

Golden Gate Star-



## IT'S OKTOBERFEST TIME

by Eva Gordon, Activities Director

**What:** Oktoberfest & Member Appreciation  
**When:** Saturday, October 22, 2011, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Menlo Circus Club, Atherton  
**Cost:** \$35 adult, \$20 children under 12

It's time for Oktoberfest! But this year it's not just an Oktoberfest—it's an Oktoberfest combined with a show-and-shine car show on the polo fields of the Menlo Circus Club in Atherton. Third time for show-and-shine on the polo field will be the lucky charm. Two years ago they were playing polo, and last year it rained.

On Saturday, October 22, our day will start at 10:00 a.m. as we arrive and arrange our cars on the club's polo field where we will vote for some very unique prizes and awards. We will move to the patio for refreshments and a no-host bar featuring local beers, and then through the traditional Bavarian Buffet and on to the full patio that has been reserved for our exclusive use. The traditional Bavarian Buffet will include a generous assortment of German specialty salads, assorted wursts, sauerkraut, braised red cabbage, an assortment of desserts, coffee, and iced tea. Yes, plenty of room to spread out and enjoy our lunches and special presentations. For our members that like to dance, entertainment will include traditional German style music, and festive dancing is highly encouraged. Worried about the weather? We can move inside where we would have the entire clubhouse in case of inclement weather.

Our Oktoberfest celebration is also our Member Appreciation event where we will recognize our member anniversaries and also honor several of our members with special awards. If you're celebrating a club anniversary this year, please don't miss this great event. Also, if you have a friend or family member that you'd like to introduce to the club, this is a great opportunity to bring non-member guests. Attendance is limited at this event so please make your reservations as early as possible. Reservation deadline is October 12 or when the limit is reached.

You are encouraged to wear traditional German outfits and bring your favorite stein. In our club tradition, prizes will be awarded for the best of each. Event parking opens at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Questions? Contact Eva Gordon at [eva@well.com](mailto:eva@well.com) or (650) 834-2614.

## 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 wholeheartedly 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](http://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

(Continued on page 4)

### 2011 CALENDAR OF COMING ACTIVITIES

- SEPT 4 First Sunday Drive
- SEPT 17\* European Delivery Program, Richard Simonds (650) 592-7613
- OCT 1-2 First Sunday Drive
- OCT 16 2012 Planning Meeting, Eva Gordon (650) 834-2614
- OCT 22\* Oktoberfest, Eva Gordon (650) 834-2614
- NOV 6 First Sunday Drive
- NOV 19 Dillon Beach Rally, Jack Weir (925) 934-7220
- DEC 2 Daimler Research Center Tour, Richard Simonds (650) 592-7613
- DEC 4 First Sunday Drive
- DEC 4 Holiday Party Brunch, Eva Gordon (650) 834-2614

\*Reservation form on page 7

# BOARD MEMBER'S MESSAGE

by Richard Simonds, Technical Director

HELP! I NEED ANSWERS! WHERE CAN I GO? Here are some of the questions that club members often get asked. "Who do you recommend for service?" "Where can I get parts for my Mercedes-Benz?" "How does \_\_\_ work on my car?" "How can I fix \_\_\_ (name the part or vehicle system of your choice)?" "What is my Mercedes-Benz worth?" (This one is often asked by a family member who inherited a car and wants to get rid of it because they have no idea how well-made Mercedes-Benz vehicles are. A 20-50 year-old M-B can be as safe and reliable as a new model from other manufacturers, because of Daimler-Benz's commitment to safety systems that started in the early 1950s.)

As a member of MBCA, you may be aware of the amazing variety of resources available to you from the national club website, the Technical Director, and *The Star* magazine, and from your San Francisco Bay Area Section board members (listed on page 2 of every newsletter). If not, read along for a few hints about how to maximize the benefits of your membership. Did I mention the discounts offered to club members by some dealers or the huge savings on European Delivery of your new M-B or the club-only \$1,000 savings when you buy or lease a new M-B?

Members have told us in a variety of surveys over the years that one of the biggest benefits of membership is access to INFORMATION—specifically information about M-B vehicles. *The Star* magazine is also at the top of their benefits list because of the quantity and quality of information it contains. In addition, the wealth of knowledge within the club sometimes amazes me, and I've been with it for many years.

You may ask where to start. If it is a technical question or a need to value a car, I will gladly have a "first go" at it. If I can't help, I will try to find a more knowledgeable source for an answer. The next best option is to go to the club website at [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org) and use the Forums to post a question or read information that may already have an answer to your question. The MBCA National Technical Director has a wealth of information at his disposal (including Daimler AG and MBUSA technical sites that cover topics from classic to contemporary vehicles). Reading *The Star* magazine is certainly an excellent way to stay abreast of what's new as well as information about technical topics and how-to-do-it articles.

Finally, don't miss the wide variety of "Technical Events" hosted by SFBA Section throughout the year. These include the latest technology on new M-B vehicles or key information you may need to know about special alloys used in the manufacture of your vehicle so that it can be repaired properly and safely. Some of our events have included how to prepare your vehicle for a car show (polishes and car maintenance) to the latest techniques to bring maximum performance from your engine or tires and suspension. We have learned about how automatic transmissions work and how to maintain them as well as what goes on at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC). We regularly offer Diagnostic Clinics to cover some interesting topic and allow free safety and operations inspections of our vehicles.

Beyond all of this, MBCA members are among some of the friendliest around, and we, thus, have some great social events at which we share information. The outcome of all of this is that MBCA and your SFBA Section can help you to "enhance your Mercedes-Benz experience." We look forward to sharing information and our passion for a great marque with you—soon!

## MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA SECTION

[www.mbca.org/sfba](http://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 [simonds@pacbell.net](mailto:simonds@pacbell.net) or FAX 650-592-6318. *Laura*

# 2012 ACTIVITIES PLANNING MEETING

by Eva Gordon, Activities Director

- What:** 2012 Activities Planning Meeting  
**When:** Sunday, October 16, 2011, 1:00-3:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Harry's Hofbrau, 1901 El Camino Real (at Woodside Road), Redwood City  
**Cost:** Nothing, optional no-host lunch

2011 has been another amazing year for Mercedes-Benz club events, so let's continue the fun! All SFBA members are invited to join us for our annual activities planning meeting. This year our 2012 Activities Planning Meeting will take place on a Sunday, prior to the section's Fall board meeting. As in years past, this is the time when we will set our club calendar for the following year. Many of you have great suggestions for venues, and we will be able to decide which ideas we can include in our 2012 calendar.

The meeting is open to the entire membership. We strongly encourage you to come and help us plan where and when we will go and what we will do in 2012. We are also looking for members to host and help volunteer at these events, so please don't be shy, and come help us out! We will meet in the private dining room at Harry's Hofbrau at 1:00 p.m. Harry's offers a huge variety of fabulous food at reasonable prices; we encourage you to try their buffet lunch.

If you have activity suggestions or questions, contact Eva Gordon, Activities Director at [eva@well.com](mailto:eva@well.com).

## 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 and for more information to links, event photos, please find us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/FirstSundayDrives](http://www.facebook.com/FirstSundayDrives), or go to [www.FirstSundayDrives.com](http://www.FirstSundayDrives.com), or send an e-mail to [join-SF@FirstSundayDrives.com](mailto:join-SF@FirstSundayDrives.com).

Yes, Virginia, there will be a First Sunday Drive! Back by popular demand, the FSD is to resume in September, with our drive in Sonoma County.

For October, pack your Lederhosen—we're off to Cambria's Oktoberfest for a two-day event on October 1-2. We will be repeating Bratwurst and Beer (in a good way) and the success of last year's drive to Cambria. We'll leave early Saturday morning to arrive at the Festival & German Car Show by 11:30 a.m. For Sunday's drive, we will leave Cambria and head along the PCH through Big Sur and Carmel. For event and hotel information and registration forms for the German Car Show, please go to [www.cambriaoktoberfest.com](http://www.cambriaoktoberfest.com). Car Show registration deadline is September 19.

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## EUROPEAN DELIVERY PROGRAM

(Continued from page 1)

- 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
- 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.

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## 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](mailto: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 [simonds1@pacbell.net](mailto:simonds1@pacbell.net). To avoid being "undeliverable," be sure to put our editor's address ([simonds1@pacbell.net](mailto:simonds1@pacbell.net)) in your list of safe senders.



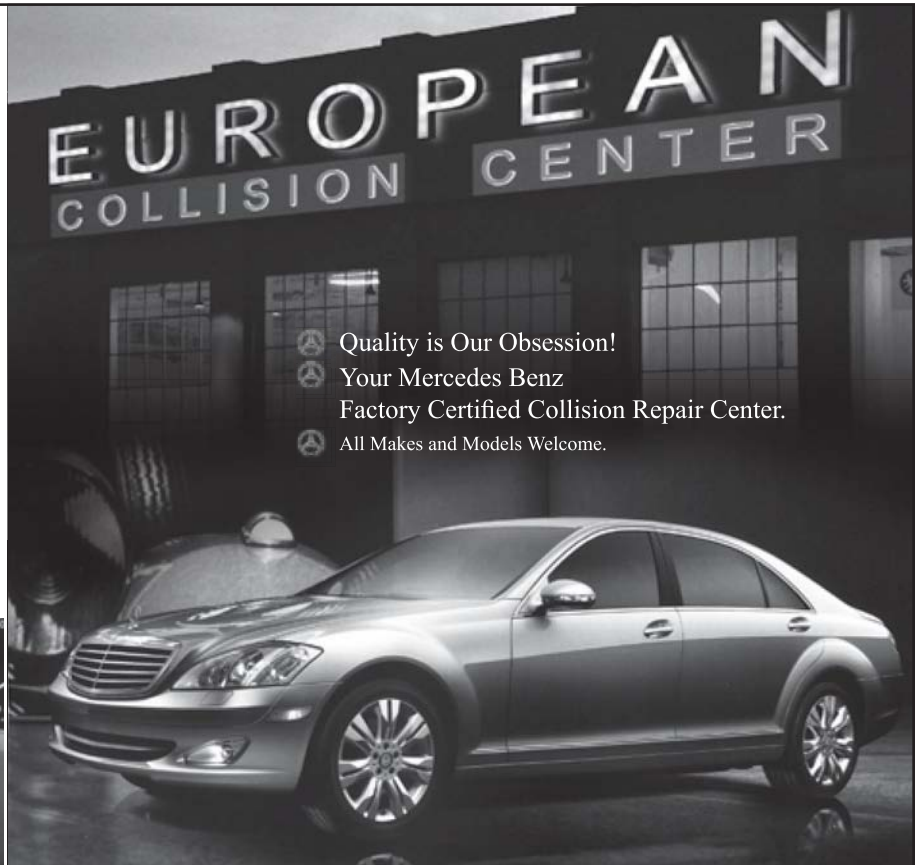
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## MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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!

**Iris Hammer & Julie Pratten**, Petaluma, 10 years  
**Michael Sham**, San Francisco, 5 years  
**Robert Oberhofer & Frauke Schorr**, Belmont, 5 years  
**Linda & Tom Lusenskias**, Hollister, 5 years  
**Richard Harms**, Sebastopol, 5 years  
**Russell & Kathryn Flaum**, Novato, 5 years  
**Geralyn Corrales**, Capitola, 5 years

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

July 2011

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

**Lawrence Brakmo**, Discovery Bay  
**Andrew Bright**, San Francisco  
**Patrick Cifor**, Lafayette  
**Sherrie Connelly**, Vallejo  
**Tom Deckowski**, San Jose  
**Ralph Flynn**, Los Gatos  
**Ben Grubel**, El Cerrito  
**Michelle Hughes**, San Francisco  
**Dieter Mees**, Woodside  
**Paul Morrell**, Larkspur  
**Rhoda Moss Larner**, San Francisco  
**Elaine Mott**, San Mateo  
**Kemal Selimovic**, Santa Clara  
**Steve Smith**, Berkeley

## ANNUAL SFBA OFFICERS ELECTIONS

Officers of our SFBA Section are elected annually from among the general membership of the section. If you are interested in participating in the leadership of the club for 2012 (and hopefully beyond) in the capacity of President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary, please submit your name to Robert Schilling, the head of the 2011 Nominating Committee. Submissions for nomination must be received no later than September 15. Robert can be reached at (650) 619-7550 or [res.mbca@offserver.com](mailto:res.mbca@offserver.com), if you have questions or would like to talk further about leadership opportunities.



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# G WAGGIN'

by Scott Gordon

Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts' obsessions come in many shapes and sizes. Many MBCA members prefer the classics, some prefer convertibles, some prefer the utilitarian Benz station wagons, and these days there is a strong following for the Mercedes-Benz SUV product lines, from the M-Class (launched for 1998) to the GL-Class (2006) and the GLK (2009). But there is an M-B vehicle which combines all these passions. It's the original G class, or "Gelandewagen", first appearing in 1979, M-B's first modern 4WD effort, which can now be considered a classic SUV, and it's available as either a convertible or as a station wagon!

M-B enthusiasts themselves come in various flavors too. Gelandewagen buyers were originally attracted to the vehicles back in grey market days for the sheer exclusivity of an expensive vehicle which was not imported to the USA by M-B. Trucks had to be imported individually and undergo a costly federalization process at a licensed specialist before they were allowed to impress the swells at the country club.

Nowadays, since the older 460 trucks have fully depreciated, they are being embraced by a new generation of enthusiasts, younger and sportier, and much more hands on. These self-reliant folks do the majority of work on their rigs, but they modify the old trucks heavily starting with extreme wheels and tires, and mounting winches, uprated bumpers and slider bars, and even engine swaps. Diesel power is highly valued in this crowd and bio-diesel is very popular. These folks use the trucks for the purpose for which they were intended. No other vehicle is as at-home on the Rubicon trail, and in various extreme off road sites around the world. See Youtube.com for details.

The G-class crowd, united by the internet and the common bond of hunting for obscure parts, and our own SFBA Section members organized a collective party on July 16 in Los Gatos. It started slowly, like a snowball, when Peter Judy attended the section's annual event planning meeting and casually mentioned that he had a property where he had been developing an off-road course. Several meetings later at his property, we connected Peter with Mike Serpe, the Gwagen Guru who quickly explained to Peter that the course he had constructed with his 4x4 Toyota pickup in mind would be pretty boring for the G crowd. "Before we were done, Mike had taken his G to places I wouldn't take my tractor," said Peter. The two men sharpened the long course up and constructed a more extreme short course with rock crawling, log obstacles, and a hill climb obstacle that was like a roller coaster.

The event announcement went to section members and to the Gwagen enthusiasts online. When all was said and done, 30 enthusiasts and 10 Gwagens were in attendance, including 3 of the ultra-rare SWB 460 Cabriolets! Those Gwagen people who were not MBCA members were invited to join, and a short presentation on the benefits of membership was presented for those who were not aware of MBCA!

After the presentation, and a short driver's meeting, the group set about driving the long course, caravan style, dealing with the slippery ancient sea-bottom silt terrain and admiring the prolific views of Monterey Bay from Peter's Santa Cruz Mountain hilltop property. After the one run in a caravan, individual drivers were able to run the loop by themselves and offer rides to the spectators who brought E-class or other on-road vehicles. Lunch was next, and BBQ chicken and sausages were just the things to banish the group hunger pangs to memory. After lunch the group walked the shorter "extreme course" and got our cameras out! The sight of a G going over log obstacles set at 45 degree angles is just mind-boggling. The truck is simply the most capable four-wheel drive vehicle ever made, and that's in stock form. The word Gelande means "terrain" and these trucks just travel through it without drama. Even if you weren't a fan at first, you became one fast! Peter generously offered to host another day in the next couple of years. Needless to say, we are all looking forward to another Off-Road Adventure soon!



**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.

**OKTOBERFEST**  
**Saturday, October 22, 2011**  
**RESERVATION FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

First Event: Y N

\_\_\_\_\_ adults @ \$35 ea. = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ children under 12 @ \$20 ea. = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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Make checks payable to SFBA/MBCA and mail to:

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

Reservation deadline October 12 or when limit is reached. For confirmation, include e-mail or phone # above. Confirmation will be sent upon receipt of registration.

## CLASSIFIEDS

**FOR SALE: 2006 CLS500.** \$35,500. Less than 32,200 miles; always garaged; all documentation; fully pampered. AMG Sport Package. Steering wheel shift buttons and sport wheels. Iridium Silver with black leather and matte burl walnut trim. 302 HP @ 5600 rpm/339 lb-ft torque@ 2700-4250. Dual control air suspension. Front: 245/40 R18. Rear: 275/35 R18 performance tires. 18" 5-spoke light alloy wheels. 10-way power adjustable front seats with 3-position memory. Multifunction steering wheel with fingertip control. 10-speaker Harmon Kardon audio system with AM/FM single disc CD + 6-disc DVD changer. Contact Al Graichen at (925) 998-2976 or (925) 736-3805.

**FOR SALE: 1980 450SL.** White/palomino. 97K miles. CA car runs great. 2 tops. AC/heater work. Many new parts. Upgraded wheels. Shop & transmission manuals included. \$6,590. Call Thomas at (707) 257-6575.

**FOR SALE: The Star magazine collection.** 20-years worth in perfect condition. \$100 or best offer. Contact Wayne Colyer in San Rafael at (415) 457-1634 or waynesax@aol.com.

**FOR SALE: 1978 450SL.** 33,400 miles. Milan Brown, Palomino interior. Zenith wire wheel. Garaged year round. Service records. 1 owner. \$17,500 or best offer. Contact Eugene Carvalho in San Jose at (408) 251-0447 or cylecarvalho@aol.com.

**FOR SALE: 1987 560SL Roadster.** Navy blue. Hard top, soft top, no top—your choice! 140K miles (mostly hwy). Updated stereo/speakers. More details and pictures at <https://sites.google.com/site/560slforsale/> Asking \$7,000 obo. Contact Nicole at (510) 594-9974 or nicolehkeller@gmail.com.

**FOR SALE: Hardtop hoist for R107 Roadster (350/380/450/560SL).** Cable-driven, geared-crank, web straps with padded brackets to protect the hardtop. Requires ceiling mounting to a beam above your roadster and to a side wall stud for the hand crank. \$50 (new are \$199 + shipping). Contact Richard at (650) 722-0299 (cell).

**FOR SALE: 2000 SL500.** EXCELLENT, many extras. 77K miles. Brilliant Silver/black leather. Well maintained, runs like new. \$14,000. Contact John in Alameda at (510) 864-1785 or jnidecker3@gmail.com for more details & photos.

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# OFF-ROAD DRIVING EXPERIENCE, JULY 16, 2011

