



# The Houston Star

MBCA | Houston Section Newsletter

September  
2011

[www.mbca.org/houston](http://www.mbca.org/houston)

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## Driver Source Tour

By: Joseph Middleton

A few months ago, Houston Section Member Norm Glorioso hosted a Pagoda Owners' meet and greet at Driver Source (seen in the photo above). Norm's event was so nice that it was decided by the Club to host a similar event at Driver Source for the Houston Section Members.

About 25 Houston Section Members gathered at Driver Source to view the collection of rare and interesting cars being stored, sold and repaired on the premises. The event even attracted a few BMWCCA members.

There was a little bit of something for everyone to swoon over at Driver Source. Porsches, BMW Isettas, MGs, Buicks, Jaguars, Ferraris, and of course, Mercedes-Benzes. While there were a few Pagodas and a few 190SLs on hand, the real showstopper was a 1956 300SL just purchased from Pebble Beach. The gray on red California beauty lured everyone over to gaze at its fine lines as it rested comfortably in the climate controlled confines. Also present from the Mercedes-Benz side were a 51,000 mile 560SEC and a 1984 500SEL Euro.

(See photos on page 5)

# President's Message

Hi M-B Enthusiasts;

Thanks everyone whom braved the heat this past weekend to attend the awesome tour we were given at Driver's Source. They've an amazing collection of exotics, collectibles and rolling works of art. There are hundreds of terms you could pull out of Webster's but "Wow" is the one that kept coming to mind as well as heard throughout the visit. The staff were exceedingly pleasant as we milled about their showrooms answering any and all questions especially about those in the vault (more on that later). Thanks Joseph for organizing. I hope we'll be going back next year.

We've a few events coming up: Fall (somewhere) Social Dinner at Benji's on Washington the 11th of September. Oktoberfest at TGA as well as The Fall Autrocross coming up soon thereafter in October/November. Mark your calendars. See you there.

Damon Stith | President | [Mercedes-Benz Club of America](#) | Houston Section



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## Serve on your MBCA Board

Every September, MBCA | Houston elects and re-elects Officers and Board Members. This is **YOUR** Club. **YOU** should have a say in how things are run and perhaps most importantly, you should have a hand in running your Club. Fresh faces and fresh ideas are welcome and will help us avoid complacency and stagnancy. If you are a committed person and have a desire to serve in your Club, please step up by sending an e-mail with your name and the position which you are interested in holding to [mbca.houston@gmail.com](mailto:mbca.houston@gmail.com). Please note that these positions are open to MBCA members ONLY.

While all positions are open for nomination, we currently have vacancies in the following positions:

**Vice President**  
**Board of Directors (Director At Large)**  
**Activities Chair**  
**Advertising Chair**  
**Hospitality Chair**  
**Official Club Photographer**  
**Technical Chair**  
**Website Chair (Webmaster)**

While a slate of nominees has been published in this issue of the *Houston Star*, nominations will also be taken from the floor at the Members Appreciation/Election Dinner (see page 8 for details).

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## MBCA | Houston Section welcomes the following new members to the Club!

*Welcome!*

Rhon Dubler of Houston, TX

Dena Jules of Lake Charles, LA

Zee Klein of Houston, TX

Dale Rasche of Cypress, TX

Daryl Sato of Katy, TX

Nancy and Neil Wanamaker of Spring, TX

Andrew Woelfling of Montgomery, TX

*Willkommen!*

## MBCA | Houston Section thanks these loyal Club members

Wes Chain of Katy, TX

Gerald and Helaine Grogin of Houston, TX

Greg Kunz of Beaumont, TX

Vicki Lewis of League City, TX

Lee and Beverley Martin of Houston, TX

Kerry and Loretta Muldrow of Houston, TX

Cecil Rives of Burton, TX

Calvin Robinson Jr. of Houston, TX

Steven and Marjorie Russell of The Woodlands, TX

Jackson and Brenda Seltzer of New Caney, TX

Damon Stith of Houston, TX

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# CASARI'S

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281-469-3302 - Phone  
281-890-2637 - Fax

12470 Windfern Road  
Houston, Texas



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3417 Edloe St. Houston, Texas 77027  
Tel. (713) 850-8282 Fax (713) 850-8818

# Just a few Driver Source Photos

Photos courtesy of Gerry Van Zandt



View the entire album here: <http://tinyurl.com/3h9mtd6>



## F&J EUROPEAN AUTO PARTS INC.

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## Oktoberfest!!!

It's almost time for TGA's 17th consecutive Oktoberfest. Come out for free German food, free German beer, and live German music. Stay tuned for the date.

## Mercedes B-Class gets sleeker look, new technology

By: Paul McVeigh of Automotive News



Mercedes-Benz today released details of the new B class that will debut at the Frankfurt auto show next month. The latest B class is lower than the current car, giving it a sleeker appearance.

Mercedes says the car will have more new technology than the brand has ever offered before when launching a new-generation car. "No model change in the history of Mercedes-Benz has ever seen so many new developments introduced in one fell swoop," said Thomas Weber, the brand's development chief, in a statement.

The B class will be offered with an all-new series of 1.6-liter, four-cylinder, gasoline direct-injection engines (internally known as M270) with 122 hp or 156 hp.

The car also gets a new four-cylinder turbodiesel derived from the OM651 units used in the brand's bigger models, including the S class and C class. The engine's capacity has been downsized to 1.8 liters and two power options, 109 hp and 136 hp, will be available.

All the engines have fuel-saving stop-start systems and can be paired with a new seven-speed dual-clutch transmission or a new six-speed manual transmission.

The B class will also offer a radar-based collision warning system with braking assistance that Mercedes says is a first in its segment and lowers the risk of rear-end accidents. The system uses visual and acoustic warnings to alert a distracted driver to potential hazards and prepares the brakes for a precise response.

The car also offers Mercedes' PreSafe system for the first time. The system was first launched in the S class in 2002.

Read more: <http://www.autonews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110825/COPY01/308259917/1193#ixzz1WL9Ux7mg>

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## Technical Q & A

**Question:** My car sometimes does not start when I turn the key the first time. It does not even make an attempt to start. Usually I can fix it by jiggling the gear selector and trying again but lately it seems to be getting worse. Please help me fix this aggravating problem!

**Answer:** Judging by the description given, your shifter must be sloppy and loose feeling. First you need to replace the shifter bushings (I covered this 2 months ago in the July 2011 issue). If the problem still persists you need to replace the Neutral Safety Switch on the outside of the transmission. Don't worry, it's an easy job that doesn't require opening or removing the transmission. You may be able to clean and repair your old switch if it's not broken. Good luck!

If you have any questions, please send your requests to the *Houston Star* or contact me directly. I can be reached at [Saleem@JohansenUSA.com](mailto:Saleem@JohansenUSA.com) or call me at 281.883.3792.

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## Daimler Heritage: September 2011

### 125 years ago – on 5 September 1886:

The newspaper “Generalanzeiger der Stadt Mannheim” dedicated a comprehensive feature to the patented motor car designed by Benz and announced that “Mr Benz is now to begin building such carriages.”

### 50 years ago – from 21 September to 1 October 1961:

Premieres at the International Motor Show in Frankfurt/Main included the Mercedes-Benz 300 SE (W 112), featuring automatic transmission, air suspension and dual-circuit brake system on front and rear wheels as standard. The 190 and 190 D models (W 110) and the new 220 SE Cabriolet (W 111) were also unveiled.

### 25 years ago – on 1 September 1986:

Daimler-Benz offered all petrol engine-powered passenger car models with a three-way catalytic converter as standard.

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## Members Appreciation and Election Dinner

Were it not for our members, the Club would literally be nothing. It is through your continued support and attendance at our events that we continue to exist as a beneficial part of the Houston Mercedes-Benz Community. To show our appreciation for you, and to also give you a chance to elect our 2011-2012 Officers and Board of Directors, the Club invites you to come our Members Appreciation and Election Dinner on Sunday, September 11, 2011 at 5pm at Benjy's on Washington Avenue.

Benjy's is located at 5922 Washington Ave. Houston, TX 77007.

Payment will be taken at the dinner. Payment options include cash and major credit cards. Please send all inquiries and RSVPs to [editorjoseph@gmail.com](mailto:editorjoseph@gmail.com). The RSVP deadline is Wednesday, September 7.



**Please see the next page for the slate of nominees.**

## Houston Section Slate of Nominees for 2011-2012 Board Election

### **Officers**

President: Joseph Middleton

Vice President: Gerry Van Zandt

Treasurer: Gerry Grogin

Secretary: Norm Glorioso

Activities Chair: Nina Midway

Membership Chair: Joseph Middleton

Newsletter Editor: Joseph Middleton

Technical Chair: Ali Durvesh

### **Board of Directors**

Marvin Boyd

Jeffrey Cooke

Mike Haney

Chuck Wyatt

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## Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week



New York, NY (August 26, 2011)- In just a couple weeks Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week will take over New York City as thousands of fashion insiders gather to see the newest collections of over 95 designers. To mark its one year anniversary at Lincoln Center, Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week will debut a new façade as well as numerous upgrades throughout the venue.

The grand entrance will see a new façade that will offer versatility for seasons to come. Along with a sleeker, sexier look, the façade will also have the potential to integrate digital multimedia, offering designers and sponsors the opportunity for optimum exposure. “We decided to evolve the design this season as we continually make improvements to the facility. We’re excited about the new more modern look of the façade, which juxtaposes itself against the more traditional architecture of Lincoln Center, as well as the flexibility it will provide over the next couple of seasons to explore digital integration and other technology driven enhancements,” said Peter Levy, SVP Managing Director, IMG Fashion Worldwide.

In addition, the Lobby tent will also see numerous enhancements. Lighting panels will be brought down to create a more intimate feel and clear panels will be installed that will allow for more natural light throughout. The layout of the lobby has also been modified to better allow guests to enjoy sponsor activations, including the debuts of the 2012 Mercedes-Benz C63 AMG Coupe and SLS AMG Roadster.

The Spring 2012 Collections will feature Nicholas K, Porter Grey, BCBGMAXAZRIA, Richard Chai, Supima, Tadashi Shoji, Candela, EMERSON, Project Runway, Electric Feathers, Luca Luca, General Idea, Rebecca Taylor, Mara Hoffman, Helen Yarmak, Tommy Hilfiger Men’s, Nicole Miller, Joy Cioci, Concept Korea, Cynthia Rowley, Academy of Art University, Falguni & Shane Peacock, Ruffian, Lacoste, Pink Tartan, Jill Stuart, Son Jung Wan, ADAM, Vivienne Tam, Farah Angsana, Honor, Charlotte Ronson, Monique Lhuillier, Rafael Cennamo, Eva Minge, Venexiana, Katya Leonovich, Lela Rose, Derek Lam, DKNY, Tracy Reese, L.A.M.B., Diane von Furstenberg, Jen Kao, Y-3, GUISTEM, Custo Barcelona, Tommy Hilfiger, Timo Weiland, Jenny Packham, Callula Lillibelle, Carolina Herrera, Carlos Miele, Rebecca Minkoff, pammella roland, Donna Karan New York, VLOV - QingQing Wu, Yeohlee, Norman Ambrose, Betsey Johnson, Jad Ghandour, Perry Ellis, Michael Angel, Tory Burch, J.Crew, Badgley Mischka, Vera Wang, Zang Toi, Diesel Black Gold, Bibhu Mohapatra, Hervé Léger by Max Azria, Argentine Designers, IMPROVD, Tibi, Narciso Rodriguez, Malan Breton, Norma Kamali, Rochambeau, Michael Kors, Nanette Lepore, J. Mendel, Nomia, Chado Ralph Rucci, Milly by Michelle Smith, Shamask, Anna Sui, Juan Carlos Obando, Elie Tahari, b Michael AMERICA, Ralph Lauren, Guli, Sergio Davila, Calvin Klein Collection, Naeem Khan, MADE IN AFRICA: by ARISE MAGAZINE, and Elene Cassis.

Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week is the premier fashion event in North America and at the forefront of fashion events globally. Each September and February industry experts make their way to Lincoln Center to see what’s in store for the following fashion season. Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week is home to leading designers who travel from across the world to show their collections alongside the most important American designers working in the industry, including designers from Argentina, Canada, China, England, Guatemala, Korea, Lebanon, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela and Russia.

Title sponsor Mercedes-Benz is joined by DHL, American Express®, Maybelline New York, TRESemmé, W Hotels Worldwide, Fiber One® Bars, ideeli, FIJI Water and AriZona Beverages as well as the following media outlets: The New York Times, Women’s Wear Daily and Getty Images.

## Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week, continued...

Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week is an IMG event.

The Spring 2012 Collections will take place September 8th-15th, 2011.

Press and Industry Registration is now open at [registration.mbfashionweek.com](http://registration.mbfashionweek.com)

Official schedule is available at [www.mbfashionweek.com/schedule](http://www.mbfashionweek.com/schedule)

For more information please visit us online at [www.mbfashionweek.com](http://www.mbfashionweek.com)

Follow us on Twitter @mbfashionweek and on the Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week Facebook!

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Contact:

Andrew Serrano

IMG Fashion

212.774.4437

[Andrew.Serrano@imgworld.com](mailto:Andrew.Serrano@imgworld.com)

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## Kahn Design ML350 Bluetech powered by Brabus

By: Automotive Rhythms



Afzal Kahn's alliance with the Mercedes ML350 and Brabus offers a whole new breadth of excitement, taking the German SUV into another new dimension. His philosophy is to combine mechanical perfection and exterior beauty with modifications serving to coax greater performance from each custom vehicle. Complete in a soft metallic pearl white finish, this particular ML350 is the last one remaining of ten originally built. Dedicated to the creation of luxury bespoke vehicles, Kahn redesigns the ordered monotony of mass produced vehicles and rebuilds them into individually tailored creations.

See more info at: <http://www.automotiverhythms.com/customization/1675.html>

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## North Texas Section: Do It Yourself Tech Session

What: "Do-It-Yourself" Tech Session

When: Saturday, September 17, 2011

Where: Ewing Autohaus

4464 West Plano Parkway, Plano, TX 75093

Time: 8:00am to 12:00 Noon

Dress: Work clothes

Bring: Tools, Parts, Enthusiasm, Questions

Next up on our 2011 "Do-It-Yourself" Tech Session season is Ewing Autohaus in Plano. Autohaus opens up their facility to us for the entire day, 8:00am - 3:00pm and mans it with their knowledgeable technicians and provides hot coffee, friendly advice and an opportunity to make some new friends, meet a mechanic and learn a lot about your car.

You don't have to be a gear head to participate. If you are just interested in learning more about your car or want to see if you can identify that little squeak, sign up, stop by and ask questions. Everyone who attends always leaves knowing more than when they walked through the door.

Email our Technical Director Hyatt Cheek at [mbcantx@gmail.com](mailto:mbcantx@gmail.com), or ring him up at: 214/327-6890 to reserve your spot for \$10.00, otherwise, its \$15.00 at the door, so, it's best to reserve by phone and stop by on Saturday; the earlier, the better. Autohaus' state-of-the-art service facility and parts department will open to us for four hours.

# Mercedes Marketplace

## 2001 Mercedes-Benz CLK320

2001 Mercedes CLK320 Convertible (W208 Chassis) is finished in Brilliant Silver Clearcoat Metallic. Original Paint, no accidents. All the body panels are straight with no major dents/dings. This car was purchased by my mother about 4 years ago as a gift to herself for beating cancer. She typically drives her W126 every day, and the CLK only gets driven on the weekends. This car only has 58,700 miles on it.

16" Mercedes Benz Aluminum wheels, finished in factory silver, wrapped in a Matching Set of Goodyear Eagle LS H-Rated tires, the tires have less than 5,000 miles on them, and have plenty of tread left.

The black power fabric top opens and closes normally. The top is in great shape, and the car has always been garaged when not used.

The engine is the 3.2L 18 valve, Single Overhead Cam (SOHC) V6 (M112 - E32) with 218 hp. The engine starts and runs flawlessly. This engine is mated to a smooth shifting 5 speed automatic transmission. There are no leaks, funny noises, or fluid consumption. Car runs and drives great. The brakes work fine with no problem, no warpage, and no fading. Stops are straight and squeak free. The suspension is tight, squeak free and the car drives straight. We recently installed a brand new Interstate Battery (located in trunk), next to the full sized spare tire, which has never seen the ground.

The interior is finished in grey leather. Driver and passenger power seats both work fine with no problem with over tilt/slide for access to rear passengers. All power everything works. Dual zone climate control works fine with no problems at all. Nice condition inside for a 10 year old car. There is a trunk mounted CD changer.

The car has two keys, one original key as well as a new style chrome key.

This car hasn't seen the shop for anything since we owned it (except a flat repair) and I believe my mom has driven the car less than 5000 miles in the three years that she's had it. Texas Registration and Inspection are current.

Asking \$11,500 and entertaining all reasonable offers.

Email: [weschain@gmail.com](mailto:weschain@gmail.com)



## Mercedes-Benz parts for sale

### Location: SW Houston/Missouri City

Used and new parts for sale for Mercedes-Benz autos ranging from the 1960s-1980s. Parts include **Pagoda Euro headlights**, 2nd generation W126 SEL/SDL **velour interior parts**, M102 oil filters, 2 brand new W201 interior wood trim pieces, W201 right corner lamp, W201 front rotors & pads, plus more assorted MB parts.

You can take it all home for \$2100 obo, or you can buy the parts individually.

**Contact Angie for more info: 832-453-9698**

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## 1960s era Mercedes-Benz parts for sale

\* Set of 4 MB factory original alloys (14 X 6) with 195/70R14 Kelly Metric 600's mounted (<2000 miles).

They include the center hub covers and correct wheel nuts.

They are ready to bolt on and go - complete and great "driver" condition.

No damage to the metal (curb rash or otherwise).

I had been using these occasionally on my 280SL until I sold her. \$600.

\* Original steering wheel in black. Removed from 1968 280SL, but will fit many 1960's cars. Great condition, but not perfect. \$400 OBO.

\* Kangol 2-point seat belts and mounting hardware Black, no damage, but appear used. \$400 OBO.

\* Sevice manuals for cars between 1958 and 1969 (Big Blue Book). Different books (cover different topics). \$130 together.

\* Rubber door seals for W113 - both L&R. \$60

Will send photos upon request

Contact [sctripp@comcast.net](mailto:sctripp@comcast.net)

## 1983 Mercedes-Benz 380SL



# For Sale

**1983 Mercedes Benz 380SL above avg.,  
both tops, blue w/grey leather \$13,500**

**713-557-2741**

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**Hardtop for 1983 380SL or similar model**

Selling a dark green hard top with an ivory headliner that I no longer need (a long story). Very good condition. I am very flexible regarding price, i.e., make me an offer.

**Contact: Joe Fischer at: [joe.fischer-vbj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joe.fischer-vbj@sbcglobal.net) or (713) 850-1128.**



## MBCA | Houston Section

Joseph Middleton, Editor

### Officers

<b>President</b>	<b>Damon Stith</b> damstith@yahoo.com   832-265-6044
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<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Gerald Grogin</b> gerrygrogin@att.net   713-667-8979
<b>Membership Chair</b>	<b>Joseph Middleton</b> editorjoseph@gmail.com   713-487-8197
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Chuck Wyatt</b> ctwyatt@sbcglobal.net   281-469-7428

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<b>Nina Midway</b>	ninamidway@aol.com   281-686-2989

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Editor's Fax:	713-523-6341
Club Website:	<a href="http://www.mbca.org/houston">http://www.mbca.org/houston</a>

### Are you moving?

To change your address, visit the MBCA website at:  
<http://www.mbca.org>

### Let's keep in touch!

If your e-mail address has changed from that which you gave to MBCA when you joined, or if you just want to make sure you receive future newsletters, send your preferred e-mail address to [editorjoseph@gmail.com](mailto:editorjoseph@gmail.com), or update your info at:  
<http://www.mbca.org>

## 2011 Upcoming Events

### Members Appreciation/Election Dinner

September 11

### Oktoberfest at TGA

October

### Fall Autocross

November 13

### Holiday Brunch

December 4

## Board of Directors Meetings

September 6 and October 4

Board Meetings are **open to ALL MBCA | Houston Section members**. Board Meetings are held every 1st Tuesday of odd numbered months at 5:30 PM in the 2nd Floor Conference Room at Mercedes-Benz Greenway (3900 Southwest Freeway, Houston, TX 77027), unless otherwise noted.

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