



the **STAR** capitol

The MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB of America • Sacramento Section

March 2001

Calendar Of Events

March 10, 2001

DaimlerChrysler Fuel Cell Facility
Sacramento, CA

April 28, 2001

National Automobile Museum
Reno, NV

May 2001

Rally
Tom & Inga Bourdon

June 2001

Shriners Concours
Bob Cottam

To Boldly Go Where No Section Has Gone Before....

Changed to Saturday, March 10th 10AM

At John Dupriest's January event, Kevin McKnight came up to me with a great idea. "Wouldn't it be great", he said, "if we could tour the DaimlerChrysler fuel cell test facility that was in the *Star*?"

You can call this the event with multiple sponsors. Bob Sanigar called our friends at Mercedes-Benz of Sacramento and within a few hours, we had a tour!

I went out to the test facility and met Wolfgang Weiss, who is the General Manager for the fuel cell project. These cars are powered by hydrogen, and they emit NO toxic gases!

Our host, Wolfgang Weiss, will give us a tour that the public doesn't see.

We'll have lunch after at the Sudwerk on Exposition Blvd (Across from Cal Expo).

And since we have some money

in the treasury, your Section will pay for half! If you are a member of the Sacramento Section, you and your spouse or guest pay just \$6 per person. If you are outside the Sacramento Section you are certainly welcome but lunch is \$12.00 per person.

Maybe we can call this Kevin's, Bob's & Bill's event. The KBB event...

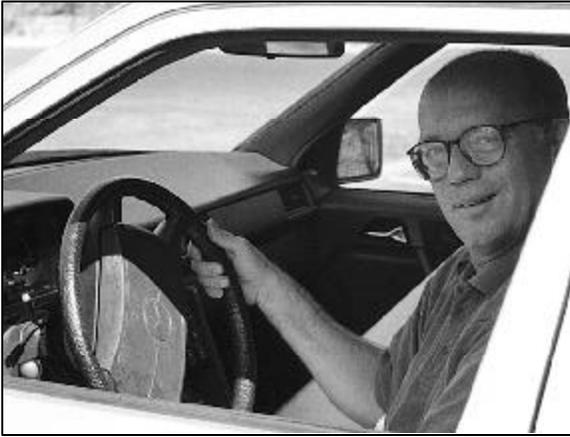
Herr Weiss would like a firm count so he can arrange the facility in the meeting room – so we must have your reservation by March 10th. No exceptions.

To get to the DaimlerChrysler Center, take I 80 to Harbor Blvd. Head south (towards the Port of Sacramento); turn right on Industrial Blvd (right by the entrance to the port). The address is 3300 Industrial Blvd. It will be a large building with many flag poles – See you March 10th!

--Bill

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President's Message

by: Bill Brandt

March Event NOW March 10th!

Because one of the test vehicles must be prepared for shipment to Japan, we must push the event take up to March 10th, instead of March 17th. *Everything else is the same.* We have some money in the treasury, so your Section will pay for half of your lunch and 1 guest. You can thank the sponsors you see in our newsletter. Please tell them you are a member when you patronize them!

If you have already sent a check in and cannot attend on the 10th, please inform either me or Bob Sanigar and we will either tear up the check or return it to you, your choice.

Wolfgang Weiss is kind enough to open his center for us, and he said he will stay to answer any question we may have. We meet at 10AM, and lunch at the Sudwerks is not until 2PM, so we will have plenty of time.

Wolfgang and his family are over here

from Stuttgart and I want them to know that they are always welcome for our Section events.

Speaking of Section events, I was surprised at the high turn out for the carrier Hornet! I had expected maybe 20 to show up. As I mentioned in my "How to plan a Section event" article last November, plan something that *you* want, and don't worry about what you think others may or may not want.

Well, 64 signed up and despite near gale-force wind and rain, 58 still managed to show up in Alameda. Since I was the tour organizer I decided to "remain at my post" out in the parking lot – right in front of the bow of the ship. Man, did I feel stupid standing in the wind and the rain waiting for members to show up and give them directions.

At 10:20 having met only 2-4 additional members I decided "the heck with this" and went to the ship to meet those who had come.

Well, about 25 members mysteriously

got to the ship without my seeing them, proving that at least 57 of the 58 had the good sense to stay out of the wind and the rain!

And I'll have to say this Section is gung-ho – for having driven through all that wind and rain for 100 miles to attend the event!

You'll have to read the account of the event from our new Secretary, John Dupriest. John has also written a bit about our member Liz Sudtel, who passed away suddenly last month. If you never met Liz you are the poorer for it. I don't know of anyone who didn't view Liz as a friend after the first 5 minutes of meeting her.

Don't forget – **MARCH 10th**. See you there! To get to the DaimlerChrysler Center, take I 80 to Harbor Blvd. Head south (towards the Port of Sacramento); turn right on Industrial Blvd (right by the entrance to the port). The address is 3300 Industrial Blvd. It will be a large building with many flag poles.

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:
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Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month.

Deadline for changes to articles or ads is approximately the 26th of each month.

Harrah's Auto Museum
April 28, 2001
1:00 PM

Join us at 1:00 PM April 28th for a nice afternoon and evening up at Reno! For those who don't know of the Harrah's Automotive Museum, it is one to the top automotive museums in the country – everything from a 300SL Gullwing to a Duesenberg. Plus a unique Jeep Wagoneer Bill Harrah had made (hint – he wasn't satisfied with the stock power plant!)

At 5 PM we'll be having dinner at the Café Andreotti, a local favorite located inside Harrah's Hotel/Casino! Dinner will include salad, bread, coffee and soda and of course 1 entrée. Cost? For the museum and dinner, a paltry \$25.00. I must have the reservations a week in advance, so April 21 is the deadline. No exceptions.

If you'd like to stay the night here's four hotels I can recommend:

Harrah's (800)427-7247

Silver Legacy (775)329-4777

(great breakfast buffet on Sunday morning at the Steak House)

Super 8 Motel (775)825-2940

(accepts pets)

Eldorado (800)648-5966

Harrah's Auto Museum
April 28th

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___ SPAGHETTI with meat balls

___ NEW YORK STYLE Pizza

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Patty Dudte
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Riding Out a Storm on the USS Hornet

To the 58 Sacramento Section brave souls who boarded the aircraft carrier Hornet Saturday, March 24th, it must have seemed like they were really “out to sea” experiencing the wind and spray. Outside it was a real Nor’easter with wind and rain a-plenty complete with drenched hair and reversed umbrellas. But once inside it was all worth it. We took a step back in time and got a taste of what our brave sailors and marines experienced during WWII and Vietnam.

The historic USS HORNET (CVS-12) was constructed at Newport News, Virginia during 1942-43. She is the eighth ship in the US Navy to bear the name “HORNET” since the Revolutionary War. Her predecessor, CV-8, was the ship from which Jimmy Doolittle and his Raiders flew to bomb Tokyo. The Doolittle Raiders’ were loaded here on April 1, 1942 on the same pier where Hornet is now permanently berthed. CV-8 fought in the Battle of Midway and was sunk in the Battle of Santa Cruz on October 27, 1942.

For 16 months CV-12 never tied up at a pier and was continually in the front areas of the Pacific War. Although she was under attack 59 times, she was never hit by a bomb, a live torpedo, or a Kamikaze “Suicide” attacker. Ten pilots became “aces in a day” (five kills per pilot), 62 enemy planes were shot down in a single day and 255 were shot down in a month. HORNET launched the first carrier strikes in the liberation of the Philippines and against Tokyo since that original Doolittle Raid.

In 1969, while the largest TV audience in history watched, HORNET

recovered, from a parachute landing in the Pacific, the Apollo 11 space capsule that contained the first men to walk on the moon. HORNET went on to recover Apollo 12 with the all-Navy crew of “moonwalkers”.

Construction was started on CV-12 on August 3, 1942 and it was launched on August 30, 1943. It was an incredible performance even for wartime. When you walk through it, climb all of the stairs, visit all of those compartments and then stand on the huge 894 foot-long flight deck (that is just six feet short of THREE football fields) you wonder how humans could do that in only 12 months! And to think that modern nuclear carriers are twice as large as Hornet!

How about a couple of more hints about Hornet’s size; a displacement of 41,200 tons a crew of 2,200, including 75 marines, plus 1,500 in the air wing (pilots and support personnel) and up to 107 aircraft. She is powered by four oil-fired steam turbine engines of 37,500 shaft horsepower each, turning four 4-blade bronze propellers 15 feet in diameter each weighing 27,190. Hornet carries 1,500,000 gallons of “black” oil which gives her a range of 20,000 miles at 15 knots. Her top speed is 34 knots. Excuse me, that’s right at 40MPH! Three football field full of steel men and machines doing 40 MPH. In water!

The docent also informed us that it required three miles to make a 90 degree turn and 12 miles to make a dead stop without using reverse! Sacramento Section members were visibly impressed. By the way, we had four first-timers on this outing and one

member joined who joined us hadn’t been on a Section event in ten years.

Speaking of docents the one that took us on a tour of the bridge provided one of the high points of the day. He was an enthusiastic fast talker who was explaining the ship-to-ship refueling during which the carrier and the oiler are steaming side by side at ten knots and how critical and tricky the operation was. What he meant to say was; “It is an awesome responsibility to keep the ships steady.” He had all of us howling when it came out; “It is an awesome responsibility to keep the steps sh*tty.” He stuttered and blushed from his collar to the top of his cap. The tour continued after we got ourselves somewhat under control.

If you didn’t make this trip you owe it to yourself and your family to visit Hornet. You can do the entire tour in a bit over two hours. It is truly an important part of America’s history and a permanent tribute to the bravery of the men who served on her and to the ingenuity and devotion of the men and women who created her. When you visit, you may want to recall that this is 1940’s technology. Guaranteed to amaze you!

--John DuPriest

**For information:
510/521-8448
or visit the web site
www.us-hornet.com**

Elisabeth "Liz" Sudtell

December 9, 1928 - January 1, 2001

Liz Sudtell passed away on New Years day suddenly and without any warnings. She was the wife of Henry Sudtell, our prolific and reliable photo-historian. Liz & Henry had no children of their own but each had children by prior marriage; Liz two sons and Henry three sons. But those of us who attended the memorial service witnessed overwhelming evidence of the love and admiration those five sons and their spouses had for Liz.

And no wonder. She was a devoted wife mother, grandmother and great grandmother to all of them equally.

She was born in Spier, Germany and grew up in trying times. But she persevered and graduated from the University of Heidelberg with a degree in languages. When WWII ended she went to work for the U.S. Army as an interpreter. She was fluent in English, German and French.

Henry and Liz loved roller skating, in fact that is how they met. They hit it off

right away, were married in 1986 and established their present home in Cameron Park. A few years ago, Liz had to give up the skating she loved, because of an injury she received over 20 years ago in a bicycle accident. That accident finally required a hip replacement and skating was too risky after that.

Many of us at the memorial service were surprised to learn how intelligent and talented this lady was. She was an avid stock trader and became very good at it. She loved to knit - sweaters and even blankets - usually while watching TV but she never dropped a stitch. She was a self-taught gourmet cook, authored a cook book and was writing a novel to be finished this year. But most of all she considered herself to be a professional "shopper".

New Years Day would be like so many other days. Liz & Henry took a little nap in the afternoon. Around 4 pm, they each decided to get on the internet and Liz's computer was upstairs and

Henry's was in his office in the garage.

When Henry came up from his office around 6, he was surprised that the den was dark. He lit some lamps and discovered that Liz was lying at the bottom of the stairs. He said she looked so peaceful - and called 911, but she had already slipped away. There had been no indication that anything was physically wrong at this time, and so it was a shock to family and friends alike.

As I write this I think how much I would like to talk to Liz one last time and tell her how much we enjoyed being with her and Henry at all of those meetings and how much we appreciate their support of our club. Of course, that is no longer possible. It reminds us that sometimes friends and family members go suddenly, without any warning. How foolish and selfish that we don't express our thanks and admiration more often instead of our criticisms. Before it is too late we should do that - to family and friends.

--John DuPriest

DaimlerChrysler Tour - March 10, 2001

Lunch includes bread and butter, coffee, tea or soda and ONE entrée...

German Bratwurst Crab & Shrimp Cake Caesar Salad Jaeger Schnitzel

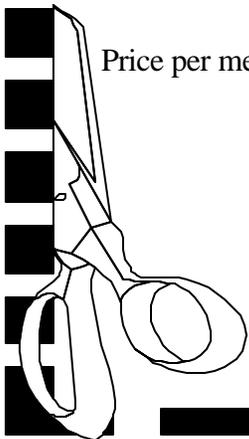
Name _____ Phone _____ Total Amount _____

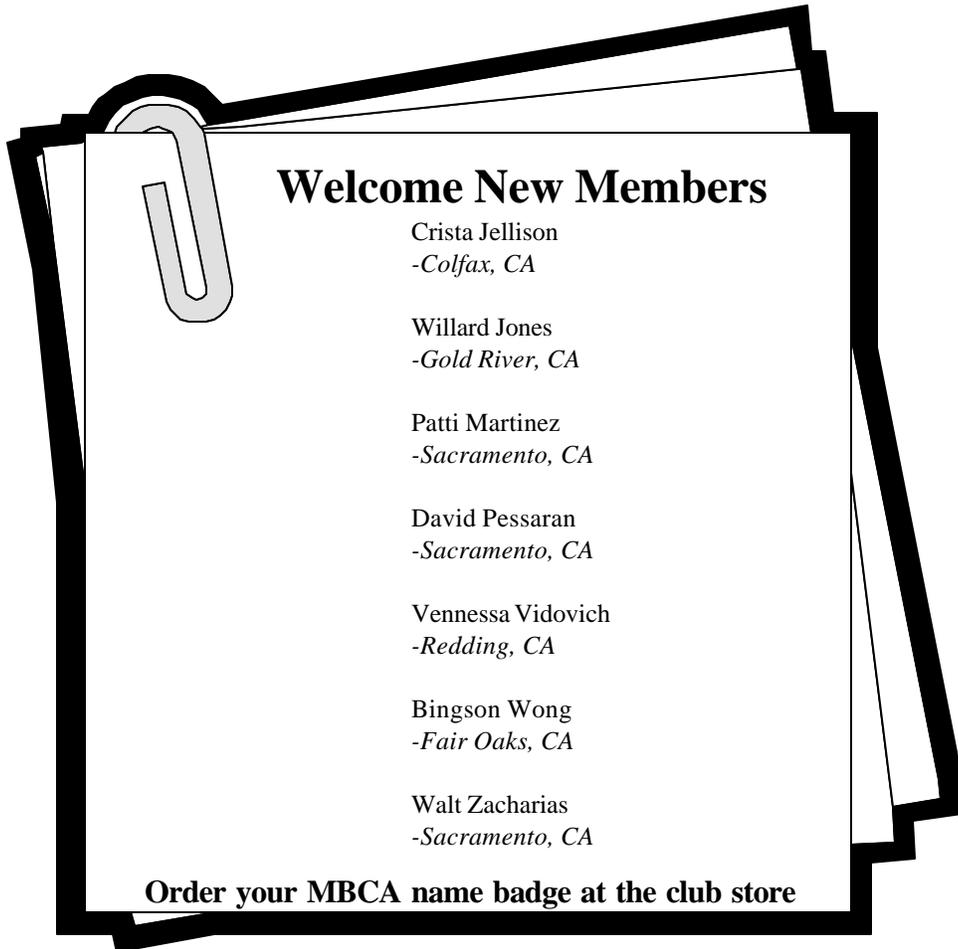
Price per meal - \$6.00 per person (up to 2) for Sacramento Section members, \$12.00 for others.

Send Check made out to MBCA-Sacramento Section to:

Robert Sanigar
4412 Las Encinitas
Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Questions about the meal - call Bill Brandt at (916) 399-1736





Welcome New Members

Crista Jellison
-Colfax, CA

Willard Jones
-Gold River, CA

Patti Martinez
-Sacramento, CA

David Pessaran
-Sacramento, CA

Venessa Vidovich
-Redding, CA

Bingson Wong
-Fair Oaks, CA

Walt Zacharias
-Sacramento, CA

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**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>

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- Managing Editor Bill Brandt (916) 399-1736
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- Circulation Manager Julius & Bill Frieske (916) 455-5118
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Mercedes Mart

This column is for members to buy or sell a personal car. The vehicle must be a Mercedes. Neither the club nor the editor make any representations whatsoever. This is strictly a service. Prospective purchasers are cautioned to investigate the offering thoroughly. We reserve the right to edit copy, including the right to limit ads to 30 words or less. Ads are free to members in good standing, \$10 to non-members. Send a copy of your ad, including your name and phone number to: Chris Dudte, 6375 Saginaw Ct., Sun Valley, NV 89433 or e-mail: cdudte@ao.net



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Charlie (530) 894-1102

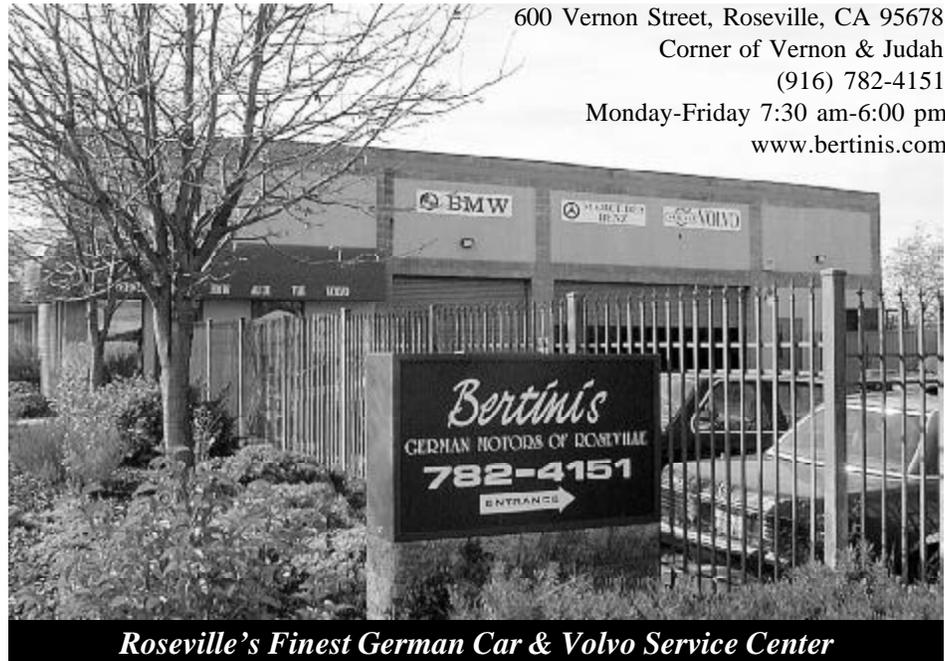
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Colorado Springs, CO 80909-2872

Or Call: 1-800-637-2360

We cannot make changes locally!