



The Houston Star

MBCA Houston Section Newsletter

**April
2009**

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NEW MEMBERS DINNER

On Saturday, March 21, 16 members of the Houston Chapter and their guests drove their Mercedes to Manggiano's Little Italy Restaurant in the Galleria Area and enjoyed a great Italian dinner and conversation with one another.

There were introductions and a lot of conversations while waiting for everyone to arrive before we were taken to our table in the middle of the restaurant. After receiving our drinks we were served our 5 course dinner "family style".

First came the appetizers and salads: Diced artichoke hearts, spinach, tomatoes and asiago cheese baked with alfredo sauce until bubbling and golden; served with crispy Focaccia bread; Italian garlic bread toasted and topped with a tomato bruschetta relish made of diced tomatoes, balsamic vinegar and roasted garlic; A traditional Caesar salad of romaine lettuce tossed with Caesar dressing and Manggiano's salad: croutons and shaved parmesan cheese, iceberg and romaine lettuce, crumbled bleu cheese, crispy prosciutto, red

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President's Message

Hi Everyone,

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! PLEASE NOTE !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Due to there not being the required respondents for our regional event we regretfully will be canceling all events (excluding the autocross) in association with the Keels and Wheels weekend. I'd like to thank all of those interested in attending and those who helped make it almost happen. With a national meeting and other sections' events we did not get the minimum number of RSVPs in the time frame needed to have said event. Possibly next year if we have more pieces fall into place. Please still feel free to attend Keels and Wheels by going to www.keels-wheels.com for tickets and information.

We will still be having the Autocross on Sunday 5/3/09 at its regularly scheduled time including our usual lunch prior to the driving. See more details on pages 8-9.

* * * *

Last month, I had the privilege of attending the annual Palm Springs Desert Classic Concours D'elgance. It always amazes me to see the different rolling automotive art at so many different shows and the few that travel the circuit displaying their treasure at almost every show throughout the year. One of the reasons I was invited to the show was for the western debut of the Fisker Karma. A new electric car that only uses petrol for the electric generator has been tested getting 100 miles per gallon. Beautifully styled, it will be interesting to see the actual production models. While this was the 2nd year for the show, it was surprising to see how many cars there were actually local. If you have an opportunity and have not been to Palm Springs, it's a great excuse to do both. Unfortunately, last year featured the very first Ferrari. Darn, missed it!

If you aren't afraid of heights try the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. This takes you 1.5 miles up into the mountains to the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National monument. This is about 6 miles from downtown Palm Springs. The views are breathtaking and it was fun to go from the heat of the desert to snow in minutes. While at the private party the evening before the Concours everyone had the delight or fright when the one off 40 foot turbocharged Packard powered PT boat started up without warning to most. Many a heart and pace makers skipped a beat or surged. We all jumped almost losing our drinks as the monster engine coughed, sputtered and blasted to life. It did necessitate another glass of wine. The planes were awe inspiring in the airline hanger where the event was held. Along with memorabilia as well as the fighter planes from WWII, there was a narrative modeled showcase reenacting events of Pearl Harbor. Many of the other cases had actual weaponry used in the war. The planes out numbered the cars inside but outside many of the cars that would be on display at the Concours were driven to this event. It was a fun quick unexpected weekend.

* * * *

At the beginning of May we'll have our own Concours. The 14th annual Keels and Wheels May 2-3 2009 at the Lakewood Yacht Club in Seabrook TX. is honoring Duesenberg and the cars of Carol Shelby. Also, don't miss Jerry and Kathy Gauches' 1st place show winner at Pebble Beach and Palm Springs Desert Classic a 1948 Delahaye that's simply stunning. There will be a variety again from several decades of automobiles and boats. With Mercedes Classic not attending to help keep money in the bank. I did get word that there will still be a few award wining vintage Mercedes on the lawn to view and be judged.

Happy Motoring,
Damon Stith


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Annual Bluebonnet Run

This year the Bluebonnet run will take place on Saturday, April 18. We will assemble in the parking lot of Gander Mountain (19820 Hempstead Hwy, Houston, TX, 77065) at 10 am. This year our stop will be the Pleasant Hill Winery in Brenham. From their website (<http://www.pleasanthillwinery.com>) :



“Taste the wine traditions of the Zaffiro and Macedonio families in this countryside vineyard located in the rolling hills of Brenham, Texas.

The spectacular view from the carefully reconstructed old barn will whet your palate for wine-tasting following a tour of the vineyard through the path of the grape as it makes the wondrous transformation from vine to fruit to wine.

Spend some time studying the corkscrew collection and winery artifacts or just enjoying the warmth and beauty of the barn’s interior. A gift shop with wines and souvenirs will surely make your tour a pleasant day in the country.”

Before we leave on our drive we first have to decide what to do for lunch. The winery has no food but they have told us we are free to bring our lunch and enjoy it on their spacious patio. There are a number of interesting sandwich shops in Brenham that can provide a lunch that can be enjoyed on the winery’s patio in the hopefully beautiful sunshine. Another option (and in case of rain) is to settle into a nice restaurant in Brenham prior to moving on to the winery.

After lunch we can take the tour, sample wine and just have a good time before we hop in our cars for the ride home.

If you are interested in taking part in this event please contact Harry Ramirez or Buzz Werner or just meet us at Gander Mountain.



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New Members Dinner Saturday, March 21

onions, tossed in their signature House Dressing.

Before we had finished this, out came the Pastas and Entres: Fettucine Alfredo Broccoli - traditional fettucine noodles tossed with broccoli and garlic in a creamy alfredo sauce, Mom's Lasagna - whipped ricotta cheese layered with pasta sheets, crumbled meatballs, Italian sausage and marinara sauce and topped with provolone cheese and your choice of our meat or marinara sauce, Chicken Parmesan - lightly breaded chicken breasts fried and topped with provolone cheese and marinara sauce and Salmon Lemon & Herb - filet of salmon sautéed with fresh herbs and spinach, served in a light lemon butter & clam sauce.

Finally came the desserts; N.Y. Style Cheesecake - New York style ricotta cheesecake topped with fresh berries and whipped cream and Tiramisu - ladyfinger cookies soaked in espresso and coffee liqueur layered with mascarpone cheese; dusted with cocoa powder and served with chocolate.

Remember now that the new course was not served until we had eaten all we wanted of the present course. The food was great and we thoroughly enjoyed all that we ate.

After the coffee we said our farewells and all said they were looking forward to next year's event.

MBCA RAFFLE 2009

ENTRY DEADLINE: JUNE 15, 2009
DRAWING: JUNE 30, 2009



First Prize:
\$51,225 CASH
EQUIVALENT TO A
2009 SLK300
(actual car not shown)

Second Prize: \$40,620 CASH EQUIVALENT TO A 2009 C300 4MATIC SPORT SEDAN
Third-Fifth Prizes: \$5,000 CASH EQUIVALENT TO A GERMAN TOUR, TRIP FOR TWO



Ticket requests must be received
before June 15, 2009.
Raffle rules and entry
information are available at
www.mbc.org
or on request from Raffle,
1907 Lelaray Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80909,
(800) 637-2360 or
(719) 633-9283 (fax)

Michigan Raffle license number R00611

MEMBERS CARS

(Ed. note: Beginning this month we will start to feature member's cars, so if you would like to see your Beauty in print send me some photos and a little story on her. Our first feature is Alan Hart's 1953 300S Roadster who needs a little help. If you can answer his question send him a note at talanhart@sbcglobal.com.)

The invoice is hand written, but is legible enough to make out the Br??ette. it's a name, not a color. Says "Sold for Br??ette ??ite". My guess is still Brigitte White.

I have attached some pictures of the car just before I removed it from the garage it had been in for over 25 years. The car is now in Houston having the engine, brakes and electrical overhauled. Luckily the previous owner had purchased a tremendous amount of spare parts back in the 70s and 80s that came with the car. And, he still had his copy of the Bill of Sale.



The car is a very complete 1953 300S roadster. It was an original blue metallic, but it has been painted it a light metallic green. After the mechanicals are complete I intend to have it repainted the original color, and restore the interior.

My wife, Caroline rode in the car in a parade in the early 80s when she was the Queen of the Yacht Club in high school, and we have a picture of that.

I had been interested in the car for some time, the owner wasn't interested in selling. One day he called and said that his son needed to sell a 1970 Dodge Challenger and he would make me a package deal. I took the deal, later sold the Challenger and now am beginning getting the 300S road worthy again.

Over the years I have had a 230SL, 450SL and a 300SD. So, I'm no stranger to MB.

See if you can find out anything from your members



HOUSTON REGIONAL EVENT

AGENDA AND ACTIVITIES

CANCELLED FRIDAY, MAY 1ST CANCELLED

There will be a reception in the _____ room of the Hilton featuring light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. You will be able to confirm your registration and get your grab bag. Be sure to secure your nametags, tickets and the latest Plan. It will make your life easier. We have reserved a block of rooms under the Houston Chapter of the MBCA. A discounted rate has been negotiated for members. The hotel's phone number is 281-333-9300

CANCELLED SATURDAY, MAY 2ND CANCELLED

A caravan is planned to assemble and depart the Hilton parking lot at 9:30 am to The Yacht Club (Keels and Wheels) where we will be directed to public parking (see enclosed map). Refreshments and food are available on the grounds. You may stay as little or as long as you please. Don't forget your cameras.

For those attending the tour of NASA Space Center, please assemble in the Hilton lobby no later than 1:00 pm and contact Chuck Wyatt for details of the tour.

In the evening there will be a dinner cruise on Clear Lake. There are two choices for a dinner buffet. Please mark your choice on the registration form. To add to your enjoyment there will be an open beer and wine bar as well as water, juice and soft drinks included with the dinner. Space is limited to 49 persons so get your tickets sooner rather than later. The boat will leave from the Hotel at 7 PM. You are asked to board by 6:30.

Option # 1

Garden Salad w/ 2 Dressings
 Robinette Famous Green Beans Almandine
 Parslied Long Grain Rice
 Grilled Herb Marinated Breast of Chicken
 Roasted Garlic Mushrooms
 Rolls and Butter

Option # 2

Garden Salad w/ 2 Dressings
 Savory Parmesan Baked Tomato
 Bay Scented Wild Rice Blend
 Turban of Flounder with Shrimp and Crab Mornet
 Wrapped Flounder Fillets Stuffed with Crab and Shrimp
 Dressing,
 Served with a Seafood Mornet Sauce
 Rolls and Butter

SUNDAY, MAY 3 THE AUTOCROSS IS STILL SCHEDULED BUT THE TIME IS NOW 12 NOON

If attending the autocross, either as a driver or spectator, It is recommended you travel I-45N to 59N, a journey of 50 miles to the Kingwood College parking lot about 25 miles north of Houston (see enclosed map). Drivers should be there by 10:00 am for check in, orientation and to begin runs. Helmets will be required and furnished. A barbeque lunch will be served at 12 noon. Runs will continue into the afternoon. Please confirm your attendance to Mike Haney Prior to April 15th.

HOUSTON REGIONAL EVENT

CANCELLED - EXCEPT FOR THE AUTOCROSS

MAY 1-3, 2009

REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) _____

Telephone/email _____ / _____

Section _____

Friday Evening: CANCELLED

Reception/Mixer # attending _____ X \$20 = \$ _____

Saturday: CANCELLED

Keels and Wheels # _____ X \$25 = _____

NASA Tour # _____ X \$15 = _____

Dinner & Cruise # _____ X \$65 = _____

Please indicate choice of:

Grilled Herb Marinated Breast of Chicken _____

or

Turban of Flounder with Shrimp & Crab Mornet _____

Sunday: ONGOING

Barbeque Lunch _____ X \$10 = _____

Autocross # driving _____ X \$10 = _____

Total \$ _____

THE FRIDAY EVENING RECEPTION AND THE SATURDAY EVENTS ARE CANCELLED. TICKETS TO KEELS AND WHEELS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE EVENT'S CHANNELS.

THE AUTOCROSS IS STILL BEING HELD WITH THE START TIME CHANGED TO 12 NOON.

CENTERVILLE RALLY

The Houston Section of MBCA has been invited to attend the Fourth Texas Mercedes-Benz Get Together. The meet will be held on Saturday, June 27, 2009 in Centerville, TX with lunch, and a shine and show at Fort Boggy State Park.

At 9:45 am, a caravan of cars going to Centerville from Houston will meet in the parking lot of the Cracker Barrel located at 14765 North Frwy (located on the southbound feeder road just south of Airtex Dr.). The cars will assemble towards the rear of the Cracker Barrel parking lot near the hotel and will depart at 10:15 am for a 12:00 noon arrival in Centerville.

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 Old Highway 75 to Fort Boggy State Park for a show and shine.

The cost of admission to the park is \$2 per person aged 13 and older. After the show and shine, awards will be handed out based on People's Choice for the best vintage (pre-1980 model), best 1980s model, best 1990s model, and best 2000s model. For all inquiries regarding this meet, please contact Joseph Middleton at 713-828-4303, or via e-mail at Jmiddle122@aol.com.

Mercedes Marketplace

FOR SALE BY OWNER

82 Mercedes 300CD coupe turbo diesel, 160K miles, Auto transmission, 5 cylinder, Brown w/Palomino interior. My car for the past 25+ years, it has been well cared for and is reliable, economical, and in excellent condition. Must be seen to be appreciated. \$7000.00

Call Gail Morrison 713 468-7776 or 713 201-5804 for an appointment -

1111 Bering Drive, Houston, Texas 77057.



FOR SALE 1985 380SL

Black with tan leather. Black removable hard top and new black soft top. Always garaged, outstanding condition. Looks and runs like a new car. Selling to make room for a new car that I have ordered. 112,770 miles. Car is garaged in The Woodlands. Call 281-367-5212. \$17,500



FOR SALE

1983 MERCEDES-BENZ 380 SL.

Pristine. Red with red hard-top and black soft-top. Natural leather. **53,500 original miles.** TOTALLY ORIGINAL with exception of dealer-installed double timing chain. Absolutely no body work or rust. Always garaged and regularly serviced, all/most records. Purchased in 1994 from second owner with 39,000 miles. New Michelin tires, spare never out of trunk. A/C converted to non-FREON refrigerant. As original as minor repairs will permit. New Alpine radio purchased, but not yet installed. The black soft-top is original and has a totally clear plastic window. The hard-top is removable. I can provide a rack for vertical storage of the



top. I also have a new, high-quality car cover. **Asking \$18,000.** Call: 713-850-1128.



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Moving?

In order to change your address, go to the web site of the MBCA at:

<https://www.mbc.org/mbca/addchange.htm>

Want to know about events in a more timely manner?

For improved communication: If you desire to receive reminders and updates regarding Section events electronically please send your preferred e-mail address to service@danngo.com.

2009 Upcoming Events

Annual Bluebonnet Run

April 18

Spring Autocross

May 3

Centerville Rally

June 27

Auto Restoration

July

Octoberfest

October 18

Board of Directors Meeting

5:30 PM of 1st Tuesday of odd numbered months at the Mercedes-Benz Greenway dealership 2nd Floor Conference Room

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