



the **STAR** capitol

The MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB of America • Sacramento Section December 2003

Calendar Of Events

Dec 19th, 2003

Section Christmas Party at the Holbrook Hotel - Grass Valley & Cornish Christmas in Town

Gary & Carolyn Twing
(530) 265-4079

December 21, 2003

Nevada City Victorian Christmas
Bobbie Larson - (916) 208-8530

January 18th, 2004

No Host Dinner 6:00 PM
Back Forty Texas BBQ
1201 Orlando Ave. Roseville
Auburn Blvd @ I-80

February 21, 2004

Hiller Aero Museum
Inger Bisson

March 2004

No Host Dinner

April 2004

Filoli Gardens (Woodside CA)

May 2004

Uncorked Rally III
Tom & Inga Bourdon
(707) 864-0567

June 2004

No Host Dinner

July 2004

Tahoe Motor Rally
Hank & Anne Pezzetti
(916) 687-4792

August 2004

No Host Dinner

September 2004

San Simeon Overnight
Bill Brandt
(916) 399-1736

October 2004

No Host Dinner

November 2004

Planning Meeting & Fall Fest
Kevin & Gloria McKnight
(916) 721-1579

December 2004

Christmas Party

Sacramento Section Christmas Party Friday, December 19, 2003

Our annual Christmas party will be in historic Grass Valley at the Holbrooke Hotel on the last night of the Cornish Christmas Celebration. Downtown streets are closed to vehicles to allow for street vendors, musicians and other entertainers. Early settlers to the area were hard rock miners from Cornwall, England bringing some traditions that we still enjoy. Come early as the street celebrations begin at 5:30 and dress warm as it can be quite cool at that time of year. No black tie attire required for our party.

Our actual party begins at 7:00, you may want to arrive early to browse through the hotel, originally built in 1851 and is now listed as California Registered Historical Landmark #914. The Golden Gate Saloon will captivate you as one of the longest continually operating saloons west of the Mississippi with historically appointed copper cladding and beautiful back bar.

Through the years several US Presidents together with other famous people such as Mark Twain, Bret Harte, Lotta Crabtree and Lola

Montez were guests. If you would like to also be a guest for an overnight stay please call Eleanor (530) 273-1353 ASAP to reserve as the hotel is nearly sold out for that night, be sure to mention the Mercedes Benz Club, rates are Queen room \$95 and King room is \$105.

This year we will again be collecting gifts for the Sacramento Children's Home. A wish list will be provided together with driving and parking directions after you're reservations are confirmed. In addition we will also have a (wrapped without names) White Elephant gift exchange.

Carolyn Twing



President's Message

by: Bill Brandt

Michael Coleman Meets Bela Berenyi

One of the amazing things about the Internet is the fact that you can meet people who you never would have met previously.

I have known Mike for a few years through our Mercedes Internet List. He lives in a rural area of eastern Canada, in Ontario. He commutes regularly to his aerospace job at Bombardier in his 1987 300D Mercedes.

Last May, when I went back to Manhattan on vacation, some of my internet friends met me and we drove along the beautiful Hudson River to West Point and lunch.

Mike drove down from Canada to join us in his 300D.

As I have gotten older I have become aware of at least a few facets of life – how one's entire future can be deter-

mined by choosing which side of the "fork" in the road you will travel. Yesterday Mike's son chose the right option which saved his life and that of his mother.

Mike & wife Bernice have a son, Barrie, who takes bagpipe lessons. They had to pick a car in the family stable to drive to the lessons.

They picked Mike's 300D.

It was a snowy, cold, blustery day in Ontario yesterday. Barrie was driving cautiously, about 60 KPH (35 MPH) when a huge crosswind caused Barrie to loose control about 20 miles from home.

He spun 180 degrees and was hit hard in the right hand corner by an oncoming pickup truck. The force of the impact pushed them over the guardrail and down a steep embankment where the car eventually hit a tree.

The truck was totaled and its driver while injured survived. The constable

examining the 300D down the hill said that if it had been an 'ordinary' car Barrie and his mother would most likely be dead. Mike said that you had to see the condition of his car to believe it.

Because of the car and the fact that they were both wearing seatbelts they are both at home – one day later.

They can thank Bela Berenyi, a DaimlerChrysler engineer who pioneered the use of "crumple" zones for cars in the 1950s. At a time when the conventional wisdom was "the stronger the body the better" Berenyi had the idea of having portions of the car absorb kinetic energy – in essence giving way – to allow structural integrity in the passenger cabin and less force to the occupants.

Since Barrie chose to drive the 300D – and the 300D did exactly what it was designed for when it was built 17 years ago – they are both alive and home a day later.

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.

A Way to Make a Difference

If you are like me over the last few years I've gotten a bit cynical about a lot of charities. You give money and find that the overwhelming majority goes to "administration" expenses.

Of course not all are like that. One that isn't is the Sacramento Children's Home. For the last few years at our Christmas parties we have requested gifts for the children.

The gifts you give to the children go to the children.

The children are here for all kinds of reasons – but the bottom line is that they can't go back to the "home" they came from. They range from babies to 18 years old, male & female.

If you think they want the stuff most over indulged kids want you will be surprised. Their needs are more basic.

Here's some suggestions – in different price ranges – we got. Please bring them *unwrapped*

\$10 and under – Earrings or bracelet, stationery and pens, Barbie dolls, art supplies, flashlights & batteries, books & slippers

\$25 and under – Popular videos and DVDs, sports equipment (like footballs & basketballs), clock radios, bike helmets (larger sizes), RT passes, wallets, towel sets, beauty salon gift certificates

\$50 and under Watches, cordless phone, Tupperware Sets (*note: when they are 18 they have to live on their own*), Kitchen utensils

\$100 and under Microwave Ovens, Portable TVs (13" and under), dishes & serving dishes, baking sets, bed comforters, bassinets, bicycles for teenagers

They are always requesting disposable diapers.

Questions? Call Alma McAlpine at (916) 452-3981 ext 1209 or email holiday@kidshome.org

Bill Brandt

BMWCCA & MBCA Tour to Nevada City
for the Victorian Christmas

Date: 12/21/2003 (Sunday)

NEW meeting location: Brookfield's Restaurant

4345 Madison Ave Sacramento

If interested in Breakfast or Lunch prior to caravanning meet at 10 AM. If not, meet at 11 AM when we will depart from the restaurant.

If raining...activity will be canceled. This event is **FREE** - no reservation needed - just show up!

Questions? (916) 208-8530

Bobbie Larson

CHRISTMAS PARTY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2003

Names_____ Phone_____ No Attending_____

\$25.00/per person Amount Enclosed _____

Entree choices:

Grilled Salmon with Beurre Blanc sauce _____

Chicken stuffed with apple pecan dressing & cider sauce_____

Roast Prime Rib of Beef with au jus_____

Rare_____ Medium_____ Well done_____

Pasta: Chefs choice vegetarian_____

Desert: choose one

Warm chocolate lava cake (yum!)_____

Desert tray, your choice (1 item) _____

Dinners include salad, vegetable, potatoes or pasta, bread, coffee or tea.

All this for only **\$25. per person** including wine, desert, tax and tip.

Note: *This modest price is only possible with our section's subsidy!*

Please make your checks payable to; **MBCA Sacramento Section and send to;**

Carolyn Twing, 14615 Quaker Hill Rd., Nevada City, CA 95959

Any questions call **Carolyn @ (530) 265-4079 after November 24.** Reserve now as reservation deadline is DECEMBER 10 and will be limited to the first 100 people.

Y'all Come!

Texas-Style Barbeque

Sunday 1/18/2004 @ 6:00 PM

Chicken, Ribs, Prime Rib, beans & garlic mashed to die fer.

All at very reasonable prices. We have made arrangements
to order from the menu with individual checks.

Senior portions available also at reduced prices.

In Roseville from I-80 take Auburn Blvd/Riverside
exit SE on Auburn Blvd, left on Orlando to 1201

www.BackFortyTexasBBQ.com

Or call the DuPriests @ 916/933-2185 VERY casual

November Planning Meeting Results

We had a productive meeting at the Sizzler last month. First of all, we have a new VP – Hank Pezzetti. This club depends on its volunteers to continue – thanks Hank!

I'm also proud to say one of our newest members has volunteered for an event next year – Inger Bisson. Thank you, Inger!

Inger will take us to the Hiller Aerospace Museum in the Bay Area – I have heard about this place for years – and it is a regularly recurring event for the SF bay Section so it has to be interesting! Tom & Inga Bourdon are planning on another one of their spectacular Napa Rallies, Uncorked Ralley III. Hank & Anne Pezzetti are having a nice Tahoe Rally and Kevin & Gloria McKnight will combine their OctoberFest with the next year's planning meeting. I'll be hosting an overnight to San Simeon in September.

For the months not filled, John Dupriest had a great idea – unhosted dinners at restaurants to be determined. No coupons to send in, order & pay for what you want.

January we'll have dinner at the Back Forty Texas BBQ.

To all who have volunteered their time for the Section – *thank you*. The Section can't run without *you*.

Bill Brandt

Mike Coleman's 300D.

Car destroyed; family uninjured thanks to the pioneering work of Bela Berenyi





Welcome New Members

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Stan & kathy Egger | Roseville |
| Derek & Debra Lee | Elk Grove |
| Eric & Melissa Burkes | Folsom |
| James & Anita Montgomery | Loomis |
| Paul & Keerrina Ridgeway | Granite Bay |
| Earl Hill | Reno |

Order your MBCA name badge for \$7 at the club store in the Star Magazine

Mercedes-Benz Club of America

Sacramento Section Officers • 2003

- President Bill Brandt (916) 399-1736
 Vice President Hank Pezzetti (916) 687-4792
 Secretary John Dupriest (916) 933-2185
 Treasurer Sandra Reese (530) 878-1999
 Director at Large Lou Meikle (530)662-8169
 Past President Inga Bourdon (707) 864-0567
 Past President Iris Matthews

Staff

- Activities Chair Hank Pezzetti (916) 687-4792
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 Historian Open
 Sunshine Chair Ginger Sanigar (916) 961-9145
 Webmaster Craig Griffith (916) 988-2328

MBCA Western Region

- Regional Director Richard Simonds (650) 592-7613

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>

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 450 members. Send a copy of your ad, including your name and phone number, to Bill Brandt, 5910 Gloria Drive, Sacramento CA or email wlb@lanset.com.



1988 560SL, Hardtop and recent softtop. Used daily and runs well. \$12,500
Ask for David at
687-6102.

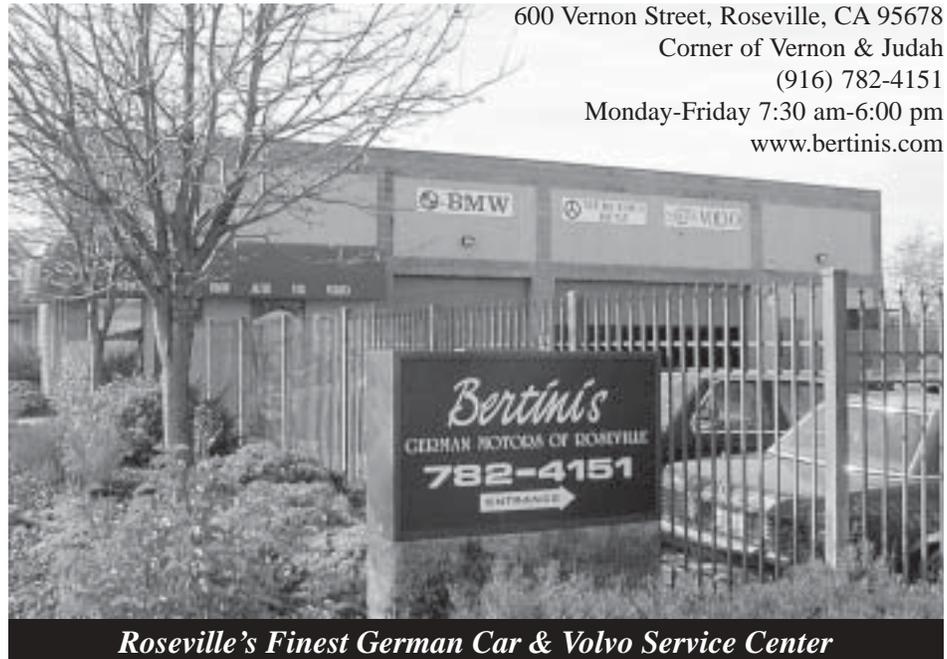


1972 MBZ 250 Coupe. Silver metallic, with black MB-Tex interior. Factory delivery, with special order MBZ hydraulic rear suspension and electric sunroof. One owner, 170K original miles, with original manuals and service records. Much loved car — fun to drive. Fairly priced at \$7,500. For information and appointment, call George Gentry, **562-596-8097.**



280 CE Coupe 1980, cold air, service records, Michelin radials, smog'd, nice clean example of collectable coupe.
Call **916-771-4476** for details. **\$3850.00**
❖❖❖

W124 Diesel Wanted - Must have heated seat option. Will travel for good one! **613-874-2324** (Mike - Canada)



Roseville's Finest German Car & Volvo Service Center

4 Chrome 8 Hole 16" 'MBZ' Wheels with 50% used Pirelli 'Z' Tires for 'E' Class - \$600

(530) 477-8266



1999 E320 4 door silver with gray leather interior, new tires, 41,000 miles. Excellent condition, Calif car always garaged. One owner, always maintained by Mercedes Benz in Rocklin. **\$28,000.00.** Call member **Bob Rippentrop**— great car—

(916) 797-1076



1994 E-320 Spruce Green / Parchment leather interior Only 90K miles, California car. All records. Beautiful car.

\$12,000.

916-933-1402 Andy



1972 350SL Silver Ext, black int, both tops, Euro bumpers smog exempt. Ex cond \$8500.00 **Dee Diedrich (916) 652-4484**



1999 E430 Brilliant Silver 77,000 miles. Every option except GPS. Custom made front sheepskin seat covers. Sunroof. Always garaged. Excellent condition.

\$28,000

(916) 481-6910



1990 420 SEL - Owned by Consul General of Austria. 4-door metallic charcoal black exterior, blue leather interior sedan. Fully equipped. 170,000 Sacto. - S.F. freeway miles. Outstanding condition. Supurb comfort and safety. \$13,000.

(916) 447-4113.

the capitol

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5910 Gloria Dr.

Sacramento, CA 95822

First Class Mail

