



Mercedes- Benz Club of America

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

Star Bulletin

November 2020

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The MBCA, the San Diego Section, its Officers, members, MBUSA, Smart GmbH, and AMG, however, make no inference, that advertising in this bulletin implies approval of their products or services

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

Visit us on face book at
<https://www.facebook.com//MBCASDSection>

We have a new Facebook page! Go to <https://www.facebook.com/MBCASDSection> and check it out.

As we move into the Holiday season the curse of the COVID is still with us and thus far, to my knowledge, we have all survived. It has been most inconvenient but as Grandma used to say "it could have been a lot worse". We San Diego Star Car people have not had a hurricane, fire, tornado or swarms of locust. For the most part we have enjoyed our cars while maintaining our "social distance". Have a Turkey Dinner with family and friends and continue preparing for Christmas, Hannukah or whatever floats your boat. Steve

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The San Diego Section welcomes you to our Mercedes-Benz world. Please join us ASAP and see how we have fun. Have a question contact me the membership guy at 619-508-3925

**Lourie Hewitt Elina Mendoza Jim Stewart Kimberly Dias
Yuka Hsu Scott Edrington Stephanie Weeks**

The San Diego Section welcomes you to our Mercedes-Benz world. Please join us ASAP and see how we have fun. Have a question contact me the membership guy at 619-508-3925

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

Mark Mills Michael Tellez Joan Ward Weston Anson

Laurie Hewitt Armando Danna David Willoughby

Your membership expiring or about to expire? Please consider renewing as we hate to see you go.

Questions? Contact Steve Ross, at inewsx@sbcglobal.net

Halloween at Idyllwild

S. Ross



The ghosts and goblins were out in force in the hills of Idyllwild during our weekend at the Blue Bird Inn. Rumors were rampant that there was a haunted Packard as well as a Mercedes-Benz. It is believed that what the people were seeing was the Blue Bird crowd stumbling around in the dark looking for their cabin with masks and some in their Halloween costumes or remnants thereof.

Thankfully there were no exorcisms, trials, hanging, drowning, or arrests, thank God. Bailing out Section Presidents, Regional Directors and a National Vice President would be scandalous or maybe not, it might be a recruiting enticement.

No report is complete without mentioning the weather; well the weather was super. Cool in the evening and comfortable during the day. All of our socializing and dining was done outside. A sweater was nice in the evening.



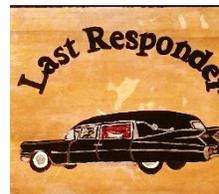
A few of us with the advance party arrived on Thursday taking advantage of the free night and ensuring everything was just right for the main party. As you can see a witch tried to break through our security but was foiled. Except for the ghost sightings this was the only attempt to spoil our fun.



The place was infested with spiders but they didn't seem to be hostile toward us. Everyone brought items to decorate the tables and it was quite "spooky" for sure.



When the main party arrived to begin the weekend outing they were greeted by Olga the ghost lady. Those who did not seem to be having fun were sent to the stocks for an hour. There was a pass word to get in. Care to guess what it was?? Find the answer in this Star, somewhere.



There was no need for this Stinken Cadillac



Even though Halloween is associated with omens of bad things to come, we were blessed with the Blue Bird of Happiness. He or she, hung out with us for the weekend.

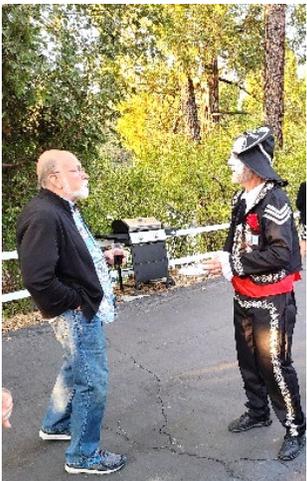
A few people tried to dress up and scare us but it didn't work. I admit I was wearing a sprig of garlic.



Señor and Señora El Muerto. This charming crawled out of a hole and crashed the party. The Señora looked a whole lot scarier than does the Señor.



Shocking photo! Although the mouth appeared to be sewed shut, these creatures still tried to eat and apparently were able to do so. Not a pretty sight



Pete Lobber says "back off buddy"! The smell must have been bad.



The Pumpkin Girls Diana and Jen.



Recently back from his last adventure exploring the ancient tombs of the Incas and burial grounds of the Conquistadors, Indiana Jones dropped in for a drink. He may have been the one who freed Señor and Señora El Muerto. Indiana just laughs in the face of danger.



Indiana and, you name it



Cutest couple nominee, not a winner. Wait till you see who the winner was.



This Lady looks a lot like the lady with the heavy set person, nice word for fat, in the photo on the left. With her is Princess Elizabeth Rapunzel.



Rudy being approached by the El Morte couple. Brian may have fainted from the sight



Mask says "will remove for wine". Believe this to be Jen Lobner



The Indiana Jones family, Amber, Elizabeth, and Indiana aka Radu Alexandru. Elizabeth is the Princess *Rapunzel* and Amber is the nightmare before Christmas



The highlight of the evening was the completely unexpected appearance of the noted Flamingo dance team direct from Barcelona, Spain Señorita Lynn and Don Ricardo. Their entrance was nothing short of spectacular. (cutest couple award)



Señorita Lynn seems to be thinking "what does this idiot want"?



Señorita Lynn is nice to everyone, even Señora El Muerta

AWARDS WERE PRESENTED FOR THE BEST COSTUME AND THE BEST TESTING WINE.



The winners of the costume contest were the El Morate couple, Karen and Richard Schauer and the Princesses, Elizabeth Alexandru. Awards were presented by the Pumpkin lady, Diana Kruse president of the Mercedes-Benz club of San Diego. Richard is also the Regional director of the Packard Club of San Diego



Karen and Richard exam their award, which I believe was a gift card and Diana admires Elizabeth's princess ring



Richard, Karen, Lynn, and Rick relaxing before getting out of costume.

After an evening of FUN, everyone got a good nights rest and went into the village to see the sights, and it was said there was some shopping. Everyone got back to HQ in time to prepare for the wine tasting contest.

THE WINE TASTING CEREMONY



Here is the lineup for the wine tasting drink off no, I mean best tasting. There were nine contestants, I think, and amazingly the winning bottle is not in this picture. Was the fix in?! The bottle with the label hidden is troubling. It was also noted the top was chipped and the cork was in the bottle. Remembering what this event was celebrating, Halloween, some began wonder if foul play was afoot. Some of the non-professional wine tasters became disoriented after about the fifth bottle and were unable to continue their assignments. In my case I was not aware that you were supposed to swirl the wine in the mouth and spit out, after sticking your nose into the glass and swirling it around for a long time. Oh, and you were supposed to wash your mouth out with water before "tasting" the next wine. Although severely disoriented, I called upon my Navy drinking training and pressed on to the end. I seem to remember a chocolate taste toward the end. Captain John Paul Jones would have been proud.

Anne Kinner, Radu. And Rick preparing for the tasting. Radu looks surprised which adds to the drama



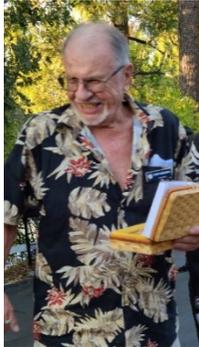
Bob Waner, Anne Kinner and Brian doing some serious evaluations.



Richard Schauer and Brian Kruse making a final inspection



Jen with one of her tasting bottles. We had to make her put it back. Richard Mann is in the background scratching his head. Radu seems to get in every photo.



Mr. Rudy Wokoek the official tabulator for the wine tasting. Rudy ensured there no ballot box stuffing and other forms of swaying the outcome.



Patty Arnold, Jimmie Stewart and Ms. Lynn Strobel



Jen and Pete Lobner, winner of the wine tasting. Note the name of the wine is GEN 5. They won a Starbucks gift card



Trish Wilson shows Bob Waner and Carol Ross the treasure she found at a village shop

Trish's purchase



Richard Mann, Jen & Pete Lobner and Anne Kinner



Diana wondering what this is and should I drink some?



Rose Bolton Pondering

LEST WE FORGET, THERE WERE SOME CARS THERE.



Radu's C350, Jimmie's GTc AMG and Rick's E350



Patty and Jimmie with the GTc and Radu's Benz



Rudy's ML350 bluetec



Rosie the Ross CLS550



Jimmie's ride, love the license plate



The Devil in a Blue Dress. This is a serious machine! All the car nuts started drooling when this pulled into the parking lot and wondering who it was. Well it was none other than Jimmie Stewart.



Sunday morning we ventured over to Leigh and Mary Lou Johnson's abode and garage where we saw their 1941 Packard 180 Sedan. Really a nice Packard



We also got too view Leigh's project cars

The ladies



Diana, Carol, Amber, Elizabeth, Lynn, Rose and Karen

The gentleman



Rick, Radu, Brian, Mark, Steve, Rudy, and Richard



Saturday the was a harpist playing during the late morning and he was very good.

As you may have noticed we really had a good time with lots of laughs. It was great get on the road, breathe the fresh and socialize, safely, and relax a bit.

THE CAR OF THE FUTURE



This is not a car of the future; it is available now and at least one is on the road. If you are interested in learning more Google, Mike Vetter. This model is powered by a Chevy 2 liter engine with turbocharger

Sunday November 8, 2020



Come join fellow Mercedes-Benz Cub of San Diego and Packard club members our sister organization, for a lovely fall tour of San Diego. Fire up your favorite Bez, mask up, let's go touring!

WHEN: Sunday **November 8, 2021** at 9:00 A.M.

WHERE: Meet at the **Spreckels Park** at Orange and 6th Street, Coronado (across from Library). Donuts to be provided. Departure is set for 9:30.

WHAT: Tour length is approx. 35 miles and should take about an hour and a half, but note that since this tour will run right through the center of the City, there will be traffic. Detailed instructions will be handed out as we will not be able to stay together. Several "catch up points" are planned however to gather the group.

The route will start in the heart of Coronado, and travel down the beautiful and less crowded Silver Strand, then back up the island near the golf course, and over the Coronado Bay Bridge. We'll briefly be on Highway 5 North, and then exit to see a bit of Balboa Park so folks can see the cars as we pass. Then we move to Point Loma to the Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.

The end point is Shelter Island, on Shelter Island Drive directly across from the Island Palms Hotel & Resort (site of the 2021 Western Regions Tour). Bring your favorite chair, hat, and a picnic lunch. Dubbed the Heart of San Diego Tour there will be lots of adoring gawking and rubber-necking from the general public along the route. You don't have to drive a Packard or Mercedes-Benz car to participate. Just come!

Note: social distancing courtesies will be observed so please bring a mask!

INFORMATION: Tour director is Tim Pestotnik, who can be reached at tim@pestotnik.com or (C) 619- 602-1964 if you have questions. Driving directions and maps will be distributed the morning of the tour, and a brief drivers meeting will be held prior to launching.

Let's go have some fun and show off our beautiful cars!



**THE HOLIDAYS ARE UPON US,
SO LET US PREPARE FOR THE
SEASON AND HAVE SOME FUN**

We may be wearing masks, standing six feet apart, (isn't it ironic that this is the official depth of a grave?) and unable to understand what anyone is saying, but by God, we are having a Christmas party! The election will be settled, maybe, and perhaps the virus will have gone away as well.

The Holiday party is scheduled for Sunday, December 13, 2020 at *The Country Club of Rancho Bernardo*. There will be gift exchange. Please bring a wrapped gift for each member of your party who wants to participate and try to keep your present at \$25.00 or less.

DETAILS:

When: Sunday, December 13, 2020

Where: The Country Club of Rancho Bernardo. 12280 Greens East Rd San Diego CA

Time: 2:00-6:00 pm in the Lake Room

Cost: \$41.00 per person

The Menu

Jack Frost Salad

Winter Greens, Pomegranate, Apple, Carrot, Shaved Red Cabbage, Feta Crumbles, Pumpkin Seeds, Alpine Dressing

Choose from:

Paillard of Chicken "Francaise"

OR

Herb Crusted Wild Pacific Cod Loin

SERVED WITH: Sun Dried Tomato Risotto, Sauteed French Beans, Lemon-Thyme Beurre Blanc

Dessert: Amaretto Crème Brulee with Berries

CUT HERE

RSVP TO DIANA KRUSE BY DECEMBER 9, 2020 at 4654 Lucille Dr, San Diego CA 92115

Menu selection: ***Paillard of Chicken "Francaise"*** __. ***Herb Crusted Wild Pacific Cod Loin*** _____

Amount enclosed: _____. **Names:** _____

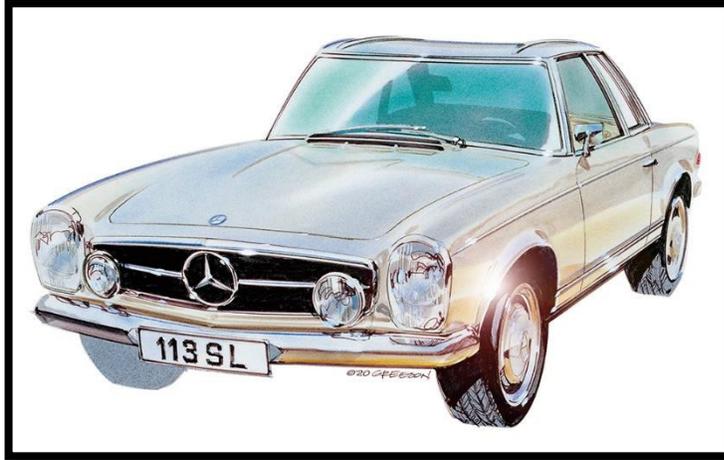
FALL RAFFLE

Purchase your tickets today for a chance to win your dream car.

The **MBCA 2020 Fall Raffle** is open to MBCA members. Tickets are \$50 each and there is not a limit to the number of tickets a member can purchase.

To participate in the raffle, you must be a member of the MBCA.

Go to <https://raffle.mbca.org/> to buy tickets for the raffle.



The prize for this raffle is a vintage restored R113. Not only a great automobile but a good investment, as they continue to increase in value.

DON'T FORGET THE MBUSA BUYER INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR MBCA MEMBERS



MBUSA Incentives



You may receive MSRP discounts of up to \$6500.00 on select models. This is also an excellent program for recruiting new members. If you know someone who is thinking of getting into a Mercedes-Benz, advise them to join the MBCA before going to the dealer. If you are going to buy a Mercedes-Benz go to your dealer and contact the Fleet Sales Manager. You may go to the MBCA website for more information or Call: Do not call unless you are an MBCA member!

1-866-628-7232 or send an email to FleetOperations@mbusa.com ...

You may also contact Steve Ross at inewsx@sbcglobal.net or 619-508-3925

WIN A CHICKEN DINNER

Alas we have no chicken dinner winner. The is a 1958 Austin-Healy Sprite, an extremely fun car!



Photo, S. Ross

HERE IS YOUR MYSTERY CAR FOR NOVEMBER

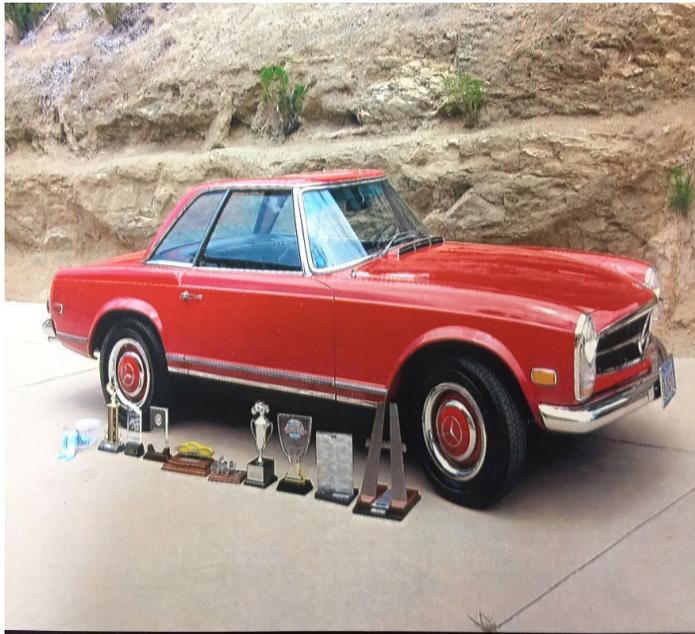


Photo, S. Ross

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*



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Mention this ad and make an appointment in June for the following prices:

107 Chassis tops:

German \$945

Sonnendeck canvas top \$895 One-day turnaround

**HAVE YOU INVITED A
FRIEND OR ANYONE TO
JOIN THE CLUB? DON'T
KEEP OUR FUN CLUB A
SECRET**

1.

Change of Address, Phone # or e-mail

If you have a change-of-address,

e-mail mbca.org

MBCA National Business Office.
1-800-637-2360

FOR SALE OR WANT ADS:

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

Please contact Steve every month to continue your AD

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

We would love to get to know you & your Mercedes-B
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.mbca.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 Anna McBride. She will take your order. All payments are made via credit card.

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



Wonder these guys are looking at?? Perhaps a membership application.



Auto Renew is Here, Opt-in Today!

By

Doug Geganto, National Membership Chair

COVID 19 has totally disrupted our lives and many of the activities we've become accustomed to doing. Things like getting together with our friends, enjoying attending section events and getting out and meeting with fellow club members. However, one thing that has been severely affected is our ability to meet other Mercedes-Benz owners, tell them about the club and encourage them to join. We expect new member growth to be severely impacted this year because of our inability to host recruiting events. How can you help ensure that we stabilize our membership losses?

Have you opted into Auto-Renew yet? When it's time to renew your membership, it's now easier than ever. Simply log into your MBCA account, select the **Renew** link at the top of the page and click on the **Yes** button in the renew section. Your best deal is to renew for 3-years. That's all there is to it!

Why Auto-Renew?

- Never worry about your membership lapsing.
- Don't miss an issue of the Star® Magazine.
- Stay informed of local section and national events via your local section's newsletter and the national Click announcements.
- Have a chance to participate on one of our annual Germany trips to visit Mercedes-Benz headquarters in Stuttgart.
- Have a chance at winning a new Mercedes-Benz by participating in our annual raffles.
- Lastly, by having your membership Auto-Renew each year, you help the club stay financially sound and help to stabilize our membership losses.

Our Auto-Renew option is new this year. Our goal for 2020 is to have 50 to 75 percent of our members sign up for Auto-Renew. Right now, we're at 5 percent with 831 members who have already signed up. We need your help to reach our goal this year by signing up for Auto-Renew today.

That's it. If you have any problems opting in or questions, contact the NBO at 1800- 637-2360, and a member representative will be happy to assist you in getting enrolled. I encourage you to sign up for Auto-Renew today.

Thank you for being a member of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America.



Doug Geganto

MBCA

National Membership Chairman

dgeganto@charter.net

404-754-9955



Baker's DOZEN

NEW MEMBER PROGRAM



An incentive to help us get new members

2020 has been a difficult year for the club. Activities have been cancelled or rescheduled throughout the year resulting in a slowdown in membership as a result we've seen our membership continue to decline. I'd like to end the year with one last push to increase the club's and each section's membership.

To help, we are introducing a new membership incentive program for the fourth quarter of 2020, the **Baker's Dozen New Member program**.

Here's how it works:

Each new member who joins the club as a result of direct member or section recruitment activities will receive one free month of membership for each twelve months of their new membership. For multiple year memberships the free month will be tacked on to the membership on the renewal date for each subsequent year.

On the application the recruiting member of the section should write, *Bakers Dozen* near the referred by area on the membership application.

I know it's been a tough year for recruitment, hopefully this new program will generate some interest and result in new memberships. I'm including a Poster you can print or send out to all your members to encourage them to sign up new members.

Let's end 2020 with an increase in new members! This program will run until December 31, 2020. If you have any questions, please contact me directly

Steve Ross
inewsx@sbcglobal.net
619-508-3925

2020 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.

New ideas or changes please contact a Board Member!!!
Note: All dates may be subject to change

EVENT DATE 2020	EVENT DESCRIPTION	EVENT CHAIR/COORDINATOR
November 8	Tour and picnic	Joining Packard Club
December 13	Holiday/Christmas Party	The Board @ RB Country Club
Pass word was FUN		



Ralph DePalma prepares to run the 1912 Vanderbilt race in Santa Monica CA with his Mercedes, number 22. DePalma won the race. His Mercedes was known as the Grey Ghost.

A GOAL WITHOUT A PLAN IS JUST A WISH

Star Bulletin

16151 Fruitvale Road
Center, CA 92082



NOVEMBER 2020

MBCA San Diego Section

President's Message – NOVEMBER 2020

**MBCA Board Meeting
November 17 @ 6:30 M**

Meetings may be on Zoom

Note: Our regular Board meetings are scheduled on the 3rd 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 OR
USE THE QR CODE BELOW.**



<http://sandiego.mbca.org>



It has been a challenging year with limited events, but I think we have done well all in all. If you have event suggestions, please let a board member know. Our 2021 planning will be this month and we love new ideas.

We have a drive coming up on Sunday, November 8th with the Packard Club folks and I hope to see you there.

The holiday season is already upon us and it's time to end this year (yes, end this year!) with a fun and festive party! We are going to let our hair down and make it a party to remember. Wear your favorite holiday sweater (ugly or elegant), Santa hat, reindeer antlers, or any other favorite holiday attire. Red, green, blue, purple. Bells, snowflakes, snowmen, candy canes, dreidels. Be creative! Fancy or casual, you decide. We will have our gift exchange which is always a fun time. See page 10 for details.

Stay safe and healthy and see you soon.



Diana Kruse, President - MBCA San Diego Section