



the **STAR** capitol

The MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB of America • Sacramento Section Nov-Dec 2009

Calendar Of Events

**Christmas Party
December 12, 2009
Kevin McKnight
916-721-1579**

Christmas Party December 12, 2009 by Kevin McKnight

Sing to the tune of "Holly Jolly Christmas"

Have a Holly Jolly Christmas.
It's the best time of the year.
I don't know if there'll be snow.
The Party's at Little Prague this year.
Have a Holly Jolly Christmas.
It's in Davis, just down the street.
At 6:30 you know, we'll say Hello.
And have a little treat.
Oh Ho the Mistletoe,
Hung where you can see.
At 7:00 pm dinner's there for you,
Select just one you see.
Have a Holly Jolly Christmas.
And in case you didn't hear.
Mark you calendars for Dec 12th,
It's a Saturday, this year!

That's right, the Mercedes Club of Sacramento's Christmas Party will be Saturday, December 12 at Little Prague in Davis. We'll gather at 6:30pm for no host cocktails and perhaps some caroling. Our host Vaclav Burger, will provide some hor d'ouvres. At 7:00 pm we'll adjourn for dinner with your choice from four selections:

- 1) Fried vegetarian crepe stuffed with spinach, mushroom, bell pepper, served with mashed potato, cream mushroom-lemon sauce
Or
- 2) Chicken breast stuffed with prosciutto and brie cheese, served with czech fried potato and light chicken sauce.
Or
- 3) Pork Jaegerschnitzel, served with mushroom sauce and warm german potato salad with dill.
Or
- 4) Pork Roast with red cabbage , gravy, czech dumplings

Continued on page 5



President's Message

by: Hank Pezzetti

Next year our activity calendar will be rather full.

Tireless ((!?) – ed.) Bill Brandt is in the process of launching our own First Sunday Drive, similar to the First Sunday Drive in the Bay Area. If any of you have attended their First Sunday Drives, they are a lot of fun, but not as formal as some of the events our sections have put together in the past. Just like the S.F. Section does, we'll be having a First Sunday Drive every month. Anybody from any Section is welcome - and non-club members are welcomed, too.

We still have to work out the technical details with our capable webmaster, Craig Griffith.

To finish off this year, Kevin McKnight will again be hosting our Christmas Event in December, details of which can be found in this newsletter.

We will be having a board planning meeting next week to further discuss next year's events. Bill attended the SF Section's Planning Meeting last week, and they will have a representative at our meeting. For the first time our 2 Sections will set their event dates so either member can attend the other's event.

I personally will be hosting two events; one will be a back roads trip to Bodega Bay, probably in April, you know the kind our cars are built to drive.

Our annual Columbia trip will probably be in July, depending on when the Sierra Reparatory Theater goes dark.

I am sure that most of you have heard by now that the Von Housen Auto Group has repurchased their old facility in Sacramento. They plan a massive remodeling of that location starting very soon. Their Service Manager at El Dorado Hills has also contacted us about getting a lot more active with the Club than they have been in the past couple of years. Alan Wrenn

and I met with Chris Roth last week to discuss how we could accomplish that. Alan will work directly with Chris and we have already tentatively set up a Tech session probably January 23rd at the El Dorado Hills Facility. Details to follow later, in the next newsletter.

There have been a lot of emails and phone conferences going on between the Northern CA sections and our Regional Director Jack Weir.

MBCA National is coming up with some big changes in the coming year. For one thing they like Robert Schilling's idea of a First Sunday Drive and want to implement it throughout the country.

Which means wherever you are you can see an interesting part of your region by just contacting the local Section. Robert has been having his First Sunday Drive for over 3 years now with great success.

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

Empire Mine Rally

On October 10th, 2009, members of the Sacramento Section attended a rally from Auburn to Grass Valley, CA. Our rally masters Mark and Kim Reese laid out a course along roads that Mark and Kim, foothill residents for decades, had never previously driven.

Over the decades, the Sacramento Section has had some spectacular and memorable rallies, that this rally was no different. Along the way, we answered questions about cat condominiums, the price of an oat hay bale, with even a cryptic question about martini glasses (answer – part of the gate iron work on a house).

We learned about the phased array at Beale AFB – one of 3 in the U.S. and capable of monitoring space traffic, and drove through the pioneer town of Smartville. We drove along the original Emigrant Trail.

Once we arrived at the Empire Mine, we had a tour of the grounds by a docent. The mine was the longest-running gold mine in California, closing only in 1956. It is almost 12,000' deep with 360 miles of tunnels. We toured the home of the mine owner, which reminded me of the glory and splendor of Virginia City NV in her heyday.

Lunch was at Goombas, a nice Italian restaurant.

The winners of the rally were John and Joyce Dupriest. Second place was Kristopher Summitt, while third place went to Sandy Reese.

Unless you have planned one of these you probably aren't aware of the many miles driven and the time involved. Mark told me that he and Kim drove the course 4 times and spent 50 hours in the car before the questions were ready.

Mark said that the reward came when he saw how many happy people we had! Thanks go to Mark and Kim Reese for hosting this rally.

Bill Brandt

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Mercedes-Benz

We've Lost A Friend In The Coast Guard

As I have become older I have become aware of 2 things. First, life is fragile. Second, true kindness is doing something for others without any expectation of repayment or personal benefit.

For several years, I thought it would be nice for our Section to get a tour of the Coast Guard Air Station in Sacramento. We've all seen their immaculate white and red C130 planes over McClellan. I was put in touch with their public affairs officer, Lt. Adam Bryant, who invited us as his guests on February 21st. I was appreciative knowing in a post-9/11 world this was a rarity.

While there, Adam gave us an orientation of the Coast Guard's mission from Sacramento, and patiently answered all of our questions. He then escorted us out onto the tarmac where we were allowed to see his "office", his C130. Sacramento

Section members suddenly were all transformed into 12-year-old children while touring the plane, all thanks to our host.



On October 29th at around 7:10 PM, he and his crew were doing what the Coast Guard does – trying to help other people in trouble. They were looking for a lost boater from Santa Catalina Island. They collided with a Marine Corps Super Cobra helicopter on a separate mission about 15 miles east of San Clemente Island. The circumstances of the crash are still being investigated. Adam was the co-pilot. He was 28 years old. Our condolences go to both their families and the military families of these good men and women.

Coast Guard C130 Crew

Lt. Cmdr. Che Barnes, Lt. Adam Bryant, Chief Aviation Maintenance Technican John F. Seidman, Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class Carl P. Grigonis, AET2 Monica L. Beacham, AMT2 Jason S. Moletzsky, & AMT3 Danny R. Kreder II

Marine Corps Super Cobra crew:

Maj. Samuel Leigh and 1st Lt. Thomas Claiborne

Bill Brandt

First Sunday Drives - First Sacramento Drive- December 6th, 2009 Arrive at 9:00, Leave at 10:00

San Francisco Section President Robert Schilling had a brilliant idea 3 years ago. He decided on his own to have a monthly event independent of his Section's events with only 2 provisions. First, it would always held on the first Sunday of the month. Second, any owner of a Mercedes Benz was welcomed. Over these 3 years, The First Sunday Drives have been very flexible – a few have been weekend drives but most are 2-3 hour drives.

You don't have to send in any reservations. No checks. Just show up if you want. **All communication is through the web site and email – not the newsletter.** You sign up to get email announcements, and they will come monthly with a Google map showing you the drive. Join at the beginning or at any part of the drive! There is usually a lunch at the end but that is optional – no host.

Because I have been busy getting this newsletter out and planning the drive, I haven't had time to talk with our capable webmaster, **Craig Griffith**, on modifying our Sacramento Section website. **But it's coming.** If you'd like details of this drive, **for this time only**, send me an email to CapitolStar@sbcglobal.net, and I'll send you the Google Map and starting point for the drive Dec 6. Once we get our web site going, I will use your address to email you the sign up provisions, and the rest of the time it will be fairly automated. *So Dec 6 may include just me or a 100 of us.* That is the concept! I have some ideas for drives next year but I need to plan 12! **I need your help with suggestions.**

Bill Brandt

Christmas Party (Continued)

Each dinner comes with a choice of Salad or Soup du jour. This can be requested as we are seated. Each dinner comes with a dessert of warm Apple Strudel with vanilla sauce. Yes Virginia, coffee and tea are included! As is our custom, please bring and unwrapped gift for donation to Sacramento Children's Home.

All this for only \$30.00/person. Please have reservations and checks made out to MBCA Sacto Section and sent in by December 5. **Little Prague - 330 'G' Street Davis, Ca 95616**

Best way to go is:

Take interstate 80 to Davis, exit at Richards Blvd towards downtown (North)

Cross under Railroad bridge and turn right at 1st Street, stop light.

Follow 1st street around as it will put you on 'G' Street.

There is some street parking in front and also in the parking lot next door at the ACE Hardware.

Frohe Weihnacht!

Kevin McKnight

badenia@mindspring.com

December 12, 2009 6:30 PM Christmas Party

____ Fried vegetarian crepe stuffed with spinach, mushroom, bell pepper, served with mashed potato, cream mushroom-lemon sauce

____ Chicken breast stuffed with prosciutto and brie cheese, served with czech fried potato and light chicken sauce.

____ Pork Jaegerschnitzel, served with mushroom sauce and warm german potato salad with dill.

____ Pork Roast with red cabbage , gravy, czech dumplings

Each dinner comes with a choice of Salad or Soup du jour. This can be requested as we are seated.

Each dinner comes with a dessert of warm Apple Strudel with vanilla sauce.

Please have reservations and checks @ \$30.00 made out to MBCA Sacto Section and sent in by **December 5.**

Kevin McKnight

8228 Greenland Ct. Citrus Heights, Ca 95610

Call 916-721-1579 for questions or comments.

Suggestions for the Sacramento Children's Home

You are not required to bring anything; these are simply suggestions of what they need

\$10 and Under

Art supplies-Construction paper, paints, brushes
Blank Journals, Diaries, Photo albums
Board Games
Stationery and Pens
Makeup, cosmetic bags, manicure sets
Clips, bows, ribbons, ponytail holders
Earrings or bracelets
Comic books (suitable for children)
Snap-together models
Flashlights and batteries
Books

\$25 and under

Bike helmets (large sizes)
RT Passes
Gift certificates for entertainment-Movies, miniature golf
Gift certificates to Best Buy
Popular Videos and DVD's (G and PG rated)
Sports, equipment, footballs, basketballs, volleyballs
Clock radios
Wallets
Pajamas and robes
Logo Sweatshirts (colleges, teams)

\$50 and Under

Gift Certificates to clothing stores
Gift Certificates to JoAnn's Fabrics to make welcome pillows for new residents
Watches
Remote control cars
Personal CD players with headsets
Tupperware sets
Kitchen utensils, towels, hot pads, etc.
Skateboards
Twin Mattress pads
Twin Sheet sets
Bath towel sets

A Message from The National Office

Starting in November '09 with every email and address update that we receive at the NBO, (either by website, phone, email or snail mail) we will send a 10% Off Coupon for one item in the Club Store. One coupon per member will be sent electronically (so it must include a valid email address). Please send these updates to Geni at geni@mbca.org Remember, incorrectly mailed items cost the Club money!"



Welcome New Members

Stephen and Vicki Childs	Placerville
Mike Coutrakis	Fernley, NV
Mernon Lollich	Rio Dell, CA
John McAllister	Fallon, NV
Daniel Neumann	Elk Grove
Ronald and Carolyn Phillips	Reno
James Weaver	Reno
Charles West	Garden Valley, CA
Kimberly and Edward Hocking	West Sacramento
Jesse Ramos	Folsom
William Toensing	Nevada City, CA

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

Mercedes-Benz Club of America

Sacramento Section Officers • 2007-2009

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 Brandt.....(916) 399-1736

Historian Open
 Sunshine Chair Peggy Nickerson.....(916) 427-5686
 Webmaster Craig Griffith (916) 988-2328

MBCA Western Region

Regional Director.....Jack Weir.....(925) 899-4298

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?

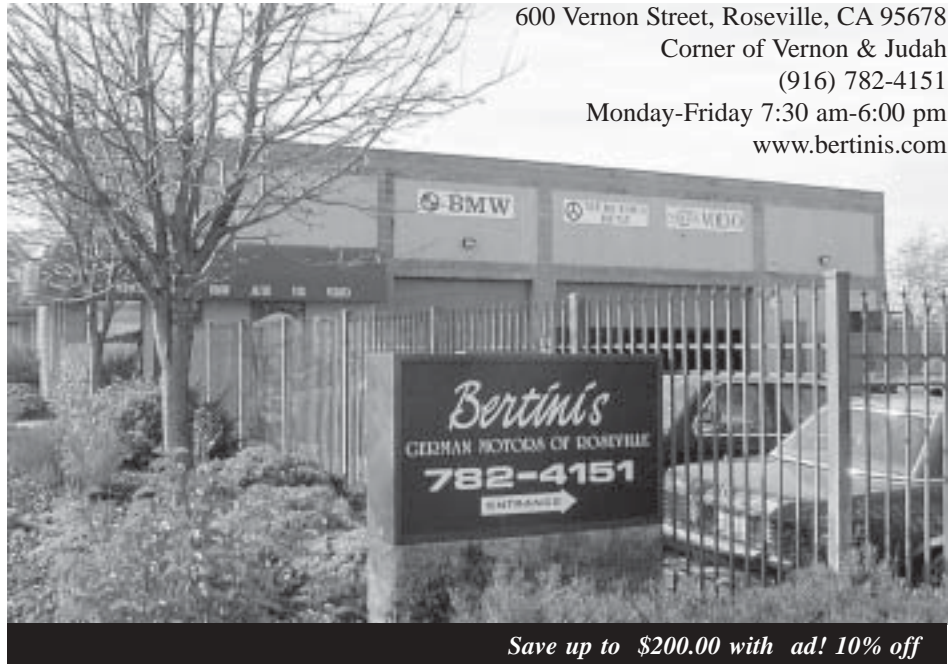
You must contact MBCA National at the above address or phone number. *The address list comes to us monthly from National. We cannot make changes locally.*

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 350 members. Send a copy of your ad, including your name and phone number, to Bill Brandt, 5910 Gloria Drive, Sacramento CA 95822 or email CapitolStar@sbcglobal.net. Because of complaints from past sellers of overseas **scams** think twice about including your **email address**.



**Set of Mercedes OEM Wheels
14x6.5
Includes chrome lugs and
caps in new condition.
\$450
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