



the STAR capitol

The MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB of America • Sacramento Section March-April 2002

Calendar Of Events

April 20, 2002

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

May 25, 2002

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

June 9, 2002

Shriner's Coucours
Bob Cottam (916) 349-1013

June 29, 2002

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

Ryde Hotel and Bogle Winery

April 20th, 2002

For those of you who don't know much Delta history, the Ryde Hotel is a legend. The story is that it was built by a Hollywood star in the 1920s as a getaway for his friends.

If you saw the recent *Central Valley Chronicles* with Betty Vasquez, you saw the hidden room in the basement that was the speakeasy during that dry decade of the 1930s.

Today it is still a first class getaway – complete with an Executive 9 hole golf course.

You will be transported to another era here – Art Deco is the main theme.

After our meal, we'll make another trip to the Bogle Winery at Clarksburg. Are you listening Lou Meikle? Lou took us there a few years ago when we had had lunch at Klaus' – and their wine is truly first class. They do a lot of wholesale business with the Napa wineries.

Meeting place? Well, let's meet where we met for the 3 Delta Runs to Das Cliff Haus. Meet at the vacant lot in Freeport – across from the California Park & Recreation Society.

Just head south on I5 and turn off on the Meadowview-Pocket Road exit. Head east and turn right on Freeport Blvd. The meeting place is a few miles down the road in the suburbs of the town of Freeport. You'll see a bunch of Mercedes there – can't miss it.

Meet there at 12:00 on Saturday, April 20th.

You have your choice of 4 entrees – Fish & Chips, French Dip sandwich or a Pastrami sandwich. Or a Tostada Salad with chicken. All for \$14/person.

Julius Frieeseke

1905-2002

We lost Julius Frieeseke last month and it was a shock to the members. Julius and his son Bill were an important cog in the Sacramento Section machine since its very beginning. He asked that there be no memorial service or as Julius would have put it; "no big deal on his behalf" and we are respecting that. But we would like our newer members to get a picture of this fine gentlemen and what he has meant to this club.

On his 90th birthday John DuPriest published an interview of Julius and in a rare stroke of luck got him to talk about himself. We'll have a reprint of that interview in an upcoming issue.

I don't believe it to be an exaggeration to say that Julius was an institution in the Sacramento Section.... My one regret is not attending his annual "Tahoe Trek" to his cabin at Lake Tahoe - they were just ending as I came in about 6-7 years ago.

-Bill Brandt



President's Message

by: Bill Brandt

Two events have transpired since you had the last issue. We are trying a new printer and this issue will be both the March & April issue. It will be printed and mailed in San Jose by the same company that works on the San Francisco Section's newsletter.

A lot has been happening despite the issue lapse – besides the sad news about Julius, I have talked with Tom Bourdon and they are planning a rally this summer as fun as the one last year.

Some of you from the far-flung regions of this Section expressed disappointment over missing the last rally. We saw some areas of Napa country that I didn't know existed. Expect more of the same this year!

February we saw John and Joyce DuPriest's slide show of the Orange County Section's Fashion Island Concours. I saw my first 600 Landaulet. For those of you recently new to the world of Mercedes-Benz – the 600 – made from 1963-1972 was Daimler-Benz's effort to build simply the finest luxury car in the world. Many would say that they succeeded. Even the engine was designed for that car.

came as a short wheel base (SWB) version which was the most common. Then they made a few hundred long wheel base versions – called the Pullman – and less than 10 Landaulet versions – which was a Pullman with a convertible top in the last half for heads of state. The Pope had one, I believe.

Last weekend we saw the Behring Museum at Blackhawk. If you didn't go and you haven't seen this museum you really missed out. It has to be one of the best-endowed and eclectic collections in the world. They had everything from some of the first cars at the turn of the 19th century to a 1998 McLaren F1 – the 230 MPH car McLaren built just to prove they could. New they were \$1 million – and in the latest Automobile Magazine I read that used now they are going for \$1.5 million. I looked at that car and felt that it was completely impractical for everyday driving. The ground clearance had to be all of 2 inches. I doubt that it could go over a speed bump without some damage.

Next month we are going for another Delta Run, thanks to Dee & Jess Davis. The original plan was to go to the Grand Island Mansion and in talking with Dee she decided that the Ryde Hotel would be

a better venue.

May will have us going to some caves courtesy of John & Joyce DuPriest.

Most of you probably don't know how large our Section is. Currently we have about 450 members spread from Redding to Stockton, and from Reno to Fairfield. Most of you have not attended any of our events. Whether you are anxious that you may not know anyone or don't feel you'd "fit in" you are wrong on both counts.

Lou Hoffman made an interesting observation at the DuPriest's event. Besides being in the Mercedes Club, Lou is an avid Packard fan and belongs to the Packard Club. He made the statement that in a good car club, you can substitute the make of the car but the people will be the same good people. It was a couple of years before I even joined MBCA – I thought that if you didn't have the newest Mercedes you'd be snubbed – Here – we don't care whether you have the most common Mercedes (I have one) or one of the rarest – we simply have fun. So come and join us.

I'd like to thank those members who have volunteered to make sure we have a full calendar for 2002.

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 Dudge
 (775) 673-1433
 e-mail: cdudge@aon.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.

New officers needed

By November I will have served in the Sacramento Section for 5 years, first as Vice President then as President. Sandy Reese will have been Treasurer for 3 years. John Dupriest took over as Secretary when Brent Fisher's term expired. Darryl Kielich graciously took over as Vice President when Phil Dusel had to resign because of health reasons. Darryl took the office with the understanding that he could not become President, as he is spending a lot of time in the Civil Air Patrol.

Normally the Vice President becomes the President. It certainly isn't a requirement but more of a tradition.

So the whole slate will be open. In the coming months we'll be describing the duties of each office. And I want you all to think about giving a bit back to this Section, which has been active for 30 years.

When I became President I thought that I had a daunting task ahead of me. Tom & Inga took me to lunch and explained things. Now that I have been doing this the past 2 years I can say that the job isn't overwhelming. I will be glad to help you as Inga helped me.

Since Henry passed away, we also need a historian.

The only way a club can stay active is for enough members to give back some of their time.

I am sure that we will all be glad to help the newcomers.

Bill Brandt



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Saturdays from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm**

Fashion Island in Auburn

February 23, 2002

Thirty members, new members and friends met at the beautiful Auburn Sizzler overlooking the Foresthill Ravine on Saturday, February 23rd and enjoyed a no host dinner followed by a slide show of the 1982 Concour d'Elegance. John & Joyce DuPriest hosted the event and John presented the slide show from his collection of four years of covering the Event. Only the finest Mercedes-Benz automobiles are invited to participate at Fashion Island and all are in superb condition or very rare or both. The slide show certainly confirmed that.

After the show drawings were held for door prizes including three silver dollars donated by Steve Carbonaro, one of which was an original 1920's Morgan silver dollar. Several other prizes were awarded and the final drawing was for one half of the entry fees and the lucky winner, Arlinne Werbelow, took home \$77.50!

We had two new members, Jan and John Pendergast (She is "Jan Can" of real estate fame in the Folsom area) and Jan & John are the proud owners of a new ML320.

Not new to our Section but attending his first ever meeting was Dan Rowland. We had some special guests, Steve & Eileen Zielinski of Salem Oregon, house guests of Joyce & John. Both Steve & Eileen are former Presidents of the Portland Section. Steve also served on the MBCA National Board as Regional Vice President with John DuPriest in the early 90's.

Those of you who missed the meeting should consider taking a leisurely drive to Auburn soon and dine at a Sizzler with a gorgeous view of the snow-capped Sierras.

Bill Brandt

Allen Funkhouser

Betty has told me that Allen has had some pretty bad health problems. In the last few months. Allen has had 3 strokes and a heart attack last December. Allen, who was a National President from 1974-1976 has been in the hospital the last couple of months.

If you'd like to reach Betty she is at (209) 529-2034

Ryde Hotel & Bogle Winery - April 20, 2002

Deadline April 14, 2002

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

_____ Fish & Chips _____ French Dip Sandwich _____ Pastromi Sandwich _____ Tostada Salad

Number of persons ___ x \$14.00 = \$ _____ enclosed.

Complete this slip, Make a check for the total amount to "Mercedes-Benz Club - Sacramento" and mail to;

Jess or Dee 8671 Rubia Drive Elk Grove, CA 95624

Blackhawk Auto Museum

When we as a Section last visited this facility, it was a joint Section event that included the San Francisco Section, North Bay and Sacramento. This had to be a good 5-6 years ago.

Our March event was another visit.

We started out by meeting for lunch at the La Scala restaurant. We were accompanied by Richard and Laura Simonds of the San Francisco Section. Richard, of course, is also our Western Regional Director. We had a raffle, and members David & Sally Dettmer won the Mercedes electronic tire pressure gage, and Betty Werner won the 300SL clock.

One of the dumber moves I made was not taking my camera. You see, I had a fresh 36-exposure roll of film and figured I wouldn't finish it by the end of the day. As soon as I walked in I remembered that this museum really is special. Picture cars that are the rarest of the rare, all gleaming off the black tiled floor.

The first car that I saw looked like a Ferrari 250GTO. Only 32 were made between 1962 and 1964, and I was really starting to get excited. Upon closer examination I learned that it wasn't a GTO, but a car even rarer – a 330 LM-B LeMans Berlinetta. They made only 4 of those. Another memorable Ferrari was a 1964 Type 500 Superfast. This street car was capable of 170 MPH and the Pininfarina body looked stylish even 35 years later. They even had one of the 334 Toyota GTs.

As far as Mercedes – they had a 540K Special Roadster – one of the 6 surviving out of 25 made. This was a beautiful red car. They had several “ordinary” 540Ks.

The lower floor had a little Mercedes exhibit set off by itself. Besides 2 1957 300SLs – one a Gullwing; the other a roadster – they had 2 300Scs – one a coupe and the other a cabriolet that were both a beautiful dark blue. The 300Sc is among the rarest of the rare – there were less than 100 made of each of the coupe and cabriolet. If I remember my history there was an article on them in a fairly recent *Star* issue. Much of the body was hand made in a special *Sonderbau* section of the factory.

Other rare and interesting cars included a 1998 McLaren F1 – the 230 MPH passenger car sold that new for \$1 million. The ground clearance of that car had to all of 2 inches, making even speed bumps a major problem. However I did ask the docent if I could borrow it for a week. I'm waiting for the answer...

At the opposite end of the McLaren was a 1946 Soviet ZIS limousine. To me it looked like a 1940s Cadillac on steroids.

Our thanks go to Doug and Janet Patten who organized this event. I was so impressed by the collection that I will make another visit in the near future. I'll remember to bring my camera!

Bill Brandt

Dear Mercedes-Benz Club of America,

On behalf of the DaimlerChrysler Corporation we graciously thank you for your contribution of \$500.00 to the *Help the Children Fund*. Because of your support, the *Help the Children Fund* will have additional opportunities to invest in the education of the children affected by the September 11th tragedy.

For tax reporting purposes this letter serves as confirmation of receipt of your charitable contribution.

Again, thank you for your support and the good things it will make possible.

Sincerely,

Brian G. Glowwiak
Vice President & Secretary
DaimlerChrysler Corporation Fund

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

Sabina & David Arace
Judy & C.B. Burleson
David Dettmer
Greg Deutsch
Alan Edwards
Roy Farrow
Birgit Feci
Dawn & Hans Heep
Daniel Howard
Clayton Pippenger
Alvin Willis

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Order your MBCA name badge at the club store in the Star Magazine

Mercedes-Benz Club of America

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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



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Susan (916) 771-8084



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Bob Dullanty (916) 967-4002.



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