

Golden Gate Star-



SUSPENSION AND TIRES: HOW MERCEDES-BENZ DOES IT

by Richard Simonds, Technical Director

What: Tech Session: Suspension & Tires
When: Saturday, July 9, 2011, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Where: Borelli Motorsports, 521 Charcot Ave., #211, San Jose
Cost: \$5 per person (coffee & snack included)

Mercedes-Benz takes some different approaches from other manufacturers in setting up and adjusting suspension system in our cars. To learn more about what they do, and why they do it, attend this technical event. Dave Graff, suspension specialist at Borelli Motorsports, will present this part of our session and will use their new high-tech, top-notch, alignment rack to demonstrate the unique characteristics of our M-B vehicles. As an example, correction bolts to modify or correct alignment are one interesting approach designed by M-B engineers.

In addition to the basics of suspension setup, Dave will present a tutorial on the benefits of a custom alignment on your own vehicle(s) to suit your particular driving style. If you have any questions about the suspension or alignment settings on your own M-B, bring them to this event. Dave will discuss your questions and assist you in learning what you need to do to adjust your suspension to your preferences.

Of course, a major component of good handling is to have the suspension and tires working together to suit your driving style (from grocery shopping to race track maneuvers). So, the Borelli team will discuss tires, manufacturing techniques, tire compounds, going to Plus Sizes

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LET'S GET DIRTY IN THE SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS

by Eva Gordon, Activities Director

What: Off-Road Driving Adventure
When: Saturday, July 16, 2011, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Where: Home of Peter & Mary Judy, Santa Cruz Mountains, Los Gatos
Cost: \$15 per person (includes lunch)
Who: M-Class, G-Class, and Unimog Owners & Enthusiasts

While not all of our members have the four-wheel drive vehicles that will be required to participate in the driving portion of this event, our **Off-Road Driving Adventure** will be an enjoyable day for both drivers and spectators alike. Mercedes-Benz manufactures some of the most capable off-road driving machines on the planet, and this event will provide the opportunity to experience and observe them as they go through their paces on a very challenging course.

One of our local members has teamed up with Mike Serpe (the leader of the G-Wagen Group and a highly accomplished off-road adventurer) to design and build a 20-acre off-road track around his house in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The track is challenging, and for those with the right vehicles, this will be a great opportunity to learn more about the ability of your car and the driving technique needed to maximize the safety and enjoyment of driving in challenging situations. For those without all-terrain vehicles, there will be the opportunity to observe driving participants in several areas along the track and cheer them on as they navigate turns, hills, and a boulder or two.

So that everyone has the opportunity to drive a Mercedes-Benz in an off-road environment, there will be a light-hearted competition open to any who want to participate—and the vehicles will be provided for this portion of the event!

Our day will start at 11:00 a.m. with a “walk-through” of the track and a presentation highlighting the schedule for the day. BBQ buffet lunch will

(Continued on page 9)

2011 CALENDAR OF COMING ACTIVITIES

- JUNE 4** Guide Dogs Tour, Eva Gordon (650) 834-2614
- JULY 9*** Tech Event: Suspension & Tires, Richard Simonds (650) 592-7613
- JULY 16*** Off-Road Driving Event, Eva Gordon (650) 834-2614
- AUG 19** Legends of the Autobahn, Laura Simonds (650) 592-7613
- AUG 19** Monterey Dinner, Robert Schilling (650) 619-7550

*Reservation form on page 9

OFFICER'S MESSAGE

by Jack Weir, President

Building on Vice President Gloria Loventhal's message in our April *Golden Gate Star* newsletter, let me bring you up to date on how we're moving forward on action plans for our major initiatives this year. Since January the board has met on two occasions and developed a short list of priorities to help us meet our perennial goal—improving the quality and variety of events and services we provide our members, and thereby attracting and retaining members.

I'm pleased to report that as we finish the first half of 2011, we're well underway toward accomplishing several projects for this year. The three "big-hitter" projects for 2011 are:

1. **Improve the Technology we deploy to more effectively support our other programs.**
2. **Improve our Partnerships with Mercedes-Benz dealers and others to enhance membership value.**
3. **Expand and improve our Communications channels and processes to more effectively spread the word among our community about events, opportunities, and MBZ-related information.**

One of our action plans is to implement online registration for our events. This is a feature about which I'm really excited. No more cutting a reservation form out of the paper newsletter (or printing that page in the e-newsletter), filling it in, and "snail mailing" it back to the event planner. By the end of this year, members who receive the electronic newsletter (or those who access the e-newsletter via our website) will be able to register and pay online. Instead of having to wait for the U.S. Postal Service to deliver those reservation forms, event planners will receive immediate reports of who has registered and paid, and whether they want chicken or fish for dinner, etc. Incidentally, those who follow the news will appreciate that by going online with our newsletter and event registration, we'll be protecting ourselves from future postal rate increases!

All of these activities have but one objective: enhance our membership experience and add to the value of our membership.

SUSPENSION AND TIRES

(Continued from page 1)

(good in tires, not so good in clothing), the latest tire balancing techniques, and tire and wheel packages. For example, road force balancing simulates how your vehicle handles on the road and is more accurate than the usual dynamic balancing and way ahead of static balancing.

If you have any questions, or need assistance the day of the event, please call Borelli Motorsports at (408) 770-1220. The General Manager and our host is Addison Lee.

DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101: Exit at Trimble Road West (going northeast; it becomes Trimble Road East when you cross First Street). Turn right onto Junction Avenue. 521 Charcot Ave #211, San Jose will be on your right, inside "Club Auto Sport."

From I-880: Exit at East Brokaw Road (going southwest). Turn right onto Junction Avenue. 521 Charcot Ave. #211, San Jose will be on your left, inside "Club Auto Sport."

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA SECTION

www.mbca.org/sfba

Executive Board

President, JACK WEIR
925.934.7220 Cell 925.899.4298
Fax 925.930.0446 jweir39@aol.com

Vice President, GLORIA LOVENTHAL
408.289.1933 Cell 408.823.6400
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Treasurer, THEO BURGER
650.906.5275 Fax 650.917.8775
morbier4u@gmail.com

Secretary, MAUNA WAGNER
925.934.7220
maunaw@aol.com

Ex-Officio, ROBERT SCHILLING
650.619.7550
res.mbca@offserver.com

Board of Directors

Activities, EVA GORDON
650.834.2614 Fax 510.234.4574
eva@well.com

Advertising, JANET MIGLIORE
650.349.2744
janetmigliore@hotmail.com

Editor, LAURA SIMONDS
650.592.7613
Ofc 650.691.9123 Fax 650.592.6318
simondsl@pacbell.net

Photographer & Historian, SANDY DROBILISCH
408.782.2305 Fax 408.782.1518
sandoreng@att.net

Director at Large, DON PENNEY
707.310.0460
don.penney@kp.org

Director at Large, CHESTER PLOMGREN
510.523.3894
cplomgren@hotmail.com

Hospitality, KARA PANNU
415.205.0790
pannukara@yahoo.com

Membership, ANN BORNSTEIN
831.786.0782
annstitcher@charter.net

Technical, RICHARD SIMONDS
650.592.7613 Fax 650.592.6318
rsimonds@pacbell.net

Webmaster, LOIS WONG
415.601.1329
lois.h.wong@gmail.com

Director at Large, JERRY TERSTIEGE
650.574.0741
jerryt94404@aol.com

Director at Large, VACANT

Western Regional Director, LANCE TAYLOR-WARREN
775.722.3274
wstrgndirmbca@gmail.com

National Treasurer, LAURA SIMONDS
650.592.7613 Fax 650.592.6318
simondsl@pacbell.net

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Publisher

Anza Group - San Jose

Editor

Laura Simonds

Photographer

Sandy Drobilisch

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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*

CELEBRATE “125! YEARS OF INNOVATION” AT LEGENDS OF THE AUTOBAHN

The third weekend of August on the Monterey Peninsula is famous for the world's preeminent automotive event—The Monterey Historics Weekend—that culminates with the famed Pebble Beach Concours on Sunday. In honor of their anniversary—“125! Years of Innovation,” Mercedes-Benz has been selected as a featured marque for 2011. For any Mercedes enthusiast, this weekend is a “not to be missed” affair. Always a gracious sponsor of the event, MBUSA is sure to pull out all the stops when it comes to showing their wares, and world class Mercedes vehicles can be expected from all over the globe.

Add to your enjoyment of this weekend by participating in the **Legends of the Autobahn: West Coast Summer Concours**. After a hugely successful launch in 2010, MBCA is repeating their involvement in this very special show that highlights the German marques of Mercedes-Benz, BMW, and Porsche. With all the focus on Mercedes-Benz throughout the weekend, Legends of the Autobahn promises to be one of the most memorable events in MBCA history.

Legends of the Autobahn will be held **Friday, August 19, on the greens of the Rancho Cañada Golf Club in beautiful Carmel Valley**. There are 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” entry fee until August 1 is \$60 for judged and \$30 for corral. “Late-bird” entry fee from August 2-12 will be \$75 for judged and \$40 for corral.

Registration is available online at www.motorsportreg.com. Scroll down to August 19 to find “MBCA—Legends of the Autobahn.” Final registration deadline is August 12 but don't wait until the last minute to make your plans as hotel rooms book up very quickly for this weekend. Visit www.monterey.com or www.resort2me.com for accommodation resources.

For more information, contact Laura Simonds at simonds1@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.

Don't delay—Legends of the Autobahn is truly the perfect kick-off to an epic weekend for any Mercedes-Benz enthusiast. We'll see you there!

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Register now at

www.motorsportreg.com

Search on name and date of event, and enter your
Mercedes-Benz for judging or display only in the corral.



For additional information, contact **Laura Simonds, (650) 592-7613** or SimondsL@pacbell.net



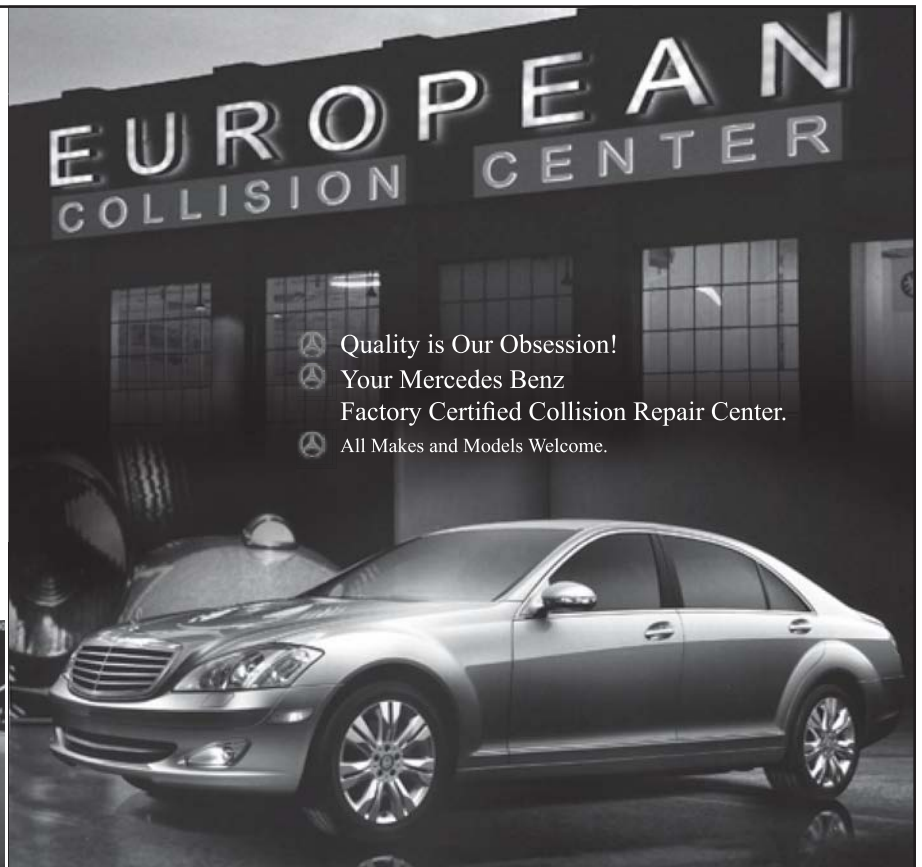
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POST-LEGENDS MONTEREY YACHT CLUB DINNER

By Robert Schilling, Ex-Officio

Whether you are showing your car in the Legends of the Autobahn or just coming out to see the great cars assembled, please mark your calendars and join us for dinner following the show on Friday, August 19. After the success of the casual cocktails and dinner at the Monterey Yacht Club after last year's show, SFBA Section member Bob Doerr has generously offered to sponsor the event again this year.

The Monterey Yacht Club is a very casual place, and during last year's dinner event many members were heard to say that a cold beer or cocktail on the deck at the edge of the marina was the perfect way to relax at the end of the great day.

To accommodate those that need to drive back to the Bay Area, we will plan an early dinner. Exact details on timing, menu, and price along with a reservation form will be in the July and August newsletters. Reservations will be limited and accepted on a first-come first-served basis as paid reservations arrive. So if you're interested in attending, be sure to return your reservation as soon as the newsletter arrives. Questions? Please e-mail Robert Schilling at res.mbca@offserver.com.

NEWS & NOTES

MBCA/SFBA GOING TO THE DOGS—On Saturday, June 4, 2011, at 1:00 p.m., we'll take a tour of **Guide Dogs for the Blind Tour** in San Rafael. Reservations closed on May 25, but to find out if there's space still available, contact Eva Gordon at eva@well.com or (650) 834-2614. Cost is \$10 per person.

MBCA MEMBER-ONLY RAFFLE—June 15 is the last date to get your tickets for MBCA's spectacular raffle. Thirteen lucky members will win cash prizes ranging from \$67,220 (equivalent MSRP of a 2011 E550 Sedan) to \$500. Winners will be announced on/about June 29. Raffle forms are available at www.mbca.org, or contact the National Business Office at (800) 637-2360.

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 simondsl@pacbell.net. To avoid being "undeliverable," be sure to put our editor's address (simondsl@pacbell.net) in your list of safe senders.



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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!

Lee & Sandra Egherman, Los Gatos, 35 years
Leon & Sonyong Crouere, San Francisco, 25 years
Lou & Loretta Piccinini, Millbrae, 5 years
Robin Gass & Roy Schauben, Danville, 5 years
Jesse Dogillo, San Jose, 5 years
Todd & Marianne Bartos, Monterey, 5 years
Raymond & Josephine Alvaro, San Jose, 5 years

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

April 2011

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

Robert Andrews, Kentfield
Mark & Ellen Bridgeman, Sonoma
Darlene Deguzman, San Francisco
Leonardo Flores, Oakland
Jules Heumann, San Francisco
Riadh Khairalla, Dublin
John Newton, Berkeley
Charles Olson, San Francisco
Daniel Saks, San Francisco
Lori Spiegl, Redwood City
William Swansiger, Livermore
Ronald Thomas, Vallejo

WANTED: VOLUNTEERS AND JUDGES

... for **Legends of the Autobahn** on Friday, August 19. Volunteer jobs include set up on Thursday afternoon, vehicle check-in, field placement, hosting in the MBCA tent, assembling registrants' gift bags, and (the ever popular) clean up. If you'd like to help, contact Laura Simonds at (650) 592-7613 or simonds@pacbell.net.

We're also looking for concours judges. If you'd like to be a judge, contact Richard Simonds at (650) 592-7613 or rsimonds@pacbell.net.



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MERCEDES LADIES UNDER THE HOOD AND THE CAR

by Laura Simonds, Editor

April 9 was a unique day for the SFBA Section—our first Technical Session for women only. Organized by Richard Simonds (yes, a man but our section's Technical Director, who excused himself from participating), this very special tech session was held at MB Garage in San Mateo. MB Garage is also unique because it's owned by a woman, SFBA Section member Janet Migliore.

Janet and I set up a very welcoming table of breakfast refreshments for the 40+ attendees. For the benefit of Janet's guests who weren't MBCA members, the table also held a big display of MBCA membership materials, section newsletters, and *The Star* magazines. It proved to be a great recruitment opportunity!

After my brief introduction of MBCA, Janet gave a brief history of MB Garage and introduced the three technicians that would teach us some tips and give us loads of advice and information. They were Master Technician Irving Arguello, Senior Technician Jurek Sabik, and Technician Christoph Litschke.

We broke into three groups based on the age of the M-B vehicle we owned: the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s. Separating into these groups gave us the opportunity to learn about the specific vintage of our vehicle. Each technician started with some basics, such as oils, care, and maintenance. Then they opened the hoods, and we put on latex gloves and learned where to find such things as the dip stick, radiator, oil filter, etc.

Then, the magic lifts raised the vehicles over our heads. More learning opportunities! We looked at tire tread, oil leaks, brake pads, and worn-out tie rod bushings. It's a different world looking at the under carriage of a Mercedes-Benz!

When noon arrived (the official ending time), everyone was still under a hood or a vehicle. We were so engrossed, and the technicians graciously continued for more than an additional hour.

Janet's generosity also extended to the gift bags for each attendee. I especially liked the little LED high-intensity flashlight! We all left MB Garage with a wealth of new knowledge and a greater sense of security about our M-B vehicles. A million "thank you's" to Janet, Irving, Jurek, and Christoph.



SLAC—STILL IN DEMAND AFTER 50 YEARS

by Richard Simonds, SFBA Technical Director, and Ted Thayer, SFBA Member

Stanford Linear Accelerator Center is a very high tech organization that is nearly 50 years old in an area of basic research on the nature of matter, and it would seem that at its age it would be obsolete! How much high tech equipment do you have that is still functional and in demand after almost 50 years? Yet, one of the earliest particle accelerators is in demand year round by researchers in many fields (physics, astrophysics and cosmology, anti-viral drugs, genetics, and the nature of particles).

Our SLAC tour guide was a graduate student, pursuing a Ph.D. in physics. She was brilliant and still able to talk to us mere mortals in a way that made the research at SLAC exceptionally interesting. SLAC has 1,600 employees, 3,000 visitors per year, and provides research facilities to over 150 universities. Over 500 doctoral theses and 500 peer-reviewed articles have come from research there. They operate with a \$300 million budget from the Department of Defense and user fees paid by research organizations. Three Nobel prizes have been awarded to researchers using SLAC facilities for research on quarks, charm quarks, and tau. SLAC is moving to photon physics from earlier particle physics research using LINAC—a Coherent Light Source that is the world's most powerful laser. After learning about SLAC, we were given a tour of the two-mile long accelerator—the straightest building in the world. By the way, it crosses the San Andreas Fault and, after the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989, only had to be adjusted by micro-millimeters. SLAC is very attentive to safety and the place is built on bedrock. In addition, they have many levels of double-checks and security controls to assure the safety of the personnel who work and do their research there. The control room operates around the clock when research needs it.

After the introductory presentation, tour of the facility, and some time to look at the visitor center displays, all but three of us convened at the Dutch Goose in Menlo Park for burgers and beer (and some healthier fare for those who wanted it).

For our members who like very special events with a technical bent, this was the place to be on Friday, April 22. The 30 members who attended made the case that for the right event, even a weekday afternoon, will attract more people than could be accommodated. Robert Schilling, SFBA Past President, organized the event and then was unable to attend because of a business commitment.



CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: 1978 450 SL. This is a 1978 450 SL with 33,400 miles. One owner and garaged year round. Color is Milan Brown; interior color is Palomino. Zenith wire wheel knock offs, with original wheels. Service records come with the car. Looking for \$19,500 or best offer. You will not find a better 1978 450 SL anywhere; this car is in excellent condition, if not perfect mechanically, exterior, and interior. Contact Eugene Carvalho at (408) 251-0447 or at genecarvalho@aol.com.

FOR SALE: 1999 E430 Sport Sedan. Desert Silver, 110,520 miles. I am a non-smoker, and the car has primarily seen highway miles. The car has a leather interior and a Sport Package which includes 17-inch Alloy wheels. I currently have Bridgestone Potenza's mounted with half their tread left and a Wheel Works Warranty. It has front, side, and rear airbags. I purchased this car from a private party when it was one year old with 14K miles on it, and it has been garaged and regularly dealer serviced at Smythe since then. The car is in excellent condition inside and out with the exception that my CD changer has started to be intermittent. I checked with Smythe and a repair would be \$400-600, with a new changer being installed for the higher amount, so I have deducted \$600 from my asking price, which is now \$6,700. All the details on the car, including a Car Fax report, can be seen at the following link on AutoTrader.com: AutoTrader.com/ATCarID/AT-11df9974. You can contact me either through AutoTrader or robsb@comcast.net, or (408) 859-4829 between 12 noon to 8 PM daily.

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[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, simondsl@pacbell.net, or (650) 592-6318 fax.]

DIRTY IN THE MOUNTAINS

(Continued from page 1)

be included but participants are encouraged to bring their own picnic and camp chairs to set up in the observation areas around the property. For those planning to participate, MBCA requires an insurance waiver that will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

Participation is limited due to availability of parking on the property. If you can, please arrange carpools with other members you know. The reservation form provides an area where you can indicate that you will be ride sharing. The reservation deadline is July 6. Questions? Please contact Eva Gordon at eva@well.com or (650) 834-2614.

OFF-ROAD DRIVING EVENT Saturday, July 16, 2011 RESERVATION FORM

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Address: _____
City/Zip: _____
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First Event: Y N

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(831) 786-0782; annstitcher@charter.net**

Reservation deadline is July 6, or when limit is reached. For confirmation, include e-mail or phone # above. Confirmation will be sent upon receipt of registration.

TECH EVENT: SUSPENSION AND TIRES SATURDAY, JULY 9, 2011 RESERVATION FORM

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

First Event: Y N

___ persons @ \$5 each = \$ _____

Questions or Topics 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 July 1. For confirmation, include e-mail or phone # above. Confirmation will be sent upon receipt of registration.



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

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.

WOMEN'S TECH SESSION, APRIL 9, 2011

