is September 7, 2013. We will be meeting at Starbucks at 715 Harbor Point Place in West Sacramento (off of Reed Ave) but you are welcome to drive on your own and meet at Safari West at 12pm. The price of this safari adventure is \$97.00 per person which includes lunch, safari tour, taxes and tip for the guide. Your reservation and payment **MUST** be received by Friday July 19th, 2013 to guarantee your spot on the safari. Late reservations can will be accepted if there are still spaces left. We have a limited number of spaces on this tour so get those reservations in early! Reservation forms can be found in the latest edition of the Capital Star or contact **Anisha** at **916-600-9069** or email **mbzsac@hotmail.com** .

Safari West offers overnight accommodations and will offer a discount for 5 or more reservations. The Friday night discounted rate is \$220 and the Saturday night discount rate is \$240. These are double occupancy with a \$25 charge for each additional person. If you are interested in staying the night contact Diane Farris at Safari West 707-566-3622 and mention you are with the Mercedes Benz Club in Sacramento.

Safari West September 7, 2013 Reservation Form

Reservation Deadline is July 19th.

Name _____

Phone: _____

Email _____

_____ persons @ \$97.00 each = _____

Make checks Payable to MBCA/Sacramento and mail to

Bill Brandt
5910 Gloria Drive
Sacramento, CA 95822

Sacramento River Train August 16, 2013 Reservation Form

Reservation Deadline is June 30th.

Name _____

Phone: _____

Email _____

_____ persons @ \$85.00 each = _____

Make checks Payable to MBCA/Sacramento and mail to

Rhonda Harrigan
P.O. Box 134

Roseville, CA 95661

916-416-9400 after 6:00 p.m.

Welcome New Members

Jessie Andrade	Woodland
David Black	Folsom
Charles Carrington	Sacramento
Phil Kazakian	Lodi
Gary Mandolfo	Meadow Vista
Wardell Montgomery	Antelope
Tammy Rominger	Davis
Roxanne Shack	Sacramento
Alexander Yiakis	Sacramento

Order your MBCA name badge for \$8-\$9.50 at the club store in the Star Magazine

Mercedes-Benz Club of America

Sacramento Section Officers | 2012-2013

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Join MBCA

To join the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, call the MBCA National Business Office at **(800) 637-2360** and use your VISA or MasterCard. Membership dues are \$49 annually. The dues include six issues of "The STAR" each year, plus your local section's newsletter (like this one). To pay by mail, make your check payable to MBCA, and mail it along with your name, spouse's name, address and telephone numbers and occupations to:

Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc.

**National Business Office
1907 Lelaray Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80909**

Or, ask a member for an application. You can also join by visiting MBCA on the Web:

<http://www.mbca.org>

Also, check out our local web site:

<http://www.mbca.org/sacramento>

Moving?

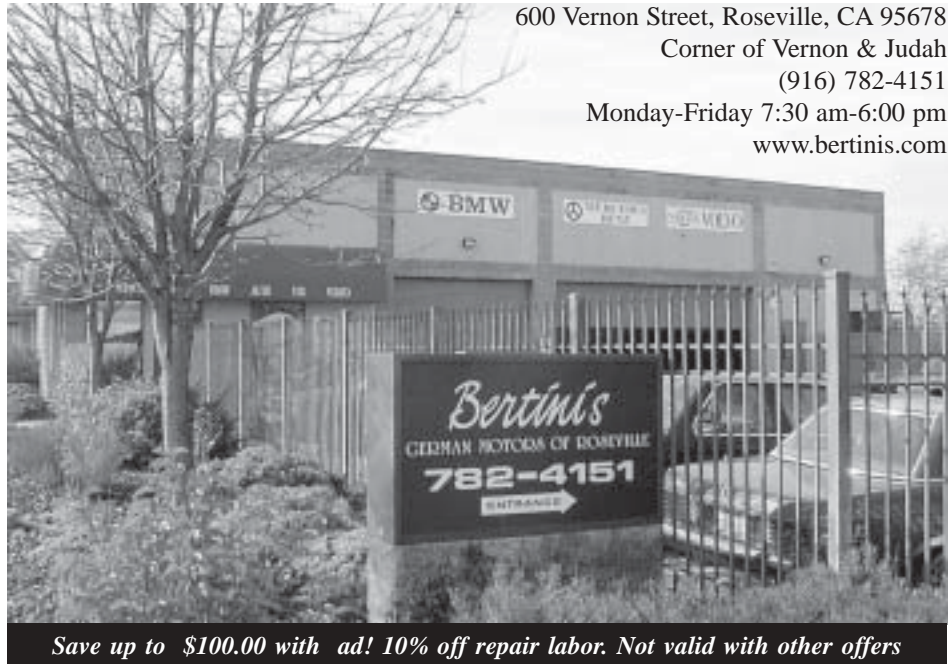
You must contact MBCA National at the above address or phone number. The address list comes to us monthly from National. We cannot make changes locally.

Please Note:

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Mercedes Mart

This column is the Sacramento Section's want ads. The vehicles must be Mercedes. Mercedes accessories are also accepted. The ads will be printed for 3 months, at which time the seller must renew them. Cost for Sacramento Section members is free – Free space will also be given to MBCA members of other Sections on a space available basis. Non-members can advertise here for \$30 for 3 months. If you are a non-member, you may wish to join MBCA since you can also advertise in our national magazine *The Star* at no charge. We have a circulation of 350 members. Send a copy of your ad, including your name and phone number, to Bill Brandt, 5910 Gloria Drive, Sacramento CA 95822 or email CapitolStar@sbcglobal.net. Because of complaints from past sellers of overseas **scams** think twice about including your **email address**.



Save up to \$100.00 with ad! 10% off repair labor. Not valid with other offers

**To get on the First Sunday Drive monthly email list
Send an email to
joinsacfsd@att.net**



ELEGANT! 280SEL Sedan, 1969

Rich silver exterior and charcoal interior. **Owner-restored**. 99,800 miles on chassis, **5,000 mi. on NEW, 180 hp, fuel-injected engine**.

Features: AT, PB, P/W, P/S, AC, Blaupunkt AM/FM/CD stereo. **NO RUST!** Re-painted about 10 years ago. Arizona/California car, always garaged, covered.

The upholstery is black MB-Tex, still perfect. The wood accents(dash, doors) have been beautifully refinished. All necessary parts replaced with new, shocks, tires, rubber.

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