



the **STAR** capitol

The MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB of America • Sacramento Section June/July 2008

Calendar Of Events

Friday, JULY 18 - A DAY WITH THE GLOBAL HAWK

July 18, 2008
A Day With The Global Hawk
Beale AFB
Allen Wrenn
916-988-0225

The art and science of military aviation has changed a lot from what it was in the beginning. World War I saw Snoopy the Beagle battling The Red Baron who was flying his red tri-wing cloth-covered aeroplane. World War II saw our MBCA member Don Werner flying his P-38 prop-driven airplane against the Axis. The Korean Conflict and the Vietnam Action saw another MBCA member John DuPriest flying jet-powered aircraft against new enemies.

Today, one of the very important aircraft flown by the United States Air Force is a jet-powered, unmanned craft called the Global Hawk. This is a fascinating aircraft. When it is deployed "on station" it is launched and landed by personnel who are right there where it is. However, when it is flying the main part of its mission, which can be more than 24 hours, it is controlled by personnel thousands of miles away at Beale Air Force Base, just south of Marysville.

The Global Hawk is a surveillance aircraft. Through its video capabilities it provides critical information to troops who are active in ground operations. For instance, one of the deadly devices used by the enemy in Iraq is the IED (Improvised Explosive Device). The Global Hawk can perform reconnaissance to see if the area along a route to be used by ground troops has been disturbed in such a way that would suggest IEDs have been planted.

On July 18 we will have opportunity to learn about the Global Hawk and other operations performed at Beale AFB. After a Unit Mission Briefing we will see the Global Hawk and the U-2 aircraft up-close, as well as visiting some other Beale facilities. After this we will have a buffet lunch at the Beale Consolidated Club. This will be an all-you-can-eat buffet for only \$10.

July 18 is a Friday, an unusual day for our Section to have an event. However, this is the only day of the week available for tours at Beale AFB. Another unusual aspect of this event is that security precautions have to be complied with. We will need personal information about each attendee so that a background check can be made. This is spelled out

Continued on page 4



President's Message

by: Hank Pezzetti

Well, I'm struggling here, trying to get myself back up to speed. I just returned from two very lazy weeks in Cabo San Lucas Mexico. Having finished tax season for another year I felt I needed to get away to some peace and quiet. It was a great time to go down to Cabo.

After I returned, I talked at Alan Wrenn on the phone and he told me he and Joyce were there at the same time. They were on a cruise ship in the harbor, he waved but I must have missed it.

I also missed a great outing to the CDF as I understand. Timing just wasn't right; plans had been made too far in advance. We have a hum dinger coming up though. Alan Wrenn has put together a great trip for us up to Beale in July, but I'll let him tell you about it.

I had planned to do our annual trip to Columbia for lunch at the City Hotel and a show at the Fallon House in June, but after starting preliminary plans with the City Hotel I found out that the Fallon House was dark in June. I then planned to move it to July, but Alan's trip is very date specific so we will be going to Columbia in August. Plans will follow at a later date.

As everyone is probably aware, San

Francisco section is sponsoring StarFest 2008. We will be assisting in areas where we can. One of the biggest roles some of us will play is the judging at the Concours on

Treasure Island.

To that end we are preparing to hold a training class for 20 judges in Sacramento on Sunday Aug 3. San Francisco will be holding their class on Saturday Aug 2. I need volunteers from the Sacramento area to notify me of their interest to do the training for judging. There will be perks for those volunteers. I personally have never done anything like this, but I will be number one on the list. Just imagine the beautiful vehicles that will be there and you will get a chance to hold the hammer. So think about, but not too long, we need to move on this one. Call me 916-687-4792, email me hapezz@frontiernet.net, or send me a smoke signal, I need volunteers. If we don't get enough volunteers we will not be able to do our training in Sacramento. If you had not read the Star about the upcoming StarFest yet, you need to start. There are going to be some exciting activities going on in Willows. They have set up driving defensive classes for those that want to participate in driving on the track that are phenomenally inexpensive. I don't know how many of you have ever looked into taking one of those courses but hey run in the thousands of dollars, check out ours, you will be as-

tonished.

Finally, I'd like to thank the folks at the Daimler Fuel Cell Facility, in West Sacramento, who over the years have always been so hospitable to us. Whenever we asked they have always opened up their facility for our events.

They are moving to the Los Angeles area – Long Beach to be specific – to consolidate their Fuel Cell operations there. Seems to be the thing a lot of the auto companies are doing today. Daimler will be bringing in several hundred Fuel Cell cars into the country next year. They will be a special leasing program that they will be doing with their customers to get these cars out to the public. One of the factors is that the fueling stations are more plentiful in the LA area that they are here. Personal note: some of the state officials think the chicken needs to come before the egg. Tap me on the shoulder some time and I'll explain that to you.

Thanks to past manager Wolfgang Weiss, current manager Peter Friebe, Lora, Olga, Alex, Taylor, Matthew, Andi, Tim, Ray and Luke for making their facility so hospitable.

Best Wishes at your new facility...

Hank

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

A Visit To The CALFIRE Air Force

On May 10, members of the Sacramento Section visited the Aviation Management Unit Headquarters of CALFIRE (formerly the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection). Located at what was McClellan Air Force Base until a few years ago, this site serves as the operations and maintenance hub for the 13 Air Attack Bases placed strategically around California.

Their own air force consists of forty-eight planes from the Vietnam era – mainly the Grumman S2T, the Bell UH-1 helicopter, and the North American Rockwell OV-10. They developed an impressive FAA-approved service facility that does everything from tire changes to major airframe repairs.

All the planes were obtained from the military but they have been extensively modified for their fire-fighting role. The UH-1, or “Huey”, got a more powerful engine from the Cobra attack helicopter, and a bigger rotor from the Bell 212. Since so much more torque (and lift capability) was available, they had to re-locate the tail rotor to the opposite side of the helicopter tail. The helicopter is used with a collapsible bucket on a cable that can use lakes (or swimming pools) for quick access to water.

The S2 was the Navy’s anti submarine plane but in place of the torpedoes, a 1200-gallon fire retardant tank is placed in that bay. Our guide, Air Operations Officer Bill Mason, wanted to emphasize that fire retardants are usually used to control the direction of a fire and placed in front of the flames. They use two different kinds of retardant - and for really bad fires they have contracted for the services of a converted DC-10, which can carry up to 12,000 gallons of retardant.

Finally, the OV-10, used in Viet Nam in a FAC (Forward Air Control) role, is

Continued on page 5

FZW? WUWV
aXWS^VdeZ [bež



VON HOUSEN

47EF aXZM7EF

? WUWVZWI aX7^6adSVa: [^e

" " ? WUWV>S` W7^6adSVa: [^e
>SfchTWj [fSf: i kž' "

? WUWVZWI aXDWa

" " EagfZ H[dY\ [S EfdWd DWa
EzHdM\ [S Efa 7j [fGEE%r'

? WUWVZWI
EWch[UW5WfWdE DaU ^

S*# 9dS` [fW5agdf DaU ^
DaU ^` DaSVfa 9dS` [fW6dHW



Mercedes-Benz

i i i žn` ZageWžh_

on the Reservation Form. And make sure you have evidence of your vehicle's insurance available. You may be asked to show it.

We need a minimum of 15 attendees for this event. With this interesting program I am sure we will have no problem meeting this number. We also will have a maximum limit of 40. So, get your reservations in early to assure your attendance. **To meet the security clearance requirements, put your reservation in the mail by July 5.** Speaking of security, photos WILL be allowed unless we are in an area where we are told to not take photos. If you need additional information, give me a phone call: 916-988-0225.

When and where will we meet? Our group will meet on the south side of Lincoln and travel to Beale AFB in a group. Head north on Highway 65 from I-80 in Roseville. From I-80 it will be about a ten-minute drive to our meeting point. As you approach Lincoln, where all the new commercial development is, go under the roadway bridge that crosses over the highway. Then, go just past the second traffic signal beyond the bridge (look for a Jack In The Box), and turn into the first driveway. This is just before a sign for Ferrari Ranch Road. Once in the parking lot there is a Starbucks on your right. We will meet in the parking lot beginning at 8:30 AM. *Our departure from Starbucks will be at 9:00 AM.*

On the morning of July 18, if you are having problems or running late, give me a call at 916-201-9799.

ALLEN WRENN

RESERVATION FORM		
JULY 18, 2008 — GLOBAL HAWK TOUR AT BEALE AIR FORCE BASE		
Mail to: ALLEN WRENN 205 CASCADE FALLS DRIVE FOLSOM, CA 95630-1564		
ATTENDEE INFORMATION:		
Attendee Name	Date of Birth	CA Driver License Number
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
Check enclosed in the amount of _____ (\$10 per person), payable to Sacramento Section MBCA		
From _____ (Name)		
_____ (Street Address)		
_____ (City and Zip Code)		
_____ (Telephone Number)		

continuing that same role directing the tankers.

Last October, with so many fires in Southern California, the FAA told the CDF that for about 3 or 4 days the CALFIRE Air Attack Base located at the Hemet airport – near San Bernardino – was the 2nd busiest airport in the United States because of all the firefighting aircraft activity.

The CDF has helped fight fires in neighboring states and even Mexico. They teach fire fighters from places as far as China on their aerial fire-fighting techniques.

Lunch was at the former Officer's Club – now Lions Gate Hotel and Conference Center.

I'd like to thank Tony Otis and his son Kevin (who works on the helicopters) for arranging the tour. Thanks also go to Air Operations Officer Bill Mason for his detailed and highly informative tour.



Sacramento Section Members At The CDF

Bill Brandt

Have a 1972-1989 SL?

According to the *SL Market Letter* (www.slmarket.com), the value of good examples of the venerable 450SL, 380SL and 560SL is on the upswing. Although this series was made far longer than any other SL and in far greater numbers, editor John Olson felt the good ones left are only about 20% of total production. Of the 237,287 made for all markets, 20% would now amount to 47,457 (worldwide).

This is still more than the total numbers of the "Pagoda" 280SL of 1968-1971 (23,885 made) or the 300SL coupe and roadster (3,259) but the shrinking supply of *nice* R107s is starting to drive up the price.

This reflects the experience of my neighbor and Club member Emma Rodrigues, who has had a rare tobacco brown 1981 380SL since its showroom debut at Von Housen Motors. She regularly gets parking lot inquiries from people wanting to buy the car...

How she got the car 27 years ago is a funny story but I will let her tell the story next time she's at an event....

Bill Brandt

Think Our Gas Prices Are Bad?

Well, I have to admit that this price surge is changing my driving habits. I now view a trip as a \$5 trip, \$10 trip, and so on. In the same issue of the *SL Market Letter*, here's some prices of gasoline in other parts of the world (converted to gallons):

London (\$9.00), Paris (\$6.77), Munich (\$8.00), Rome (\$4.88), Vienna (\$4.69), Istanbul (\$13.18) (!?), Brisbane (\$4.90), Auckland (\$4.40), Tokyo (\$5.10), and Hong Kong (\$5.62).

Bill Brandt



Welcome New Members

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

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.*

Mercedes-Benz Club of America

Sacramento Section Officers • 2007-2008

- President Hank Pezzetti (916) 687-4792
- Vice President Skip Ibenthal (916) 434-5953
- Secretary Bill Brandt (916) 399-1736
- Treasurer Sandra Reese (530) 878-1999
- Director at Large Lou Meikle (530) 662-8169
- Past President Bill Brandt (916) 399-1736
- Past President Inga Bourdon (707) 864-0567

Staff

- Activities Chair Skip Ibenthal (916) 362-7554
- Managing Editor Bill Brandt (916) 399-1736
- Editor Bill "Scoop" Brandt (916) 399-1736
- Historian Open
- Sunshine Chair Peggy Nickerson (916) 427-5686
- Webmaster Craig Griffith (916) 988-2328

MBCA Western Region

- Regional Director 2008 Laura Simonds (650) 592-7613

Please Note:

the capitol STAR is the official publication of the Sacramento Section of the Mercedes Benz Club of America and is provided solely for the benefit of the members. Opinions and ideas are for information only. No official authentication is implied by the editor/publisher, MBCA, MBNA, MBUSA, MBAG or DBAG. No inference should be made that the products or services advertised or reported herein have the approval of the Editor/Publisher, MBCA, MBNA, MBUSA, MBAG or DBAG. Permission to reproduce material original to the capitol STAR is granted provided proper permission and credit is given.

Mercedes Mart

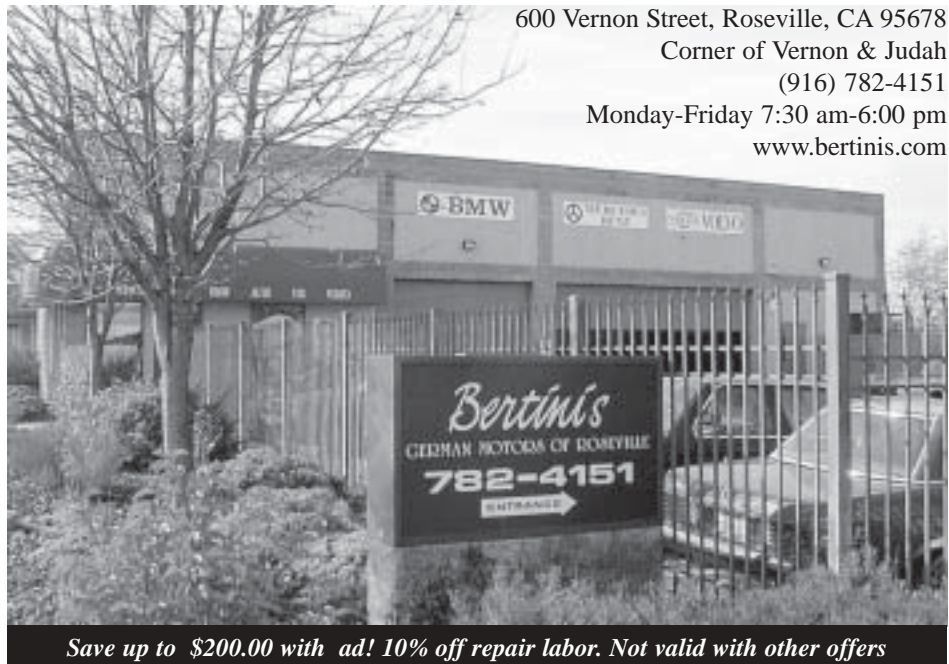
This column is the Sacramento Section's want ads. The vehicles must be Mercedes. Mercedes accessories are also accepted. The ads will be printed for 3 months, at which time the seller must renew them. Cost for Sacramento Section members is free – Free space will also be given to MBCA members of other 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 or email CapitolStar@sbcglobal.net



1987 560 SL (116,000 mi.) Excellent condition, EZ Lift Roof Hoist, car cover, CD radio, original manuals, Champagne (Lt. Bronze) with tan leather interior, **\$17,000 OBO**, Contact: Kelvin Lee

(916-782-8962) or klee@surewest.net

600 Vernon Street, Roseville, CA 95678
Corner of Vernon & Judah
(916) 782-4151
Monday-Friday 7:30 am-6:00 pm
www.bertinis.com



Save up to \$200.00 with ad! 10% off repair labor. Not valid with other offers

1972 280SE 4.5 Sedan

This beautiful and well-running Mercedes-Benz is from the estate of Patrick Farzaroli. Our vehicle features blue paint (DB 903H) with a blue M-B Tex interior in very good condition. The A/C will keep you cool on the warmest of days. It has a recently installed Pioneer AM/FM/CD radio with remote control. Mileage is 199,986. We paid \$8,000 several years ago, have invested well over \$3,000 in maintenance and repairs, and are asking \$6,000 (the current fair-market value for this beautiful example of the 108-series). To see, drive, and purchase this car, please contact **Judi Farzaroli's brother, Mike Jacobsen, at 1-415-333-9699 or e-mail at MikesMuseum@yahoo.com.**

1980 450SL – All original. It has a paint color only offered in 1980 – apricot.

Only 54,000 miles. No engine or body repairs. Both tops, including new soft top and Michelins.

Has always been garaged. Includes roof rack and sheepskins. Owner since 1986. This is a real collector's car!

(916) 988-2119

the capitol

STAR

5910 Gloria Dr.

Sacramento, CA 95822

First Class Mail

