



# The Houston Star

MBCA | Houston Section Newsletter

March  
2011

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

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**New Member Edward Yip and friend, Simone (L), chat with Secretary Renny Keener (R) at the 2011 New Members Dinner**

## The 2011 New Members Dinner

By: Joseph Middleton

Since February 2010, close to 60 people have joined the ranks of MBCA | Houston. The MBCA motto states we're "more than a car, we're a community". Our MBCA community in Houston continues to grow and we are glad to see this growth taking place. To honor these new community members, we hosted our Annual New Members Dinner. Most of the attendees for the dinner filed into Farrago at our start time of 5pm, a VERY timely group. After a while, more members started to trickle in until there were over 30 people present. Longtime members such as Richard Wilkins, Dr. J. Garcia and his wife, Celia Garcia were present to meet and greet our new members. The Board of Directors and Officers were represented by President Damon Stith, Secretary Renny Keener, Membership Chair and Newsletter Editor (and dinner organizer) Joseph Middleton, Treasurer Gerald Grogin and Board Member Marvin Boyd. Also in attendance were our usual crew of familiar faces, Bryan Postman, the Akruns and the Priests.

(See "Dinner" on page 5)

## President's Message

Hi M-B Enthusiasts,

I was very pleased at the number of attendees at the New Members Dinner; there were 30+ at Farragos in February. I'm sorry I didn't get a chance to talk with everyone and look forward to doing so at up coming events. Which starting in March on the 19th at Motorwerks, come learn about your ABS and cars equipped with ABC. Many of you whom have had recent S, CL, SL classes will know about he latter. Still to follow will be the Bluebonnet run, Autocross and the Centerville trip.

Kudos to the bowling team. I already hear talk of a rematch. I'm grateful for the participants and the organizers who brought this finally to fruition.

One of the most enjoyed events (Coffee N Cars) has been postponed until there can be a new location that can accommodate this growing car show. This event has been so well received that we've out grown both locations that have hosed. Stay tuned for further information.

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



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## First 2011 Tech Session at Motorwërks



The first Tech Session of 2011 will be at Motorwërks, located at 5704 Southwest Freeway between Chimney Rock and Fountainview on Saturday, March 19, 2011 at 10am. The topics of discussion will be ABS brakes, and the ABC-Airmatic air and hydraulic suspension. Donuts and beverages will be on hand. \$5 admission. For more info, contact Marvin Boyd. [mwboyd@embarqmail.com](mailto:mwboyd@embarqmail.com), 281-360-1766.

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

*Welcome!*

Mintcho Araktchiev of The Woodlands, TX

Jeffrey Cooke of Houston, TX

Thomas Itty of The Woodlands, TX

Alex Preston of Houston, TX

*Willkommen!*

**MBCA | Houston Section thanks these loyal Club members**

Peter Blom of Houston, TX

Roger Boulet of Deer Park, TX

Norm Glorioso of Spring, TX

Phillip Oswald of Houston, TX

E. Ray of Houston, TX

Hans Richter of Houston, TX

Michael Shaw of The Woodlands, TX

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## Dinner

(continued from page 1)

The new members themselves present at the dinner were Mintcho Araktchiev and friend Teodosi Kostov. Norm and Cathy Glorioso were on hand. The Gloriosos may be new, but they have already become regulars at Club events. Also present were John and Elaine Kosty, Thomas Kranjceovich (Thomas mentioned he's new to Houston, but not new to MBCA. Still, we'd like to recognize him and his beautiful W123!), Vicki and Mike Lewis, Mark and Mary Ann Marzec, Nina Midway, Bob Plante (a relatively new transplant to Houston), Frederick Wagner, Lyndsey Knight, Jeffrey Cooke, Edward Yip (one of our youngest MBCA members at age 20) and his friend, Simone. Our first time event attendees were presented with gifts of appreciation. Unfortunately, we ran a bit short, so we still owe Thomas and Edward their gifts.

Everyone enjoyed meeting our new members and we hope to see these new faces at upcoming events. Again, Welcome to MBCA | Houston! We're more than a car, we're a community.

Special thanks go out to the staff at Farrago for helping to make sure this event was a success.

## Tech Session with BMW CCA

F2's Fernando Alucema will open up the shop for our club members and cover many technical issues of interest. F2 Motorwerks is a BMW and Mercedes authorized workshop. Complimentary snacks and refreshments provided. Questions can be submitted until March 2.

The tech session will be on Saturday, March 5 from 8am-4pm. F2 Motorwerks is located at 14714-A Memorial Dr. (behind Hungry's)

To register, please e-mail your full name, car data (model and year), and a contact phone number to [adriana.diesen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:adriana.diesen@sbcglobal.net).



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## Did you know?

For every gift membership you purchase, and for every new member who lists you as their sponsor, you'll get a 1 month extension of your membership. 1 membership=1 month, and there's no limit! For example, if you tell 12 people about MBCA and all 12 join and list you as their sponsor, you get a 12 month extension. It's that easy. So spread the word about MBCA!

## Spring Autocross 2011

It's almost time for one of MBCA | Houston's most anticipated events...

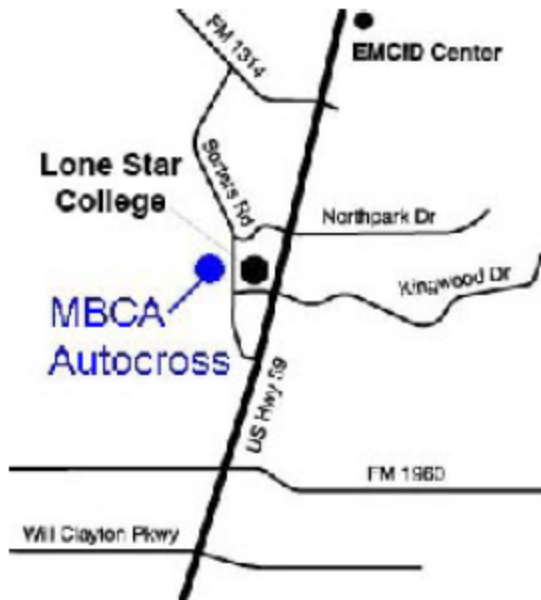
Spring Autocross 2011!



Family Fun!



Good food!



Most of all, good tire schreeching fun!

The autocross will be held on a Sunday this April (exact date TBA) at Lone Star College-Kingwood. Drivers should arrive by 12:30pm for lunch and a pre-event briefing, and the event begins at 1:00pm. Bring your family, blankets, lawn chairs and enjoy a BBQ lunch and some hands on automotive fun! Cost is \$10 per driver. Helmets will be provided, or you can bring your own helmet. To RSVP with the number of guests in your party, and/or for more information, contact Mike Haney at [mhaney@3dtriad.com](mailto:mhaney@3dtriad.com), or at 713-298-4580.

## Technical Q & A

**Question:** My mechanic tells me that there is a filter for the Power Steering on my car! (It's a 1987 190D) Is that really the case, or should I find a new mechanic?

**Answer:** Your mechanic speaks the truth. There is a small circular filter inside the power steering pump that should be changed periodically along with the power steering fluid. It retails for about \$15 at the dealer, part number 0004662104. 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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## Annual Bluebonnet Run



This year's Bluebonnet Run will be on Saturday, April 9, 2011. Participants are asked to gather in the parking lot at Gander Mountain, located between 290 and Hempstead Highway at Highway 6/FM 1960 (19820 Hempstead Highway) starting around 9am. We will leave Gander Mountain at 9:30am and proceed on our route which will take us through the scenic countryside between Houston and Austin to see the bluebonnets in bloom. We will make stops along the way, including a visit to the Central Texas Museum of Automotive History in Rosanky. Admission to the museum is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children ages 6-12, and free for kids ages 6 and under. After visiting the museum, we'll have lunch at one of the famous BBQ eateries in nearby Lockhart.

Please direct all inquiries and RSVP notices to Joseph Middleton.  
E-mail: [editorjoseph@gmail.com](mailto:editorjoseph@gmail.com)  
Phone: 713-487-8197

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# F-cell World Tour makes a stop in Houston

By: Joseph Middleton

On January 30, a fleet of Mercedes-Benz vehicles set off from Stuttgart on a trek to circumnavigate the globe in 125 days. While a round the world trip is not out of the ordinary, especially among makes such as Mercedes-Benz, what set this trip apart is that the featured vehicles on this trip were zero emission vehicles. Three Mercedes-Benz B-classes were modified to be propelled by an electric engine, which in turn was powered by a fuel cell. The fuel cell generates the electrical power on board from a chemical reaction between oxygen and hydrogen.



On February 25, the North American leg of the world tour began in Miami. From Miami, the crew drove to New Orleans where they were met by *The Star* editor, Gary Anderson. Gary would take the wheel of one of the F-cell powered B-classes as they made their journey from New Orleans to San Antonio. This leg necessitated a stop in Houston for refueling and driver rest, so the crew decided to assemble in Baytown, 25 miles east of Houston on I-10.



There wasn't much of an effort by Daimler to let people know of the F-cell World Tour's arrival in Baytown due to the fact that they needed to stay on schedule, but I found out somehow and sent the word out to our MBCA members. I was joined in Baytown on the evening of Monday, February 28th by MBCA members Tor Haugland (pictured at right in the orange shirt) and Bernard Middleton (not pictured). The latter was returning from a business trip to Beaumont and stopped on the way home to see these fascinating automobiles and meet Gary (pictured at right in the white shirt). Besides the F-cell, we were treated by the sight of the Mercedes-Benz Viano 3.5 minivan. The Viano (second picture from top) is a model that is not available for purchase in the U.S., so it was nice to see a Euro only model on these shores, complete with a European license plate on the front.



After meeting with Gary and Rosario Berretta of MBUSA (Berretta's title is General Manager of fuel cell operations for Mercedes-Benz Research and Development, North America) at the hotel in Baytown, we all went to the fueling facility a few miles away to see the F-cell cars up close. Upon arrival, we found the three, bright yellow cars in a fenced, industrial parking lot taking on hydrogen fuel from trucks provided by Linde AG for their next leg of the journey to Austin and then to San Antonio. We met with Dr. Stefan Reiff of Daimler AG. Dr. Reiff is on the Fuel Cell Drive Development team and showed us the inner workings of the F-cell B-class. After our short visit, it was time for Gary and the rest of the team to head back to the hotel to get ready for the next day's journey.



Special thanks to Gary Anderson and the entire F-cell World Tour team for allowing us the opportunity to check out this technological marvel and the wave of the future. Special thanks also go out to William Hopper, the Eastern Regional Director of MBCA for bringing this leg of the journey to my attention.

## Daimler Heritage: March 2011

### 125 years ago – on 8 March 1886:

Gottlieb Daimler ordered a coach from coachbuilder Wilhelm Wimpff & Sohn in Stuttgart, ostensibly as a birthday present for his wife, Emma. In the same year he had a high-speed engine fitted to the coach at the Maschinenfabrik Esslingen engine works, building his first four-wheel automobile in the process.

### 125 years ago – on 25 March 1886:

Gottlieb Daimler had his surface carburettor patented (German Reich patent office registration no. 36 811, issued on 16 September 1886).

### 110 years ago – from 25 to 29 March 1901:

At “Nice Week”, works driver Wilhelm Werner won the Nice – Salon – Nice race over a distance of 392 kilometres in a Mercedes 35 hp. Werner also won the Nice – La Turbie hill-climb race, clocking up an average speed of 51.4 km. The new car’s impressive wins prompted Paul Meyan, secretary-general of the Automobile Club of France, to write after the race: “Nous sommes entrés dans l’ère Mercédès” (“We have entered the Mercedes era”).

### 95 years ago – in the spring of 1916:

Benz & Cie. established an apprentices’ department with full-time instructors at its factory in Mannheim, initially offering 30 apprenticeship places and later 80. In July of the same year, DMG also established an apprentices’ department.

### 80 years ago – on 22 March 1931:

Manfred von Brauchitsch won the Nizza – La Turbie race.

### 60 years ago – in March, 1951:

A month after the end of production of the O 5000 omnibus, production of the O 6600 was shut down in Sindelfingen and transferred to Mannheim. Omnibus production was now concentrated at the Mannheim plant.

### 45 years ago – in March, 1966:

Production of the 300 SEL passenger car model (W 109 series) began at the Sindelfingen plant. Air suspension as standard and a 10 centimetre longer wheelbase distinguished the new model from the 300 SE.

### 30 years ago – on 2 March 1981:

A model O 305 test bus running on methanol was presented in Untertürkheim. Three days later a large-scale trial involving 30 methanol-fuelled 280 SE passenger cars began in Berlin as part of the “Alternative Drives” project backed by the Federal Ministry for Research and Technology.

### 30 years ago – from 5 to 15 March 1981:

The airbag and the belt tensioner were highlights of the Geneva International Motor Show as key elements in the field of passive safety. Daimler-Benz was the first manufacturer worldwide to present such features. From 20 July they were available for the driver and front passenger as optional extras in the S-Class saloons (W 126).

### 30 years ago – in March, 1981:

The new customer centre opened in Sindelfingen.

### 30 years ago – from 17 to 22 March 1986:

The newly developed T 2 large-capacity van line, also known internally as LN 1, was presented to the international press in Rome. It initially comprised models 507 D to 811 D, with a permissible gross vehicle weight ranging from 3.5 to 7.5 tonnes.

### 20 years ago – from 7 to 17 March 1991:

The 140 series of the Mercedes-Benz S-Class was unveiled at the Geneva International Motor Show, featuring the 300 SE/SEL, 400 SE/SEL, 500 SE/SEL and 600 SE/SEL models. In addition to a host of technical innovations, the new luxury saloon also presented the traditional Mercedes radiator grille in a new guise, featuring an integrated radiator and the star positioned on the bonnet.

### 15 years ago – from 7 to 17 March 1996:

As part of its product offensive, Mercedes-Benz presented three world firsts at the Geneva International Motor Show: the estate models of the C-Class (202 series) and the E-Class (210 series) plus the people carriers of the V-Class (638 series) based on the Vito van.

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## Mercedes-Benz unveils C-class coupe



The first official photographs of Mercedes-Benz's new C-class coupe have been published in Germany, breaking ahead of the car's planned public premiere at the Geneva motor show early next month.

Three published photographs reveal the new coupe that was conceived to go head to head with the popular BMW 3-series and the Audi A5.

Although the new two-door is set to be unveiled at the Geneva motor show, U.S. customers will have to wait until September for the successor to the CLK to go on sale in the States as a 2012 model. Mercedes-Benz sources suggest pricing will fall between those of similarly powered versions of the C-class sedan and the larger and more comprehensively equipped E-class coupe.

Read more: <http://www.autoweek.com/article/20110210/GENEVA/110219985#ixzz1FDIo0fkR>

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## MBUSA to take over U.S. marketing of smart cars

Stuttgart/Montvale, NJ - Mercedes-Benz USA LLC and Penske Automotive Group (NYSE:PAG) yesterday announced they have started discussions to transition the distribution rights, management, sales and marketing activities of smart USA from Penske Automotive Group to Mercedes-Benz USA. The transition is expected to occur by the end of the second quarter of 2011.

The proposed change marks a further step in implementing the future growth strategy of the smart brand. It also reflects last year's reorganization at smart headquarters in Germany, where smart is now managed as an independent brand, but is fully integrated into Mercedes-Benz Cars business unit of Daimler AG.

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## Fort Worth/Lone Star Section Hill Country Run

April 16-17



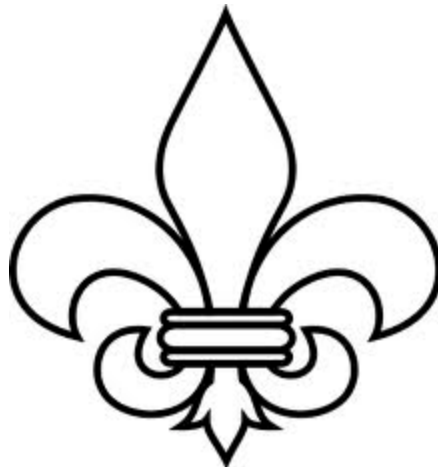
The Fort Worth and Lone Star (Austin) Sections are teaming up on this overnight trip to Bandera for this year's Texas Hill Country Run. All MBCA members, regardless of section affiliation, are more than welcome and encouraged to attend this touring event. Our headquarters will be the Purple Sage Ranch and Conference Center just outside Bandera, with first-class lodging and facilities. We will also have our meals (except for our Saturday lunch, which will be in Llano), entertainment, and social at the Purple Sage. We think the Sunday scenic drive around the Bandera area will be one of our best ever. After our Saturday night dinner, we will participate in yet another of our unique games, to be announced during the event itself. The top 3 winners will get great prizes.

Click here for event details, agenda, and registration:

<http://sections.mbc.org/fortworth//Event%20Calendar%20Bandera.htm>

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## Congrats to our friends at the Magnolia Section (NOLA)



After a "false start" in 2010, the Magnolia Section of MBCA has begun planning events for the 2011 year. The Magnolia Section serves most of Louisiana and parts of Mississippi. The Houston Section would like to wish our friends on I-10 East the best. C'est si bon!

MBCA | Magnolia Section Website: <http://www.mbcnola.org>

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## StarTech 2011- April 29-May 1, 2011

### Hotel:

Radisson Milwaukee North Shore  
7065 North Port Washington Road, Milwaukee WI 53217  
<http://www.radisson.com/milwaukee-hotel-wi-53217/wimilwno>

### StarTech 2011 Venues:

Radisson Milwaukee North Shore Hotel (at the address above)  
-- and --  
Black Forest LLC 2900 West Vera Avenue, Glendale, WI 53209  
<http://www.blackforestllc.com>

Join us this Spring in Milwaukee for StarTech 2011, hosted by the Wisconsin Section of the MBCA.

For the first time in StarTech history, we'll have full access to an actual working Mercedes-Benz repair and restoration shop. Located just 2 miles away from the hotel, Black Forest LLC will open its entire 13,000 square-foot facility to StarTech participants, presenters, and vendors for up-close and hands-on technical seminars that could never be held within the confines of a conference room.

The Radisson Milwaukee North Shore Hotel will serve as our home for the weekend and will be the venue for the Vendor Expo, the Saturday night banquet featuring a special guest speaker, and more technical presentations in the StarTech tradition. Our hosts have already arranged the following great nightly rates for guest rooms:

\$89.00 Standard King or Double  
109.00 Junior Suite  
119.00 Executive suite

Milwaukee is easy to get to and easy to get around in. Mitchell International Airport (MKE) is located just 15 miles south of the hotel, and shuttle service will be available directly through the hotel. For those who prefer to stay mobile, car rental rates in Milwaukee are generally very reasonable, traffic congestion is minimal, and navigation is easy. If you plan to make StarTech a road trip destination, you'll find plenty space to park your Mercedes at the hotel and at Black Forest, both of which are located in a safe suburban area just 8 miles north of downtown Milwaukee. For those who'd like to stay a little longer and explore Milwaukee, there's no shortage of places to see and things to do including:

- The Harley-Davidson Museum
- Brewery tours, both macro (Miller) and micro (Sprecher & Lakefront)
- The Calatrava-designed Milwaukee Art Museum
- Great restaurants in all price ranges and cuisines
- Neighborhoods of architectural significance such as the Historic Third Ward

# Mercedes Marketplace

## 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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## 1968 Mercedes-Benz 250S for sale



Engine and mechanical systems restored/repaired including alternator, water pump, radiator, transmission, fuel tank, front drive train, brakes, power steering, **speedometer, horn, tires**, and air conditioner.

Exterior and interior body, seats, seat belts, radio, heater core, and window gaskets need repair or restoration. Transmission reverse, horn steering column wire, rear drive train bushings, and power steering gaskets need additional repair in the near future. Shop manuals, tools, and records available. Asking \$2,950, price negotiable.

Contact Garland T. Bauch  
281-733-1182

[astrodad@live.com](mailto:astrodad@live.com)

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## 1983 Mercedes-Benz 380SL



# For Sale

1983 Mercedes Benz 380SL above avg.,  
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**Contact [editorjoseph@gmail.com](mailto:editorjoseph@gmail.com) for info.**

# 1998 Mercedes-Benz SL600 for sale

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Formerly owned by Marshall Field V.

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Rear sub-frame modifications: \$1,950  
14 inch front Alcon brakes: \$5,760  
12 inch rear Alcon brakes: \$3,490  
RENNtech rear muffler: \$1,790  
RENNtech resonator bypass: \$1,140  
RENNtech front and rear sway bars: \$1,135  
RENNtech hiflow intake: \$1,245  
Larger radiator: \$1,225  
Vented hood: \$3,000  
Recaro seats: \$6,700  
Anti penetration glass: \$2,700



Any reasonable offer considered.  
Contact Diana Chapman for more info.  
[chapmand49@yahoo.com](mailto:chapmand49@yahoo.com)



## MBCA | Houston Section

Joseph Middleton, Editor

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### 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

### Tech Session with BMW CCA

March 5

### Tech Session at Motorwërks

March 19

### Bluebonnet Run

April 9

### Spring Autocross

Mid to late April

## Board of Directors Meetings

March 1 & May 3

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.

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