



the capitol STAR

www.mbca.org/sacramento

The MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB of America • Sacramento Section NovDec 2011

In This Issue.....

Next Section Event	1
President's Msg	2
Tri Star Traffic	3
Event Reports	4-5
New Members	6
Classified Ads	7

Calendar Of Events

November – Planning Mtg

December Christmas Party –
December 10, 2011

Kevin and Gloria McKnight

Those of you who have an email address with MBCA were sent an advance copy of this (at the time) unfinished newsletter. There were a few bounce backs - but for the rest of you not getting at least a little advance notice, my apologies. It was unavoidable. We hope to see you there! wlb

Christmas Party December 10, 2011 6:30PM

Send In Reservation by (Received!) December 7 Please

Say or Sing to Johnny Cash Tune:

*I hear the Train a Comin'
It's comin' 'round the bend
And I ain't seen a party
since way back when
I'm goin' to Folsom Old Town
It's Christmas Party Time
We celebrate at Old Europe
And that's the end of my Rhyme.*

Read with your best Western accent:

Yessiree, ya'll aer' invited to the Christmas Party for the Mercedes Club of Sacramento at Old Europe Restaurant in old town Folsom right thar on Sutter Street. Ya can't miss it. We gonna have some fun too - yahoo!

Here be the plan:

*At 6:30 pm, first we'll start off with some appyteazers and no host cocktails
At 7:00 pm, then we'll moazy on down and begin with some dinner type
salads*

*After that we'll have some of them thar vittles, looky yonder for your choices
(that is, see below). By the by, the first glass of wine is included.*

*The we'll wrap things up with a special Christmas desert only Old Europe
could make - It's a surprise.*

The coffee and tea are included.

All this for only 37 smack-a-roonies (\$37.00) for eachens.

As is tradition, we will support the Sacramento Children's home with gift donations. If possible they are requesting we give special attention to the older children, late teens, especially those that will be leaving and setting up households on their own. For these housewares are always good. But any gift donation is appreciated.

Here's the short of it

Saturday Dec 10th, 2011

Old Europe

828 Sutter St.

Folsom, CA 95630

Cocktails: 6:30 PM

Dinner 7:00 PM

Kevin & Gloria McKnight



President's Message

by: Tony Otis

Congratulations are in order to our own Allen Wrenn, who was recently elected to the position of Western Regional Director. Allen has been a section member for 39 years, and has undoubtedly "seen it all." His input and knowledge will certainly make this Regions Sections Stars shine in the cosmos of the MBCA.

Thanks to Mark and Kimberli Reese for a very enjoyable event to Nicholson Blown Glass, Fawnridge Winery and lunch at Auburn Valley Country Club. At the tasting room we were joined by a wild birthday crowd who arrived in a large SUV Limo. Somewhere there lurks a photo of Bill "The Wild One" Brandt with the Birthday Girl. Lots of leg I recall ... his and hers.

Back in August I went to the Automotive Sensory Overload Extravaganza of the Monterey Peninsula, known as Pebble Beach. It's turned into a week-long event with numerous shows, drives, auctions, and sales.

On Thursday, a Tour d' Elegance is held. Many of the cars that will be at the Pebble Beach Concours on Sunday are driven on

this 75 mile loop of the 17 Mile Drive, Carmel, Big Sur, Carmel Valley, and back to Carmel for a catered lunch for the entrants. This is also the chance for the public to see these cars being driven and used as they were meant to be. Uphill and down, testing cooling systems and brakes. They're not trailer queens. At the lunch break in Carmel, the cars are parked up and down Ocean Avenue for all to admire. It's crowded and it's FREE!

Friday's events include Concorso Italiano, Legends of the Autobahn, and the Gathering at the Quail. This year I entered a lottery for a chance to buy a Quail ticket. Well, I won the chance and bought the ticket. Needless to say, very exclusive and very expensive. At least all of the gourmet food and drink were included.

The AMG people were there with their cars, and I got to drive a 2012 CLS 6.3 AMG. When cornering, bolsters in the seat would press into your side to keep you centered. We drove out Carmel Valley Road a ways and back. I asked if I could open it up a bit and was told it would be my ticket. I kept it within reason.

Saturday is the big vintage race at Laguna Seca Race Track. Amazing how many old famous racecars still exist and how hard they are still driven. A very expensive hobby. Jaguar celebrated 50 years of the E-type. There were at least a hundred of them.

Sunday's Concours d' Elegance is the highlight of the week. Mercedes Benz was featured on its 125th birthday. There was an impossibly long line of Mercedes, Benz, and Mercedes Benz vehicles on display. They came from the factory museum in Germany, and from public and private collections from around the world. Touring cars, race cars, factory built cars, coach built cars and one-offs. What a collection. See them in the Star Magazine.

Our FSD's have been well attended and enjoyed by all. Now that the curse of Mt. Diablo has lifted, we need new destinations, any ideas?

Mark Saturday December 10th on your calendars for our Christmas party in Folsom. Kevin and Gloria McKnight are our gracious hosts and they do a fantastic job for us. See you there, Tony.

Tony

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



Tri Star Traffic By Dan

To Pass or Not To Pass...

Tony has asked me to do an article on the requirements of drivers when school buses are stopped. Here's the scenario- you're in a residential area with no raised center divider, but with one set of solid double parallel lines, and a school bus is traveling the opposite direction. It stops on the shoulder and the red lights go on. Do you have to stop? The short answer is- yes. People have told me that they don't have to stop unless they see the STOP sign that pops out from the side. The truth is, some buses are not equipped with that sign. So, yes, you still have to stop even if just the red lights come on. I've also heard that no stop is required unless there is kids around. How would you know ? Also, I've been asked if you have to stop when there is two solid yellow lines in the middle. Yes, two solid double yellow lines are less than two feet wide. So, here's the CA Vehicle Code section as it applies to this issue: 22454. (a) The driver of any vehicle, upon meeting or overtaking, from either direction, any schoolbus equipped with signs as required in this code, that is stopped for the purpose of loading or unloading any schoolchildren and displays a flashing red light signal and stop signal arm, as defined in paragraph (4) of subdivision (b) of Section 25257, if equipped with a stop signal arm, visible from front or rear, shall bring the vehicle to a stop immediately before passing the schoolbus and shall not proceed past the schoolbus until the flashing red light signal and stop signal arm, if equipped with a stop signal arm, cease operation. (b) (1) The driver of a vehicle upon a divided highway or multiple-lane highway need not stop upon meeting



Mercedes-Benz

Von Housen Automotive Group

Sacramento | El Dorado Hills | Rocklin

Vonhousen.com

MBCA Members get a 10% discount on Parts and/or Labor when you show us your membership card.



Nov 6 First Sunday Drive to Mt Diablo - waiting in Freeport for those caught by a red light (please refer to the article on the following page) We go every first Sunday of the month - no reservations needed! To get on the monthly notification list just email to joinsacfsd@att.net .

Tri Star Traffic (Continued)

or passing a schoolbus that is upon the other roadway.

(2) For the purposes of this subdivision, a multiple-lane highway is any highway that has two or more lanes of travel in each direction.

A divided highway is a highway that has been divided into two or more roadways by means of intermittent barriers or a dividing section of not less than two feet in width using double parallel lines or raised curbs.

So, the easy way to remember this is that you don't have to stop if the school bus is on the other side of the road with some sort of a barrier (raised curbs or more than two yellow lines) in the middle.

Glücklich Fahren, Dan

Our Monthly First Sunday Drive.....

The Curse Of El Diablo

On November 6, members of the Sacramento Section boldly drove to break an ancient curse – that of El Diablo (The Devil).

OK, perhaps there's a bit of hyperbole – but not much! I have tried to do this 3 times, in March, June and yesterday. In June the weather scared off all but Tony and Arlene Otis - and their dog Baron.

Each time rain hampered the drive. It even rained in June, believe it or not. What was that song, *It Never rains In California?* Don't believe it.



Mt Diablo is a northern California landmark – right in the East Bay community of Walnut Creek it rises – from sea level – almost 4,000 feet. On a clear day it can be seen for 100s of miles. And if you are on top of the mountain, you can see for up to 200 miles.

Well, the Sacramento group is rather bold and venturesome – chances are Captain Kirk arrived at a place we have already visited.

So a flock of Mercedes – and one pickup truck from Mercedes-Benz of Sacramento - attempted to break the curse. The sky looked threatening as we drove the scenic route – along Highway 160 and the Sacramento River -

By the time we got to the outskirts of Walnut Creek, we decided to have lunch first instead of waiting another 1.5 hours after the

mountain.

The First Sunday Drives are all about spontaneity! As it turned out our decision for an early lunch was fortuitous. The clouds cleared away by the end of lunch and we started the ascent. We were rewarded by a spectacular view – The California Delta – easily 40 miles away – was from the north side and the affluent East Bay communities of Danville, San Ramon and Blackhawk were visible from the south side.

One thing I have learned with these First Sunday Drives - is how handy a walkie-talkie can be. If people get caught at a red light we just pull over and wait - so we can - as a caravan - look smart along the way!

It was a good day with lots of Mercedes camaraderie.

Bill Brandt

A Little Something For Everyone

On October 15, members of the Sacramento section had an event that combined driving on beautiful roads, a visit to a nationally renowned glassmaker, a nice winery and finally lunch at the Auburn Valley Country Club.

The event for me started a bit ominously when my portable GPS informed me that I was “at my destination” right over some railroad tracks but I, not fully trusting in technology told it to “try again” and after a bit of “recalculating”, led me to the proper meeting place half a mile away in the historic old Sierra foothills town of Newcastle.

Amid some MBCA camaraderie with hosts Mark and Kim Reese, we were told of our first stop, at Nicholson Blown Glass. Owners Rick and Janet Nicholson were showing us how they made a pitcher (ordered by Mark & Kim) and in addition to the interesting tutorial, we were looking at what was truly artwork along the walls. And among all that artwork was a letter signed by then First Lady Hillary Clinton thanking them for one of their creations adorning the 1997 White House Christmas Tree.



If any of you are interested in learning more check out their web site at www.nicholsonblownglass.com.

The entire Sacramento Region has had a tremendous interest in wineries in the last 20 years, and the Sierra Foothills have not been exempt. Our next stop was the Fawnridge Winery (<http://www.fawnridgewine.com/>), where we sampled some of their outstanding wines.

To tell you the truth we could have stayed there the rest of the day but our lunch at the Auburn Valley Country Club was waiting – and there we went for the last stop.

I always enjoy driving in a good MBCA caravan and as we drove to the Club I noticed – from my “tail end Charlie” vantage point, more than one pedestrian looking at us and smiling as we went by.

The lunch was superb and our waitress asked if she could take a picture of us for posterity, and I have learned to never pass up a good photographic opportunity! So both Terri (and the Country Club) and I got a nice picture!

I would like to thank Mark & Kim Reese for hosting a day that was universally agreed to be memorable and enjoyable.

Bill Brandt

Christmas Party December 10, 2010 6:30PM

_____ Bavarian Sauerbraten

_____ Marinated Breast of Chicken

_____ Vegetarian Fettucini with choice of Fetta Cheese, Marinara or Cream Sauce

Dinners Include first glass of wine (if desired), coffee or tea and dessert are included.

Price - \$37.00 p/p for everything. Please make check to MBCA-Sacramento.

Kevin McKnight 8228 Greenland Ct. Citrus Heights, Ca 95610
Call 916-721-1579 for questions.

Please send in your reservation by Wednesday Dec 7

Welcome New Members

Betia Cosme	Oroville
Jack Donaldson	Redding
Joe Hensler	Fair Oaks
Zeliko Miksic	Folsom
Rod Palmer	Elk Grove
Singh Parmanan	Sacramento

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 | 2008-2010

President	Tony Otis	(916) 536-0704
Vice President	Skip Ibenthal	(916) 434-5953
Secretary	Bill Brandt	(916) 399-1736
Treasurer	Sandra Reese	(530) 878-1999
Director at Large	Hank Pezzetti	(916)687-4792
Past President	Hank Pezzetti	(916)687-4792
Past President	Bill Brandt	(916) 399-1736

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) 941-5525

MBCA Western Region

Regional Director.....Lance Taylor-Warren.....(775) 322-4233

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?

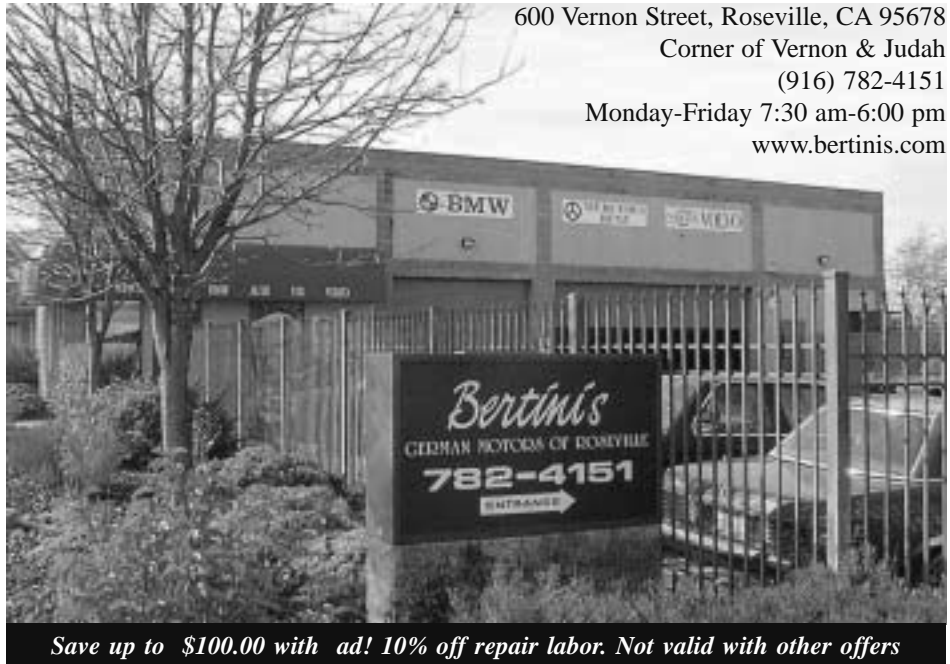
You must contact MBCA National at the above address or phone number. The address list comes to us monthly from National. We cannot make changes locally.

Please Note:

The Capitol STAR is the official publication of the Sacramento Section of the Mercedes Benz Club of America and is provided solely for the benefit of the 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 of the Editor/Publisher, MBCA, MBNA, MBUSA, MBAG or DBAG. Permission to reproduce material original to the capitol STAR is granted provided proper permission and credit is given.

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**.



Save up to \$100.00 with ad! 10% off repair labor. Not valid with other offers

**To get on the First Sunday Drive monthly email list
Send an email to
join-sacramento@firstsundaydrives.com**



1983 380SL

DB 473 Metallic Champagne Tan
Leather interior.

Well maintained at MB Rocklin and
MB Sacramento.

New sheepskins and mats. Must see
to appreciate.

\$6500

916 791 0066

1979/80 300TD M-B original yellow/
brown MB-Tex. 250,000 miles. Very
good original condition. No rust
California car. Was running very well
when shut off and now will not start.
Everything else was working except
cruise control (needs rebuilt controller).
Euro headlamps (originals with car)
Always garaged. Sunroof, interior
wood trim. Voted one of 10 best cars
for teenage driver. I am no longer able
to work on car. Parts car included if
wanted. **Any reasonable offer
accepted.**

Parts for sale

1973 220D/8 M-B Head, complete
with valves, cam, valve cover etc.
Approximately 20,000 miles since
new, ready to install. Removed from
rebuilt engine having lower end damage.
1973 220D/8 M-B Short block
with pan, low mileage since rebuilt, #1
piston collapsed, damaged bore.
1973 220D/8 M-B Bosch Injection pump,
low mileage since rebuilt, ready to
install.
1971 M-B 3.5 V-8 engine for
convertible/coupe, complete with
transmission and computer. 32,000
miles since rebuild. Removed from
wrecked car. Will sell or trade for
labor to get 300TD repaired.

Art - 530-675-2773

the capitol

STAR

5910 Gloria Dr.

Sacramento, CA 95822

First Class Mail



Greg Magnus
11025 Old Washington Hwy
Glen Allen VA 23059-1819