



# the STAR

capitol

The MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB of America • Sacramento Section

April 2001

## Calendar Of Events

### April 28, 2001

National Automobile Museum  
Reno, NV

### May 19, 2001

Uncorked Rally  
Tom & Inga Bourdon

### June 3, 2001

Shriners Concours  
Bob Cottam

### July 2001

Gold Panning at Pine Grove  
Henry & Anne Pezzetti

### August 2001

To Be Announced  
Gary & Carolyn Twing

### September 2001

Poker Run  
Darryl & Debbie Kielick

### October 2001

Oktoberfest!  
Kevin & Gloria McKnight

## Harrah's Auto Museum

April 28, 2001

1:00 PM

Join us at 1:00 PM April 28th for a nice afternoon and evening up at Reno! For those who don't know of the Harrah's Automotive Museum, it is one to the top automotive museums in the country – everything from a 300SL Gullwing to a Duesenberg. Plus a unique Jeep Wagoneer Bill Harrah had made (hint – he wasn't satisfied with the stock power plant!)

At 5 PM we'll be having dinner at the Café Andreotti, a local favorite located inside Harrah's Hotel/Casino! Dinner will include salad, bread, coffee and soda and of course 1 entrée. Cost? For the museum and dinner, a paltry \$25.00. I must have the reservations a week in advance, so April 21 is the deadline. No exceptions.

If you'd like to stay the night here's four hotels I can recommend:

Harrah's (800)427-7247

Silver Legacy (775)329-4777

(great breakfast buffet on Sunday morning at the Steak House)

Super 8 Motel (775)825-2940

(accepts pets)

Eldorado (800)648-5966

### Harrah's Auto Museum

April 28th

\_\_\_ RAVIOLI di FUNGHI

\_\_\_ SPINACH FETTUCCINE

\_\_\_ SPAGHETTI with meat balls

\_\_\_ NEW YORK STYLE Pizza

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

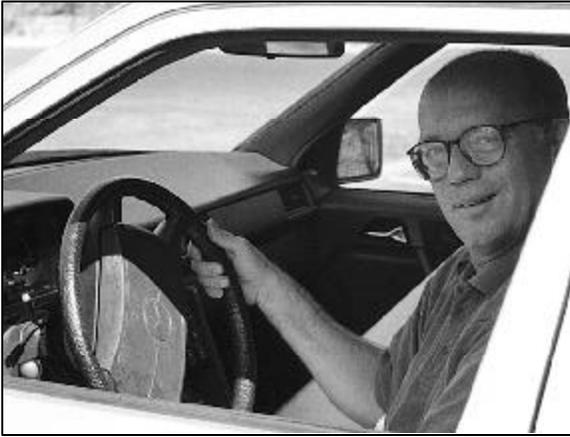
Make checks (\$25 per person) to MBCA-Sacramento Section and mail to:

**Patty Dudte**  
6375 Saginaw Ct  
Sun Valley, NV 89433



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# President's Message

by: Bill Brandt

Over 40 people were able to attend the trip to the DaimlerChrysler fuel cell facility, despite the date change. The original date was March 17<sup>th</sup> with a deadline of March 10<sup>th</sup>, as published in the February newsletter. Either Bob Sanigar or I contacted everyone who had sent a check, with the regrettable exception of Ed Zander and Ron Davis.

Wolfgang Weiss, who manages the facility, and Joe Irwin gave a wonderful lecture and orientation to this new technology. Everyone also got a ride in the NECAR 4 – the modified A Class that is fueled by hydrogen. It ran virtually silent, and most of us felt that we were seeing the future now.

One attending member and his family also had to set a Section record. Paul Warenycia, who has been a member for 30 years, attended his first event with this tour! Paul works for HP and has been sent all over the world in his work. We welcome Paul and his family and hope they can attend another event a bit sooner!

Section member, expressed interest in hosting another event this fall. Stay tuned...

Chris and Patty Dudte in Reno will host our April Event. They are not only fairly new members, but Chris volunteers his time assembling the newsletter!

How many of you would like to carpool up to Reno? Some of us will be there for a day and some overnight. New member Christa Jellison has suggested some car pools. If you are interested call me at (916) 399-1736. We'll be seeing the Harrah's Automotive Museum and then have a nice dinner at Café Andreotti. If you haven't been to the auto museum, seeing the "Jarrari" alone is worth the visit!

For *May* Inga and Tom Bourdon have a nice rally planned – Tom told me a bit about it today and I can tell you, it will be fun! Tom has sworn me to secrecy as to the actual details.

For those of you who haven't been to

Jonesy's you are in for a treat! I usually don't place too high on rallies but have fun nevertheless. The best place I had was on one of Bob Cottam's rallies though the foothills – I simply disregarded the time and drove. And drove. Came in 3<sup>d</sup>, if I remember correctly.

**June 3<sup>d</sup>** Bob Cottam will host his traditional Shriner's Concours event. If hosting your car in a concours scares you, don't fret. Just wash it, wax it and clean out the inside. Our cars will not be officially shown; we are there to support the Shriner's Children's Hospital. Last year we had a great SL turnout – everything but the original 300SL – from the 190SL to the 600SL. Cost will stay at \$25.00 and the event will be by the UC Davis Medical Center.

Best Wishes to Elaine: Long time member Elaine Bonnington underwent hip joint replacement on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Husband Ted informs us that all went well and Elaine is very happy that it is finally over.

## Bill

### Contact Information for "the Capitol STAR"

Submit articles to:  
Bill Brandt  
5910 Gloria Dr.  
Sacramento, CA 95822  
e-mail: wlb@lanset.com

For changes to articles or ads:  
Chris Dudte  
(775) 673-1433  
e-mail: cdudte@ao.net

New article ideas:  
Bill Brandt  
5910 Gloria Dr.  
Sacramento, CA 95822  
e-mail: wlb@lanset.com

Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month.

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

## Ask Al!

Herb, thank you for waiting patiently for your "Q & A" to come around, since this was asked last year!

**QUESTION:** Mercedes Benz specifies certain mileages for the performance of services. How much leeway is allowed? Can the owner go "X" more miles, and if so, what is "X"? Will the factory warranty or a Starmark coverage be valid?

**ANSWER:** I will use an oil change as the example in response to Herb's questions. Oil changes should be done every 7,500 miles, or at least once per year, even if the vehicle is not driven daily. The factory warranty will be "ok" if you go over or under by 2,000 to 3,000 miles, provided you do regular oil changes.

Regarding the Starmark warranty, which is for pre-owned vehicles, please check the Mechanical Standards Under Certification Section on <http://www.mbusa.com/Starmark>. They list a Table of Sections, which cover a "General" section, an "Engine Compartment & Pre-Road Test Checks" section, an "Engine Component / System Condition Check & Verification" section, an "Electrical Systems & Function Test" section, an "Undercarriage / DriveTrain" section, a "Chassis / Body" section, and a "Road Test, Post Road Test Inspection" section. To qualify for Starmark Certification, a vehicle must pass a 130+ point inspection. Hopefully this should give you more details on specific questions, than time and space allows in this column!



## Von Housen Motors

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Velour Floor Mats  
\$71 to \$110



Infant  
\$158



Toddler  
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Child Booster  
\$163

Al Angeloni can be reached at  
[alrogangeloni@juno.com](mailto:alrogangeloni@juno.com)

Parts Department is open to serve our clients  
Monday thru Friday from 7:30 am – 6:00 pm  
&  
Saturdays from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

# A Drive Into the Future

March 10, 2001

Talk about contrasts! In February we visited 1940's technology in the form of the aircraft carrier USS Hornet and we endured a freezing wind and rain storm to do it. On March 10<sup>th</sup> there was not a cloud in the brilliant blue sky, the temperature was in the upper 60's and we visited 2001-2010 technology.

The California Fuel Cell Partnership facility in West Sacramento is the only one of its kind in the world. This is where the power source of the future is being developed not only for vehicles but for homes, offices, computers and anything else that can be powered by electricity. Remember you heard it first in the Capitol Star! The partnership is the combined effort of eight automobile manufacturers, three oil companies and twelve other organizations including private companies and government entities.

The fuel cell is not brand new technology. We were told that the concept has been known since the late 1800's and modern fuel cells have been powering our spacecraft for years. Each fuel cell is like a Big Mac sandwich without the cheese. The bottom patty is the hydrogen electrode, the center bread slice is the proton conducting membrane (PEM) and the top patty is the oxygen electrode. The top and bottom of the bun (the two outer layers of the cell) consist of graphite bipolar plates in which a maze-like configuration of tiny gas channels has been milled. Hydrogen flows through these channels on the hydrogen side and outside air flows through the oxygen side. When the two gases react with the two patties through the PEM they produce electricity and chemically-pure water. The electricity goes to the motor powering the car and the water goes to the atmosphere as steam. Nothing else. Zero emissions

Each cell produces just over 200 watts and one amp, hardly enough to brag about. But not to worry, the trick is to stack these Big Macs, one on top of the other to multiply the output. These stacks of cells are called, guess what; "Stacks". And the only limitation to how high you stack them is the room you have in the particular vehicle. The first practical hydrogen vehicle Daimler produced that was workable" was NECAR 1 (New Electric Car 1<sup>st</sup> version ) in 1994. It was a typical 3-seat van but there was only room for two, the driver and the passenger. The remainder of the space was packed with the fuel cell unit. NECAR 2, also a van, came out in 1996 and this vehicle could now seat six because the size of the fuel cell unit was dramatically reduced.

There are two options for obtaining the hydrogen. The most direct method is to transfer

pure hydrogen from a fueling station directly to the tank in the vehicle. Some may be apprehensive since the hydrogen is in liquid form at 3,600 pounds per square inch (PSI) and at a temperature of minus 423 degrees Fahrenheit. But it is stored in a double wall steel tank much like a Thermos bottle and engineered to be rupture resistant.

The other option is to produce hydrogen in the vehicle. NECAR 5 will use a gasoline or methanol-powered reforming fuel cell system. The reforming fuel cell will produce hydrogen from the atmosphere and the hydrogen will then combine with oxygen to produce the electricity to drive the vehicle.

All 45 Sacramento Section members and guests got a ride in NECAR 4 introduced in 1999 and it was impressive. NECAR 4 is an A Class Mercedes,. The A Class is the mini-compact of the Mercedes-Benz line that has been in use in Germany for several years but was never introduced in America. It is surprisingly roomy for a compact, rather plush and entirely adequate as a commuter. Its hydrogen powered unit is under the floorboards and consists of two stacks of 80 fuel cells each for a total of 70 kilowatts and 340 amps. Depending on how it is driven it has a range of 280 miles. This is due to the high efficiency of the fuel cell system plus the high energy content of liquid hydrogen.

When the last door shut all was very quiet and there was no vibration. Only when we asked; "Is it running?" and he said it was, did we listen a little more closely and then detected a faint hum. The hum was the compressor that forces outside

air through the fuel cells. Acceleration was surprisingly brisk however there was an audible whine through the acceleration phase but when the car seemed to "shift", the whine ceased and the cruising after that was smooth and quiet. It really was a great ride and capped off a very educational and enlightening experience.

You should begin seeing these cars (and busses) on the road within the next two to three years. After that will come fuel cells for your home. It will be much like having a propane tank for heating except the "propane" trucks that fill your tank in the years 2004 and after will be hydrogen trucks and your home fuel cell will produce the electricity that will heat, cool and light your home for far less cost than you pay today. And you will be able to shop around for the best deal for your hydrogen.

We want to thank Herr Wolfgang Weiss, project manager and his staff for their hospitality. And thanks to Kevin McKnight and Bob Sanigar for coordinating the visit to the Fuel Cell facility and President Bill Brandt for arranging the excellent lunch at The Sudwerks.

For information on the California Fuel Cell Partnership:

<http://www.fuelcellpartnership.org>

**-John DuPriest, Secretary**



# THE UNCORKED RALLY

SATURDAY MAY 19<sup>TH</sup> 2001 - 10:30 AM

Please plan to join us on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> for an interesting, scenic tour along Solano and Napa County's less traveled, backroads. The roads we've chosen for this rally will allow you to experience beautiful panoramic views of a part of California not often traveled and will allow you to experience yet another aspect of your Mercedes-Benz that often goes unappreciated while commuting back a forth to work. Your Mercedes-Benz, despite the model or year, was designed to be a truly fantastic touring car.

We'll begin our rally at the edge of one of Solano County's earliest agricultural areas, Pleasant's Valley. Lake Solano Park, the rally start point, lies along Putah Creek just west of Winters. Pleasant's Valley was once a wealthy Orchard area that gave rise to California's earliest and innovative fruit production. Here, we'll enjoy an outdoor Continental Breakfast while we play a few car games to get the competitive juices flowing. From Lake Solano Park, we'll head west through a narrow gorge into the hills past one of California's many engineering marvels, Monticello Dam and onto roads not often described as the "tourist route".

At the end of the day, we will meet at the Napa County Airport for a late afternoon dinner at Jonesy's Famous Steak House. Jonesy's has been a destination for local dinning and recreational fly-ins where both modern and historic aircraft pull right up to the dining room windows. Jonesy's has had a reputation for excellence for over 50 years. We're sure once you experience Jonesy's, you to will understand why by either land or air, folks come back to Jonesy's again and again. From Jonesy's it is an easy drive back to Interstate 80 for your return trip home.

For those not familiar with the several types of automobile rally, rest assured this is not the classic Time & Distance rally. Whether you're a rally veteran or a first timer, "**THE UNCORKED RALLY**" is a combination of distance and clues, mixed with other challenges to test your analytical and navigational skills as well as your powers of observation. There will be plenty of time allotted for stops along the way to enjoy both the scenery and the more contemporary reasons for visiting this part of California. Just remember to subtract your extra miles and most of all, plan to have fun!!!

**Be sure to mark your Calendar and join us for "THE UNCORKED RALLY"**

## Directions to Lake Solano Park:

From Sacramento or the Bay Area take Interstate I-80 to Vacaville.

From Vacaville take Interstate 505 North toward Winters – Redding.

Exit Interstate 505 at the Downtown Winters Route 128 exit.

Turn Left onto Route 128 (West) and follow Route 128 through the outskirts of Winters toward Lake Berryessa for approximately 5 miles.

Turn Left onto Pleasant's Valley Road, (Note: also called Road 86) cross over the bridge at Lake Solano.

Immediately after the bridge, turn left into the Picnic area, turn right up the rise and continue to the end of the parking area and **PAD E** Park anywhere near **PAD E**.

**Questions? Tom & Inga Bourdon 707.864.0567**

## Uncorked Rally

Price includes continental breakfast, dinner, and prizes. Dinners include salad, roll, coffee or tea.

### Entree selections:

10 oz Top Sirloin Steak with baked potato \_\_\_\_\_

Broasted Chicken with baked potato \_\_\_\_\_

Shrimp Louie with cup of soup \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian Dinner salad \_\_\_\_\_

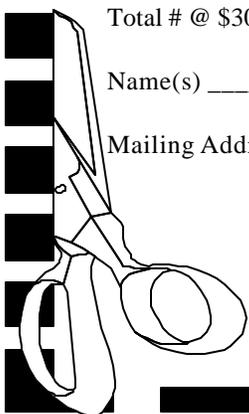
Total # @ \$30.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Evening phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

**Tom & Inga Bourdon  
PO Box 811  
Benicia CA 94510-0811**



**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 \$45 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>



**Welcome New Members**

Barbara and Robert Burger  
-Folsom, CA

Robert Gulden  
-Redding, CA

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## Mercedes Mart

This column is for members to buy or sell a personal car. The vehicle must be a Mercedes. Neither the club nor the editor make any representations whatsoever. This is strictly a service. Prospective purchasers are cautioned to investigate the offering thoroughly. We reserve the right to edit copy, including the right to limit ads to 30 words or less. Ads are free to members in good standing, \$10 to non-members. Send a copy of your ad, including your name and phone number to: Chris Dudte, 6375 Saginaw Ct., Sun Valley, NV 89433 or e-mail: cdudte@ao.net



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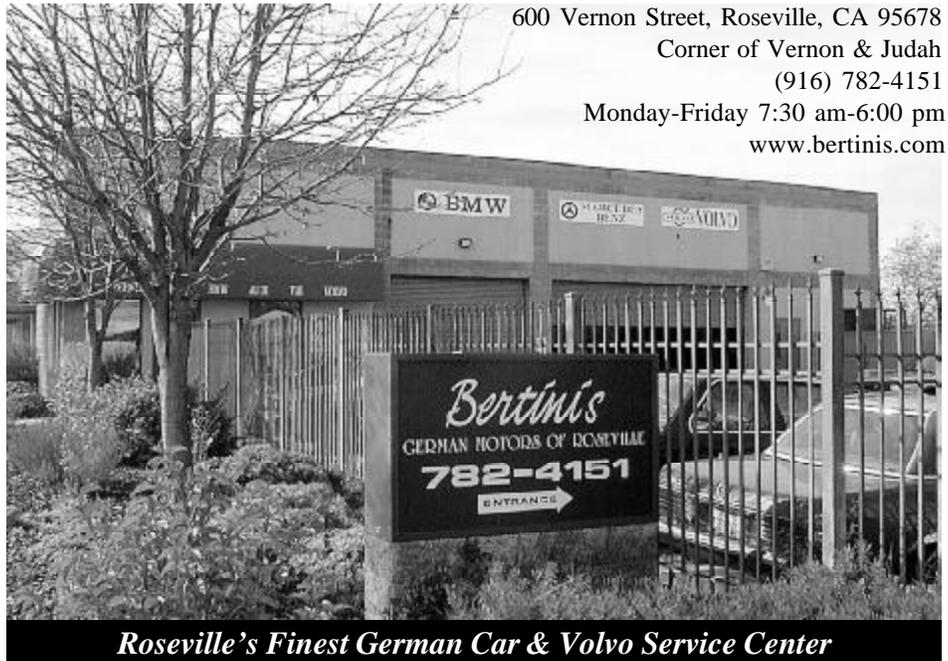
Mercedes Benz 280E 1978 6-cylinder gas, only 135K, silver, clean, standard accessories (ac, electric windows, power lock, power steering, radio etc.), runs great, excellent condition, smogged, new tires, clean \$ 3150

**Christian Beck (916) 375-0377**



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Please send address changes directly to:

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Colorado Springs, CO 80909-2872

Or Call: 1-800-637-2360

**We cannot make changes locally!**