



the STAR

capitol

The MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB of America • Sacramento Section July-August 2004

San Simeon September 18-19, 2004

Calendar Of Events

August 29, 2004

Spaghetti Factory Dinner
John Dupriest
(916) 933-2195

September 18-19, 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 10, 2004

Cornish Christmas
Carolyn & Gary Twing
(530) 265-4079

Twenty Seven of you sent in the money for the evening tour on September 18th. I had forgotten that an IMAX film of the historic "Castle" is shown for about an hour – so guess what – the club will treat us to the movie. The movie starts about 5PM with the evening tour starting at 6:10 and lasting 2 hours. Imagine yourself to be one of those Hollywood stars that got an invitation from Mr. Hearst's secretary earlier that week.

Unlike a similar evening in the 1930s where you rode on a train from Los Angeles – to San Luis Obispo, and took a limo on a dirt road to San Simeon we will be arriving a bit more stylish in our Mercedes-Benzes.

A few of you will meet us in Cambria with most of you leaving from Sacramento that morning. Here is the list of attendees:

Bill Brandt (1), Skip Ibenthal (3), Marty Messina (2), Sandy Reese (2), Richard Collins (2), Ed Whitman (2), Art Aseltine (2), Herb Cygan (2), Gary Cinnamon (3), Kevin McKnight (2), Hank Pezzetti (2), Tony Otis (2), and John Dupriest (2)

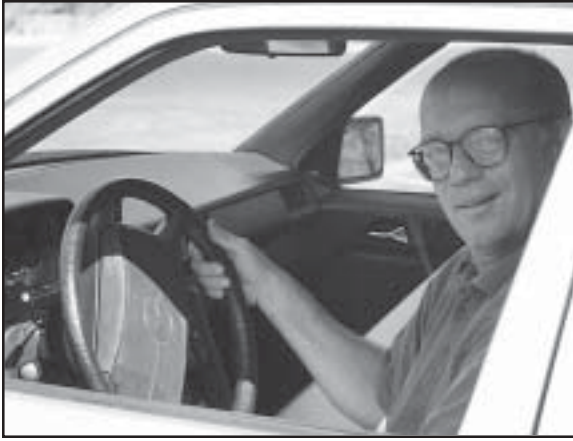
I am planning on reaching Nepenthe – 30 miles below Carmel at Big Sur – for a 12:00 PM lunch. Which means we have to leave here early – at 7:30 AM *sharp*. If you are habitually late the train will have departed at 7:30 and you can meet us down I5 or at Big Sur. I'm trying to figure out a good meeting place that will not be out of the way and close by my house is a library – on the corner of Seamas and South Land Park.

From the I80-I5 interchange just take I5 south. Seamas is right after Sutterville – turn left on Seamas and the library will be at the first intersection to the right about a mile down. If you get lost my cell phone number is (916) 533-2818. We'll depart the parking lot at 7:30 sharp and head for I5 south. I'll give you driving instructions in case you get separated.

I'm still working out the schedule – we'll see the Elephant Seals Sunday morning - when we fit Nit Wit Ridge in – and the Paso Robles Wine Country Drive - but an unexpected treat came our way – Member Skip Ibenthal is renting a house in Cambria right on the ocean and he's invited us for a reception before movie and tour – there is a big deck overlooking the ocean – I can't think of a better way to kick off the weekend, can you? Tentatively we'll meet there for an hour before heading for the movie and tour. Thank you Skip for your thoughtfulness!

Motels: I have been to San Simeon numerous times and have always stayed at the Motel 6, just a few miles from Hearst Castle. It's not a typical Spartan Motel 6 but a converted "something else" with their own little dining room. It is quiet and clean and many car clubs go here. Phone is (805) 927-5341.

Continued on page 4



President's Message

by: Bill Brandt

I've had an interesting 6 months. I have 2 old cars, impeccably maintained, and since May they've had it out for me. It's as if they are playing tag team wrestling – I fix one then the other goes out.

During Hank & Anne's wonderful event my 260,000 mile 300E was going fine on Highway 88 when suddenly – and without any warning, the transmission decides to act up. Coincidentally 5 minutes earlier I was kidding **Mark Reese**, one half of that rally team juggernaut known as Team Reese, that we might actually beat them this time.

After our conversation at a beautiful 8500' vista point, my focus changed from winning the

rally to simply getting the car back.

While the Sacramento Section took the Kingsbury Grade – a wonderful road that gains 1000s of feet with switchbacks I felt that it wasn't a good road to take a dying transmission.

Emma Rodrigues and I had lunch in Carson City and over some dark beers (and a Bloody Mary for Emma) I decided to head up to Reno and then down I80. The hills were much more gradual and there were shoulders to pull over -

We made it although Emma confessed later that she had visions of riding home on the back of a flatbed farm truck with the chickens.

When should you get rid of a car?

The 300E, despite its transmission problem, is a pretty solid car. I just had the top end overhauled. I know everything that has gone into the car. Perhaps I am overly sentimental, but the car has been part of my life. I should have submitted it to MB-USA's new ad campaign - of owners and their Mercedes.

Before the car goes on the San Simeon trip it will be going to Santa Fe New Mexico. I expect many more chapters will be written with this car.

The San Simeon trip will be September 18-19, and the high turnout has quite frankly surprised me. 27 Section members will be going – See you on the 18th!

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.

Uncorked Rally

On May 1, 2004 30 members of the Sacramento Section accompanied by Richard & Laura Simonds attend the 3rd "Uncorked Rally" through Napa & Solano counties.

These rallies have always taken us to places rarely traveled, and this year was no exception. Tom & Inga Bourdon had us start at an interesting place, the Rush Ranch.

This ranch is a working ranch, yet the 2,000 acres are preserved as it was 100 years ago. The barn and all the displayed equipment represent the period.

Once at the ranch we had a continental breakfast and our rally questions began, matching photographs of pieces of the old ranch equipment.

When the rally began, we took Napa's roads less traveled, although we did pass the world famous Silverado Country Club.

While I have rarely done well on the questions of these rallies, I have always enjoyed the scenery that Tom and Inga have shown us of Napa county through the years.

Our halfway point was the relatively new and beautiful Hess Collection Winery, itself off the beaten Highway 29 winery path. This beautiful facility not only had some great wine but an interesting art collection. Some of our rally questions dealt with this collection.

We had a delightful dinner at the Buckhorn Grill. Amid the awards there was a lot of laughter. Third Place went to Kevin and Gloria McKnight while Second Place went to Herb & Jane Cygan. Brent Fischer & his brother in law John Hohl from Pacifica won First Place. They received wine in keeping with the theme.

A little added twist to the contest was a best poker hand, won by our guests the Williamses.

Oh, and my premonition that morning? I received the "booby prize" for coming in last place and my prize was a varietal vinegar merlot! Thanks go to Inga and Tom Bourdon for the wonderful day.

Bill Brandt

As your needs grow so do we.



Mercedes-Benz of El Dorado Hills
1000 Mercedes Lane, El Dorado Hills
Latrobe Exit at Hwy. 50

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San Simeon (from page 1)

If you'd like more amenities I did an internet search and here's 2 all within a mile of the Motel 6:

Silver Surf Motel 9390 Castillo Dr (800) 621-3999 or **Best Western Cavalier Oceanfront 9415 Hearst Dr (805) 927-4688**. The Motel 6 is about \$70 for 2 and they have upstairs and downstairs rooms.

Meals: I am planning 2 meals – you can have either or both or none – We'll have Saturday lunch at Nepenthe and Saturday dinner at the Pasta Factory. I think we will have a great time!

Bill Brandt

Meals - Lunch at Nepenthe Saturday and dinner in Cambria Saturday evening - choose either or both

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Nepenthe (Big Sur) Menu (includes coffee or tea and gratuity - \$20.00 p/p)

French Dip (au jus) _____ Greek Salad _____ "The Famous Ambrosiaburger" _____ Vegetarian Burger _____

Pasta House - Cambria - 9:00 PM (includes soup or salad & coffee or tea and gratuity - \$21.00 p/p)

Cheese Ravioli _____ Eggplant Parmisan _____ Ten Oz Flat Iron Steak _____ Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce _____

Check to MBCA Sacramento Section and mail to Bill Brandt - 5910 Gloria Drive Sacramento 95822

Spaghetti Eaters Wanted!

Sunday, August 29, 2004 @ 5:00 PM

So you didn't make it to the Back Forty Texas BBQ huh? We would like to give you another chance to meet new & old friends on another of our monthly dinner-only gettogethers. (Is that a word?) Anyway, we have reservations at the Roseville Spaghetti Factory on the last Sunday in August. Great food, reasonable prices.

This will be a no-host-order-off-the-menu-separate-check thing. The cost to you will be \$5 per person. Wait a minute you say, I am already paying my own check. Well, we are going to try a new deal. We will have a drawing for the cash and have some door prizes as well. The reason we need an entry fee is to let the restaurant know how many people are coming so we don't get surprised (or disappointed) at the door. So fill out the reservation slip and get it in right away. Any entries received after August 25, will have to pay double.

C'mon folks, great people, good food.

Bill Brandt, 916/399-1736

Directions: Address is 731 Sunrise Blvd. From I-80 take Douglas offramp, right on Sunrise, Spaghetti Factory will be on your left. From Citrus Heights, North on Sunrise to #731.

Spaghetti Eaters Reservation Form – in our hands by August 25th

Event day: Sunday, August 29, 2004 @ 5:00 PM

Mamma Mia, we want some spaghetti, sign us up!

Name(s) _____ E-Mail: _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

Make following selection for each person

Number of persons ___ x \$5.00 = Total of \$ _____ enclosed. (After 8/25 or at the door \$10 ea.)

Complete this slip and enclose it with a check for the total amount to:

"Mercedes-Benz Club – Sacramento" and mail to; **John DuPriest, PO Box 121, Penryn, CA 95663**

Questions?: 916/933-2185 E-mail:john@dupriest.com

Sacramento Section Members Honored with Mercedes-Benz Silver Star Award

On July 26th 2004, National President Richard Simonds together with Sacramento Section President Bill Brandt and former Regional VP John DuPriest went to Modesto to honor Allen and Elizabeth “Betty” Funkhouser with the prestigious Mercedes-Benz Silver Star Award. Two of their grandchildren—Brian and Rebecca, attended the presentation along with their daughter-in-law, Wanda.

Al & Betty have been pillars in MBCA for over 43 years with many achievements. Both were very active in driving events and they each display many trophies from their successful efforts..

In 1961, they attended the first MBCA Gemutlichkeit event held on the Studebaker Proving grounds in South Bend, Indiana.

In 1969, Betty was the high point winner women – at Gemutlichkeit. In the follow-ups for both men and women. I asked resulted from the men complaining.

Betty told me that attending these many excelling in them – has made her a safer

Over the years, they have hosted many re-

In 1962, they formed the Central Ohio Sec- ing to California, they formed the Cal-Star establish the Sections, but they served in them.



– beating both men and ing year, there were tro- Betty if the change

driving events – and driver.

gional driving events.

tion. In 1988, after mov- Section. Not only did they numerous offices to run

After being a Section President, Al’s friend Chad Hunt convinced him to try some national offices.

Al became Regional Vice-President (now called Regional Directors), Secretary-Treasurer, and Vice President. He was National President from 1974-1976. Al convinced John DuPriest to become Western Regional Vice President—a position that John held with distinction.

At 94, Al’s failing eyesight and other health conditions have stopped his driving, but he and Betty still attend as many club events as they can. MBCA has been an important part of their lives since 1961. They were both pleased at having been nominated and selected to receive the Mercedes-Benz SilverStar Award.

In bestowing this award, DaimlerChrysler acknowledges the many contributions of Al & Betty to MBCA and to Mercedes-Benz.

Bill Brandt

Frederick Charles Hill
June 13, 1922 - July 4, 2004

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate a donation to the Alzheimer’s Association. Our condolences go to wife Virginia and family.

Bill Brandt



Welcome New Members

| | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Gordon Raynor | Sacramento |
| Alan Tompkins | Elk Grove |
| Bob Scheblein | Shingle Springs, CA |
| Roberto Gressel | Elk Grove |
| Hugh Shawhan | Carmichael, CA |
| Harry Whiting Jr | Yreka, CA |
| Arthur Smith | Sacramento |

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

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 Editor Chris Dudte (408) 806-4417
 Historian Open
 Sunshine Chair Ginger Sanigar (916) 961-9145
 Webmaster Craig Griffith (916) 988-2328

MBCA Western Region

Regional Director Don Leson (415) 898-1502

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.



2000 CLK 430. 53,000 miles w/ 100,000 mile Starmark warranty, leather ash interior, 17" AMG wheels, always garaged and serviced at dealer. **\$29,900**
Nancy 530-676-8801



1986 560 SL. Blue with Palomino interior. Good condition. 165,000 miles. Serviced at MBZ.

\$10,000 firm.
530 305-1617



2003 - Mercedes Benz ML320
AC, Sun Roof, 5D Bose CD, Leather, Silver, 21K miles, NICE - \$33,500.00
Private Party - (800) 379-3006



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1988 560SL 233,000 miles, original owner, all papers, no accident, silver with blue interior, good condition except for cracks in dashboard, top never taken off so canvas top is like new, holder for car top included,

\$7000 cash.
(916) 835-4310.



1969 280SL - Red/Palomino New Air conditioning, transmission (automatic)

\$23,500 OBO
(916) 989-4973



1979 450SLC - Red Metallic, Parchment, 177,000 miles. \$8500 restoration: metal out repaint, timing chain, rocker arms, camshaft gears, new A/C system, seats recovered, sun visors. Low Miles on factory transmission, master cylinder, stainless steel exhaust, tires, starter, water pump and much more.

\$12,500
(916) 424-5543



2001 C 320 ... 33,500 with warranty Java leather interior and desert silver exterior Equipped with tow package, navigation and 6 changer. Always garaged and serviced at dealer. **\$26,500**

Rich 916-205-1406



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

(916) 447-4113.

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