



the **STAR** capitol

The MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB of America • Sacramento Section February 2002

Calendar Of Events

February 23, 2002

Dinner & Fashion Island Slide Show
John & Joyce Dupriest (916) 933-2185

March 16, 2002

Blackhawk Museum Tour
Doug Patten (530) 889-8575

April 2002

Grand Island Mansion – Sacramento
River Delta
Jess & Dee Davis (916) 682-3631

May 2002

Regional Driving Event
California Caverns
John & Joyce Dupriest (916) 933-2185

June 9, 2002

Shriner's Coucours
Bob Cottam (916) 349-1013
Amador Wineries
Bobbie Larson (916) 714-2544

July 2002

Rally TBA
Tom & Inga Bourdon (707) 864-0567

August 2002

Roaring Camp – Dinner & Gold Panning
Hank & Anne Pezzetti (916) 687-4692

September 2002

4th Annual Poker Run
Darryl & Debbie Kielich (916) 684-7855

October 2002

Oktoberfest
Kevin & Gloria McKnight
(916)721-1579

November 2002

Planning Meeting

December 2002

Christmas Party
Open

January 2003

Kings Basketball
John & Joyce Dupriest (916)933-2185

February Event - A Trip to Fashion Island

Saturday, February 23, 2002 – 6:00 PM

Well, a trip via photography, that is. Joyce & John DuPriest will host a no-host dinner with a slide show of the Fashion Island Concours. John is very familiar with Fashion Island having attended it four times and having taken many, many photos of the cars. In fact, several years ago he was invited to enter his show-quality 1979 30OSD daily driver (now owned by Bill & Ardis Clingman). Only the finest Mercedes-Benz automobiles are asked to be at Fashion Island and all are in superb condition or very rare or both.

John is going to assemble the best of his photos from the four years and give us a slide show to be remembered. The date is Saturday, February 23, 2002 @ 6:00 PM. The location is the Sizzler Restaurant in Auburn. This is one of the premier Sizzlers built on the side of a hill overlooking the Foresthill canyon with the snow-capped Sierras in the distance. We will be on the enclosed patio with a million dollar view at the usual very reasonable Sizzler prices.

This will be no-host, simply get in the usual Sizzler line, place your order and pay then meet us on the patio. This way, you have all the usual choices with no banquet-type restrictions. There will be a charge of \$5 per person. For what?, you ask. Well, we are going to have some door prizes and a raffle. The winner of the raffle will take home a check from Treasurer Sandra Reese in the amount of one half of the \$5 per person fee! So if we have 30 people sign up, one of those 30 is going home with \$75!!! We'll have some door prize(s) from the balance to raffle off.

Directions: Take I80 just past the city of Auburn and exit at the Bowman Road exit. At the bottom of the off ramp turn right and then a second immediate right onto the frontage road. The Sizzler is just ahead on your left. Lost? Call DuPriest on the cell phone at (916) 201-2185. Reservations in the mailbox by February 20th please or call (916) 933-2185.

A Thank You to Julius and Bill

Julius and Bill Friesseke have mailed your *Capitol Star* ever since I have been a club member. But then I have been a club member only for 7 years. I asked Julius how long they have done this for our club – and he simply stated “a long time”. I'm sure that “many decades” isn't an unreasonable guess.

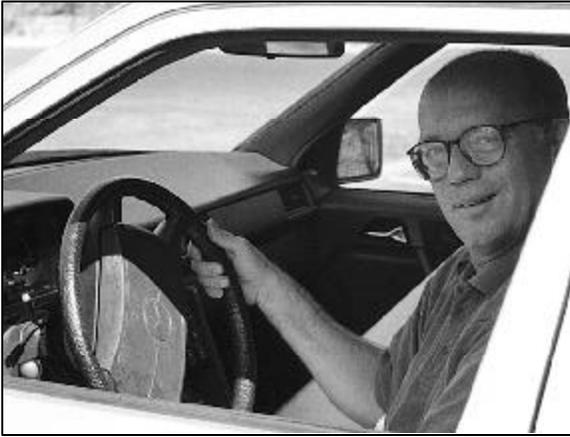
Since our events are time critical, I can't tell you the times that we just had to get an issue out – and it was in Julius' and Bill's hands to do the impossible and get all 500 or so labeled and mailed. In 2 days. But they've always done it – and without complaint.

They live in an old, established part of Sacramento – McKinley Park. I asked Julius when he moved here, and he said 1912. At that time McKinley Park was mainly farmland. I believe that Julius was a founding member of our Section when it was established in 1969.

They will be moving to Santa Rosa very shortly to attend to son Bill's medical needs. So – a heartfelt *thanks*. You always got the job done. Thanks to you from all of us – members and officers.

This issue that you are reading was assembled and mailed by your Board. We'll have to decide how it will be done in the future but I can say this – replacing you guys will be impossible.

-Bill Brandt



President's Message

by: Bill Brandt

We just finished having one of the largest turnouts I can remember for an event – at the DaimlerChrysler Fuel Cell center. Over 80 members and guests showed up. The manager, Wolfgang Weiss, has been a true friend to this Section. When he heard from me that we would be having “about 80” people, he decided simply to split our group into 2 – and everyone there – Wolfgang & his staff – worked twice as hard showing us the facility. I was glad to meet some of our members who traveled long distances to come to this event.

Wolfgang gave a presentation to each group giving us the history of the fuel cell cars, and his staff patiently made sure that everyone who wanted a ride got a ride.

Have to say that while we were in the shop, one of our newest members, Bobbie Larson, asked me if we could put one of these cars on a hoist to see the undercarriage. Since we had just learned that each of these 2 R & D cars was worth \$3,000,000, I felt that I didn't want to be known as the guy who caused one of these cars to fall – and forever have the Sacramento Section known in Stuttgart!

All in fun Bobbie – by the way, Bobbie is also a long-term member of the BMW club and our member Ted Bonnington told me to be on the lookout for Casey. Beyond that,

those of you who haven't yet met Bobbie – you'll have to meet Casey for yourself!

Today, February 2, Sandy Reese and I went down to Morgan Hill to attend a regional meet at the home of Chad & Barbara Hunt. On the way down, I told Sandy that some members like to read my ramblings, among them Don Sagner.

Sandy said that she could understand that since Don is a psychologist.

In addition to being a past national MBCA President, Chad is a certified car nut. Anyone who has a 7 car garage filled with a perfect Packard, 1961 Lincoln convertible, 1947 Cadillac convertible, a 1948 (or so) Buick convertible...and a red Gullwing that looks like it came off the showroom – is a certified car nut in my book.

Among the things we discussed was how to attract more of our members to our events. All of the Sections have a large membership base, and a small percentage go to events. If any of you in the Sacramento Section haven't been to one of our events but would like to meet some members, just call me. All you have to do is show up!

National President Donald Leap was there and had some nice compliments about MBCA. He said that MBCA has more members than all the European Mercedes clubs **combined**. Not only that, but DaimlerChrysler considers MBCA to be the

ideal club model. We have excellent relations with the importing subsidiary, MB-USA. Most other clubs around the rest of the world do not have those good relations with their equivalent importers. So we can all have some pride in our club.

Many of you who are new to the Mercedes-Benz marque are unaware of Fashion Island. This event, sponsored by the Orange County Section of the MBCA, has become one of the premier concours for Mercedes-Benz. It is one of *the* Mercedes events in the country.

Our member John Dupriest will be showing some slides of several years of these events. We'll be up in Auburn at the Sizzler restaurant for a no-host dinner. The reservation fee is small so we'll have some drawings for some Mercedes-Benz accessories. It'll be an inexpensive fun evening!

How many of you have been to the Behring museum? About 5-6 years ago, we had a joint event with the San Francisco and North Bay (Marin County) Sections. A good 200-300 people showed up! You have to see the Behring not only for the first class car collection but the setting. Doug Patten will be hosting this for our March event and if you miss this you will regret it! This will also be an inexpensive and fun day -

See you in February!

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.

Daimler Chrysler Fuel Cell
Facility
January 26, 2002

Eighty members showed up on a rainy Saturday to re-tour the fuel cell facility in West Sacramento and a good time was had by all including a ride in the car of the future for each member. Last year John DuPriest wrote an excellent article describing the technology in lay terms, in fact it was published in the May/June issue of The Star, our national magazine. To avoid re-inventing the wheel I am reproducing last year's article this month. It is still accurate and timely. For those of you who keep back issues of the national magazine, the article in the Star is complete with color photos.

After the tour we retired to the House of Chicken & Ribs in Antelope and stuffed ourselves with real homestyle barbecue. It was written up in the Sacramento Bee last year for good reason. We barely got all 80 of us served and only did that when a few people decided to do the take-out thing and give up their seats. Even those hearty souls said "Bravo!" to Dwight and Dominick, the father son team for cooking tri-tip that can be eaten with a fork – it was so tender.

-Bill Brandt

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 10th 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.

...continued on page 5



Von Housen Motors

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Infant
\$158



Toddler
\$140



Child Booster
\$163

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&
Saturdays from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Startech 2003

I have been asked by MBCA to consider having our Section host their biannual national technical meet. This meet always occurs the year following StarFest – so that each year there is a national MBCA meet of some kind.

While someone is going to send me some papers detailing our exact duties, I do know that we would be responsible for finding the hotel, convention space and some possible seminars.

MBCA will have some people like Stu Ritter and George Murphy come out to give some talks. And many national vendors, such as Becker Radio, can be expected to attend.

Beyond that before I get the papers, I know nothing else. I could talk with my friend

Wolfgang Weiss to see if he would be interested in opening his fuel cell facility to our national audience.

Some of you have ties to dealerships that could possibly share their expertise.

I've been thinking about this and had another idea – wouldn't it be a great idea to offer them a lovely drive down Hwy 1 to stay at San Simeon and see Hearst Castle (after the official seminars, of course). Maybe have our members who want to go drive with some of these national people.

A San Simeon Section event is something I've been "meaning to do" for the last 3-4 years. Maybe stop & have lunch at Nipenthe (sp?) – anyway the restaurant started by Orson Wells at Big Sur. Really

show these national people some of the best of California. And have some fun doing it.

I don't know what the planned schedule would be – but I do know one thing – I can't take on this responsibility by myself. And won't.

At this point I'm simply asking if any of you –5-7– would be interested in planning such a national event. I'm not asking you to volunteer – simply if you might have any interest in doing so.

If you have a possible interest, just let me know...

-Bill

Blackhawk Auto Museum Tour

March 16, 2002

2-4 P.M.

Come join us as we tour one of the world's finest car collections at the Blackhawk Auto Museum (Danville, CA 925-736-2280). The San Francisco Section will be there with us at the same time.

We suggest lunch from 12-2 p.m. at the La Scala Espresso Café in Blackhawk Plaza (925-736-7975). You can order from the reasonable menu and pay individually. There are several other fine restaurants in the immediate area if you choose to eat elsewhere, or later.

We can display our cars in the lower parking lot, if the group chooses to do so.

The cost of admission will be \$10 per person. If the amount collected goes over the group tour rate we'll have a raffle.

Please send your checks to Doug Patten by March 9th, 2002. Questions for Doug: call 530-889-8575.

Directions: I-80 to 680 toward San Jose, after Concord and then Walnut Creek watch

for the Sycamore Valley Rd turn off. Go east (left) on Sycamore a total of 4.4 miles to the museum; this is a long residential area. Sycamore Valley Road becomes Camino Tassajara. Continue until you cross Blackhawk Rd, then a left on Blackhawk Plaza Circle, (You're there!).

(Crow Canyon Rd, off 680 will also get you there)

- Doug Patten

Blackhawk Auto Museum Tour

March 16, 2002

Name: _____ Number attending: _____ x \$10 = _____

Number having lunch at La Scala: _____

Please make checks payable to MBCA Sacramento section and mail to:

Doug Patten
11250 Joeger Rd
Auburn, Ca 95602

Deadline: March 9, 2002

...Fuel Cell Trip continued

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 1st 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: www.fuelcellpartnership.org

-John DuPriest, Secretary

Fashion Island Thing - Reservation Slip
In the mailbox on or before: February 20, 2002, please

Name(s) _____ E-Mail: _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

Number of persons ___ x \$5.00 = \$ _____ enclosed.

Complete this slip, Make a check for the total amount to "Mercedes-Benz Club – Sacramento" and mail to;
John DuPriest, PO Box 121, Penryn, CA 95663

Questions?: (916) 663-2185 (916) 933-2185 john@dupriest.com

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Jennifer & Walter Boehringer | Redding, CA |
| Gregory Bryant | Folsom, CA |
| Rebecca & Thomas Burgoyne | Folsom, CA |
| Alfred Escalante | Carson City, NV |
| Vance Hamm | Arcata, CA |
| Mark Nishimura | Fair Oaks, CA |
| Rod O'Connor | Rocklin, CA |
| Patrice Offenhauser | Reno, NV |
| Sandra and Claire Van Dam Perry | Shingle Springs, CA |
| Jan-Can Prendergast | Folsom, CA |
| Ted Reinhardt | Redding, CA |
| George Rinaldi | Reno, NV |

Order your MBCA name badge at the club store

Mercedes-Benz Club of America

Sacramento Section Officers • 2001-2002

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- | | | |
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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.



Looking for an electric hoist (or manual) for use on a 1999 - SL 500 also a storage rack (for the hard top) . Please E-mailor leave message. Thank you!

rolarson1@aol.com (916)208-8530



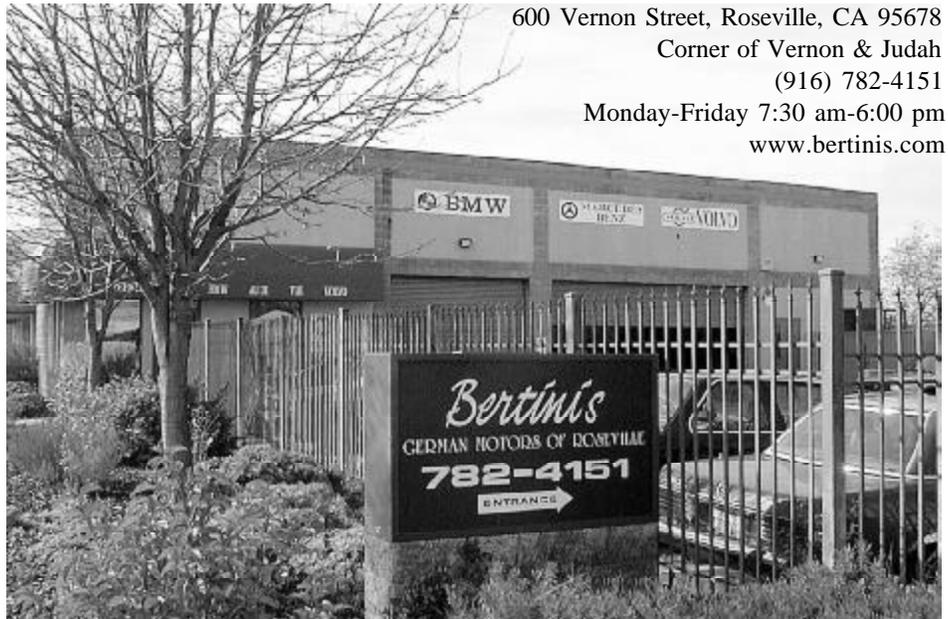
1997 Mercedes-Benz SL500 convertible, Silver Smoke/Parchment interior, 47K miles, Hard top/soft top, 6 pack CD stacker, heated Seats, phone, loaded, great condition, garage kept, MBZ dealer maintained with all service records. New tires, brakes and tune-up. \$45,000

Susan (916) 771-8084



1972 Mercedes-Benz 280SE 4.5. Auto, Air, 310,000 miles. 60,000 miles on rebuilt engine. Mercedes original chrome wheels – new stereo. New starter in 1997. New power steering unit in 1998 – this is a good daily driver for only \$3500.

Bob Dullanty (916) 967-4002.



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1968 Mercedes 250S, White with Blue Interior. Imported from Germany by my Grandfather, 121,000 Miles - Parked in garage for last 7 years. Car was used to travel from west coast to east coast for family visits, Body and Interior in Immaculate Condition. I have no idea how much the car might sell for, the main thing I would like is that someone fixes it and enjoys driving it... I think that would make my Grandfather smile....

Mike

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Please send address changes directly to:

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Or Call: 1-800-637-2360

We cannot make changes locally!