Mercedes-Benz Club of America

Star Bulletin

San Diego Section Newsletter | More Than a Car. We're a Community.™ | June 2012

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2012 EVENT SCHEDULE

2 June	SL Appreciation Day and MBCA Day at *Cars & Coffee Irvine*™ (Pg. 4)
19 June	Board Meeting @ Chin's (Miramar) (Pg. 22)
23 June	Mercedes-Benz USA Vehicle Prep Center, Carson, CA (Steve Ross / Pg. 4)
17 July	Board Meeting @ Chin's (Miramar) (Pg. 22)
28 July	Day at the Races in Del Mar (Mike Cooper) (Pg. 5)
5 August	National City Auto Heritage Day (Bob Gunthorp / Pgs. 5-7)
13-21 August	Monterey Classic Car Week Road Trip (Steve Ross)
17 August	Legends of the Autobahn, Carmel Valley (Pg. 8)
21 August	Board Meeting @ Chin's (Miramar) (Pg. 22)
22-23 Sept	Coronado / San Diego Fleet Week Speed Festival
26-28 Sept	StarTrip to StarFest® Caravan (Pg. 20)
28 Sept - 3 Oct	StarFest® 2012 in Phoenix, AZ (Pg. 18-20)
7 October	Annual New Member & Board Officer PicNic
4 November	Winery Tour (Jonathan White)
8 December	Section Holiday Party @ the Horn Blower (J. White)

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Change of Address, Phone # or e-Mail ?
If you have a change-of-address to send to the Club, please go to www.mbca.org, click on MEMBERSHIP, then click on ADDRESS CHANGE and fill in the form. As an alternative, you can call 1-800-637-2360 and talk to anyone at the MBCA National Business Office.

View your San Diego Section STAR Bulletin w/ extra pages on the web -

http://sandiego.mbca.org

Don't miss out on all the color photographs of past events in every issue!

Due to the cost constraints of printing and mailing, additional content is found on the online version of the STAR Bulletin. The mail-out version will continue to be printed, but limited to 8-10 pages.

WELCOME !!
New San Diego Section MBCA Members

- Leva Duell ~ no model listed on MBCA membership roster
- Wyatt & Caylee Pinsonneault ~ 1969 280SE
- Christopher Rhoades ~ 2012 E350
- Scott Scaduto ~ no model listed on MBCA membership roster
- Wesley Shaw ~ no model listed on MBCA membership roster
- Edward Weil ~ 1986 560 SEC
- Pegge & Bob Wilson ~ 1971 280SL

A hearty welcome to all our new members. We hope to meet you real soon at one of our upcoming events. Please feel free to contact any of the Board Officers (listed on the front page of this Newsletter) with any questions, comments, or concerns. 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 our Newsletter Editor (Saprissa@aol.com) We would love to get to know you and your Mercedes-Benz driving passion.

FOR SALE:

1987 300D Turbo 118,000 miles. Automatic, A/C, red exterior / palomino interior. Chrome rims, meticulously maintained. All mechanical parts and renovations completed when needed. Original paint, always garaged. All service records. Great MPG. Excellent condition. Price: **$9,900** Contact: Ken Fite (619) 334-7342 or kfiteshome@cox.net

1999 SL500. Magma red, black interior, chrome Mercedes wheels. California car always garaged in superb condition soon to be a classic. Hardtop and soft top with a storage dolly if the hard top is not in use. Bought at Escondido MB dealer, all records available. Still has warranty with $100 deductible for any repair for about another year, renewable. High end Pioneer system with radio, stereo, video, iPod connection, CD/DVD player, Bluetooth for phone connection & navigation system all integrated into one unit with a large touch screen. Just renewed the registration, good for another year. Car is like new, additional photos available, just provide me with your e-mail. Sold for about $ 90,000 when new in 1999. Has 92,000 miles. Can only appreciate in value in the next few years. Asking $21,000. Open to reasonable offers. Contact Ed (760) 990-3575 or evivanco@mac.com

MBUSA Genuine Mercedes Benz Factory Service Manuals
(a) One manual: Maintenance, tuning, and unit replacement starting 1968 (series 108,109,111, & 113). $60.
(b) One manual: Engines (Diesels) 1968-1980 (series 115 & 123). $60.
(c) One manual: Chassis & Body (Volume 1) (Gasoline & Diesel) 1977 to 1985 (series 123). $85.
(d) One manual: Chassis & Body (Volume 2) (Gasoline & Diesel) 1977 to 1985 (series 123). $85.
(e) One manual: Engine (Turbo Diesel) 1978 to 1985 (series 116,123,& 126). $85.
(f) One manual: Illustrated Parts Breakdown (Gasoline & Diesel) starting 1977 (series 123). $25.
Manuals are in very good to excellent condition. Contact: Jim Cannon at (562) 595-8008 or e-mail at canjimmc98@yahoo.com

Attention Advertisers: Any changes? e-Mail Carlos at Saprissa@aol.com to send a file.

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Mention this ad and make an appointment in June for the following prices:
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FOR SALE ---
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.

e-Mail Carlos Muñoz at Saprissa@aol.com if you want to place a personal ad in the "for sale" section. *Please contact Carlos every month* to continue to run the ad.

Upcoming Events

SL Appreciation Day / MBCA Day @ Cars & Coffee Irvine™
2 June 2012

by Carlos Muñoz

Join the Orange County Section as they once again host SL Appreciation Day and Mercedes-Benz Club of America Day at *Cars & Coffee Irvine*™ on Saturday, June 2, 2012. Like last year the MBUSA Learning and Performance Center West and Classic Center will bring some special cars for our enjoyment. The Mercedes-Benz Classic Center is hosting an open house after this event. Everyone is welcome to attend.

All Mercedes-Benz owners who RSVP'd by 23 May, please plan on arriving no later than 6:00 AM. Committee Club members will be at the entrance to assign parking locations. All cars will be on display from 7:00 – 9:00 AM. No charge to display or view cars. Coffee and breakfast items are available for purchase at *Cars & Coffee* (cash only).

Not familiar with *Cars & Coffee Irvine*™ or our event? Check out the photos on the OC Section website (**mboc.info**) and the **mbca.org** website… this is an event not to be missed!

Visit to the MBUSA Vehicle Prep Center (VPC) in Carson, CA
23 June 2012

by Steve Ross

The tour of the Mercedes-Benz USA new Vehicle Preparation Center is locked in and several have signed up for this tour so please do not wait until the last minute. This is an opportunity that comes along very seldom so you don't want to miss it. I attended a tour of the east coast preparation facility in Maryland four years ago and it was extremely interesting and informative. You will leave there with an understanding and appreciation of how your Mercedes-Benz is pampered after leaving the factory, arrival to your dealer and then to you. Here is the critical information:

Where: Mercedes-Benz VPC located at 22707 S. Wilmington Ave, Carson, CA 90745
When: Saturday June 23, 2012
Time: Be at the facility at 10:00 AM to begin the tour

We are limited to the first 50 people who sign up so don't wait until the last minute. It will be quite some time before this opportunity comes round again. We will be having lunch at Spires Restaurant which is very near the Vehicle Prep Center.

Please let Steve Ross know if you are attending by June 18, 2012. Phone (619) 508-3925, e-mail: **inewsx@sbcglobal.net**

Upcoming Events

A Day at the Races @ the Del Mar Race Track
Saturday July 28th

by Michael Cooper

Your buddies at the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, San Diego Section have reserved a select number of seats in the Club House at the Del Mar Race Track. So what does this have to do with cars? Nothing! Just a bunch of Mercedes-Benz owners getting to know each other better, sharing stories, having a few drinks, a few laughs, and if you're lucky… maybe even winning a buck or two.

Each ticket is **$20** and includes Clubhouse admission, reserved seating and official racing program. Seating is limited. Don't miss out! Please RSVP by June 30. For more details or to reserve your spot, please contact Michael Cooper at (760) 599-0629 or e-mail at: **michaeldenise@roadrunner.com**

National City Automobile Heritage Day
Sunday, August 5th, 2012

by Bob Gunthorp

The National City Chamber of Commerce presents the 21st Annual National City Automobile Heritage Day on Sunday, August 5, 2012 at Kimball Park.

National City is proud of its automotive heritage and celebrates this with a day of relaxation in the park and enjoyment of a great collection of automobiles. This is a unique event, which brings together a wide variety of highly prized vehicles including antiques, classics, customs, race cars, trucks, and motorcycles. Automobile Heritage Day is an opportunity for Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts to gain an appreciation and understanding of many fine collector vehicles including those very different from the ones they are familiar with. This is a family event, open to the public. There will be food, live international music, and local vendor booths. You need not own a classic Mercedes-Benz or a Concours pedigree car to participate, just fill in the application on the next page, and mail it in with the entry fee. Cars newer than 1984 will not be judged, and those older than 1984 may win an award. Register before July 15th.

See you, your family & friends, & your Mercedes-Benz there !

What: National City Automobile Heritage Day 2012
Where: Kimball Park, National City. Civic Center Dr. & National City Blvd.
When: Sunday, August 5th, 2012
Itinerary: Parade begins at 8:45 AM / Car Show at 9:30 AM / Awards at 3:00 PM

AUTOMOBILE HERITAGE

HOW TO CLASSIFY YOUR VEHICLE

1. Is your vehicle factory stock or is it modified? Check the entry form box which fits your vehicle. Factory stock means the vehicle has the configuration originally sold by the factory. Modern safety equipment such as seatbelts or turn signals are acceptable modifications. If your vehicle has major changes (wide tires, modern engine, custom bodywork, etc.) it should be in a modified class.

Factory Stock Classes

A-1, A-2, A-3, A-4. These are cars that don't fit in classes B through H. A-1 (1929 & older), A-2 (Prewar 1930-1942), A-3 (Postwar 1946-1964), A-4 (1965-1984).

B. Buick Rivieras 1963-1984.

C. Classics. These cars must be on the Classic Car Club of America list of approved classics from 1925-1948.

D. Sports cars, Foreign. 1984 and older. **These are 2-passenger cars designed for either street or competition, manufactured outside of the USA.**

E. Sports cars, American. 1984 and older. **These are 2-passenger cars designed for either street or competition, manufactured in the USA. 1955-57 T-birds, Corvettes, Cobras, and Shelby GT's are in this class.**

F. Featured Marque- VW/Volkswagen

G. Mercedes. 1984 and older.

H. Microcars. 1984 and older. **These are cars with engines under 1300cc (80 cubic inches) displacement, except sports cars.**

I. Trucks. 1984 and older.

J-1, J-2, J-3, J-4, J-5, J-6. Motorcycles 1984 and older. J-1 (Asian Made Factory Stock Motorcycles), J-2 (European Made Factory Stock Motorcycles), J-3 (American Made Factory Stock Motorcycles), J-4 (Modified and Custom Motorcycles, 2 or 3 wheeled vehicles are in this class), J-5 (Competition Road Racers), J-6 (Competition Off Road Motorcycles).

Modified Classes

K. Race cars. 1984 and older. **These are vehicles designed for competition. They can be purpose-built racers or modified road cars.**

L. Low riders. 1979 and older. **These custom vehicles have hydraulic suspension systems allowing the driver to rapidly change the car height.**

M-1, M-2 Street Rods with modified bodywork and trim. **M-1 (1942 and older), M-2 (1984 and older).**

N-1, N-2 Performance Modified Cars & Trucks with stock appearing bodywork & trim and major modifications under the hood. **N-1 (1942 and older), N-2 (1946-984)**

Later Model Vehicles

This show is intended for pre-1984 vehicles. However some interesting later model vehicles may be accepted if space allows. Permission to display a later model vehicle must be granted by the Entry Chairman, thus, please submit your entry early to allow time for a response. Later model vehicles, will not be eligible for awards (display only).

Disclaimer

If a car is parked in an area not designated for their class, the car will not be judged.

Entry fee $21 by July 15th
Entries received after July 15 will be $30
Event Date: Sunday, August 5, 2012

Send your entry along with a check or money order payable to:
The National City Chamber of Commerce
901 National City Boulevard, National City, CA 91950
Phone (619) 477-9339 • Fax (619) 477-5018

DAY APPLICATION FORM

NAME:_____

ADDRESS:_____PHONE:_____

CITY:_____STATE: _____ ZIP CODE:_____

EMAIL ADDRESS (For entry confirmation):_____

VEHICLE (MAKE):_____ MODEL: _____ YEAR:_____

REQUESTED CLASS:_____ CLUB:_____

☐ FACTORY STOCK** ☐ MODIFIED (Check one box)

Please check the appropriate box. Please enter my vehicle in:

☐ PARADE ONLY
8:00 am: 22nd St. at Cleveland

☐ SHOW ONLY
9:00 am at Kimball Park

☐ PARADE AND SHOW
8:00 am 22nd St. at Cleveland

Entries confirmed by Email or by phone at (619) 477-9339; thechamber@nationalcitychamber.org

Class-please check one:

FACTORY STOCK CLASSES**

A. Cars, factory stock
(not fitting in classes B through H)
- ☐ A-1 (1929 & older)*
- ☐ A-2 (1930-1942) Pre-War*
- ☐ A-3 (1946-1964) Post-War
- ☐ A-4 (1965-1984)

☐ B. Buick Rivieras

☐ C.* Classics (must be/or on the CCCA list)

☐ D. Sports Cars, foreign

☐ E. Sports Cars, American

☐ F.* Featured Marque, VW/Volkswagen

☐ G. Mercedes

☐ H. Microcars

☐ I. Trucks

☐ J. Motorcycles, factory stock
- ☐ J-1 (Asian)
- ☐ J-2 (European)
- ☐ J-3 (American)
- ☐ J-4 (Modified & Custom)
- ☐ J-5 (Competition - Road Racers)
- ☐ J-6 (Competition - Off Road)

MODIFIED CLASSES

☐ K. Race Cars

☐ L. Low Riders

M. Street Rods and trucks
- ☐ M-1 (1942 & older)
- ☐ M-2 (1946-1984)

N. Performance Modified
- ☐ N-1 (1942 & older)
- ☐ N-2 (1946-1984)

OFFICE USE ONLY. DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BOX

ASSIGNED ENTRY NO. _____

CLASS _____

AMOUNT PAID _____

No entry fee required for any active duty military

* No entry fee required for vehicles in this class (Free)

* No entry fee required for Factory Stock vehicles 1945 or older

ALL ENTRIES MUST HAVE OPERATIONAL FIRE EXTINGUISHER

CARS PARKED OUT OF THEIR DESIGNATED CLASS AREAS WILL NOT BE JUDGED.

"FOR SALE" SIGNS ON CARS ARE NOT ALLOWED.

CARS THAT ARE NOT REGISTERED 10 DAYS PRIOR TO THE EVENT WILL NOT BE JUDGED.

EVENT T-SHIRT ORDER FORM

$10.00 EACH IN ADVANCE. Order on or before July 15 to ensure we order your correct size

Please indicate size and quantity: S ____ M ____ L ____ XL ____ XXL ____ XXXL ____

For information and car registration please call the
National City Chamber of Commerce at (619) 477-9339.
Download a registration application on line at:
www.nationalcitychamber.org

Check Block "G" for Mercedes

For a better resolution Registration Application Form please visit www.nationalcitychamber.org and download one to print and fill out.

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LEGENDS OF THE AUTOBAHN 2012

Share the Excitement of this Legendary Event During the World-Famous Monterey Classic Car Week

Friday, August 17, 2012

Rancho Cañada Golf Club, Carmel Valley, CA

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Refreshments | Media | All-Day Fun!

Register before August 1, 2012 at www.motorsportreg.com
Scroll to "August 17" then to "MBCA – Legends of the Autobahn"

For event details and a registration link, go to www.legendsoftheautobahn.org and click on the MBCA logo or Mercedes-Benz name.

For information, contact Laura Simonds at 650.592.7613 or simondsl@pacbell.net

News from the National Business Office

A Special Message from Lisa A. Juhl, MBCA Director of Marketing

May 30, 2012 --- Happy (belated) Memorial Day, everyone! Here in Colorado, it feels a lot like summer. Dry, sunny climate with temps in the mid- to upper-80's — which is better than 10 feet of snow, I suppose! I hope you're enjoying the sunny season where you live, too.

The National Business Office (NBO) is in the midst of updating MBCA's membership application. Believe it or not, the 20,000 applications we printed and distributed to every MBCA Section back in January are just about gone (the January application I'm referring to is white and includes our $49/$59 dues increase).

For perspective, MBCA's 85+ Sections ask the NBO for approximately 3,500 applications each month. That's good news! It means you are all working hard to spread the word about MBCA by distributing applications to prospective Members in your community. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME & EFFORT!

We are now developing a new membership application. The design is NOT final; it's just a rough layout. On one of the panels it has the headline, "How We Got Here". My vision for this panel is to spotlight three or four MBCA members by telling their story about how they joined the Club. There are so many interesting stories to show and tell… I wish we had room for more! One story I'm familiar with is an 80-year old Member named Arthur who, back in the 50's, bought a 1958 190SL (cherry red) so he could drive his new bride on their honeymoon. Fifty-plus years later, Arthur sold his precious SL to a 35-year old Member who is using the car to drive HIS new bride on THEIR honeymoon! These stories are priceless!!!

If you have a brief, 25-word (or less) statement you would like to send me for consideration in our membership application, please e-mail me by FRIDAY, JUNE 8 at lisa@mbca.org. If you can NOT get the Members' permission for us to write about them before June 8 (many people may be traveling for the summer), and their story is chosen for the application, I will personally contact that Member for their express permission to write about them. Stories that are not approved by the Member will NOT be published. Please type "Story for Membership App" in the subject line of your e-mail.

Since only a few stories can be published (due to lack of space), I will attempt to find a home for the remaining stories, somewhere on our website. Thank you for sharing our Member's unique stories with the NBO. I think prospective Members who receive our application (from so many of you!) and read our Members' stories, will be more compelled to join such a special group of enthusiasts.

Thank you! Lisa

Recent SD Section Events

Visit to the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center
12 May 2012

by Carlos E. Muñoz
Photos by Carlos E. Muñoz

I think if I got locked in at the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center after-hours, I surely would not complain. Luckily, every year our San Diego Section is cordially invited by Mike Kunz, the Classic Center Director for a special behind-the-scenes look at the brand that not only has 125 years of history — it makes history. Every car has a story, some not so famous, others in complete glamour and limelight. And we got to hear all about it as Mike, Nate Lander, and Tom Hanson provided a morning full of show & tell. Afterwards, we enjoyed a delicious lunch at Peppino's Italian Restaurant nearby. If you have not had a chance to visit the Classic Center in Irvine, perhaps on June 2nd you can make it right after the Orange County Section's hosting of SL Appreciation Day as well as MBCA Day at *Cars & Coffee Irvine*™ (see page 4).

I guarantee you will see things that amaze you and hear things that will inspire you to cherish your Mercedes-Benz for years to come. And in the end, it's all about these beautiful Star cars. Knowing that Mercedes-Benz follows through on their commitment to excellence by ensuring that the Classics are taken care of, just think how much more they are prepared to stand by their product today as you drive off in a new Mercedes-Benz from the dealership floor. Truly a class act ! Now, about spending the night locked up at the Classic Center, yeah… I don't think that's going to happen. In the meantime, enjoy some photos from last month's visit:

Top: (L to R) Bob Gunthorp's 1967 230 Ambulance outside the Classic Center / 1955 220 Coupe W187 / Completely restored 1958 180D Ponton
Bottom: (L to R) 1934 Type 130 W23 Cabrio-Limousine / 1895 Benz "Velo" / 1935 Type 150 W30 Roadster

**1954 190 SLR race car, at one time owned by actor Patrick Dempsey.
Currently, the engine is being overhauled, so the front nose of the car sits high.**

L to R: Classic Center Director, Mike Kunz welcomes the San Diego Section / Nate Lander fascinates the crowd with compelling stories about each Star car / Tom Hanson helped me out in deciphering and interpreting data card codes from my 1959 220S interior upholstery that just "didn't quite make sense".

**The many stages of restoration work being performed by the experts at the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center.
Pagodas, 190 SLs, Gullwings, Pontons, Adenaeur 300s...**

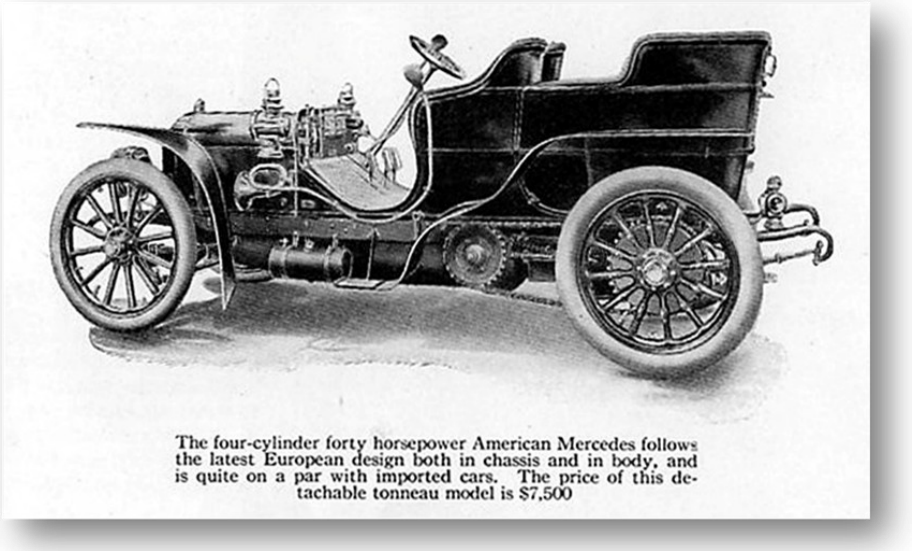
Thank you !!
Mercedes-Benz Classic Center

The American Daimler Mercedes

by Steve Ross
Photos by Steve Ross and Carlos Muñoz

What do Steinway Pianos, Daimler and Mercedes have in common? One is inclined to say probably nothing but in fact they have a lot in common. Heinrich Engelhard Steinweg was born in Germany in 1797. Due to unrest in Europe during the Napoleonic Wars he and one of his sons came to America in 1850. When he came to America, Heinrich changed the family name to Steinway. Although not a musician, he had a talent for making musical instruments. After arriving in America, he and his sons went to work for a piano company and in 1853 founded *The Steinway and Sons Company*. So how did the Steinways and Gottlieb Daimler get involved with the automobile? There are several versions of how they got together. One story is that William Steinway and Gottlieb Daimler become acquainted through William Maybach, who during the World's Fair in Philadelphia visited his brother, an employee of Steinway. William Maybach was the Chief Engineer for Daimler Motors at that time and he went on to start his own company building very high-end cars as well engines for the Graf Zeppelins. Daimler-Benz built what some called the ultimate luxury car named the Maybach until this year when production was ceased. There are at least three versions of the story, depending on whom you choose to believe. One version: Wilhelm Maybach's brother was a Steinway employee and spoke highly of the company to him. Another: Gottlieb Daimler was a member of a traveling *mannerchor (*Mens Choir) and saw a Steinway piano in New York and made acquaintance with Steinway. Steinway's official story is that, while traveling through his home country in 1888, co-founder William Steinway heard that Daimler was developing horseless carriages, visited the firm, and subsequently took a Daimler motor-cycle on a very satisfactory tour of Germany. In any case, on October 6, 1888 a contract was signed between Steinway and Daimler to build Daimler engines and cars. Daimler had only built his first car two years earlier in 1886. The company was named the *Daimler Motor Company*. They were primarily a stationary engine company for marine engines and very few cars. They were considered a boutique car company and may have built only a few cars but no one seems to know for sure. In 1896 Steinway sold the Company to *General Electric* where the name continued on producing some light trucks and between 1905 and 1907 some cars. In 1997 at the La Jolla Concours d'Elegance I saw and photographed a Steinway Daimler. Since this was pre-digital, for me, I have not found the photo, but I am still looking.

What we do know, is that at least one car was built and it still exists today at the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center in Irvine, CA.



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

This advertisement for the American Daimler Mercedes ran in 1906. It had a top speed of 50 MPH with a 6.8 liter (415 CI) 4-cylinder engine developing 40-45 HP and a four-speed transmission. The first unit sold in 1906 and was painted red. Success was short lived. In 1907 a fire destroyed eight completed *Mercedes* plus 40 more under construction and the factory was closed thus ending the *American Mercedes* saga.

The 1907 American Daimler Mercedes as it looks today.

Not a lot of trunk space.

New York License

Medallion on Radiator

Recent SD Section Events

Ladies of Mercedes Event
19 May 2012

by Yensi Muñoz
Photos by Yensi Muñoz

They say the key to a man's heart is through his stomach, but the key to a woman's heart is a Mercedes-Benz. That is why on May 19th, the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, San Diego Section had their first ever "ladies only" event. This all-day escapade included a private tour of the Mercedes-Benz dealership in Escondido, followed by a delicious lunch at Café Merlot and wine tasting at the Rancho Bernardo Winery, and topped off with a girl's favorite pastime: shopping at nearby boutiques.

Mr. John deVries, of the Mercedes-Benz of Escondido Customer Service Department, hosted us ladies like a true gentleman. His tour included a challenging round of Mercedes-Benz trivia with awesome swag (*editor's translation: delightful prizes*), a close look at the dealer's inventory ranging from new 2012 models to the classic 1886 Benz Patent Motor-Wagen, an opportunity to purchase Mercedes-Benz apparel at the dealership boutique, and a question & answer period, where we put his knowledge to the test. We ladies know our Mercedes! A very special "thank you" to Mercedes-Benz of Escondido, for providing every lady in attendance a complimentary Mercedes-Benz goodie bag! The beautifully wrapped gift bag included a Mercedes-Benz Museum porcelain and gold-plated ring sewing thimble made by Reutter Porzellan of Germany, a retro design Classic Mercedes-Benz compact mirror, and a Mercedes-Benz logo thermal porcelain coffee tumbler. Now these guys truly know how to treat a lady! And they sure know how to service our Mercedes-Benz vehicles too, new and old.

Mercedes-Benz of Escondido, where John deVries went all out 110% to make our event a success!

The fun and gifts continued, as John threw trivia questions at us, and those who answered correctly were given wonderful prizes. All of us came away winners in the raffle! Prizes included Classic Mercedes-Benz STAR lapel pins, a "his/her" small-scale *smart* car die-cast diorama, a hot pink Mercedes-Benz ball cap, an original sales brochure for a classic Mercedes-Benz, an AMG magazine, a vintage Mercedes-Benz porcelain tea cup, saucer and spoon, and other classic Mercedes-Benz memorabilia.

Confucius once said: "Wherever you go, go with all your heart...." and I would add: "in a Mercedes-Benz!" And that's exactly what we ladies did. On a beautiful, sunny Southern California afternoon, we all drove our Mercedes-Benz to Rancho Bernardo for lunch, wine-tasting and shopping. Couldn't of been a more perfect day. What an event!

The "swag"

The "Ladies of Mercedes" and their Star Cars

Recent SD Section Events

Ladies of Mercedes Event Photo Collage

by Yensi Muñoz

San Diego Section Newsletter Going Digital

by Carlos E. Muñoz

Due to publishing/mailing costs, members who want to continue to receive the San Diego Section ***Star Bulletin*** newsletter physically mailed hard-copy on a monthly basis should notify me immediately, otherwise, monthly mailing will stop in January 2013. I appreciate those of you who have already notified me via e-mail or phone. My contact information, once again: Saprissa@aol.com / (619) 756-0876. Section members are encouraged to update their current e-mail address with the MBCA National Office at **www.mbca.org** as we will use the current e-mail list on file to send out a monthly link to our newsletter online and provide any updates and reminders for our Section events. Members can view the San Diego Section newsletter (current or past issues) anytime at our web site. It is posted there monthly: **http://sandiego.mbca.org**. Please have a look. Thanks.

STARFEST® 2012
SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 3
PHOENIX
MBCA DESERT STARS

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1. Take her on a luxurious resort vacation to Arizona this fall (the weather will be perfect)
2. Indulge her with southwest shopping, spa treatments & haute cuisine
3. Get online. Book your activities & hotel NOW & save a fortune in early-bird discounts
4. Give her the cash you just saved to spend any way she wants (a bigger tip for Sven the masseuse comes to mind ...)

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Reserve NOW for StarFest® 2012 — the premier national event of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America
September 28-October 3, 2012
Phoenix, Arizona and surrounding areas

Register today and save at **www.starfest2012.com**

For more information, please contact Registration Chair Debbie Ichiyama at: StarFestRegistrar@desertstars.org

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MBCA Raffle

Spring Time RAFFLE!

They say "You can't win if you don't play", so don't miss your chance to win! For MBCA Members Only. The odds are on your side!

24 prizes in the Spring 2012 Raffle:
(1) GRAND Prize: $50,000 CASH
- Enough to buy a Mercedes-Benz
(1) FIRST Prize: $10,000 CASH
(2) SECOND Prizes: $2,500 CASH
(20) THIRD Prizes: $500 Gift cards to your local Mercedes-Benz Dealer

Raffle tickets are $50 each; there is no purchase limit.
Tickets must be purchased by June 15, 2012.
Raffle drawing will be held on June 26, 2012 at 10:30 am Eastern Time.
Call 800.637.2360 (Monday-Friday 8 am-5 pm MDT) or visit
http://intl-stars-section-raffle.mbca.org/ to purchase your chance to win TODAY!

StarFest® Volunteers Needed

The Desert Stars Section needs your help as a volunteer for StarFest® 2012.

Volunteers will help and assist in StarFest® activities and planning, including Hospitality, Concours, Driving Events, Registration, Rallye, Publicity and Sponsorship. Events will take place at the Biltmore Resort and the Firebird Raceway.

StarFest® runs from Sept. 28th to Oct. 3rd.

Hosting StarFest® is a great honor for the Desert Stars Section which is celebrating its 50th anniversary during Arizona's Centennial anniversary. Being a volunteer is a great opportunity to meet and work with other Section members and other MBCA members from all over the country.

Please contact Debbie at dichiyama@me.com if you would like to help and be sure to visit www.starfest2012.com on the web. Also, check us out on Facebook and don't forget to "*Like*" us. Thank you,

Debbie Ichiyama

StarFest® 2012 Registration for Non-computer members

Unfortunately, it appears that we forgot about those members that do not have access to computers and the internet for StarFest® 2012 registration purposes.

A manual registration form is available upon request so you can complete the registration. Debbie Ichiyama (808) 282-5249, from the Desert Stars Section is standing by to help if you need assistance in filling out the form, and both a FAX number and mailing address are provided on the form for sending the completed form into the StarFest® Registration Desk.

Hotel reservations can be made at the Arizona Biltmore by calling their main number (602) 955-6600 and asking for "reservations". Please tell the Reservationist that your Group Code is **BENZ** so that you can get the discounted rate of $169 per night.

September 26-28 — StarTrip to StarFest® 2012

Join StarTrip, MBCA's fun and relaxing car caravan to StarFest® 2012! This traditional excursion will begin in San Carlos, CA and end in Phoenix, AZ, host city of StarFest®. Your Mercedes-Benz (or other road warrior) will follow a long line of other Mercedes with stops at the Mullin Automotive Museum in Oxnard, CA and the Nethercutt Collection and Museum in Sylmar, CA. Other planned stops where you can join along include: Banning, CA and Palm Springs, CA. Enjoy meals and lodging with the group or venture out on your own. **Register by September 15**. Contact Richard Simonds: (650) 592-7613 (h), (650) 722-0299 (c) or **rsimonds@pacbell.net**

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- will fit 560SL, 1986-1989. First $60 takes this.
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W124 Front Brake Pads ATE - will fit:
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Mercedes-Benz Workshop Manuals:
(1) MB Chassis W116 Factory OEM Shop and Service Manual for models: 280S '75-'76, 280SE '77, 450SE '73-'76, 450SEL '73-'76, 6.9 '77, 300SD '78.
This is Mercedes-Benz Service Manual #1214 and the condition is very good. $39.95 OBO.
(2) MB Chassis W107 Factory OEM Service Manual Library. This is on digital CD format, and covers entire W107 series of vehicles. MB Technical Information Part No. P-2700-107-098. $24.95 OBO.
Upon purchase these items can be sent via USPS Media Mail if necessary. Contact Tom Hoffman, (619) 987-3803 or mechwizardth@hotmail.com

Storage: I've downsized my collection and now I have room to store 2 cars, $100.00 each per month. Call Bud Hartwell (619) 588-2180 / or e-mail hartwellsmbz@cox.net

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June 2012

NEXT BOARD MEETING IS TUESDAY,
June 19 @ 7:00PM, at CHIN'S in Miramar
South side of Miramar Rd., one light West of the 15
at the Holiday Inn Express

We arrive at 6:00 to have a (no-host) dinner before the meeting. All members are invited.

Please Note: 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 for a board meeting, you might want to call a board member first to be sure the meeting will take place as scheduled.

http://sandiego.mbca.org

Section President's Message

Firstly, I need to say thank you to the staff from the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center. I think everyone had a great time. The visit to the Classic Center was to a smaller group than last year, so we got a very close-up and personal visit with Mike Kunz, Nate Lander, and Tom Hanson answering loads of questions and even asking the assembled group what things we wanted to see and hear about. This meant that we saw everything from a perfectly restored 180D Ponton to a gorgeous SWB 600, and everything in between including 3 Gullwings and countless 300SLs. See the full story on our online newsletter. Thanks again, Classic Center!

The year is almost half over, and so we need to think about our Holiday Party. I am currently talking with the Hornblower about a lunchtime cruise on the San Diego Bay. Hopefully this will be a private cruise, but I need to find out who would want to come, please call me or e-mail me so I can gauge if the Hornblower Cruise is of interest to our Section.

Back to the next event... we have an opportunity to go to the Mercedes-Benz Vehicle Prep Center (VPC) in Carson. I must thank Steve Ross for setting this up. I know it has been a long chase. Then we are heading to the Races at Del Mar in July. So we have a busy summer of great events planned. Almost forgot, please remember that "Legends of the Autobahn" and StarFest® are just around the corner, and you need to register today!

See you at an event very soon. Jonathan