



# The Houston Star

**MBCA** | Houston Section Newsletter



April  
2012

[www.mbca.org/houston](http://www.mbca.org/houston)

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## 2012 Bluebonnet Run

By: Joseph Middleton

There are two things which are uniquely Texan, bluebonnets, and Hill Country barbeque. The Houston Section went out in search of those two things on Saturday, March 31. Members of the Houston Section gathered at Hermann Park in the heart of Houston before embarking on their westward journey. At 10am, a caravan composed of 5 Mercedes-Benzes, a Toyota, and a Lincoln pulled out and made their way down Almeda Rd. to US 90A, aka, Old Spanish Trail and proceeded westbound toward the land of bluebonnets.

Some of you may be thinking, isn't I-10 or 290 the best way to get to the bluebonnets? Maybe, if you're in a rush. If you want to take the time to enjoy the trip and view the scenery, the back roads are your best bet. This year, we decided to take the Old Spanish Trail, which was one of the old coast to coast automotive trails in the pre-interstate days. In Texas, the Old Spanish Trail (OST) roughly followed US 90 and US 90A. From Old Spanish Trail, we merged onto S. Main, followed the highway through the southwest side of Houston and through Missouri City, Stafford, Sugar Land, Richmond, and Rosenberg before deviating from the US 90A OST and taking TX 36 to our first stop in Orchard. By the time we got to Orchard, the bluebonnet sightings were slim. Besides catching a glimpse of one small planting of the flowers at the Grand Parkway just outside Sugar Land, there were few to be found. From Orchard, our caravan made a turn at Wallis onto FM1093 (known as Westheimer Road in the Houston city limits) and took the country road to Eagle Lake to join back with the US 90A OST.

After passing through the town of Eagle Lake, our caravan made a leisurely path up the FM 102 portion of the OST toward Columbus. It was on this highway that the flat, Gulf Coast plain yielded to hills, and bluebonnets were beginning to be spotted.

(continued on page 5)

## President's Message

Dear Club Members,

We brought in the year late, I know, but better late than never, right? The Houston Section hosted a well received Tech Session and New Members Meet and Greet on March 24th at the Barbara Jordan High School for Careers (see page 6 for the recap) and embarked on our annual Bluebonnet Run on March 31st (cover story). I want to thank everyone who came out to those two events and I hope to see you at some of our future events.

As I noted last month, Secretary Norm Glorioso is heading up an event for Pagoda owners and lovers on Saturday, April 28th. The event will consist of an 11 am lunch at Benjy's on Washington, and a 1pm visit to the Museum of Fine Arts Houston's Hogg Mansion and Gardens at Bayou Bend. You can find info on this event on page 7.

On May 27th, we will host our Spring Autocross 2012. That one is always a fun event. I can't wait to see what vehicles will be out there this time. For those of you who are frequent attendees, you know that this event isn't just limited to Mercedes-Benz vehicles. We've had everything from Cadillacs to Minis to Ford F-150 SVT Raptors participating. Even if you're a spectator, you'll have fun. See page 8 for more info.

Then on June 2nd, we'll attend the Seventh Annual Texas Statewide Mercedes-Benz Get Together put on by Yours Truly in Centerville, TX. This will be the seventh time that I've hosted this event and has attracted people from as far away as Florida and Kansas in past years. Our friends at Woody's Smokehouse and Ft. Boggy State Park will be looking forward to having us come to their neck of the woods to celebrate all things Mercedes-Benz. See page 9 for more info.

The heat will be turned up this summer, that's for sure. Mercedes-Benz engineering will handle our climate well, but make sure your cooling system is up to par by checking the condition of your coolant and hoses. If necessary, flush your coolant and replace your hoses to ensure your cooling system is not compromised this summer. The fluid flush interval varies by year and/or model. If you don't know when the fluid flush was last done, don't take a chance. Perform the service yourself, or for those who aren't as proficient with a wrench as they wish, visit your favorite mechanic or Mercedes-Benz dealership and have the service performed. If you're performing the service yourself, make sure to use the Mercedes-Benz coolant or Zerex G-05 coolant, or other Mercedes-Benz approved coolant. This is important since the MB and G-05 coolants contain the proper additives needed to prevent wear of aluminum and plastic components in the cooling system. The G-05 formula also has a nifty additive to help you spot the source of coolant leaks quicker. The green stuff may work ok, but the G-05 and MB coolant works great!

This is also a good time to make sure that your air conditioning is in tip top shape. Don't wait until it's 105 degrees outside to find out that your center vents don't work, your refrigerant is leaking or that your evaporator core needs cleaning. For the latter, if you don't think your core needs cleaning, you'll know when your air conditioning has the smell of moldy bayou water. Yuck!

Happy motoring!

Joseph Middleton | President | [Mercedes-Benz Club of America](#) | [Houston Section](#)

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## MBCA | Houston Section welcomes the following new members to the Club!

*Welcome!*

Akshay Kumar of Stafford, TX

Lindsay Botsford of Houston, TX

Jose Gonzalez-Jauregui of Houston, TX

William Hafner of Houston, TX

Brett Jones of Humble, TX

Thomas Norton of Houston, TX

Art Schroeder of Houston, TX

*Willkommen!*

## MBCA | Houston Section thanks these loyal Club members

Steve and Denise Bauserman of Houston, TX

A. Brenholts of Conroe, TX

Charlie Chanara-Tsopon of Houston, TX

K. and Patty Credeur of Houston, TX

Matt Dezevallos of Houston, TX

John and Patti Felker of Stafford, TX

Robert and Andrea Jackson of Houston, TX

Norm Laman of Webster, TX

Vaughan Lirette of South Houston, Tx

Fernando Mangino Aparicio of Spring, TX

Jay and Lynn Morris of Bellaire, TX

Ted Novosad of League City, TX

Hans Richter of Houston, TX

Michael Shawiak of Houston, TX

John Venezia of The Woodlands, TX

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## Bluebonnet Run

(continued from page 1)

At Columbus, we were met by dozens of bicyclists preparing for the MS 150 ride from Houston to Austin. They slowed us down, but that was fine since the point of this whole trip was to take it slow. After another pit stop in Columbus, we joined US 90 and passed through the towns of Weimar and Schulenberg. In Schulenberg, we were met by Arlynn Hausmann who was already in the area and joined our caravan as we motored our way along US 90.

One thing our group noticed was instead of vast fields of blue, there were vast fields of yellow flowers. This plant, known as bastard cabbage (shut your mouth!), seemed to have drowned out the bluebonnets. It was still a welcome change for us urbanites to see nature at work instead of the usual landscape of parking lots and strip centers. It might have made more sense to call this a Bastard Cabbage Run since that was what was mostly out in the fields, but that just doesn't seem to attract people like the name "Bluebonnet Run" does. At Waelder, we dipped down on TX 97 and cruised into our final destination, Gonzales, TX. After managing some in town detours due to another bicycling event, we found ourselves at the Gonazles Food Market for a Hill Country BBQ lunch.

After eating, a few of us decided to take a look at the historic town square. For you history buffs out there, Gonzales was the site of the first skirmish of the Texas Revolution. Then, we decided to take our paths home. Some decided to whisk down I-10 and take a straight shot home, others decided to visit San Antonio and San Marcos since both towns were not far away. A few decided to mosey back home the same way they arrived in Gonzales, on the back roads.

Nat King Cole and Chuck Berry, among others, told the nation to, "get your kicks on Route 66." Well, I can say this. "You'll do well to take the Old Spanish Trail".



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## New Members Meet and Greet and Tech Session

By: Joseph Middleton



Gerry VanZandt (L) and David English (R) examine the transmission pan on a W123 chassis 300D.

The Houston Section kicked off its 2012 calendar year with the New Members Meet and Greet/Tech Session on Saturday, March 24. Wait a minute, March? Well, better late than never, right?

About twelve members showed up to check out the New Members Meet and Greet/Tech Session which was held at the Barbara Jordan High School for Careers. The shop teacher, Al Lloyd, was on hand to assist in any projects we wanted to take on. Gerry Van Zandt was also on hand to use his code reader on vehicles of the mid 80s- mid 90s vintage to read codes and detect potential problems on members' cars of that era.

One member was brave enough to conduct an automatic transmission fluid and filter change on his 300D. Dave English brought his transmission fluid, filter kit, and with the assistance of Al Lloyd and club members, was able to give his W123 the fresh fluid and filter its transmission deserved. It may have taken a little longer than usual, but the job was done right. There's a great sense of satisfaction from being able to perform your own work successfully on your Mercedes-Benz. Not only does your pride swell, but your wallet is happy.

After doing a little work on our vehicles, it was time to clean up and eat. The Culinary Arts department at the school, led by Mr. Hill, provided us with an excellent feast. The students prepared and served our food to us at prepared tables located in the lobby of the school. We were served a choice of BBQ chicken or brisket, and for dessert, homemade sweet potato pie topped with vanilla ice cream. Bon appetit!

This was our first attempt at a hands on technical session. We learned a few things along the way and were able to teach our members a few things and help benefit the school.

Special thanks go out to Andria Schur, Principal of Barbara Jordan High School, auto shop instructor Al Lloyd, and the Culinary Arts instructor, Mr. Hill and his students for providing us with a top notch venue to hold a top notch event.

Don't worry if you missed out. Due to the positive response from the school and the members who attended, we are working on having a part II of this tech session with more time to complete more projects and learn more things about our vehicles. Stay tuned!

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## Houston Pagoda Event Saturday, April 28, 2012



**What:** A chance to meet other Pagoda owners over lunch and a visit to the Museum of Fine Arts Houston (MFAH) Hogg Mansion

**Where:** 11:00AM Benjy's Restaurant at 5922 Washington Ave. (713) 868-1131/1:00pm MFAH's Hogg Mansion and Gardens at Bayou Bend

**Who:** Pagoda Owners or anyone interested in the Mercedes-Benz 230SL, 250SL and 280SL (W113 chassis)

**Cost:** Lunch will be on an individual basis. Benjy's menu is varied and moderately priced.

**Additional Information:** At Bayou Bend, Pagodas will be allowed to park on the circular drive in front of the mansion. Other vehicles will need to enter the property from the visitor center at 6003 Memorial Drive. Maps / directions to enter the property from Kirby and Lazy Lane Blvd will be provided to participants to RSVP.

**RSVP:** Norm Glorioso. (832) 717-0083. [ncglorioso@comcast.net](mailto:ncglorioso@comcast.net)

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## Spring Autocross 2012

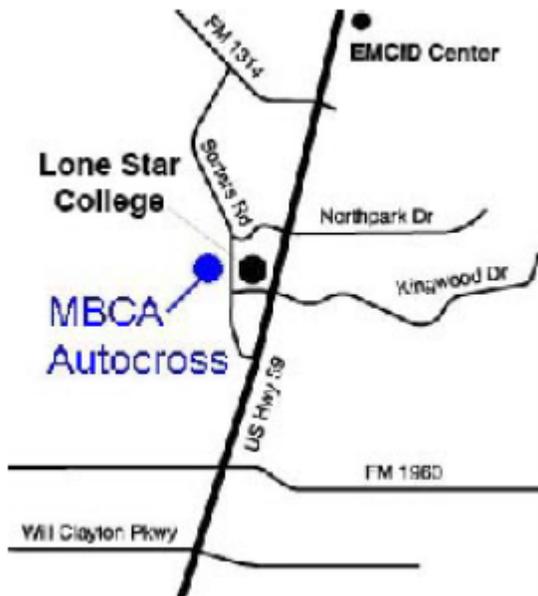
It's almost time for one of MBCA | Houston's most anticipated events...  
Spring Autocross 2012!



Family Fun!



Good food!



Most of all, good tire screeching fun!

The autocross will be held on Sunday, May 27 at Lone Star College-Kingwood. Drivers should arrive by 12:30pm for lunch and a pre-event briefing, and the event begins at 1:00pm. Bring your family and lawn chairs and enjoy a BBQ lunch and some hands on automotive fun! Cost is \$10 per driver. Helmets will be provided, or you can bring your own helmet. To RSVP with the number of guests in your party, and/or for more information, contact Mike Haney at [mhaney@3dtriad.com](mailto:mhaney@3dtriad.com), or at 713-298-4580.

## Seventh Annual Statewide Texas Mercedes-Benz Get Together

It's almost time for the **SEVENTH** Annual Texas Mercedes-Benz Get Together! If you've attended this meet in the past, then you'll already know that it's always a fun time, and I hope to see you again this year! If you have not attended this meet before, why not make this year your first time to attend? The meet will be held on Saturday, June 2, 2012 in Centerville, TX with lunch at Woody's Smokehouse, and a Show and Shine at Fort Boggy State Park. A caravan of cars going to Centerville from Houston will meet in the parking lot of the Cracker Barrel located at 14765 North Freeway (located on the southbound I-45 feeder road just south of Airtex Dr.). We will have our pre-departure assembly in the rearmost portion of the Cracker Barrel parking lot near the Guesthouse Inn & Suites hotel at 9:45 am, and will depart at 10:15 am for a 12:00 noon arrival in Centerville. If you wish to have breakfast at Cracker Barrel or at the neighboring Whataburger, you can arrive earlier than 9:45 am, just be ready to pull out with the group at 10:15am. There will be reserved parking and a BBQ lunch in a room reserved especially for the group at Woody's Smokehouse, located on the northbound side of I-45 in Centerville. After lunch, the group will head 4 miles south on State Highway 75 to Fort Boggy State Park for a show and shine. Park entry is **FREE**. After the show and shine, awards will be handed out based on People's Choice for the best vintage model (pre-1980), best 1980s model, best 1990s model, and best 2000s model. For all inquiries regarding this meet, including RSVPs, please contact Joseph Middleton at 713-487-8197, or via email at [editorjoseph@gmail.com](mailto:editorjoseph@gmail.com)



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### Technical Q & A with Ali Durvesh

**Question:** The blower motor has died on my 1988 560SL and needs replacement. My mechanic says the whole assembly including the plastic enclosure needs to be replaced. He says the motor alone cannot be replaced because the plastic fans break if you try to remove them. The only problem is, a new blower motor assembly costs \$1,000! Is there any alternative available that won't break the bank?

**Answer:** Yes, fortunately. If one is careful, the plastic fans can indeed be removed. The trick is to heat them up in hot water and then ease them off the motor gently. Heat them up again to slide them on the new motor and you'll be good to go! Good luck.

If you have any questions, please send your requests to the *Houston Star* or contact me directly. I can be reached at [ali.durvesh@gmail.com](mailto:ali.durvesh@gmail.com).

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## South Central Region Event Lone Star Section (Austin)

### Join us for our annual “Shine and Show”

Saturday, May 5, 2012 from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Landa Park - Pavilion 6

New Braunfels, Texas

The Mercedes-Benz Club of America | Lone Star Section and the newly formed Hill Country Section invite you and your family to join us at our spring “Shine and Show”.

This year’s event will begin with a scenic drive to New Braunfels, Texas where we’ll meet to socialize, enjoy some delicious Bar-B-Q from Rudy’s “Country Store” and host a car show featuring our beautiful “washed and shined” Mercedes-Benz vehicles!

First, Second and Third Place Certificates will be given in the following categories:

Best Pre 1970’s, Best 1970’s, Best 1980’s, Best 1990’s, Best 2000’s and People’s Choice!

This year’s menu from Rudy’s will consist of brisket, turkey, beans, cole slaw and potato salad. At a cost of \$10 per person which can be paid CASH the day of the event.

Please RSVP your total number attending to [MBCALoneStar@aol.com](mailto:MBCALoneStar@aol.com)

no later than Wednesday, May 2, 2012 so we know how much food to order

plus e-mail you our caravan meeting time, location and driving route.

# Mercedes Marketplace

## 2001 Mercedes-Benz CLK320

2001 Mercedes CLK320 Convertible (W208 Chassis) is finished in Brilliant Silver Clearcoat Metallic. Original Paint, no accidents. All the body panels are straight with no major dents/dings. This car was purchased by my mother about 4 years ago as a gift to herself for beating cancer. She typically drives her W126 every day, and the CLK only gets driven on the weekends. This car only has 58,700 miles on it.

16" Mercedes Benz Aluminum wheels, finished in factory silver, wrapped in a Matching Set of Goodyear Eagle LS H-Rated tires, the tires have less than 5,000 miles on them, and have plenty of tread left.

The black power fabric top opens and closes normally. The top is in great shape, and the car has always been garaged when not used.

The engine is the 3.2L 18 valve, Single Overhead Cam (SOHC) V6 (M112 - E32) with 218 hp. The engine starts and runs flawlessly. This engine is mated to a smooth shifting 5 speed automatic transmission. There are no leaks, funny noises, or fluid consumption. Car runs and drives great. The brakes work fine with no problem, no warpage, and no fading. Stops are straight and squeak free. The suspension is tight, squeak free and the car drives straight. We recently installed a brand new Interstate Battery (located in trunk), next to the full sized spare tire, which has never seen the ground.

The interior is finished in grey leather. Driver and passenger power seats both work fine with no problem with over tilt/slide for access to rear passengers. All power everything works. Dual zone climate control works fine with no problems at all. Nice condition inside for a 10 year old car. There is a trunk mounted CD changer.

The car has two keys, one original key as well as a new style chrome key.

This car hasn't seen the shop for anything since we owned it (except a flat repair) and I believe my mom has driven the car less than 5000 miles in the three years that she's had it. Texas Registration and Inspection are current.

Asking \$11,000 and entertaining all reasonable offers.

Email: [weschain@gmail.com](mailto:weschain@gmail.com)



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# 1984 Mercedes-Benz 500SEC

## 1984 Mercedes Benz 500 SEC

Red with original palomino interior and new headliner. US model with Euro headlights. Lowered with AMG kit and 17" wheels, original owners manual, cold air. Always garaged. Beautiful 2 owner car with 167K miles (only 7,500 miles a year average). Original US lights and a set of stock springs are included.

**\$14,900**

Contact: Lou Foster (281) 450-4599 or (936) 582-6061



## 1960s era Mercedes-Benz parts for sale

\* Set of 4 MB factory original alloys (14 X 6) with 195/70R14 Kelly Metric 600's mounted (<2000 miles).

They include the center hub covers and correct wheel nuts.

They are ready to bolt on and go - complete and great "driver" condition.

No damage to the metal (curb rash or otherwise).

I had been using these occasionally on my 280SL until I sold her. \$600.

\* Original steering wheel in black. Removed from 1968 280SL, but will fit many 1960's cars. Great condition, but not perfect. \$400 OBO.

\* Kangol 2-point seat belts and mounting hardware Black, no damage, but appear used. \$400 OBO.

\* Service manuals for cars between 1958 and 1969 (Big Blue Book). Different books (cover different topics). \$130 together.

\* Rubber door seals for W113 - both L&R. \$60

Will send photos upon request

Contact [sctripp@comcast.net](mailto:sctripp@comcast.net)

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## Hardtop for 1983 380SL or similar model

Selling a dark green hard top with an ivory headliner that I no longer need (a long story). Very good condition. I am very flexible regarding price, i.e., make me an offer.

Contact: Joe Fischer at: [joe.fischer-vbj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joe.fischer-vbj@sbcglobal.net) or (713) 850-1128.

## 1983 Mercedes-Benz 380SL



# For Sale

1983 Mercedes Benz 380SL above avg.,  
both tops, blue w/grey leather **\$12,000**

**713-557-2741**

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## MBCA | Houston Section

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<http://www.mbca.org>

## 2012 Upcoming Events

Houston Pagoda Event  
April 28

Spring Autocross 2012  
May 27

Texas MB Get Together  
June 2

## Board of Directors Meeting

May 8

Board Meetings are **open to ALL MBCA | Houston Section members**. Board Meetings are held every 1st Tuesday of odd numbered months at 5:30 PM in the 2nd Floor Conference Room at Mercedes-Benz Greenway (3900 Southwest Freeway, Houston, TX 77027), **unless otherwise noted**.

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