



## Mercedes- Benz Club of America

### MBCA SAN DIEGO SECTION OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Diana Kruse, President  
[dianakruse@ymail.com](mailto:dianakruse@ymail.com)  
619-851-8067

Vice President  
Vacant

Carol Kruse-Ross  
Treasurer  
[csk.kruse@yahoo.com](mailto:csk.kruse@yahoo.com)  
858-245-1991

Bob Gunthorp  
Historian & Photographer  
[badwrench7@cox.net](mailto:badwrench7@cox.net)  
618-993-0184

Rudy Hradecky  
Director of  
Procedures  
[sdrudy@earthlink.net](mailto:sdrudy@earthlink.net)

Gary  
Jarvis  
Director  
619-670-1375

Steve Ross  
Membership Chair, Star Bulletin  
Editor 619-508-3925  
[inewsx@sbcglobal.net](mailto:inewsx@sbcglobal.net)

Bud Cloninger  
Southwest Regional Director  
602-326-6210  
[Scottsdale3@mac.com](mailto:Scottsdale3@mac.com)

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**Is your membership due for renewal? Don't let it expire and miss out on the fun we have in the MBCA- San Diego Section**

More than a Car Club. We're a Community. TM

# Star Bulletin

August 2021

Error in July Star. Renewing member Bob Garson's, name was misspelled. Editor sends apology

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**Larry Jaehn    Un Chong    Mauricio Nosiglia    Nathan Poole**  
**Jeff He              Brenda Musilli              Kenneth Albertson**  
**Jon Howard    Doug D'Amico    Stuart Menn    John Griffing**  
**Richard Kitson**

The San Diego Section welcomes you to our Mercedes-Benz world. Please join us ASAP and see how we have fun. Have a question or comment, please contact Steve Ross, 619-508-3925 or [inewsx@sbcglobal.net](mailto:inewsx@sbcglobal.net)

**Welcome to all the Airstream owners who are new members of our great club. Please join us soon at one of our gathering. We are a fun group and quite friendly**

### **THANK YOU, OUR LOYAL MEMBERS FOR RENEWING**

We sincerely thank you for renewing your membership and continued support of the San Diego Section and the MBCA

**Jiang Li    Timothy Hughes    Ray Benkendorf    Gaylyn Boone**  
**Mike Coutrakis    Roderick Freeman**

Your membership expiring soon? Please consider renewing as we do not want to lose you. Question contact Steve Ross at, [inewsx@sbcglobal.net](mailto:inewsx@sbcglobal.net)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Brian Kruse is extremely ill and is at home under hospice care. Our hearts go out with our deepest sympathy to Brian, Diana, Carol and the family**
- We have been invited to join the packard Club for a weekend in Palm Springs. See page 8
- The visit to the Cooley Museum on October 16, 2021 is being cancelled and we are looking for an alternative. The Cooley location has been visted on two Saturdays and two Sundays and there is NO place to park. In addition a sutible place to have lunch was not located primiarly due to parking.
- We have arrived at that time of year when we have our National and Section election. Our section will be electing officers, as well as board members. Our section needs some help, so please think about what you might like to do to lend a hand. It is important to vote in the national election, because who we have at the helm of the Mercedes Benz Club of America is important to the future of the organization and ensuring it can provide us with support we have become accustomed to in enjoying our Star automobiles.

Your section is fast approaching the time when we plan what we are going to do for fun next year. Most of last year and a good part of this year we had a great time inspite of the restrictions placed on us by an invisible entity. We did a lot of driving which is what a car club is all about, in fact we may have had more enjoyable outtings than in a normal year.

To you folks out there reading this, if you have something you think is fun, give me a call and we will work it out, and NO you are not stuck with doing it just because you suggested it. I or someone else will help you. This club is a team of nice people who like to have fun and help out.



### **Looking back to July 2000 at the Mercedes-Benz Fashion Island Exhibition. Photos from the July 2001 edition of the Star Bulletin**

The Mercedes-Benz exposition was held at the Fashion Island Mall in Newport Beach, CA. The show ran from 1976 until 2003 and was sponsored by MBUSA and the MBCA. It was a gathering of the finest Mercedes-Benz automobiles west of the Mississippi with many very rare Daimler and Benz automobiles. The cars shown were by invitation only and late model Mercedes-Benz need not ask. I was admitted once in 2000.

Many of the cars there were formally owned by Hollywood celebrities. Don Ricardo, the former NBC Orchestra Leader (he played violin and drums from age 7), race car driver and a skilled mechanic. He also had perhaps the best vintage and rare automobile collections in the world, according to the L.A. times. In 2001 his collection was valued at \$20 million and included a 1911 Benz Victoria Touring Car, a 1923 Targa Florio 28/95, a 1927 K model sports roadster built originally for Rudolph Valentino, a 1928 Mercedes-Benz supercharged SSK, two 1955 Mercedes-Benz 300SL gull-wings, a 1938 Horch convertible coupe, a Lynx D-type replica, a DeLorean and Bricklin gull-wings and a Blitzen Benz. At one of the events, he decided to start up the Blitzen Ben; in that enclosed mall it was deafening! To say pandemonium broke out would be an understatement.

## CRUSIN GRAND IN ESCONDIDO

Friday, July 16 was the German and British car night at the Crusin Grand. Quite frankly we were swamped by British cars which did nothing to dampen our spirits. If we counted BMWs and Volkswagens, we did fairly well. Tod Schonenberg a member of the Mercedes club as well as the Triumph Club brought his TR6 because his Mercedes is too new. Enough talk let's see some cars.



**Jon Bernardi's 1967 250SL**

This is a very nice W113 which is not a daily driver but not a Trailer Queen either. This car would be very competitive in just about any car show or concours, my opinion. You may see two BMWs fitted out for the track



**Michael Cooper's 1970 280 SEL Limo**

This too is an exceptional car and has hosted at least one event as it comes with a portable bar.



**Carol Ross's 1969 280SE Coupe**

An older restoration but still very presentable, this Mercedes is also known as the "Devine Ms. M". I am sure there is a probably a back story here, but I don't know what it is. It has been rumored that the car was once owned by the Hurst family, like I said rumored. Ms. M was up for sale by a Dr. Geyer when Carol saw the car restored back to its original beauty, and the car has aged well.

Four very nice Mercedes Benz automobiles were there representing. Joey Costa and Debra Lopez joined us and we were excited to see them. Joey and Debra always bring "fun" to the party. We discovered that Debra was born in the hospital in Escondido, so she is

a city native. Joey and I shared some interesting experiences in Hong Kong, where he was a resident for a part of is life. I wonder how many other members have interesting life experiences, several I bet.



Bob Gunthorp brought his 1960 Fin Back. Another nice restored Mercedes-Benz that is driven, and by the way, Bob does not own a trailer! He even drives his cars to Pebble Beach for **Legends of the Autobahn**. Bob has a dilemma that we all think we would like to have. That is, having so many nice cars you can't decide which one to drive. Reminds me of the old nursery rhyme about the old woman who lived in a shoe—in Bob's case, there once was a man who lived a garage and he had so many cars, he didn't know what to do --- and so on.



Todd Schonenberg drove his TR6 and it is really a nice TR. It is obvious that he has put a lot of effort and dedication into the car. Todd also has a really exceptional 1939 Packard, Super 8 Touring Sedan. Buttercup is envious of this Super 8.



This was a car that really grabbed my attention. It was this 1960 Austin Healey Sprite, commonly

referred to as a "Bug Eyed Sprite. I will bore you with why I am fond of the car. In 1962 I decided to make my career in the U S Navy, and I received a bonus. Well, I did the wisest thing and decided to buy a car. I had the choice of a Sprite or a Porsche. The Porsche needed a new starter and when I found out what one cost, I opted for the Sprite.

**My 58' Bug Eye taken in 1964**



It had some minor dents, but my Squadron Mate was an Aircraft Metal Smith, who repaired and painted aircraft. We used body tools to beat out all of the dents and painted the car bright red in my garage in Coronado, don't try that now! That is the most fun car I have ever owned. It had everything one would want in a sporty car, it handled well, could scare you to satisfaction and it was competitive. I belonged to the Austin-Healey Club and we had track time in the back roads of San Diego County, another don't try that now! The road tests rated the car at 42 hp, 0 to 60 in 20.5 seconds, a top speed of 82.9 mph and 36 mpg, I never measured that. The California Highway Patrol did however, measure the speed for me at 90 mph. I came very close to seeing the Hanging Judge in Coronado. My story convinced the officer, that would not work now either. I bought a new Austin-Healey in 1964 and sold the Sprite in 1967 to a squadron mate and he took it to Wyoming. I often wonder what ever happened to Mack Schrib and the Sprite.

# THE CORONADO INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE



There were Three members of our club attending the Coronado parade. Not all drove a Mercedes-Benz, one member drove a Packard because that is what the parade boss wanted. Aye, Aye Sir.

Bob leads the way in his 1957 220S Convertible. Hard to see her, but Janette is setting on the left. Behind them is the club member driving a non-Mercedes-Benz. Bob did quite well in decorating the Red Lady for the parade.



This is Buttercup, dressed for the occasion, perhaps a bit much.



Since Packard once sold Mercedes-Benz, the Packard was placed with the Mercedes driven by Bob Gunthorp and Janette riding shot gun.



I have attended this Parade off and on since 1960 and this is the largest crowd I remember. People were 4 or 5 deep on both sides of Orange Avenue. Note the kids on top of the house.



Veterans were honored and were escorted by the United States Marine Corp



I was blown away when I ran into Carlos Munoz, who is now a member of the Star Wars Fleet, don't know his role for sure, but he wears a black outfit, just sayen. The Smart Car belongs to Carlos and is now a Fleet Star Fighter. Carlos is a club member and once served as our Star Bulletin Editor, and was named the Member of the Year a few years ago. Carol actually spotted Carlos before I did as I heard her yelling Steve, Carlos etc.



A new entry this year were characters from Star Wars. Some interesting customs. My Mom would not have approved of them

# THE END OF SUMMER BBQ



**We are invited to join the Mercedes-Benz Club and other for a Barbeque at the home of Bob Gunthorp.**

**WHERE: 2176 Leon Ave, San Diego, CA**

**WHEN: Saturday September 18, 2021**

**TIME: 1030, lunch will be served at 12:00**

**COST: \$30.00 per person**

**MENU: Smoked Beef Brisket, and Pulled Pork, Potato Salad, and Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Green Salad with Dressing, Cornbread, and Chocolate Chip Cookies.**

**Drinks: Water and Ice Tea. Wine is encouraged, bring your own**

**Please RSVP to Bob at [badwrench7@cox.net](mailto:badwrench7@cox.net) or, 619-552-3311 by September 13, 2021**



**As many of you know Bob has an extensive collection of Mercedes-Benz automobiles; many are rare models**

**Wayne Carini, of the TV show *Chasing Classic Cars* and Bob Gunthorp with Bob's Mercedes-Benz ambulance**

**SAVE the DATE: October 15-17, 2021**  
**Packard Club/Mercedes-Benz Club of San Diego Fall**  
**Getaway**  
***Beautiful Palm Springs***



**Come join our celebration of Fall at the beautiful Homewood Suites by Hilton.**

**WHEN: WHERE:**

**Come join our celebration of Fall at the beautiful Homewood Suites by Hilton.**

**Friday-Saturday October 15-16, departing Sunday October 17. Homewood Suites by Hilton, 36999 Cook Street, Palm Desert, CA 92211.**

**RESERVATIONS:** A block of rooms is set aside under the name: **Packard Club/Mercedes-Benz Club**. Call 760-568-1600 to reserve your room. Rooms will be claimed by a credit card, but no charges will be made until guests show up on Oct. 15. There is a 72 hour cancellation policy. Price is **\$124/night** plus 14% taxes.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** All rooms are one-bedroom king suites. The hotel features a large swimming pool w/spa, poolside barbecue and lounge area, gym, business center, and full breakfast buffet is included at no additional cost. There is no charge for parking.

**ITINERARY:** This is still in work, but you can bet there will be a sumptuous Friday tri-tip w/fixin's, and a wine tasting competition will return by popular demand. Theme is TBD, but rumor has it there will be costumes. Prizes will be awarded!

**RSVP:** RSVP to Richard Schauer at 760-740-9188 or: [packard1934@sbcglobal.net](mailto:packard1934@sbcglobal.net)

**Note:** The **deadline** to sign up is **September 1, 2021**. After that date any unclaimed rooms will be made available to the general public. Please call soon to claim your room so as not to forget!!!!

**MBCA Board Meeting August 24 @ 6:30 PM**  
**Meetings at Applebee's on**  
**9480 Mira Mesa Blvd**

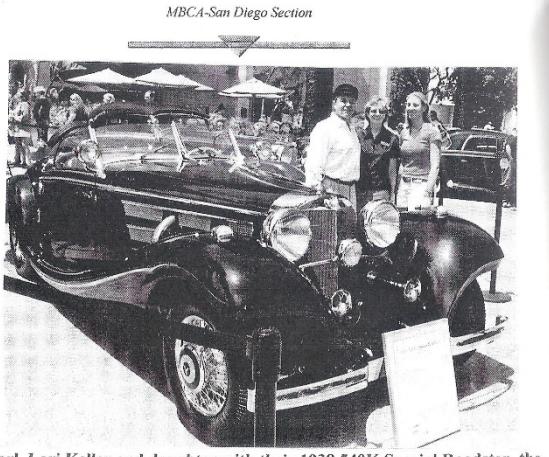
**Note: Our regular Board meetings are scheduled on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month**

**The board has occasionally cancelled meetings when there is a small amount of business that can be considered adequately by telephone or e-mail. If you are considering joining us at a board meeting, please call a board member first to make sure the meeting will take place as scheduled.**

**WANT TO JOIN THE SAN DIEGO SECTION OF THE MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA?  
IT'S EASY JUST GO TO [MBCA.ORG](http://MBCA.ORG)  
OR USE THE QR CODE BELOW.**



Gary Jarvis and his recently completed body off restored 1956 300SL Gullwing

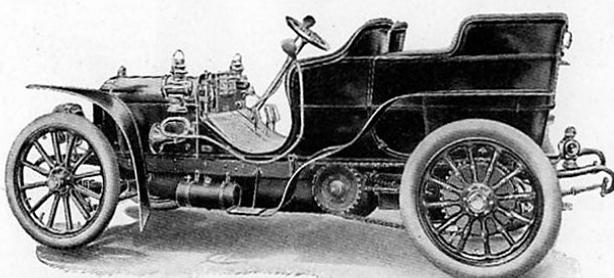


Karl, Lori Keller and daughter with their 1938 540K Special Roadster, the Fashion Island Exhibition center piece

### **It happened in 1913**



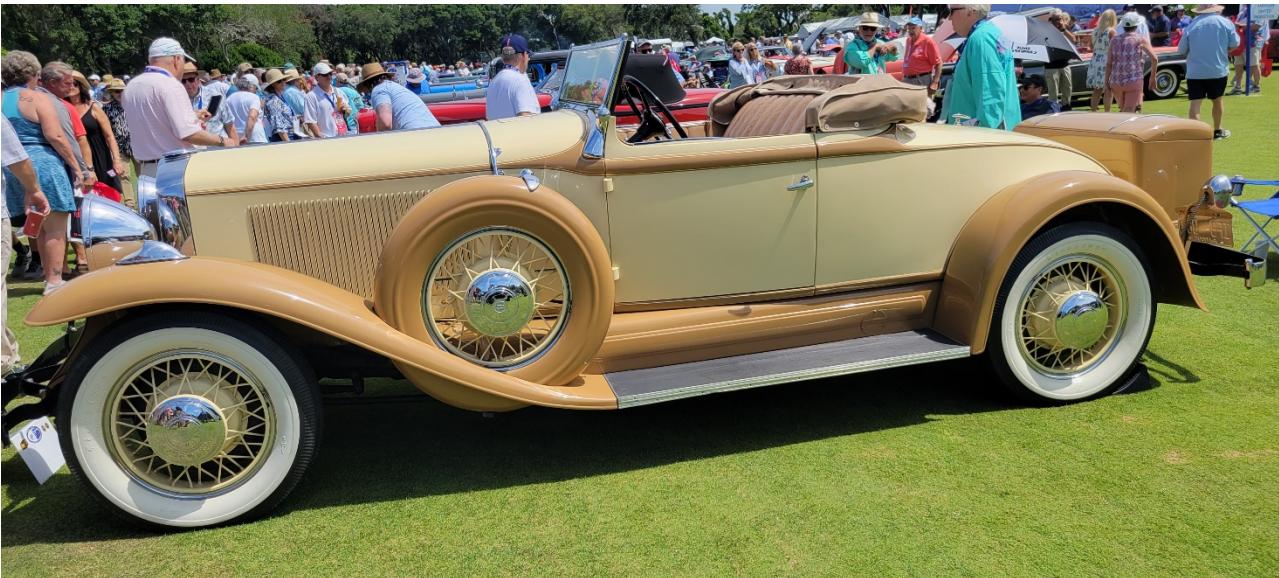
Austrian-Daimler fires Ferdinand Porsche for throwing a spark plug at another director during a board meeting. Ferdinand goes to Daimler-Benz



The four-cylinder forty horsepower American Mercedes follows the latest European design both in chassis and in body, and is quite on a par with imported cars. The price of this detachable tonneau model is \$7,500

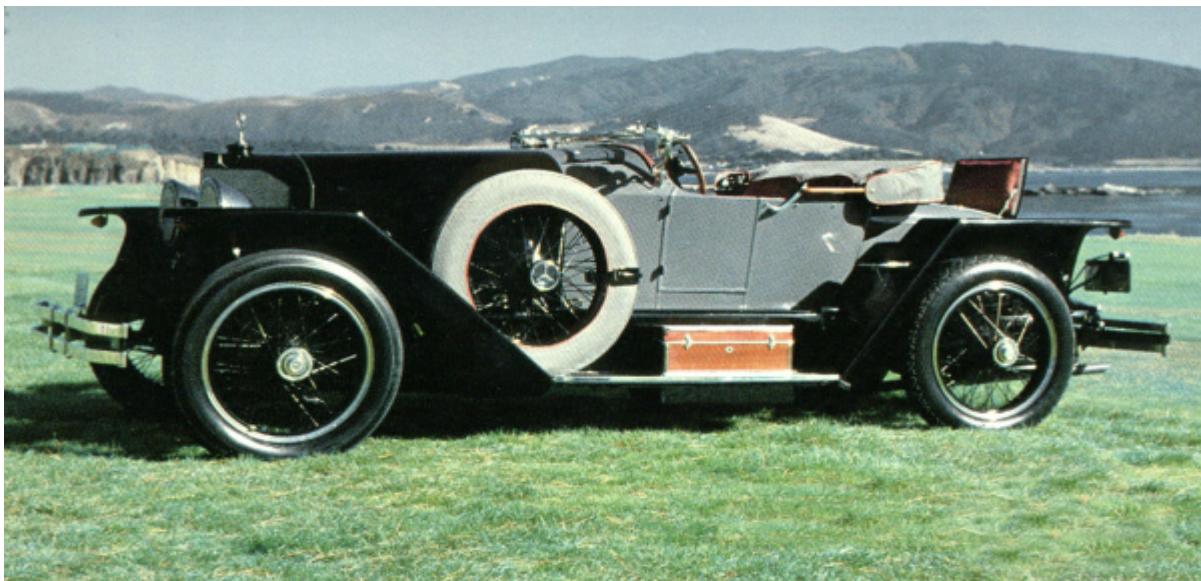
Daimler shuts down its U.S., factory, that was located on Long Island City, New York.

## WIN A CHICKEN DINNER



**This is a 1931 Studebaker President 4 Seasons Roaster, 8-cylinder engine producing 122 hp, three speed synchromesh transmission and adjustable steering wheel**

### HERE IS YOUR MYSTERY CAR FOR AUGUST



**Become a respected authority on automobiles in your house by winning the Chicken Dinner Award! Win this prestigious award by sending to Steve Ross the make, model, and year of this automobile**

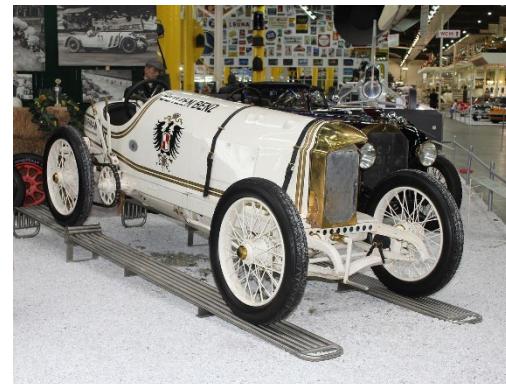
**\*\*CHICKEN DINNER RULES. CONTESTANTS MAY ONLY WIN 2 CHICKEN DINNERS PER CALENDAR YEAR**

***Even if you have won your allotted limit, please guess anyway... and if you're correct, the editor will buy you a big orange drink at our next event***

# AUTOMOBILES THAT WERE IN DON RICARDO'S COLLECTION and an American Mercedes not in in his collection



**1911 Benz Victoria Touring**



**The Blitzen Benz**



**1928 Mercedes-Benz supercharged SSK**



**1938 Horch convertible coupe**



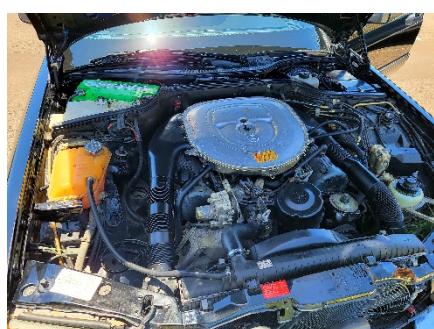
**The American Mercedes, the only one known to exist. It may be viewed in the Classic Center in Irvine, CA. Cost in 1908 was in the \$8000.00 (\$236,257.39 in 2021 \$\$) range and is equated to having a private jet today**

# FOR SALE



**1973 Mercedes Benz 280C Coupe. One Owner. Runs and drives great. In mint condition inside and out. It has always been kept in the garage since purchased. It has been driven and treated as a classic since the early 1990s. Asking \$20,000.00. Contact Harold at 949-813-7766 for more information. Shown by appointment only**

## THIS VERY CLEAN 1991 560SEC IS BEING OFFERED FOR SALE



his excellent example of a 560SEC has been driven only 112,000 miles since new. Current owner has owned the car for the past 20 plus years, and has all the records. All original except for a professionally installed Alpine CD player. Recent work completed, new Michelin tires, hood pad, brakes, battery and oil change. Car Fax available, always garaged and car cover, same mechanic for twenty years. Selling because owner does not have time to drive the car as it should be. Prefers to sell to a club member who will appreciate the automobile

**ASKING \$28,000 Contact Rita at 858-472-7970**



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Personal classified ads (sale or wanted) are FREE exclusively for MBCA members. NO commercial or business sales allowed in the classified ad section.

Business advertising is available at competitive rates.  
Please contact the Treasurer for latest ad rates.  
If you want to place a personal ad in the "for sale" section  
e-Mail Steve Ross [inewsx@sbcglobal.net](mailto:inewsx@sbcglobal.net)  
Please contact Steve every month to continue your AD

THIS SPACE MAY BE USED FOR YOUR AD OR FOR SOMETHING YOU, AS A MEMBER, NO LONGER HAVE A USE FOR. AS YOU MAY KNOW THE COST FOR A MEMBER TO RUN AN AD FOR THEIR ITEM IN THE STAR IS FREE. YEP, WE SAID FREE.

IF YOU HAVE A BUSINESS AD OUR RATES ARE QUITE REASONABLE.

YOU COULD USE THIS SPACE TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT

We are always looking for volunteers to help out with ideas, planning, and coordinating events.

If you would like to feature your Mercedes-Benz vehicle(s) in this Newsletter with an interesting story or photo, please submit in digital format via e-mail to:  
[inewsx@sbcglobal.net](mailto:inewsx@sbcglobal.net)

We would love to get to know you & your Mercedes-Benz. Come to an event and ask us how to obtain a FREE name badge. Maybe even a free beverage.



Can't wait to have a really "Cool" MBCA name badge? Here's how to order one: Go to the MBCA website [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org),

log on, click on Store, click on MBCA Event Equipment Store and scroll down and click on the Name Badge.

You are now in the order form.

Second method: Log onto MBCA website and enter Name Badge in the search box at upper right hand corner of screen, click on the Magnifying Glass icon and this will take you to the order form OR you may call 800- 637-2360, ask for Rianne Dias, She will take your order.

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# “The Joy of Everything Mercedes”

MBCA's newest & greatest National Event EVER!

Combining the best and most-popular activities  
of both **StarTech** & **StarFest** into one  
fabulous Gathering!

Location:

Omni Hilton Head Oceanfront Resort,  
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

Dates:

Mercedes-Freude - Tuesday, November 2nd - Friday, November 5th, 2021

Legends of the Autobahn East - Saturday, November 6th (Port Royal Golf Course)

Hilton Head Island Concours d'Elegance - Sunday, November 7th (Port Royal Golf Course)

Along with our MBCA Event,

we will be able to experience the kickoff of Legends of the Autobahn-East,  
as well as the renowned HHI Concours d'Elegance.

**ACTIVITIES INCLUDED, BUT NOT LIMITED TO** Welcome Reception, Historic Rally, Driving Events, Tech Sessions, MBCA Concours/Cars & Cocktails, MBCA Banquet, Golf, and a Special Limited Visit to the Robert Jepson Collection Tour.

*The hotel reservation link is open and available to book hotel rooms:*

<https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/hilton-head/meetings/mercedes-benz-club-of-america-10302021>

*OR reservations can be made by calling Omni central reservation at 1-800-843-6664.*

*Ask for the group code:110221MERCEDESB. Cost per night, for a Resort View Studio Suite, is \$169,  
plus taxes and daily discounted resort fee.*

Further details coming your way in the near future!

Rick Siefert  
National Events Chair  
[rick.siefert@att.net](mailto:rick.siefert@att.net)



Advertisement Photo credits:  
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HHI Concours d'Elegance

# **Schedule of Events**

## **MBCA – San Diego Section**

**Our motto “Have it your way, as long as it’s FUN!” Always remember...this is YOUR club. Events highlighted in red are not official events but you may want to attend**

**New ideas or changes please contact a Board Member!**

**Note: All dates may be subject to change**

<b>EVENT DATE 2021</b>	<b>EVENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>EVENT CHAIR/COORDINATOR</b>
September 18	Bob's BBQ	Bob
October 17 <del>CNX</del>	Cooley Museum <del>CNX</del>	<del>CNX</del>
November 20	Members luncheon	Steve, <b>Don't miss this one</b>
December 12	Holiday Gala	The Board



For those who follow Formula 1 racing, Mercedes-Benz and Red Bull are locked in a battle to see who can take home all the marbles this year. Mercedes has won the constructors award for the past seven seasons and their driver Lewis Hamilton has won the world championship the past four years and is tied with Michael Schumacher for the most championships at seven.

# Star Bulletin

16151 Fruitvale  
Road Valley  
Center, CA 92082



## AUGUST 2021

<http://sandiego.mbc.org>

### MBCA San Diego Section

#### President's Message – August 2021



Since a lot of the board goes to Pebble Beach in August, we are dark this month. After checking out the Cooley Museum, the October event, it was decided to cancel this tour. There was just no where to park, that was practical for our Star Cars and finding a place for lunch was not going to work out for the same reasons. We will join the Packard Club for an overnight in Palm Springs.

The board meeting will be a Zoom again as Brian is not able to travel. I will let everyone know of any changes.

Again, please consider becoming a board member for the upcoming year! Your club needs you!

Looking forward to seeing you on the road, driving your Mercedes-Benz.

Thank you for your support and hope to see you soon!

**Drive safely. Diana Kruse, President - MBCA San Diego Section**

