

Golden Gate Star-



LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR LEGENDS OF THE AUTOBAHN

Co-hosted by the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, the BMW Car Club of America, and the Porsche Club of America, **Legends of the Autobahn: West Coast Summer Concours** on Friday, **August 19**, is one of the "must-attend" events of the 2011 Monterey Classic Car Week. **You can still register for this wonderful event until August 12.**

The one-day Legends event brings owners, enthusiasts, and aficionados of distinctive German cars together to view some of the finest marques in the world. Held on the greens of the beautiful Rancho Cañada Golf Club in Carmel Valley, we expect a large turnout because Mercedes-Benz's 125 years of innovation is a featured marque at the Pebble Beach Concours.

You have two options for entering your Mercedes-Benz automobile: judged for 1991 or older vehicles, or display-only corral for vehicles of any vintage. "Early bird" registration closes on August 1 (\$60 for judged and \$30 for corral). "Late-bird" entry fee from August 2-12 is \$75 for judged and \$40 for corral. Optional catered barbecue lunch and event shirts are available

Registration is available online at www.motorsportreg.com. Scroll down to August 19 to find "MBCA—Legends of the Autobahn." **But remember--final registration deadline of August 12 is quickly approaching, so don't wait!** If you can't enter your car for some reason, there is no admission fee and you should stop by to view some of Germany's best vehicles.

For more information, contact Laura Simonds at simondsl@pacbell.net or (650) 592-7613, or Robert Schilling at res.mbca@offserver.com or (650) 619-7550. You can also check out the event's official website www.legendsoftheautobahn.org/mbca.

EUROPEAN DELIVERY PROGRAM

by Richard Simonds, Technical Director

What: Program on Mercedes-Benz European Factory Delivery
When: Saturday, September 17, 2011, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Where: Smythe European, 4500 Stevens Creek Blvd, San Jose
Cost: \$7 per person (includes morning treats and coffee)
Who: All MBCA members who want to save money while having a fantastic experience cruising on the back roads and/or autobahns of Germany + the rest of Europe!

Join us to learn about this wonderful program offered by MBUSA for those who want to take delivery of their new Mercedes-Benz vehicle at the factory near Stuttgart. Laura and I have participated in this program twice and can whole-heartedly recommend it. You might be asking, "What's in it for me?" The answer may surprise you, but here are some of the major benefits. For more information about the European Delivery Program, go to www.mbusa.com/mercedes/european_delivery_program/overview.

- Every vehicle is custom-ordered to *your* specifications (not just off the showroom floor)
- 7% discount on total vehicle MSRP on eligible models and the \$857 delivery charge is waived
- Fifteen (15) days of European Road Insurance (worth a lot I might add, and the cost of renting a comparable car for 15 days is very expensive) while you get to drive your very own car in Europe
- Full tank of fuel
- One night hotel accommodations in one of 14 luxury hotels
- MBUSA personal travel concierge service
- Two taxi vouchers for use in Stuttgart (we used ours from the hotel to the Sindelfingen Delivery Center where we picked up our new Mercedes-Benz vehicles)
- Breakfast or lunch at the Sindelfingen Delivery Center Restaurant
- Sindelfingen Factory Tour
- Two tickets to the new Mercedes-Benz Museum
- A portable European Navigation System will be provided to those who purchase a U.S.-based Navigation System in their new Mercedes-Benz vehicle

(Continued on page 7)

2011 CALENDAR OF COMING ACTIVITIES

- AUG 19** **Legends of the Autobahn**, Laura Simonds (650) 592-7613
- AUG 19** **Monterey Dinner**, Robert Schilling (650) 619-7550 **SOLD OUT!**
- SEPT 17*** **European Delivery Program**, Richard Simonds (650) 592-7613
- OCT 22** **Oktoberfest**, Eva Gordon (650) 834-2614

*Reservation form on page 7

BOARD MEMBER'S MESSAGE

by Don Penney, Director at Large

Mercedes-Benz Roadside Assistance Program

As an M-B enthusiast, we can enjoy the peace of mind that comes from having "on-call" help available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It is a standard that has set us apart from all of the other luxury car makers. The MBUSA Roadside Assistance Program provides help from a dispatch office of Mercedes-Benz employees that will send a qualified M-B technician to perform on-site service or arrange to have your vehicle towed to the nearest authorized M-B dealership due to limitations as to what can be repaired in a roadside environment.

I initially changed from a different automobile manufacturer in 1986 to M-B because of the roadside assistance program. One of the best examples that I have personally experienced was an incident with my sister-in-law. She had the car serviced with the understanding that the Service Dept. would bring the car to her upon completing the service. Although she received the keys, she could not find her car anywhere nearby a few hours later in the evening. I called the roadside assistance and requested to have the on-call technician check whether the car could still be in the parking lot of the dealership. The dispatch (at no cost) confirmed the car was there, and the technician would wait for her arrival to pick up the car.

Another example was when I traveled to Dallas, Texas and could not start my car. The roadside assistance dispatched the on-call technician who determined the battery needed to be replaced (at no cost) and assisted with choosing the correct battery at an auto retail store nearby to save time with going to and from the dealership for a battery.

On a different occasion, I needed gas, and the fuel tank secured opening would not function. I called the roadside assistance who informed me of a manual lever inside the trunk and fender that would release the fuel filler opening.

I drive over 30,000 miles each year with over 200,000 miles per car, and I have enjoyed an unmatched roadside service program. Perhaps you were not aware of this extraordinary peace and comfort with M-B ownership, and will share this with friends and family who may be considering their first purchase of a Mercedes-Benz.



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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*

EVENT SOLD OUT!

You really like this event, because so many of you acted quickly to make your reservation. We are happy to report that the **Monterey Yacht Club Dinner on August 19 is SOLD OUT**. We are also sorry that, because of the yacht club's space limitation, there isn't enough space to accommodate everyone who wants to attend.

If you have a reservation and still have questions, please contact Robert Schilling at res.mbca@offserver.com.

E-NEWSLETTER NOTICE

All members with e-mail addresses in the national MBCA membership database automatically receive the e-newsletter.

Be sure that the MBCA National Business Office has your current e-mail address to receive the e-newsletter by contacting Renee Herbert at (800) 637-2360. Or send your address correction to Ann Bornstein (SFBA membership director) at annstitcher@charter.net. Members with no e-mail addresses receive the printed and mailed newsletter. If you want to receive the printed and mailed newsletter, you need to opt-out of the electronic version by contacting editor Laura Simonds at (650) 592-7613 or simonds@pacbell.net. To avoid being "undeliverable," be sure to put our editor's address (simonds@pacbell.net) in your list of safe senders.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR OKTOBERFEST

Oktoberfest will be on **Saturday, October 22**. Save the date! Back by overwhelming popular demand, once again we plan to return to the beautiful and private setting of the Menlo Circus Club in Atherton for our luncheon celebration.

Plan to spend the afternoon enjoying the spectacular gourmet Bavarian dishes prepared by their renowned chef while being serenaded by the wonderful traditional German music of the Karl Leberherz Band. Dust off your beer steins and take out your dirndls and lederhosen for our traditional celebration.

More information and reservation form will be available in the September issue of the club newsletter.

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- **Stock up Sale! Buy Any Parts Accessory or Boutique Item at regular price and get a 2nd item of equal or lesser value for ½ off!**

MERCEDES-BENZ OF WALNUT CREEK
1301 PARKSIDE DRIVE
WALNUT CREEK CA 94596
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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!

Jim Williams, Palo Alto, 20 years
Dave Downs, Santa Cruz, 20 years
William & Dolores Arvoy, Fremont, 20 years
Steven & Juliann Robinson, Dublin, 15 years
Williard & Carolyn Lynn, Danville, 15 years
Joel & Valerie Camarda, San Francisco, 15 years
Joseph & Frances Aragona, Redwood City, 10 years
Jeff Hollender & Ruth Rodriguez, Milpitas, 5 years
Richard & Dianna Goncalves, Sebastopol, 5 years

And, we want to share this member's message on the occasion of their club anniversary.

"Thank you for your letter of July 3, commemorating our 15-year anniversary as MBCA members. To update your records, in addition to our 2009 C350, we also own a 2005 SLK350. These are our 4th and 5th M-B's. We started with a 1986 190E, purchased pre-owned. Even at that modest level, we were immediately impressed with the quality, solidity, and road-worthiness of the M-B. We upgraded to a new 1996 C280, added a 1998 SLK230 (pre-owned), and in late 2008, replaced that pair with the current 350's. The power and "song" of the 350 engine is a treat. By the way, the prior 3 cars that we traded in or sold (or donated to Junior Giants in one case) were all still in excellent condition despite the years and some healthy mileage.

Best regards,
Joel & Valerie Carmarda"

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

June 2011

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

Peter Algert, Lafayette
Armand Knutsen, San Francisco
Sumeet Pannu, San Francisco
Robert Quon, San Francisco
Weichen Ren, Fremont



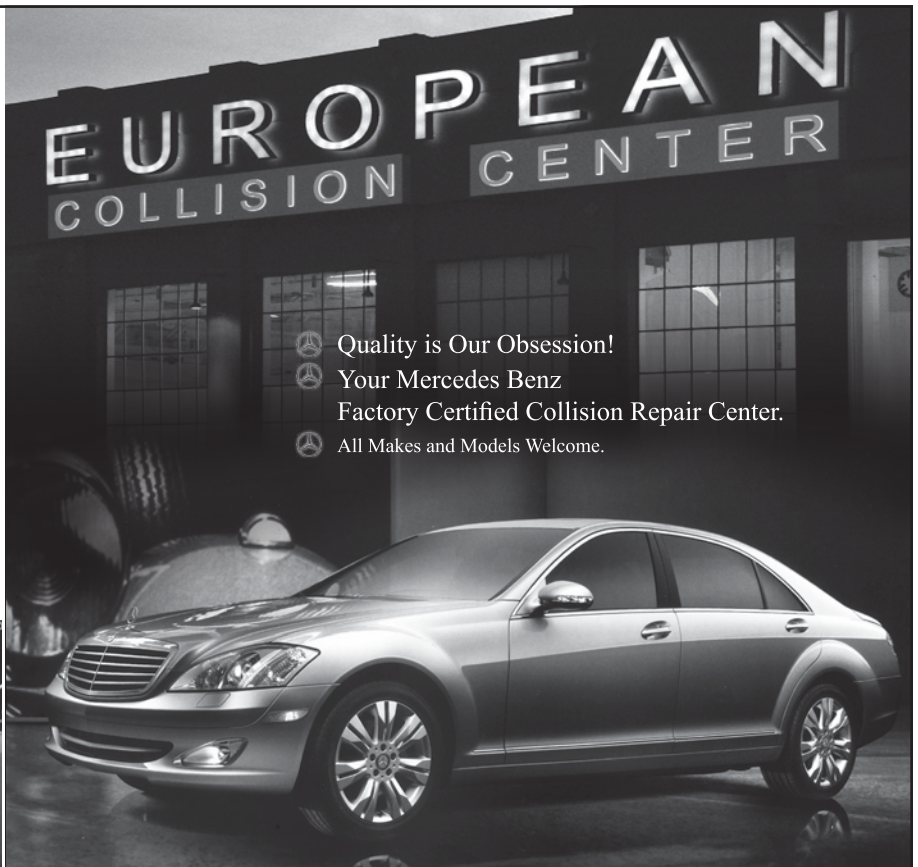
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(between South Van Ness & Howard)

www.europeancollision.com



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SFBA WENT TO THE DOGS!

By Jack Weir, President

Thirty SFBA Section members toured the Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDFTB) campus in San Rafael on June 4. It was an excellent tour, and we all learned some very interesting information. For example, even though dogs are assigned to their partner blind people, GDFTB retains ownership until the dog retires. Also, GDFTB estimates each puppy is valued at \$45,000 at birth, taking into account the cost of breeding and training. Dogs are provided life-long veterinarian care, and GDFTB pays all expenses of bringing the blind partners to the campus for three weeks of training. It's estimated by the time the dogs are fully trained, they're worth \$65,000. By the way, they no longer use German Shepherds for service, as it's too hard for them to separate from their trainers. They now use Golden Retrievers, and Black and Yellow Labs, as well as crosses of the two breeds.

We lucked out weather-wise. It rained heavily right up until we started our tour, and then it stopped so we remained dry throughout. As Mauna and I drove away, it started raining again and has into the evening now. I guess Gottlieb and Karl were looking out for our section!





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SUSPENSION & TIRES TECH EVENT BALANCED CURIOSITY WITH FACTS

by Richard Simonds, Technical Director

On July 9, Dave Graff, Director of Suspension Services at Borelli Motor Sports, kept twenty-two members on the edge of their seats as he discussed tires, suspension, road-force tire balancing, and more. When we arrived, and introductions were made, Addison Lee, General Manager, took us on a tour of the Club Auto Sport facilities. Several members asked, "How did you find this place?" The Club Auto Sport building covers nearly a full block of specialty businesses for the auto enthusiast. In addition, they have a 10,000 square foot showroom that is regularly used for big events with an adjacent bar area. There is an exercise gym on premises, too.

But, to the key points from our technical event: Dave gave a thorough presentation on the nature of tires, what their markings mean, and how important it is to realize that you cannot use the tire ratings from one manufacturer to compare to another manufacturer's tires. One good example is that the Tread Wear rating is valid ONLY to compare tires within that brand's offerings. The baseline measures that various manufacturers use are not the same, so you cannot say that the tread wear rating for Brand X is directly comparable to Brand Y. There were many questions about tires before we moved on to discuss the intricacies of how Mercedes-Benz sets up and makes adjustments to its suspension systems. Dave's knowledge was invaluable as we learned how our cars can be adjusted to our driving style and performance needs. There is not just ONE suspension setting for a car—in spite of what we've seen for years in the service manuals. Finally, we learned about how important "road-force balancing" is to getting maximum tire performance and safety compared to "dynamic balancing" that was the standard for many years. During his presentation, Dave gave out business cards with "\$50 OFF Labor / First Time Clients" to everyone who asked a good question or gave a good answer to one of his questions.

Finally, Addison Lee told us about the other services provided by Borelli Motor Sports. A few of these include vehicle storage with one-hour per month of included services; detailing services; race car rentals with track support or track support separately for your own race car; general auto services for the traveler using SJC airport. Borelli Motor Sports will provide delivery service to and taxi service from SJC based upon the value of services chosen. Finally, if you are in the market for tires, they have very competitive prices on purchases.

The session was so well received that the presentation didn't end until 12:30 p.m., and then participants stayed with one-on-one questions until 1:15 p.m. Thanks to everyone for making this a very successful technical event.

One other point of interest: Borelli Motor Sports has a monthly Fun Run that anyone can attend. It's just you and your car cruising some of Northern California most scenic, fun-to-drive highways and byways with a bunch of new friends from Club Auto Sport and Borelli Motor Sports. The next several Fun Runs will tentatively be on August 27, September 10, and October 29. They update their website with confirmed dates as they are known. For Fun Run information, go to www.bmsfunrun.eventbrite.com.



EUROPEAN DELIVERY PROGRAM
Saturday, September 17, 2011
RESERVATION FORM

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

First Event: Y N

_____ persons at \$7 ea. = \$ _____

Questions for Discussion: _____

Make check payable to SFBA/MBCA and mail to:

Richard Simonds
2909 Brittan Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070-3520
(650) 592-7613, rsimonds@pacbell.net

Reservation deadline September 9. For confirmation, include e-mail or phone # above. Confirmation will be sent upon receipt of registration.

EUROPEAN DELIVERY PROGRAM

(Continued from page 1)

- Numerous other benefits, including shipment to the U.S., and more...

In addition to this partial list of benefits, participants in the European Delivery Program can choose among several Trip Packages that can enhance their experience and make delivery in Europe into a top quality vacation. The Trip Packages are:

- Standard Package (as noted, above) for Free Spirits who want to plan their own itinerary
- Black Forest-Alps Rally Package or Alpen Route Package for true driving enthusiasts
- Spa Package for health and wellness-seekers
- Stuttgart Walking Tour Package for those who want to enjoy the sights of Stuttgart

Our European Delivery Program will be presented by Tony Spencer, Senior Sales Representative at Smythe European. Smythe European Mercedes-Benz has specialized in offering the European Delivery Program to its customers for well over 20 years and has considerable expertise in the nuances of providing an exceptional experience for those who purchase/lease their new Mercedes-Benz from them. Coffee, juice, and treats will be available at 9:30 a.m. The presentation will start at 10:00 a.m. Due to limited customer parking Smythe will have their staff provide valet parking for us.

LINDSAY DROBILISCH REMEMBERED

Long-time and loyal member Lindsay Drobilisch passed away July 12, 2011. We are sad to lose her, and send our condolences and support to her husband, Sandor.

From Laura Simonds, Editor:

Lindsay and I became "girlfriends" almost immediately upon meeting in 1994. She had a knack for finding treasures that were meaningful to others, and she gave me many gifts that were just perfect. She had a heart of gold and was very generous with her caring and her time. She and I also loved to ride roller coasters and made many trips to Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk to indulge our passion.

Lindsay, Sandor, my husband Richard, and I planned and held seven "Midsummer Night's Dream" events for SFBA Section at their home. We also planned three "Yosemite Rally" events. In addition to what we did together, Lindsay served as Secretary and Historian for the board of the SFBA Section for more than ten years until her illness kept her from continuing.

In many ways, about the four of us, we cannot separate our many adventures and the fun we had as two couples, from the role that Lindsay played in making our times together very special.

From Jack Weir, President:

One of the first people Mauna and I met when we re-joined the SFBA Section was Lindsay. We joined the section for lunch on the Santa Cruz pier and felt a bit like little kids on our first day at a strange school. Lindsay sought us out and welcomed us warmly.

Over the years we got to know Lindsay and Sandy well. I value the special moments we spent together on the section board, working together to make SFBA a rewarding experience for members and their families.

Lindsay marched to her own drummer, and there were times when we didn't agree on issues before the board, but she was always willing to resume a friendly relationship when the issue was settled.

We miss Lindsay very much.

CLASSIFIEDS

NO ADS THIS MONTH

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.]



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Please send any address changes directly to MBCA at 1907 Lelaray Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80909, or call 1-800-637-2360. We cannot process address changes locally.

GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND TOUR, JUNE 4, 2011

