



the STAR capitol

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The MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB of America • Sacramento Section Apr-May 2012

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Calendar Of Events

- May 19 Filoli**
Tony and Arlene Otis
- June 16**
Sonora Playhouse
Hank and Julie Pazzetti
- July 14**
Bodega Bay
Hank & Julie Pazzetti
- Aug**
Sandy Reese
- September**
Downieville
Drive & Garden Tour
Allen & Joyce Wrenn
- October**
Election Mtg
Budweiser Plant Tour
- November**
Planning Mtg
- December**
Christmas Party
Bill Brandt

Filoli Gardens May 19, 2012

Come join us for a trip to gorgeous Filoli Gardens in Woodside on Saturday, May 19th. We will meet at the Chevron station on Enterprise Ave in West Sacramento (just off 180 after Harbor Blvd) and leave at 8 am. We will have docent led tour at 10 am.

Designed and built between 1915 and 1917 and set against the dramatic backdrop of the northern Santa Cruz mountains, Filoli is an example of the Golden Age of American garden design and country house architecture. Opened to the public in 1976 as a National Trust for Historic Preservation site, Filoli features a 36,000 square foot house and a 16-acre formal garden.

In addition, Filoli's property includes a 6.8 acre Gentlemen's Heritage Orchard and a trail system that explores five different ecosystems for docent-guided nature hikes and visits to the Sally MacBride Nature Center.

We will meet at Buck's of Woodside about 2pm for a No Host lunch. I will need a count of those attending both Filoli and lunch, no later than Monday May 7th, 2012. If you have further questions or need additional information, please call me at 916-536-0704. Hope to see you there!

Tony

Editor's Note: If you haven't been to Filoli you are in for a treat. It has been the site of dozens of movies, including Heaven Can Wait, with Warren Beatty. At the time a few years ago, Tony picked this restaurant - Buck's - "on the fly" that to me was as interesting as Filoli!

Why?

Well, a few years ago 2 guys named Larry and Sergey, unable to sell their program, decided to start their own company using that program. They gave it the strange name of "Google". The strange trivia an exhibits along these walls can keep you occupied for hours.

wlb



President's Message

by: Tony Otis

The letter started out:
On behalf of the national business office of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, I am delighted to announce that you are a first place winner in the "Hang on to Homer" contest! CONGRATULATIONS! The What? [pause] *The letter continued:* for successfully retaining the 84% of members in the Sacramento section from August 1, 2011-January 31, 2012 you have won a \$150 gift card to any Hilton Hotel in the U.S. or Canada.

Well now, this was quite a surprise as I felt I hadn't done anything to garner this attention. I spoke to Bill (F.S.D) Brandt about it and he said the prize was mine

to keep. I offered it to him for all his hard work on the newsletter etc. but he said no thanks too. So.... I called Skip & Sandy to get their input. We decided to raffle off the two gift cards (one for \$100, one for \$50) at the planning meeting that was coming up. The fact that we've maintained 84% of our section membership says a lot about our members and their commitment to our cars in these times of reduced membership in most car clubs nationwide.

As they say on P.B.S. To members like you. **Thank you.**

Our planning meeting, although sparsely attended, went well. We have a full calendar of events for the rest of the year. These & our

F.S.D.'s should provide lots to see & do.

At this time I'd like to introduce to all our new section vice president & activities chair **Matías Bombal**. Matías attended our Christmas party and his enthusiasm for us and our cars is undeniable. His own car, a 1959 220S, has a remarkable story to tell of his family's ownership of it on three continents. Matías will be an asset to our section and we welcome him aboard. See his article in last month's newsletter about wundercars at the California Auto museum in Sacramento.

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:
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Deadline for changes to articles or ads is approximately the 26th of each month.

New article ideas:
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CapitolStar@sbcglobal.net



Tri Star Traffic By Dan

Hello Everyone,

I received a question from Tony Otis about the difference in the year tabs on our license plates. Tony wanted to know why some of them say "2012" and some just have a bigger "12." I contacted a DMV rep. and she indicated the reason is because some people come into a DMV office and pay their registration fees in person at a machine.

This machine prints out the sticker with a "12" and the license plate number of the vehicle in small font at the bottom.

The most common year tabs are the types with the full year and a serial number that is referenced at DMV to your vehicle.

This brings me to another issue that comes to mind about DMV. Due to the staffing shortages, high volume of transactions, and just the system in place, many times the paperwork in your hand is more current than DMV's computer system.

Not all transactions are instant when going into the office or online. Some must be verified then put into the system. I have seen many times where DMV records show that a vehicle is not registered, but the driver has a printout showing fees have been paid and their new sticker is on the plate.

So, remember to keep all your paperwork in the glove box with your insurance.

Happy Motoring,

Dan



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.



April FSD - waiting for the stragglers! Our Destination was Dafodill Hill - see the write-up.

THE STAR IS LATE

Our National Business Office had a problem related to the mailing labels for the March-April issue of THE STAR magazine. This caused the mailing to be delayed. The magazines, with correct labels, were delivered to the US Postal Service on March 7th. At the time of this newsletter being put together some members still have not received theirs. If you have not received your issue by the time you receive this newsletter please let me know so that corrective measures can be taken.

ALLEN WRENN Regional Director

Editor's Note: As of 5 weeks from the mailing date, I still haven't gotten my Star Magazine in the mail. It is April 16th today. In making an admittedly informal and unscientific survey, every Section member I have talked with in the interim - about 5 - from the foothills to Sacramento, has failed to receive their Star. The people at the National Office have in the past told me that "there is a problem in California" getting the Star delivered.

Since there has been at least another issue or so that I didn't receive it I think it is in the way they prepare the mailing labels, the placement, or something that affects the automated address readers. I have nothing from which to base this hypothesis, other than my experience in my former business as a mass mailer of 1st class post cards. Those addresses have to be in just the right format and placement. Mr Bourdon - your opinion? For what it is worth I have received my Road & Track magazine every month - for years - on time.

In any event if you still haven't received your issue (we are almost done with April fercryinoutloud!) you can either call Allen or call the National Office - ask for Cindy - and she will promptly mail you one 1st class. Their number is 800- 637-2360 - wlb

A Thank You To Kevin & Gloria McKnight

For organizing - and hosting - the last Christmas Party. As usual, members of the Sacramento Section had a few hours of comederie, and the Sacramento Children's Home benefited from their generosity. In talking with Kevin I learned that his employer has been shorthanded, and he and his co-workers have been working some long hours every day. So, a special thanks to him for making time to host this!

Bill Brandt

March FSD. We joined the San Francisco Section and after lunch met at the California Auto Museum To See the "Wundercars" Mercedes, Porsches and BMWs.

Guess what was the featured marque?



“When We Want Snow - We Drive To It!”

When I was living in San Diego a good friend mentioned that as to Californian's attitudes on the subject, and – unless they live in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, it is true. And that is what we did today on our April 1st FSD.

Actually in all of 60 miles we drove through 3 microclimates! We left Folsom, by the Intel campus, with very promising weather – the SL owners were putting the tops down. Our original destination, Daffodil Hill near the old gold rush town of Volcano, is home to 10s of thousands of daffodils. However due to the weather the daffodils weren't cooperating.

So we decided to hang out at Volcano for a half hour before heading to lunch. On the way to Volcano we noticed a sharp difference in the weather – a drop of a good 25 degrees and ...snow. Just 10 miles later – we noticed Daffodil Hill was closed due to the weather so we went to Plan B – stopping in Volcano for a half hour or so.

Volcano is an interesting town – during the Gold Rush it had 17 hotels, hundreds if not thousands of tents and cabins – and today it is just a shadow of its former glory, a town of maybe 100 and off the beaten path. Our favorite hangout out here – the St George Hotel, was closed awaiting its new owners and it was starting to rain. Up went all the SL tops.

The St George, when it is open, makes the visitor think he is in a time machine and instantly transported back to 1855.

Lunch was in another nearby Gold Rush town, Jackson, this one a bedroom community for Sacramento complete with a Wal-Mart and Indian Casino. We dined at the Jackson Rancheria – we have found that what the Casinos lack in ambiance they more than make up in good food and convenience.

Thanks to Allen Wrenn for organizing this drive.

To get on the FSD monthly email list, just send a note to joinsacfsd@att.net. No reservations, just show up on the day of the event!

Bill Brandt

April FSD - stopping for lunch at the Jackson Casino...



Welcome New Members

Dennis Harrigan	Carmichael
Reinhardt Hilzinger	Carmichael
Tim Miller	Sacramento
Lee Rodriguez	Vacaville
Russell Sherman	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	Matias Bombal	(916) 392-3392
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MBCA Western Region

Regional Director.....Allen Wrenn.....(916)-988-0225

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 \$49 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**.



1981 380SL

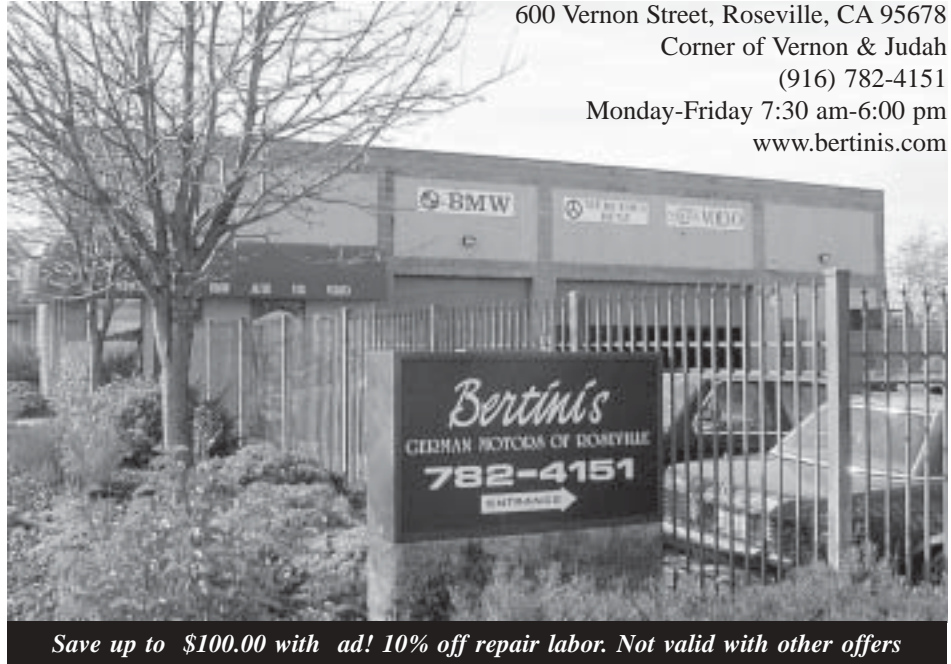
Original Owner. **Only 124,722 miles**. Ultra rare DB 480 Manganese Brown with Palomino interior. Even has the original windshield (with a small rock chip) . Have 3 folders' worth of records.

Has had timing chain conversion to double row.

Original Von Housen Pre-Delivery Inspection sticker – dated 4-13-81 still on the car.

This car has had admiring comments every time I am in a parking lot.

\$10,000
(916) 429-1941



**To get on the First Sunday Drive monthly email list
Send an email to
joinsacfsd@att.net**



AMG 18" Wheels

They are from a 2010 E550. Tires have 5,000 miles on them. Wheels are factory new.

\$1,000

530-666-1234

the capitol

STAR

5910 Gloria Dr.

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