



# The Houston Star

**MBCA** | Houston Section Newsletter

October  
2011

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

## In this issue

President's Message  
Page 2

New Members and  
Loyal Members  
Page 3

Technical Q & A  
Page 7

Automotive Rhythms  
Pages 10-12

Mercedes Marketplace  
Pages 13-15

Upcoming Events  
Page 16



## Members Appreciation and Election Dinner

By: Joseph Middleton

Election Season came to Houston early, at least for the Houston Section. On September 11, 2011, Some 20 Houston Section members, officers, and even one North Texas Section officer attended the Members Appreciation and Election Dinner at Benjy's on Washington Avenue. Among the membership attending the dinner were the Ankrums, the Shasteens, Ed Gorman, and Richard Wilkins. The Houston Section had a pleasant surprise when Lee Ewing, the Immediate Past President of the North Texas Section, flew in to attend the dinner. The outgoing President, Damon Stith was on hand to pass the baton to the new leadership. The Houston Section elected nearly an all new slate of officers for the 2011-2012 year. The Houston Section elected Joseph Middleton as President, Gerry Van Zandt as Vice President, Ali Durvesh as Technical Chair, Nina Midway as Social Chair, and Jeffrey Cooke to the Board of Directors. Officers continuing their roles were Gerry Grogin as Treasurer, Norm Glorioso as Secretary, Joseph Middleton as Membership Chair and Newsletter Editor, and Marvin Boyd, Mike Haney and Chuck Wyatt as Board Members.

(continued on page 5)

# President's Message

Greetings!

Thank you for selecting me to be your new MBCA | Houston Section President. I also want to thank the outgoing President, Damon Stith for his service. Damon served two full terms and half a term after former President Al Angulo stepped down in 2008, thus making Damon the longest serving Club President in MBCA | Houston Section history.

I want to thank Gerry Van Zandt, Norm Glorioso, Nina Midway, Ali Durvesh and Jeffrey Cooke for stepping up to the plate and becoming our newest Officers and Board Members, and I also send my thanks out to Marvin Boyd, Chuck Wyatt and Mike Haney for continuing their roles on the Board.

As the Club goes forth into 2012, we will make new strides, set new goals, and surpass our old milestones as we become a 21st century car Club which will appeal to the wide variety of Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts and owners in the Houston area. As your new President, I want to concentrate on a few points which we must address. These points are:

**Modernizing and improving the Club Image:** We will do this by making ourselves more visible and accessible among the Houston automotive community through selective marketing and advertising campaigns, charitable action, participation in local automotive events, and hosting a variety of events to appeal to a wide cross section of members. We will also improve and modernize the Section's image through technology by creating an all new website, maintaining our presence on Facebook and enlarging our online territory via Twitter and LinkedIn.

**Outreach:** Reaching out to our Club members, local Mercedes-Benz dealerships, and independent shops.

**Communication:** Ensuring that all of our members are kept in the loop about Club happenings.

**Growth and Retention:** We must ensure that we do all that we can to attract new members and keep those members which we already have. MBCA is growing nationally, and we must grow locally.

This will be a lot of hard work, but we can do it. We'll all work together, officers, board members, and Club members, to make our Section bigger and better than it has been before.

**Remember, we're more than a car, we're a community!**

Joseph Middleton | President | [Mercedes-Benz Club of America](#) | Houston Section

---

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

*Welcome!*

*Willkommen!*

Nester Arellano of Sugar Land, TX

James Deshaies of The Woodlands, TX

Joseph Earthman of Houston, TX

Alvin Guidry of Houston, TX

Catalin Ivan of Houston, TX

David and Suzanne Kerr of Houston, TX

Timothy McInturf of Houston, TX

Joseph Perino of Houston, TX

## MBCA | Houston Section thanks these loyal Club members

Justin Farley of Humble, TX

John George of Sugar Land, TX

Tor Haugland of Houston, TX

Leon Hulon of Spring, TX

Eric McAnelly of Houston, TX

Robert Plante of Houston, TX

Janice Taylor of Houston, TX

Charles and Cristina Wyatt of Tomball, TX

---

# CASARI'S

**- Lifetime Warranty on Body & Frame Repairs -  
Porsche - Mercedes-Benz - BMW**

Glasure Original Paint System on Premises  
No Warranty on Rust Repair

Computer Analyzer

5 Year Warranty on Complete Paint Work  
1 Year Warranty on Mechanical Work

All OEM Replacement Parts

Laser Front & Rear 4-Wheel Alignment

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

12470 Windfern Road  
Houston, Texas



**Texas-German Autohaus, L.P.**

## **Service and Repair of MERCEDES and BMW Automobiles**

### **EUROPEAN PERFORMANCE**

Located on *Edloe St.*, between *Richmond* and *Westheimer*.  
State of the Art computerized equipment and tools.  
*Oil Change Special* while you wait.  
*Complimentary Shuttle Service* to your home or office.  
*Free oil & filter change using standard mineral oil or \$35.00 for synthetic motor oil, for new Mercedes Benz club members, with this ad. (Limit one per customer)*  
Factory trained and certified technicians.



**The TGA Team**  
*50 years of experience*  
visit online @ [www.t-g-a.com](http://www.t-g-a.com)

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



(continued from page 1)

The three course menu at Benjy's included Strawberry Salad for starters, a choice of beef short ribs, crunchy chicken, or Canadian salmon for the main entrée, and a choice of Mom's Chocolate Cake (actually baked by Benjy's mother) and cherry bourbon bread pudding. The delicious meal was well received by all of the members. Just about everyone cleaned their plate. Nina Midway commented that her order of short ribs were the best thing she's had to eat in years! After the meal, the new officers were presented to the membership by outgoing President, Damon Stith. The new officers were sworn in, and a crop of fresh, new leaders assumed their roles in MBCA | Houston.

The Houston Section would like to thank Benjy's for their service. Benjy's has clearly become a favorite of MBCA | Houston Section members with its fantastic food, nice ambiance and central location.



### **F&J EUROPEAN AUTO PARTS INC.**

6115 Clarewood  
Houston, TX 77081

SPECIALIZING IN MERCEDES BENZ PARTS

FORMERLY WITH MORITZ E.C.P.

PH 713/773-0887

Parts Rep.

## **Holiday Brunch**

It's almost time for our annual Holiday Brunch at Brennan's. Stay tuned for more info, you don't want to miss out on this event!

## 2013 Mercedes-Benz CLC Scheduled for New York Debut

By: J. Davis of [emercedesbenz.com](http://emercedesbenz.com)



The highly anticipated 2013 Mercedes-Benz CLC sedan is scheduled to make its world debut at the 2012 New York Auto Show according to Mercedes-Benz company officials. The 2013 CLC sedan will have a sloping roofline giving it the coupe styling used by the larger Mercedes CLS sedan.

The CLC's entry into the market will be the beginning of a push by Mercedes-Benz to enter into the higher-volume, entry-level luxury market that falls just below the current Mercedes C-Class. Executives at Mercedes were quick to emphasize that the 2013 CLC will not be a stripped-down model. "This will be a real Mercedes-Benz," one executive stressed.

A compact SUV is expected to follow shortly after the CLC and may be called the GLC, although not confirmed. Both the CLC and GLC are expected to ride on the new Mercedes Modular Front Architecture (MFA), an all-new front-wheel drive platform introduced on the latest B-Class hatchback.

See this link for more info: <http://www.emercedesbenz.com/autos/mercedes-benz/clc-class/2013-mercedes-benz-clc-scheduled-for-new-york-debut/>

---

## Technical Q & A with Ali Durvesh

**Question:** I have a 2009 C350 and the air conditioning has developed a rather putrid, almost urine like odor. What's causing this?

**Answer:** It sounds like your evaporator needs cleaning. In hot and humid climates such as Houston, this is a common problem. The pollen and mold in the atmosphere doesn't help, either. Mercedes-Benz released a service bulletin (S-B-83.30/74p) about this issue in June 2009. Vehicles with this problem should be taken to their local dealership so the evaporator may be cleaned with Mercedes-Benz Contra Sept, and then the interior will be treated with an ultrasonic atomizer to further remove the odor. To reduce the possibility of the odor returning, it will help to run the air conditioning at a higher blower speed in humid conditions and to use the REST function (if equipped) when parking the vehicle in humid conditions.

If you have any questions, please send your requests to the *Houston Star* or contact me directly. I can be reached at [mercedesbenz911@gmail.com](mailto:mercedesbenz911@gmail.com).

---

## 500Eboard.com Presents: Lone Star 500E/E500 Roundup

Gerry Van Zandt, Vice President of the Houston Section and owner of 500Eboard.com, is hosting the Lone Star 500E/E500 Roundup on Saturday, November 12 and Sunday, November 13, 2011. The first day will include a BBQ run to Central Texas, and a Tech Session in Tomball. On Sunday, the group will join the Houston Section for the annual Fall Autocross. For more info, please visit this link or contact Gerry Van Zandt via the contact info on the last page of the newsletter: [http://500eboard.com/forums/showthread.php?1729-\\*\\*\\*-SAVE-THE-DATE-\\*\\*\\*-Lone-Star-500E-E500-Round-Up-Nov-12-13-2011&p=12210#post12210](http://500eboard.com/forums/showthread.php?1729-***-SAVE-THE-DATE-***-Lone-Star-500E-E500-Round-Up-Nov-12-13-2011&p=12210#post12210)

---

# 17th Consecutive Texas German Autohaus (TGA) Oktoberfest



**texas German Autohaus and the Mercedes Benz Club of America | Houston Section Proudly Announces and invites you to bring your friends and family to our 17th consecutive Oktoberfest....**

This special celebration is bigger and better than ever before with an abundance of German Food, German Beer, German Music, and beautiful German Cars.

Lots of refreshments and the gates won't open until  
We have consumed all the food, soda, water, and beer.

Outstanding door prizes.

The Staff and Management cordially invites everyone to come

And join our celebration

Saturday, Oktober 8, 2011 beginning at 10:00 AM.

3417 Edloe St.  
Houston, Texas 77027

For more information call Chuck Wyatt at 281.469.7428

Or  
[www.t-g-a-com](http://www.t-g-a-com)

## Fall Autocross 2011

It's almost time for one of MBCA | Houston's most anticipated events...  
Fall Autocross 2011!



Family Fun!



Good food!



Most of all, good tire screeching fun!

The autocross will be held on Sunday, November 13 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.

## 2012 Mercedes-Benz C63 AMG Coupe Black Series

Courtesy of Automotive Rhythms



The new Mercedes-Benz C63 AMG Coupe Black Series represents the new AMG brand claim – Driving Performance – like no other AMG model. Spectacular design and technology immerse from the world of motorsport and the very best in driving dynamics to manifest the most powerful C-Class of all time, boasting 510 horsepower and a maximum torque of 457 lb-ft. The high-performance vehicle features a high-revving AMG 6.3-liter V8 engine that delivers incredible pulling power and exceptional execution, allowing the latest Black Series to accelerate from zero to 60 mph in 4.2 seconds. We'll take two please!



See more info at: <http://www.automotiverhythms.com/auto-reviews/auto-preview/1665.html>

## 2012 Mercedes-Benz M-class World Premiere

Courtesy of Automotive Rhythms

“Build it, and they will come” is most likely what the German automaker from Stuttgart was thinking when they decisively chose to build the M-Class crossover/SUV in 1997 at their then new plant in Alabama. The first generation vehicle was engineered as a body on frame, truck-like platform. The 2005 second generation and the current all-new third generation 2012 M-Class are unibody constructed which is a direct comparison to a car or CUV. But Mercedes-Benz considers the M-Class a true SUV because of its thorough off-road capabilities. However, the U.S. will not receive vehicles outfitted with the off-road package. That's most likely due to the fact that we butter our SUVs and treat them more like a luxury sedan than a rugged 4-wheeler.



One can say that Mercedes-Benz is on a 2011 world tour right now, continuously introducing new iterations of their most revered vehicles including the world's first 4-door coupe (CLS). And they have a motor vehicle for every position on the field. You need a QB? They have the iconic SLS AMG. Running backs and receivers are covered with the CL and E; linemen get the GL; DBs compare to the agile SLK; special teams flow with the GL and M; kick returners possess the speed, power and agility of the SL; placekickers and punters get the A and B-Class; while the coach is an S-Class. And when it's 4th and short and you need the fullback to smash it up the middle, then here comes the G-Wagon!



With almost a half million M-Classes sold in the U.S. and 1.2 million worldwide, Mercedes is elated to keep SUV buyers happy with a reformed M-Class model that appropriated the strengths of its forerunner and improved on performance, efficiency, safety and modern technological conveniences. What did you expect from a company that has been in the auto business for 125 years? It's in their DNA.

On sale in September, Mercedes will offer two all-wheel drive models (4MATIC) to the American market: the direct-injection gasoline powered 2012 ML350 4MATIC and the clean diesel 2012 ML350 BlueTEC 4MATIC. The ML250 BlueTEC 4MATIC -- the most fuel efficient of the crew -- will not make its way over. The ML350 4MATIC receives a 3.5-liter V6 with 302-horsepower and 273 lb-ft of torque while the ML350 BlueTEC 4MATIC is outfitted with a 3.0-liter diesel engine rated at 240-horsepower and 455 lb-ft of torque. A 7G-TRONIC PLUS automatic transmission is mated to both engines. Collectively, the redesigned M-Class is 25% more fuel efficient than prior models. The U.S. is not keen on clean diesel yet, but there is no reason for denying it. Forget about the truckers and buses you're used to. Today's diesels are clean, powerful and everlasting; sometimes 600 miles on one tank! As of now the hybrid model hasn't been a subject of conversation; but we're sure it will be soon.

In December of 2007, Mercedes began the arduous process of assuring the new M-Class was a true off-road adventurer. Virtual test drives were conducted to ensure they had realistic calculation inputs for the chassis and suspension. In 2009, actual endurance testing began in the deserts and dunes of Namibia and South Africa. Mercedes-Benz feels the M-Class must be instilled with true grit because their customers expect it. Therefore, the vehicle can be outfitted with the AIRMATIC air suspension, Adaptive Damping System (ADS) for individual and automatic wheel adjustments, and Active Curve System for both dynamic driving (reduces roll by way of front and rear stabilizer bars) and off-roading which allows for additional suspension flexibility. The ON&OFFROAD package gives the vehicle operator a range of six drive programs for manipulating road and weather conditions. A circular knob on the center console allows the driver to choose between Automatic, Offroad 1, Offroad 2, Winter, Sport or Trailer.



Stylistically, the new M-Class is a bit tougher and stronger on the eyes, has more definitive lines and sexier wheels. Symmetrically designed, the interior is pure luxury and mixes beautiful veneers with aluminum, grade A leathers and classy ornamentation. No longer will you see wide spaces, plain plastics or open areas. A bigger 7" display hosts all of the COMAND system's operations as well as Bluetooth audio streaming, 10GB music storage, HD radio, rearview camera, SIRIUS Satellite Radio, navigation and more. Rear legroom is good and the seats fold flat for added storage.

A hidden trailer hitch just might be the coolest feature on the new M-Class. Push out a tab on the left of the tailgate (once open) and the hiding hitch flips out from under the vehicle's frame. It not only keeps the rear attractive but also is easy to handle. But again, the U.S. will not receive this add-on, as our receivers are different sizes opposed to the uniformed receiver in Europe.

Safety and tech-savvy advancements keeps the M-Class ahead of the competition. A highly rigid steel unibody is reinforced with high-strength magnesium cross members and noise reduction materials. Technology enhancements include ATTENTION ASSIST, ADAPTIVE BRAKE, Mercedes-Benz mbrace, Blind Spot Assist, Lane Keeping Assist, Distronic Plus, Park Assist with PARKTRONIC, Reversing camera, and Pre-Safe which can estimate the likelihood of an accident and prepare the vehicle for a collision, such as closing the sunroof and windows. As well, the M-Class has an arsenal of airbags including two-stage adaptive airbags, knee bags, side bags with thorax/pelvis protection and rear side bags. "To improve upon the already high level of safety of the current M-Class, we have worked to perfect occupant protection, enhanced active safety and, by adapting various assistance systems, we are drawn even closer to our vision of accident-free driving. And that, of course, also benefits all other road users," said Professor Dr. Rodolfo Schöneburg, Head of Passive Safety.

# 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**

---

## 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.

\* Service 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**

---

**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  
P.O. Box 753  
Houston, TX 77001

### Officers

<b>President</b>	<b>Joseph Middleton</b> mbca.houston@gmail.com   832-713-MBCA
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Gerry Van Zandt</b> gerry@vanzandt.us   281-518-2960
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Norm Glorioso</b> ncglorioso@comcast.net   713-397-1830
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Gerald Grogin</b> gerrygrogin@att.net   713-667-8979
<b>Activities Chair</b>	<b>Nina Midway</b> ninamidway@aol.com   281-686-2989
<b>Membership Chair</b>	<b>Joseph Middleton</b> editorjoseph@gmail.com   713-487-8197
<b>Technical Chair</b>	<b>Ali Durvesh</b> mercedesbenz911@gmail.com
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	<b>Damon Stith</b> damstith@yahoo.com   832-265-6044

### Directors

<b>Marvin Boyd</b>	mwoybd@embarqmail.com   281-360-1766
<b>Jeffrey Cooke</b>	cooke.houston@gmail.com   713-914-8708
<b>Mike Haney</b>	mhaney@3dtriad.com   713-298-4580
<b>Chuck Wyatt</b>	ctwyatt@sbcglobal.net   281-469-7428

### Regional Director

**Charles Boyd** 580-255-4040  
E-mail: cl.boyd@sbcglobal.net

### Newsletter Editor

**Joseph Middleton** 713-487-8197  
Editor's e-mail: editorjoseph@gmail.com  
Club Website: <http://www.mbca.org/houston>

### 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

### Oktoberfest at TGA

October 8

### Lone Star 500E / E500 Round Up

November 12-13

### Fall Autocross

November 13

### Holiday Brunch

December 4

## Board of Directors Meeting

November 1

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.

The *Houston Star* is the official publication of **MBCA | Houston Section**, and is provided solely for the benefit of its members. Opinions and ideas are for information only. No official authentication is implied by the editor/publisher, MBCA, MBUSA, MBAG or DBAG. No inference should be made that the products or services advertised or reported herein have the approval or recommendation of the editor/publisher, MBCA, MBUSA, MBAG or DBAG. Consult an authorized dealer or qualified mechanic for specific applications to your vehicle. Material for publication may be sent to [editorjoseph@gmail.com](mailto:editorjoseph@gmail.com). Deadline is the 10th of each month for the following month's issue. The editor reserves the right to edit, and to refuse, any submissions and/or advertising. Submission of material constitutes permission to publish. Permission to reproduce material original to the *Houston Star* is granted provided proper credit is given.