



the **STAR** capitol

The MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB of America • Sacramento Section May-June 2004

Calendar Of Events

July 25, 2004

Tahoe Motor Rally
Hank & Anne Pezzetti
(916) 687-4792

August 2004

No Host Dinner

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

Tahoe Concoors and Rally Through the Back Door - Sunday, July 25th

Everyone has driven to Lake Tahoe via Route 50. Have you even gone the other way? Join us on Sunday July 25th. We will meet in the parking lot of the Sloughouse Inn on Jackson Rd. (Rt. 16) at 8:30 AM where we will have a light continental snack. We will depart at 9 AM to Plymouth, thru the wine county of Amador County, and we will then navigate a beautiful back road ending up on Highway 88 heading toward Tahoe. After entering Nevada, we will jump over the mountain at Kingsberry Pass into Lake Tahoe. In Lake Tahoe we will have a late lunch at the Timber House Restaurant that is located in the Lakeside Inn and Casino. Oops! I forgot to tell you, along the way there will be places and things to note, and, of course, the one that gets the most will get something other than just the memories of the day.

Hank & Anne Pezzetti

San Simeon & Hearst Castle September 18-19, 2004

Imagine, for a moment, that you are a Hollywood star in the 1930s. You've just come home from a day on the set, and you have a message from one of William R. Hearst's secretaries. "The Chief" would like your company this weekend up at "The Ranch". Don't worry about transportation – meet at the train station where he'll have a private railroad car. You'll join Clark Gable, Gary Cooper, Charlie Chaplin, and even Winston Churchill.

Mr. Hearst likes stimulating conversation and don't worry, other than his gossip columnist Luella Parsons there'll be no press so you can lower your guard. Unless Luella is nearby!

Your friend Katharine Hepburn told you that she once got an invitation and hearing it was to a ranch, turned him down. "I grew up slopping hogs and now that I've made it in Hollywood why do I want to go back there?"

Well, she told you to not turn him down because he'll never ask you back. The Chief is funny about those kind of things. *Continued on page 4*



President's Message

by: Bill Brandt

If you all missed the regional event at Infineon Raceway – you missed a good time! There were over 50 Mercedes parked in the “Mercedes Corral” that regional director **Don Leson** had arranged. I counted at least a few Mercedes with Sacramento plates – the lunch was superb and I’ll have to say because there weren’t 200,000 people at the track - unlike the Monterey Historics - the day was more relaxed.

We saw replays of the TransAm cars that Mark Donohue and George Follmer drove and something that Monterey has been lacking in recent years – the mighty CanAm cars of the 1970s.

The CHP trip that we just had was one of the most interesting Section events I have ever attended. It is regrettable that there was room for only 30 members. One of our members has a father who was an instructor out there. Read my write up – and next time you see a “Chippie” on the road you should have an appreciation for what they had to do to earn that badge.

Another regional event is coming up in November – the Central Calif Section has had a trip to Death Valley for years – November 19-November 22, 2004. They have been doing this for 31 years and it is organized by **Pat & Judi Farzaroli**.

in Fresno on Thursday evening).

Three Nights at the Furnace Creek Ranch and Resort with it’s own golf course, horse-back riding, naturally heated swimming pool, coyotes, Borax Mining Museum and more!

Continental breakfast is included for three days.

Dancing under the stars to a live band at the Awards Under The Stars Barbeque on Sunday night.

See the wonders of Zabriskie Point, Badwater (the lowest point in the Western Hemisphere at 282 feet below sea level), Scotty’s Castle, Dante’s View, Artist’s pallet, The Sand Dunes, and so much more!

Friday night is a potluck on the lawn, Saturday there will be the famous Leonard Brent Memorial Hike and Sunday a car rally.

Prizes for the rally winners (and losers) and for our Trivia Quiz will be awarded at the Barbeque. We may even have a dance contest! Cost is \$475 with a \$100 deposit required. For more information you can call Pat at (978) 858-3999 or email him at pfarzaroli@comcast.net. Pat has to be one of the more unusual MBCA members – he

has been with the Fresno Section for years and recently moved to east coast but don’t worry - he’ll be there for the Death Valley Trip!

Hank & Anne Pezzetti are planning a wonderful trip to Lake Tahoe – we will be traveling the road less traveled (read scenic) to Lake Tahoe and then have a wonderful brunch. If you remember **Gary and Carolyn Twing’s** trip to Tahoe a few years ago you know that this will be a fun event!

I am planning a trip to **San Simeon** in September **if there is sufficient interest**. Because the tickets go so fast anyone interested should send me their check **now**. I will have to give them my VISA and the club will repay me. There are no group discounts for the evening tour.

Finally because no one had volunteered for a Christmas party **Gary and Carolyn Twing** have graciously volunteered to host another Cornish Christmas dinner December 10th. Our club depends on its volunteers – there would be no activities without them.

Thank you.

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.

On June 11, 2004 30 lucky members of the Sacramento Section were guests of CHP Commissioner D. O. "Spike" Helmick. We received a comprehensive tour of the CHP Academy, where new officers of the California Highway Patrol are trained.

We started out with an orientation film that the new recruits see with questions & answers by Sgt Alfredo Vasquez & Lt. Ed Michalkiewicz.

We learned that only 1 in 10 applicants are even selected. Once selected they are subjected to a very rigorous 7 month course combining 1200 hours of instruction and physical training that rivals – and surpasses - anything many military recruits get. The academic portion covers 53 subjects ranging from Spanish (60 hours) to accident investigation, fire-arms training and high speed driving. About 10% of the cadets wash out from the intensive training. As one instructor told us "time management skills are critical".

Like the military academies, a strong honor code is enforced. "I will not lie or cheat nor tolerate anyone who does".

Anyone caught cheating or lying is expelled. The training costs the state of California \$100,000 per cadet but they graduate some of the best officers in the world.

After the orientation half of us were treated to a ride in a Chevrolet Camaro on the test track, while the other half went to the firing range to learn and use some of the weapons at the CHP's disposal.

I was one who got a ride in a Camaro. To simply say that it was a high speed run on the track does not give these instructors justice. While we did hit speeds of 130 MPH the primary purpose of the demonstration was showing precise control with skids and oversteer. And what a demonstration it was – with the instructors demonstrating

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San Simeon (from page 1)

So you tell the secretary that you'd be delighted to come and she says to meet at the station at 6:00 PM – you'll go to San Luis Obispo where Mr. Hearst will meet all of you with a fleet of black limos to take you on the rough roads to San Simeon.

You will have such a weekend that you will devote a chapter to it in your memoirs decades later.

So, fast forward to today. I am planning on taking the Sacramento Section to Hearst Castle on the weekend of September 18-19, 2004. Why such an early notice? Well, if you don't have tickets – or you try to buy them too late, there's no point in going down there because they are sold out months in advance. I went down one foggy November day thinking I'd get a ticket and they were gone.

We'll attend the evening tour – which takes you back to that Friday evening I was telling you about 70 years ago. There will be dozens of volunteers all dressed in period costumes ready to welcome us that Saturday night.

Cost for the evening tour is \$30 – I will require it with a *deadline of July 23*. That following Monday the reservations people open up that evening to the general public and the *spaces fill up fast*. If you don't have your castle reservation to me by July 23 you will not be going with us. If I don't have at least 10 people we will not be going.

What else will we be doing? MBCA Central Coast Section members Brian and Carole Glusovich have a treat for us. Carole is a local docent and she will take us down the beach for a close look at some 4,000 lb elephant seals.

Hotels will be on you separately; I like to stay at what is a Motel 6 that is a converted Holiday Inn or something similar. Room rate is about \$70 for 2. I will arrange a lunch on the way down, Saturday dinner & a Sunday lunch. Plan on another check to us for \$50 or so for the meals. Hotel is separate. I'll give those who have reserved a list of hotels in the area. Sunday, in addition to seeing the Elephant Seals we may have a nice drive through the beautiful Paso Robles wine country. Or visit the "un Castle" – a place called, believe it or not, Nit Wit Ridge in Cambria. Like the castle, you have to see this place to believe it. A Section member knows of someone with an impressive private Mercedes collection – no promises but I'll see if we can visit that.

If we don't have 10 people by July 23, I'll contact those who have reserved to let them know the trip will be cancelled. Your checks will be returned to you.

I thought it'd be nice to have a lunch on the way down at Nipentha, the beautiful restaurant at Big Sur that is on a cliff overlooking the ocean. In reading the web site they expect us to show up within 30 minutes of our reservation so you can imagine that planning – and leaving on time – is essential!

If you don't get a ticket early you can't go. If we don't have at least 10 we can't go. Once I get 10 reservations I'll start planning it to the completion. The rest is up to you!

Bill Brandt

CHP Event (from page 3)

precise control even while doing 360 degree spins!

I exclaimed to my driver that I couldn't believe that they got to do this stuff and get paid for it. Then Jason told me how they earn their money – riding in the passenger seat and taking the wheel at 100+ MPH when a cadet freezes or does something that will cause an accident.

One thing we were told – if a suspect chooses to flee for a routine stop they are usually hiding something a lot more serious than a traffic ticket.

We saw why the men and women of the California Highway Patrol have the respect of law enforcement agencies around the world.

My thanks go to Commissioner Helmick – and the officers of the CHP – for truly giving us the red carpet treatment. Thanks to John Dupriest for arranging this.

Bill Brandt

Tahoe Concours and Rally Through the Back Door - Sunday, July 25th

Name _____ Phone# _____

Lunch will be a choice of: Western Tri-Tip _____ BBQ Rotisserie Chicken _____
Open Face Hot Turkey _____ Vegetarian Lasagna _____

Served with your choice of soup or salad, mashed potatoes, vegetables, coffee, tea or soft drink.

Desert will be a choice of: Cheesecake _____ Chocolate Cake _____

All for the grand sum of \$20.00 per person. _____ x \$20.00 = _____

You hosts are: Hank & Anne Pezzetti 916-687-4792 11371 Randolph Rd. Wilton, CA 95693

Make checks to MBCA Sacramento Section

San Simeon Evening Tour September 18-19 (tour ticket only)
You will be contacted once rest of plans finished

Name _____ ***Phone*** _____

Number of tickets @ \$30.00 _____

Host Bill Brandt (916) 399-1736 5910 Gloria Drive Sacramento CA 95822

Make checks to MBCA Sacramento Section



Welcome New Members

Dan Prather	Placerville CA
Sherrie & Richard Hill	Reno
John Keech DO	Chico
Rick Thompson	Chico
Steve & Joni Branstetter	Redding, CA
Sarvesh & Kookoo Mathur	Folsom
Bruce & Christine Forsterer	El Dorado Hills CA
Curtis Schumann	El Dorado Hills CA
Elaine & George Craven	S Lake Tahoe
Brian Wellesley	Reno
Anthony S. Milevsky	Sacramento
Kent Kohler	Sacramento
Gregory N. Boggs	Sacramento
Gerald W. Garner	Rocklin
Jeff & Sherron Egner	Grass Valley
Daniel & Deborah Catherwood	Sacramento

Order your MBCA name badge for \$7 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 • 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	

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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
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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
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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

280 CE Coupe 1980, cold air, service records, michelin radials, smog'd, nice clean example of collectable coupe.

Call 916-771-4476 for details. \$3850.00

1999 E430 Brilliant Silver 77,000 miles. Every option except GPS. Custom made front sheepskin seat covers. Sunroof. Always garaged. Excellent condition.

\$28,000
(916) 481-6910



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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