

Golden Gate Star-



VISIT THE HOME OF THE "OLD WAR BIRDS"

by Sandy Drobilisch

What: Tour of Travis Air Force Base Museum
When: Saturday, January 30, 2010, 10:00 a.m.
Where: Travis Air Force Base, Fairfield
Cost: \$5 per person

Come join us and look back at the "old war birds" where they nest---at the Travis Air Force Base/Travis Air Museum and Jimmy Doolittle Air and Space Museum in Fairfield.

It began as an isolated airstrip with some tarpaper shacks set in the western prairie and served as home for the bombers assigned to guard the West Coast at the outbreak of World War II. By 1943, shortly after construction began, the potential for the base to become a major airport and supply transfer point was reality for the Air Transportation Command. The base was activated by May 11, 1943, named Fairfield-Suisun Army Air Base (after the two nearby towns). Its primary mission was to service tactical aircraft ferrying troops and supplies across the Pacific during WWII, and it was the largest airport on the West Coast. Service continued with the occupation of Japan until the end of the Korean War, processing the war-weary GI's returning home as primary mission of the air transport.

During our tour of the Travis Air Force Base Museum, we will see, touch, and admire those magnificent machines in their silent dignity, and I think we will become all the richer for our experience. There are twenty-nine planes on the outside exhibition and a dozen or more inside the museum, along with fascinating items related to military aviation and the history of the U.S. Air Force.

We will have a special guide—a volunteer
(Continued on page 8)

HAD A COLLISION? HOW TO DEAL WITH IT

by Richard Simonds, Technical Director

What: Collision Repair Technical Session
When: Saturday, January 16, 2010, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
Where: European Collision Center, 180 – 12th Street, San Francisco
Cost: \$17 per person (includes lunch)
limited to the first 50 participants who sign up!

Many years ago I was told by a friend that there are three types of motorcyclists: Those who have not yet gone down, those who have gone down, and those who have gone down and will go down again. Perhaps it is an apt analogy for driving our Mercedes-Benz vehicles. There are those who have not yet had a collision, those who have had a collision, and those who have had a collision and will have one again. Now that's a cheery thought to start 2010! However, if you have a collision, there are steps YOU can take to assure the best care of your MBZ and those are what we'll cover in this technical event.

The information from this technical session can be placed among your automobile insurance papers in case it's needed.

Dennis Kirkpatrick, Manager at European Collision Center, 180 – 12th Street, San Francisco, will bring in a team of experts to cover the topics in our technical session. The focus is on collision situations. Key topics included in the presentations are:

- Estimating – what goes into it
- Claims process – what to know BEFORE a claim is filed with your insurance company
- Body preparation and painting – the latest water-borne paint technology
- Alignment (body, frame, and wheels) – when it is needed and the latest technology
- Final preparation before delivery – sanding, buffing, polishing done right

(Continued on page 8)

2010 CALENDAR OF COMING ACTIVITIES

- JAN. 3 First Sunday Drive
- JAN. 16* Collision Tech Session, Richard Simonds (650) 592-7613
- JAN. 30* Travis Air Force Museum, Sandor Drobilisch (408) 782-2305
- FEB. 7 First Sunday Drive
- FEB. 21* Academy of Art Auto Collection, Eva Gordon (650) 834-2614
- MARCH 7 First Sunday Drive
- MARCH 13* Tour of Jack Passey Collection, Frank Marcheski (831) 637-3453
- MARCH 18* Tour of CHP Academy, Bill Brandt (916) 399-1736

*Reservation form on page 9

BOARD MEMBER'S MESSAGE

by Jack Weir, SFBA Director-at-Large and Western Regional Director

2010 will be a landmark year for the Mercedes-Benz Club of America.

At the fall meeting of the national board of directors held in Chesterfield, Missouri, several major initiatives were approved which will ultimately change the nature and image of our club. The real trick will be to make those changes necessary to attract new members from MBZ enthusiasts that have traditionally not been interested in membership, while ramping up events and programs that encourage current members to retain their membership and become even more active in club activities.

The national board approved a report from an outside branding/marketing firm that revealed the results of extensive surveys of current and former club members. MBCA needs to move into the e-world of Internet information opportunities that are now routinely used by many folks. These MBZ enthusiasts want access to more information about their cars, technical and otherwise, and they want it now. So, the club is launching a project to completely rebuild our national web site to appeal to the growing number of people who might be potential members. One example of the needed shift may be seen in the way club sections currently distribute their newsletters, one of the most critical means by which members can stay aware of coming events. Many sections still print and mail their newsletters, at significant cost (which is largely subsidized by national club rebates). Others, including our own section, are making the move to electronic distribution.

All of these dramatic changes are being planned in close partnership with Mercedes-Benz USA. MBUSA acknowledges the importance of partnership with a robust club and is ready to provide major funding, especially for those events and activities that showcase their brand and products.

For our section, the challenge will be to continue to provide a variety of events and activities that encourage members to retain their membership, and participate in planning and managing those activities. SFBA is very well situated in this regard and was announced as Section of the Year 2008 at the board meeting. Section President Robert Schilling was presented a handsome banner at our Holiday Party to signify the kind of leadership our section board has demonstrated in 2009.

Onward and upward!



MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA SECTION

www.mbca.org/sfba

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The GOLDEN GATE STAR

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You can send that wonderful article or ad via E-mail or FAX to me for inclusion in the Golden Gate Star simondsl@pacbell.net or FAX 650-592-6318. *Laura*

FIRST SUNDAY DRIVES

First Sunday Events are casual driving events that are held on the first Sunday of every month. To be notified of the next First Sunday event please send an e-mail to join@FirstSundayDrives.com. For more information and links to event photos, go to www.FirstSundayDrives.com

Our December First Sunday Drive was a great tour of the Delta. We met participants of the Sacramento Section's inaugural First Sunday Drive mid-trip in Rio Vista and continued our caravan to the end in Old Town Sacramento. Participants enjoyed a no-host lunch and wandering around the historic town. For anyone interested in more information on the monthly drive by the Sacramento Section, please send an e-mail to join-sacramento@FirstSundayDrives.com to be added to their e-mailing list. Our 2010 FSD calendar is already filled with great routes and stops including another weekend drive in May. Be sure you're on our mailing list for updates and information.

NEWS AND NOTES

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER COMING. Have you opted in for the electronic newsletter? Not many members have done that yet, and we're certain there are many of you that would prefer to receive our newsletter electronically. Please take a moment right now and send an email to editor Laura Simonds (simondsl@pacbell.net) to opt in.

We want to be clear that this will be an opt-in choice for you. We will only send the newsletter electronically IF you choose to receive it that way. If you want to receive a printed newsletter via the postal service, you do not need to do anything. Your newsletter will continue to arrive monthly in your mailbox.

We also want to emphasize that MBCA has a very strict privacy policy. The club never sells or gives its membership list to any person or organization. Please be assured that your email address will never go beyond MBCA. So, if you want to receive an electronic newsletter, send an email NOW with your preferred email address to simondsl@pacbell.net. We hope to reach a critical mass of opt-ins to allow us to start sending the newsletter electronically soon.

UPDATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP DATA. With every email and address update the MBCA National Business Office (NBO) receives (either by the MBCA website, phone, email, or snail mail), the NBO will send the member a 10% Off Coupon for one item in the Club Store. One coupon per member will be sent electronically (so it must include a valid email address). Please send your updates to Geni at geni@mbca.org.

SEE A GREAT AUTO COLLECTION AT THE ACADEMY OF ART

What: Tour of S.F. Academy of Art Auto Collection

When: Sunday, February 21, 2010, 10:00 a.m.

Where: Academy of Art, San Francisco

Cost: \$20 per person

Were you aware that there is a very impressive collection of classic cars tucked away in downtown San Francisco? On Sunday, February 21, we will have the opportunity to view the very special collection of Richard Stephens, the past President of the San Francisco Academy of Art. The collection is comprised of vehicles from European and American makers such as Auburn, Bugatti, Cord, Delage, Dusenber, Hispano Suiza, Lagonda, Marmon, Minerva, Packard, Pierce Arrow, Stutz, Talbot Logo, and a host of others.

The Academy of Art is just one of three U.S. universities offering a degree in Transportation Design, and the collection is used by students in this decade-old program as they draw inspiration for the design of tomorrow's automobiles.

The Academy of Art has recently purchased the building that once housed Mercedes-Benz of San Francisco on Van Ness Avenue with plans to make this the future permanent home of the collection. At this time we are unsure if our tour will be in the current or this new location, but either way it will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to view automobiles from the 1920s and '30s that were specifically chosen for the collection because of specific design elements.

Our tour begins at 10:00a.m. and will last approximately 2-3 hours. A no-host lunch at a nearby restaurant will be suggested with your registration confirmation. Attendance is limited to the first 60 participants, so send your reservation form (page 9) now and most certainly before the February 8 deadline. This is another rare opportunity for our club members to view a private collection. Questions, please contact Eva Gordon at (650) 834-2614 or eva@well.com.





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MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

From time to time, we recognize our SFBA Section members who have recently celebrated a milestone MBCA membership anniversary. We appreciate that you're part of MBCA and hope that you continue to enjoy the benefits of your membership for a long time. Congratulations!

John Nidecker, *Alameda, 30 years*
 Oliver Fruge, *San Jose, 25 years*
 John Miottel, *Berkeley, 15 years*
 Ernest & Sandra Verdoes, *Fremont, 15 years*
 Stephen & Elizabeth Paul, *Redwood Valley, 10 years*
 Henry & Lisa Carter, *Santa Cruz, 10 years*
 Eric & Susan Zimmerman, *Santa Clara, 10 years*
 William & Bonnie McElfresh, *San Francisco, 10 years*
 Peter Euteneuer, *San Francisco, 10 years*
 Ross & Bella Lindell, *Oakland, 5 years*
 Stephen Motzko, *Pleasanton, 5 years*
 John Mozart, *Palo Alto, 5 years*

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: 1980 450SL. Silver-blue, dark blue leather. California car with 52,300 miles. Always garaged, meticulously maintained, everything works. \$9,950. Call (650) 579-4513. Email for pictures fbierbrauer@gmail.com.

FOR SALE: 1979 6.9. US-spec car, silver over black, 135k miles, three owner CA car. Just smogged, suspension and engine serviced. Very nice condition. Asking \$12,999. Contact Mike at (650) 771-6360.

FOR SALE: The Star magazine dating back to the July / August 2004 issue. Best offer!! Contact John at (408) 356-4605 or mbzjam@verizon.net.

Please support our commercial advertisers! They support our club. Be sure to tell them that you're a member of the club and saw their ad in this newsletter.

[Remember, classified ads are free to members, \$25 for non-members. Your classified ad will appear both in the newsletter and on our web site for one month. Send your "for sale" or "wanted" ad to Laura Simonds, editor, simonds1@pacbell.net, or (650) 592-6318 fax.]

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

November 2009

(Order name badges from the National Business Office, 1-800-637-2360, or online at the Club Store www.mbca.org.)

Don & Karen Clancy, Cotati
 George Conostas, Danville
 Herbert Crocker, San Francisco
 Thomas Decker, Napa
 Greg Larson, Martinez (sponsored by Howard Strause)
 Wayne Macho, Fremont
 Roxanne Prahser, Danville
 Peter Reeves, Danville
 Bob Scheible, Castro Valley
 Wolfgang Scholz, El Dorado Hills

Mercedes-Benz of Walnut Creek's Winter Event is going on right now!

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SEE WHAT HAPPENS AT THE CHP ACADEMY

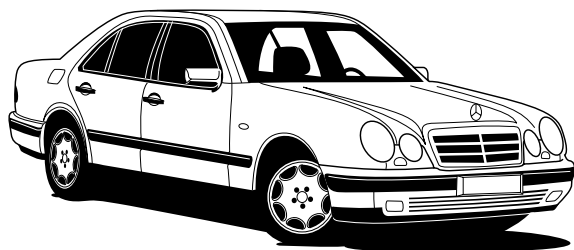
by Bill Brandt, Sacramento Section

What: Tour of the California Highway Patrol Academy
When: Thursday, May 18, 2010, 10:00 a.m.
Where: CHP Academy, West Sacramento
Cost: \$10 per person; no-host lunch optional

Have you ever wondered what is required to become an officer in the California Highway Patrol? It takes 27 weeks and over 1,100 hours in an intense training program that includes classroom instruction as well as practical emergency medical training, weapons training, and performance driving instruction. All this training takes place at the California Highway Patrol Academy in West Sacramento. The Academy is considered to be one of the premiere law enforcement training facilities in the country, with liaisons from all over the world coming to learn from them.

On March 18 we have the opportunity for a very special tour. Members of the Sacramento Section of MBCA have organized this very special event, and they have graciously invited SFBA members to join them at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 18. Yes, you read that correctly—this event is held on a Thursday, the only day available for the CHP. After our two-hour tour of the facility, our group will drive to the Pheasant Club for a no-host lunch. If your schedule is flexible or you have a sick day in the bank at work, come and learn what it takes to be on the other side of the Ray Bans and radar guns!

The deadline for reservations is March 1 and the cost for the tour is \$10 per person. Space on the tour is limited, so if you're able to join in this most informative and interesting event, make your reservation immediately using the reservation form on page 8. Please be sure to include your e-mail address with your RSVP as SFBA members may organize a meeting location for a caravan drive. For more information or questions, please contact Bill Brandt at wbrandt1@sbcglobal.net or Robert Schilling at res.mbca@offserver.com.



VISITING AN INCREDIBLE PRIVATE AUTO COLLECTION

What: Tour of Jack Passey's Auto Collection
When: Saturday, March 13, 2010, 10:00 a.m.
Where: Residence of Jack Passey, Watsonville
Cost: \$15 per person; no-host lunch optional

Most of us probably don't know Jack Passey or of his incredible collection of majestic motorcars. But, please trust what SFBA Section member Jack Marcheski says about it—impressive, incredible, fabulous, amazing. And, Mr. Marcheski has made arrangements for our section members to have a private garage tour of Jack Passey's auto collection.

Few people have dedicated their lives to the preservation of old cars as Jack Passey has. He seems to have made it his mission to preserve the elegance and wonder of the great old cars of the classic era. In his quest, he has owned almost 200 antique and classic cars, including 92 Lincolns, 36 Packards, 15 Cadillacs, five Duesenbergs, 16 Pierce-Arrows, five Locomobiles, and three McFarlans. On our tour of his garage, we will likely find some Cunninghams (rare cars built in Rochester, NY between the world wars), a 1916 Packard twin six, some Locomobiles, a Lincoln L Dietrich Convertible Sedan, a 1930 Lincoln Roadster with a body by Locke, and a one-off 1936 Cadillac 8 70 coupe. Outside the garage, the grounds are full of many cars yet to be resurrected.

Mr. Passey's home is on the hillside a little east of Watsonville. However, we will meet at the "Wings of History," an air museum located at 12777 Murphy Avenue in San Martin (just south of Morgan Hill). From 101 south or north, take the San Martin Ave. West exit. You will see a sign to the Air Museum. We plan to gather at 10:00 a.m. and leave promptly at 10:30 for Mr. Passey's garage. We will caravan to Watsonville by way of Hecker Pass, down the edge of Madonna Mountain to Mr. Passey's home. A beautiful drive in itself!!

After our tour, there will be a no-host lunch at Sea Harvest on Highway One in Moss Landing. Send in your reservation form (on page 9) by the March 1 deadline. Questions, please contact Jack Marcheski at (831) 637-3453 (home) or (831) 524-5912 (cell).

2010 CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

Be sure to check your monthly newsletter and the section's web site for the latest updates on activities.

January 3 1st Sunday Drive 16 Collision Tech Session 30 Travis AFB Museum Tour	February 7 1st Sunday Drive 21 Academy of Art Auto Collection Tour	March 7 1st Sunday Drive 13 Tour of Jack Passey Collection TBD Automotive Photography Seminar
April 4 1st Sunday Drive 10 Diagnostic Clinic 17 Wildflower Train Ride	May 1-2 1st Sunday Drive TBD Concours Judging School TBD Academy of Science Behind-the-Scenes Tour	June 6 1st Sunday Drive 26 Palo Alto Concours Drive/Dinner 27 Palo Alto Concours M-B Corral
July 4 1st Sunday Drive 24 Wine Bottling TBD Fire Arts Festival TBD Airship Ventures Tech Session	August 1 1st Sunday Drive 13 German Marque Concours/Pebble Beach <i>(natl.special event)</i> ; section dinner in Monterey 14 SFBA Mercedes Drive	September 5 1st Sunday Drive 11 Boat Tour of Elk Horn Slough
October 3 1st Sunday Drive 6-10 Western States Driving Experience 23 Oktoberfest & Member Appreciation 24 2011 Planning Meeting	November 7 1st Sunday Drive TBD Day @ Golden Gate Fields	December 4 M-B R&D Facility Tour 4 Ladies Holiday Tea 5 1st Sunday Drive TBD Holiday Party



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CHP ACADEMY TOUR
Thursday, March 18, 2010
RESERVATION FORM

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

First Event: () Yes () No



_____ persons @ \$10 ea. = \$_____

Make checks payable to **MBCA—Sacramento Section** and mail to:

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HAD A COLLISION?

(Continued from page 1)

A catered lunch will be served around noon. The reservation form on page 9 will ask you for any specific questions you may have about collision repair, and we will take questions during the presentations. MBZ vehicles will be used to demonstrate the collision repair services that are being discussed.

“OLD WAR BIRDS”

(Continued from page 1)

docent—who will take us around and answer our questions. Tours will take approximately 45 minutes. After the guided tour we will be able to see all the outside airplanes on our own. Everyone will drive to Travis AFB next to Fairfield and gather together by 10:00 a.m. for our tour. There is no admission fee; however we will collect \$5 per person for a docent stipend and administration fee.

Reservations are necessary to organize our guided tours. Please send in your reservation form (on page 9) ASAP. Questions, please contact me or Lindsay Drobilisch at (408) 782-2305. Driving directions will be included in your confirmation.

PASSEY AUTO COLLECTION TOUR
Saturday, March 13, 2010
RESERVATION FORM

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

First Event: () Yes () No

_____ persons @ \$15 ea. = \$_____

Make checks payable to SFBA/MBCA and mail to:

Ann Bornstein
61 Devon Court
Watsonville, CA 95076
(831) 786-0782, annstitcher@charter.net

Reservation deadline March 1. For confirmation, enclose a SASE or email address above.

ACADEMY OF ART AUTO COLLECTION TOUR
Sunday, February 21, 2010
RESERVATION FORM

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

First Event: () Yes () No

_____ persons @ \$20 ea. = \$_____

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Watsonville, CA 95076
(831) 786-0782, annstitcher@charter.net

Reservation deadline Feb. 8 or when limit is reached. For confirmation, enclose a SASE or email address above.

COLLISION REPAIR TECH SESSION
Saturday, January 16, 2010
RESERVATION FORM

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

First Event: () Yes () No

_____ persons @ \$17 ea. = \$_____

Year & Model of MBZ: _____

Special topics or questions: _____

Make checks payable to SFBA/MBCA and mail to:

Richard Simonds
2909 Brittan Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070
(650) 592-7613, rsimonds@pacbell.net

Reservation deadline January 8 or when limit is reached. For confirmation, enclose a SASE or e-mail address above.

TRAVIS AIR FORCE MUSEUM TOUR
Saturday, January 30, 2010
RESERVATION FORM

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

First Event: () Yes () No

Please list all names above of all people attending.

_____ persons @ \$5 ea. = \$_____

Make checks payable to SFBA/MBCA and mail to:

Sandor Drobilisch (Travis Tour)
3410 Blue Grass Court
Morgan Hill, CA 95037-6417
(408) 782-2305, sandoreng@att.net

Reservation deadline Jan. 23. For confirmation, enclose a SASE or email address above.

NAPA RALLY, OCTOBER 18, 2009



VOL. 48 NO. 1 • SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA SECTION • JAN 2010

MAILING ADDRESS: 2909 BRITTAN AVE. • SAN CARLOS, CA 94070

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