



# the STAR

## capitol

The MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB of America • Sacramento Section January 2010

### Calendar Of Events

January 23  
MB Tech Session - El Dorado Hills  
Alan Wrenn

Feb 21  
Railroad Museum  
Bill Brandt

Mar 18  
CHP Academy Tour  
Bill Brandt

Apr 24  
Road Rally to Bodega Bay  
Hank Pezzetti

May  
Nevada City Playhouse Lunch/  
Dinner  
Skip Ibenthal

June  
Sunday Drive to DutchFlat  
Inger Bisson

July 17  
Angels Camp/Columbia  
Hank Pezzetti  
Big River - The Adventures of  
Huckleberry Finn

August Road Rally  
Mark Reese

September  
Kikoman Folsom  
Gloria McKnight

October  
Oktoberfest  
Kevin McKnight/Hank Pezzetti

November  
2011 Planning Meeting  
Inger Bisson

December  
Sac Section Xmas Party  
Kevin McKnight

## January 2010 Tech Session 10:00AM

Our Section has had a long-standing good relationship with Von Housen Motors and we are both looking to expand that relationship with some joint activities in the coming year. ***The first of these will be held Saturday, January 23, 2010.***

Chris Roth, Service Manager at Von Housen's Mercedes-Benz of El Dorado Hills, has invited our members to a get-acquainted session. He will provide us the opportunity to see behind-the-scenes in the various departments of their dealership.

We will begin with a sit-down briefing by Chris and other key personnel of the agency. This will include information about their Service, Parts and Sales Departments as well as an update on the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center. Following this we will be treated to a tour of those various departments. In the Shop we will have opportunity to see the latest innovations in servicing and repair equipment. In the Parts Department we will learn about their Remstar system. This is a robotic-type inventory, ordering and delivery system. A Sales representative will share information with us about the Mercedes-Benz European Delivery Program, as well as the MBUSA Loyalty Reward Program.

Chris is anxious to begin an on-going series of technical sessions at his agency. ***During this get-acquainted session he will be looking for suggestions from our members for future topics to focus on.*** So, be thinking of what you would like to learn more about in the future. Do you want to know about something simple, like changing the oil? Or about the computerized equipment used in servicing the newer Mercedes-Benz models? Or something in between those extremes? Whatever the topic, Chris is in a position to have it presented. He has been with the company for many years, having started there as a teenager washing cars.

Continued on page 5



# President's Message

by: Hank Pezzetti

*Although Hank is enjoying the sun at Cabo San Lucas, I felt that because our upcoming January 23<sup>rd</sup> event it was urgent that I get this newsletter out in time for you to consider reserving this date and attend this informative event. Since I didn't ask Hank for a President's Message before he left, I will tell you what has been transpiring the last few weeks, and the plans that we have for this Section in the upcoming year.*

First of all, once I realized how SF President Robert Schilling has pioneered his "First Sunday Drive", I thought that this was an ingenious plan. He has had 3 years to refine how they work and I decided, "why reinvent the wheel" as we implement this in our Section. The main thing, Robert has emphasized, is consistency. No matter what the weather always have a drive on the first Sunday of each month. I have anticipated at least one event in the future that it is pouring rain and I am the only one at the meeting point. I will probably wonder about my sanity at that point, but I (or a designated representative) will be there.

This is a car club and presumably our members like to drive. At our rendezvous point among our members were Lance and Lori Taylor, who drove all the way

down from Reno to attend. The SF Section had a couple from Santa Cruz drive up to their meeting point in Martinez. Lance told me that he is interested in having one in the Reno area. I told him that I will help him in any way he wants. Anyone in the Reno/Carson City area wanting to host an event I'll be glad to offer help in any way you wish.

Any Mercedes-Benz owner is welcomed to attend a FSD. Once our web site is modified I will start putting notices in the *Sacramento Bee* to invite fellow MB travelers. I am going to have some cards made inviting owners waiting for their cars at our dealership. This will be an added benefit for our dealer's customers, and it won't cost them anything.

Other than the "First Sunday" rule, as Robert has told me, there are no rules. They have had a few overnight events and some with the meeting point 2 hours away.

Participation is completely flexible. Lunches are always no host and are optional.

MBCA National is so enthused about this idea they want it implemented nationally, I'm told. Which means if you are traveling and it happens to be a first Sunday of the month, you can see an

interesting part of the country. Robert would like the "First Sunday" concept to be an MBCA brand.

At our first run, between the SF Section and ours was an immaculate 190SL, the rare rally-prepared 500SLC, a 1964 220SE Coupe, and everything in between. We definitely got attention along the levee as we traveled to Old Sacramento. Caravans are cool, and I've often thought MB-USA would do well filming one of ours for a commercial.

I am building an email list for those who want to be notified of our FSD and if you would like to participate simply email me at **join-sacramento@FirstSundayDrives.com**. And I encourage you to join theirs at **www.FirstSundayDrives.com**.

Once we get the website going you'll be able to download a .pdf of a Google Map for that route. In the meantime, I will send the map to everyone on my email list for their consideration.

You will also see an expanded list of Section activities for this year. We want to work closer with the SF Section in sharing activities – they are welcomed to ours and we are welcomed to theirs. I want to thank everyone in the Sacramento Section who has made this possible.

**Bill Brandt**

## 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  
 email:CapitolStar@sbcglobal.net  
 Deadline for changes to articles or ads is approximately  
 the 26th of each month.

New article ideas:  
**Bill Brandt**  
 5910 Gloria Dr.  
 Sacramento, CA 95822  
 e-mail:  
 CapitolStar@sbcglobal.net

## Sacramento's Inaugural First Sunday Drive

Last Sunday saw a group of dedicated First Sunday Drive enthusiasts gathered at the Martinez Marina for a chilly start of a great dual December FSD! SFBA members were joined by at least one Sacto/Reno couple, and made their way along the Carquinez Straits to the River Road (highway 160) for a jaunt to Rio Vista.

In Rio Vista we rendezvoused with a crowd of Sacto/Reno drivers, who had started in Freeport, and headed south. At the Rio Vista Chevron station, we engaged in meeting and greeting, and checked out a number of interesting MBZ's, including a cherry 190SL. At our drivers meeting, we heard from Bill Brandt, who organized the Sacto/Reno section, and Jack Weir, who along with his wife Mauna Wagner, organized the SFBA segment. Richard Simonds, Past National President was introduced, as was Robert Schilling, President of the SFBA section, and recipient of the Western Region Officer of the Year for 2009. Robert developed the First Sunday Drive program three years ago, and is very pleased to see the two sections joining for their first joint drive. Bill then led the way as we caravanned under cool but sunny skies up the River Road to Old Sacramento.

Folks fanned out to several different restaurants to indulge their particular dining preferences, and continued socializing. The two sections are sharing their section event calendars for 2010, and members of both sections are encouraged to help plan and attend events of their choosing in either section.

I thank Bill, Sacto/Reno's President Hank Pazetti and Robert for working together to enhance member opportunities for both sections!

**Jack Weir**  
Western Region Director

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## VISIT THE HOME OF THE "OLD WAR BIRDS" By Sandy Drobilisch

Saturday, January 30, 2010 - come join us and look back at the old war birds where they nest...at the Travis Air Force Base/Travis Air Museum and Jimmy Doolittle Air and Space Museum in Fairfield.

It began as an isolated airstrip with some tarpaper shacks set in the western prairie and served as home for the bombers assigned to guard the West Coast at the outbreak of World War II. By 1943, shortly after construction began, the potential for the base to become a major airport and supply transfer point was reality for the Air Transportation Command. The base was activated on May 11, 1943, named Fairfield-Suisun Army Air Base, (after the two nearby towns). Its primary mission was to servicing tactical aircraft ferrying troops and supplies across the Pacific during WWII, and it was the largest airport on the West Coast. Service continued with occupation of Japan until the end of the Korean War processing the war-weary GI returning home as primary mission of the air transport.

During our tour, we will see, touch and admire those magnificent machines in their silent dignity, and I think we will come all the richer for our experience. There are 29 planes on the outside exhibition and a dozen or more inside the museum together with fascinating items relating to military aviation and the history of the U.S. Air force.

We will have a special guide – a volunteer docent – who will take us around and answer our questions, East tour will take 45 minutes. Everyone will drive to Travis AFB next to Fairfield and gather together by 10:00 a.m. for our tour. After the guided tour we will be able to see all the outside airplanes on our own. There is no admission fee; however we will collect from each of you \$5.00 p/p for administration fee and stipend for the docent. Reservations are necessary to organize our guided tours. Please send in your reservation slip ASAP on the last page. If you have any questions feel free to contact me or Lindsay Drobilisch at (408) 782-2305. Directions will be included in your confirmation. **Deadline January 23, 2010.**

Please make **checks payable to SFBA/MBCA** and mail to: **Sandor Drobilisch (Travis Tour)**

3410 Blue Grass Court Morgan Hill, CA 95037-6417

E-address: [Sandoreng@att.net](mailto:Sandoreng@att.net)

### California State Railroad Museum February 21, 2010 10:30AM

If you know your history, you know that Sacramento began as first a gold rush town and then a railroad town. Sacramento was the beginning city for the first transcontinental railroad. In building it from the west, I'm told that the "Big Four" - Stanford, Huntington, Hopkins, and Crocker, convinced Congress that the Sierra Nevada Mountains started some miles to the west from their actual location. They did this because they were paid so much per mile for track laid on flat ground, more for foothills, and the most of course for the mountains. You members in Folsom and Roseville are actually in the mountains according to the Big Four! The more things change.....

I first attended this museum some years ago without much interest in locomotives. I left the museum a few hours later fascinated. While scouting out a restaurant for our last FSD I met 2 volunteers at the museum – one, a docent, is an MD from Hawaii who makes a pilgrimage here annually for a few weeks to educate visitors.

The other lives in Farmington, New Mexico and comes here annually to run the train. It is probably the best train museum in the world.

Here's the deal. Admission is normally \$9 per person. If we have a group of 15 or more it is \$8 per person. Send me your checks for \$8 and if we don't have 15 I'll simply tear them up on the 21<sup>st</sup> (or return them; your choice). If we have the 15 we will have an assigned guide and if we don't, we'll have to wait for a guide.

Parking can be expensive but I have learned if you find a spot on the street – with your ATM card – it is less than the \$1.50/half hour the lot charges.

Lunch will be no host.

**Make the checks to MBCA-Sacramento** and mail to Bill Brandt 5910 Gloria Drive Sacramento 95822

**Bill Brandt**

Our session will begin at 10:00 AM with a gathering in the showroom area. Come a little early if you want to enjoy some rolls and coffee.

**To help Chris plan for our group, please let me (Allen Wrenn) know by January 16 if you will attend. My contact information is shown below.**

In case you have not been to the El Dorado Hills Agency, here are some driving instructions: From Sacramento, head East on Highway 50 to El Dorado Hills. Take the Latrobe Road exit. Turn right at the traffic signal at the end of the off-ramp. Turn left at the next traffic signal, Town Center Blvd. Turn left at the first stop sign, Post St. Proceed straight ahead into the shopping center as far as you can go, then turn right. This will lead you onto Mercedes Lane, with the agency on your left side.

**Allen Wrenn**

**Telephone: 916-988-0225**

**e-mail: [anjwrenn@comcast.net](mailto:anjwrenn@comcast.net)**

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### **A Message From Our Regional Director**

2010 will be a landmark year for the Mercedes-Benz Club of America! At its fall board meeting, the national club leaders approved a major project to attract new members, and to provide the kinds of information access and activities prospective new members want. Based on the results of several surveys conducted by our outside marketing consultant, the club will build a new web site, and enable members to seek out the information necessary for them to enhance the club experiences of their choosing, and support the pride of ownership that is a hallmark of MBZ enthusiasts.

Local sections will be encouraged to provide those events and activities designed to help retain members once they join. The trick in this major overhaul of the club will be to continue to provide those events and activities that our current membership enjoys, while offering new opportunities for an expanding membership. Sacramento/Reno's recent First Sunday Drive and other events planned for 2010 will definitely move us in that direction!

I hope your holidays are warm and relaxing, and I'll see you 'round the next turn in 2010!

**Jack Weir**

**Western Regional Director**

### **First Sunday Drive – January 3, 2010**

For this drive, I thought we would go back through the Delta and then take some back roads from Rio Vista towards Fairfield. Once the web site is modified (which will be soon), all the details will be provided to those on our email list but until then, here's the information.

We'll meet at 10:00 AM at the same location as last month, the lot opposite the California Parks and Recreation Society at **7971 Freeport Blvd**. This time we will be traveling on a more westerly route – down Grand Island, past the Grand Island Mansion that had so many Hollywood parties in the 1920s, across the J. Mack Ferry, down Beaver Island and the Real McCoy Ferry towards Rio Vista. We'll go through Rio Vista to catch Montezuma Hills Rd, which will take us through some pretty hill country. Along the way, we'll pass through a huge "forest" of giant wind turbines, operated by SMUD, and see a town, Birds Landing, that had its heyday over 100 years ago. We'll go back to Hwy 12 and have lunch at the "Black Bear Diner", a chain restaurant in Suisun City.

To get on the email list, simply send an email to **[join-sacramento@FirstSundayDrives.com](mailto:join-sacramento@FirstSundayDrives.com)**. And I encourage you to join San Francisco's at **[www.FirstSundayDrives.com](http://www.FirstSundayDrives.com)**.

**Bill Brandt**



**Welcome New Members**

David Gillette	Woodland
Michael Richards	Elk Grove
Wolfgang Scholz	El Dorado Hills
Daniel Stahlhut	Orangevale

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

**Mercedes-Benz Club of America**

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**MBCA Western Region**

Regional Director.....	Jack Weir.....	(925) 899-4298
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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 \$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?**

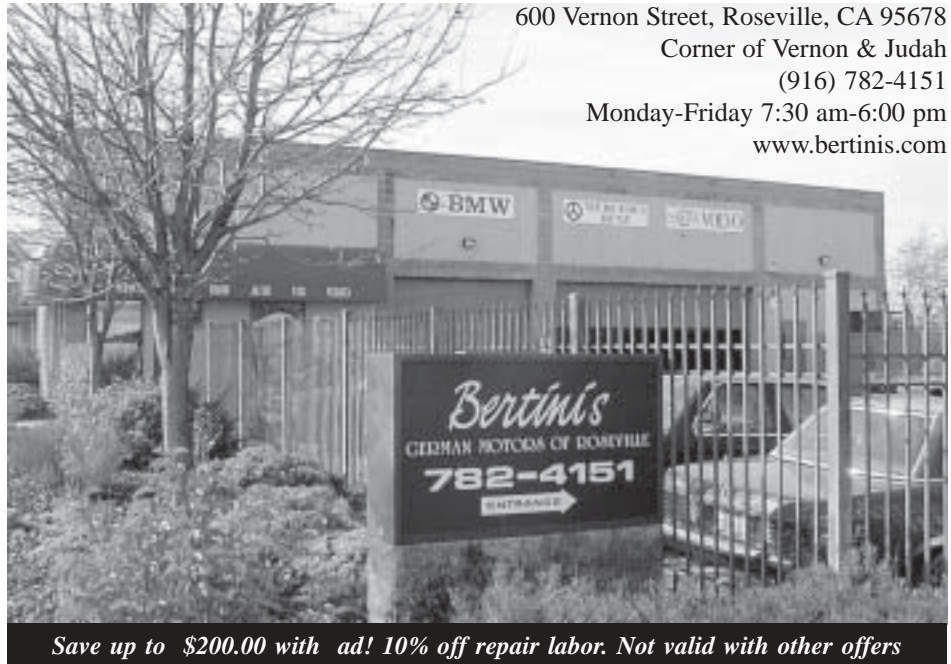
You must contact MBCA National at the above address or phone number. *The address list comes to us monthly from National. We cannot make changes locally.*

**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 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](mailto:CapitolStar@sbcglobal.net). Because of complaints from past sellers of overseas **scams** think twice about including your **email address**.



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