



# *The Houston Star*

*MBCA Houston Section Newsletter*

*August*  
*2004*

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*Upcoming Events*

August 21<sup>st</sup>  
Tech Session in Dallas  
with George Murphy

September 18<sup>th</sup>  
Election Dinner  
Humble City Cafe

October  
Annual Oktoberfest  
Tech Session @ TGA



**Jay K Morris' 1959 190SL**

In 1986, my wife and I were driving through a small town in northern California, when we saw a car we had never seen before sitting out front of a Chevrolet dealership. By the time we had driven to the other side of town, we had convinced ourselves to turn around and have a look. Within a week, we had not only seen our first 190SL, but had also bought it. Of course, we had to ask why a Chevrolet dealer had a 30-year-old Mercedes and we were told that it had been traded in for a new Corvette. I negotiated a great deal as obviously the Chevrolet dealer wanted to get it rid of it as quickly as possible. In the end, we are probably having more fun than the guy with the Corvette. Anyway, we drove the car for several years before I was transferred to Zaire in 1988. At that time, I put the car in storage, thinking I would only be

gone for 3 years. Before putting the car in storage, I sealed the engine to keep air out of out, jacked the car up, filled all the cylinders with oil, removed and preserved most of the external chrome parts and coated the leather in conditioner.

Then in 1991, I was transferred to London and after about a year the assignment look to be long term, so I made plans to move the car to London. It took a year to organize and plan the move since the car had been dismantled and was not drivable. In March 1994, the car arrived in London and I spent a few weeks re-assembling the car and putting in new tune up parts. Finally, the fateful day came to start the car, and after a large dose of "easy start" gas, it cranked over and roared to life. The remaining oil in the cylinders

( Continued on page 3)

## President's Message



For those of you that missed it, Club Members were recently treated to a tour of the newest Mercedes-Benz Dealership in the Houston Area. Steve Williams and Charles Johnson of Sugar Land Mercedes-Benz hosted an excellent tech session to a crowd of over thirty club members on July 17th (Details later in this issue). If you weren't there, you should've been!

Upcoming events include September's Election Dinner at the Humble City Cafe in Humble, where the slate of officers and board of directors for the coming year are officially nominated and elections are made (it's not too late to run for office!!!). In October the ever popular "Oktoberfest" tech session at Texas German Autohaus will take place (Details in next months issue). Then we're looking at the Fall Autocross back at Kingwood College, this time I'm doing a rain dance! (Ok, I always wanted a giant "slip-n-slide").

Don't forget to submit pictures of your favorite Mercedes-Benz! as always, we're looking for member's cars to grace the cover of our newsletter. What a great chance to show off your pride and joy AND I'll even make sure you get a few extra copies of that issue to send to Mom! Just snailmail or email me several pictures and a story about the car to one of the addresses listed on the back cover of this issue.

Mike Haney  
President - Houston Section



**Mercedes X-Class: SUT (Sport Utility Tourer) takes aim at the BMW X3**

**(Member's Cover Car Continued)**

created such a smoke cloud, that I could not see the dashboard while sitting in the car. Eventually the smoke cleared and car hesitantly moved down the road. After a bit of bucking and stalling I returned the car to the garage to find out that the Teflon tape used to seal the petrol line into the carburetors had deteriorated and clogged the jets. A quick clean of the carbs, and I was soon off again.

The next stop was Roger Edwards Motors (UK) for some minor suspension repairs and its first MOT. Then off to the DMV to receive its UK registration - KFF 275. Since that day in 1994 the car has received a major re-spray as well as a considerable amount of exterior chrome. The white interior was restored in the early 1970's, but could use some work. If the car sounds a bit familiar, well many in the club have seen it at the Uxbridge Autoshow where in 1998 it received the Mercedes Benz Club award for Best Presented Car.

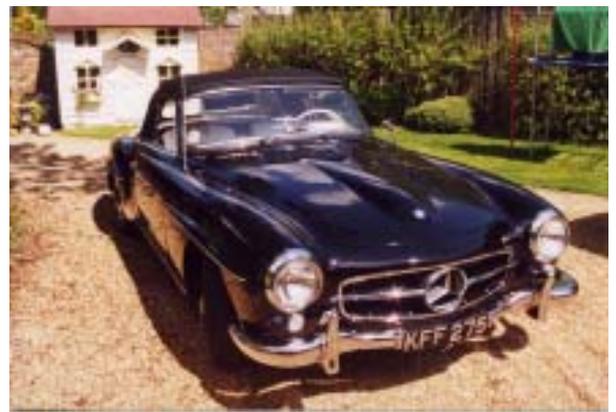
The car retains a high degree of originality. The original, but rebuilt, Solex carbs continue to handle the fuel; the Europa radio still keeps the car in "tunes", and I have even managed to locate the original style rubber mats for the front floor board and boot. Overall an excellent car. Ok, so I am biased, but that black 190SL continues to pile up "neck snaps" and stares wherever it goes.

The car itself has no exceptional history. The Boyette Motor Company- Studebaker Packard in Oakland California originally sold the car. In the 1950's Studebaker was the official importer of Mercedes cars to the US. The car was registered as a 1959 even though it was sold in 1958 and manufactured in July 1957. Sometime in the early 70's the first owner gave the car to his son, who later on traded it in on the Corvette. So I am the third owner, and my ten year old son has this idea that he will become the fourth owner.

**Prologue June 2004:**

In 2000 I transferred back to Houston Texas and the 190sl came with me. The car was shipped back to Galveston on a Ro-Ro vessel. I bet someone had fun driving on and off the vessel. I picked the car up at the port and drove to my new home in Katy. Katy has much a much better climate for year round top down motoring than London, so there is no telling when you might see me on the road.

**Jay K. Morris - MBCA Houston Section**



## Willie Nelson: On the Road Again with Biodiesel

Music legend buys diesel Mercedes to use cleaner burning fuel

MAUI, Hawaii – Willie Nelson has fueled millions of fans worldwide with music for decades, but when it comes to his fuel of choice, the country music star has proclaimed himself a fan of biodiesel. Biodiesel, an alternative fuel made from renewable fats or vegetable oils, can be used in any diesel engine, including the star's 2005 Mercedes 320 CDI. Nelson picked up his brand new vehicle at the dock and drove it straight to the pump at Pacific Biodiesel, a Hawaii-based manufacturer.

"I am absolutely a fan of biodiesel," Nelson said. "I use it in my car because I'm a firm believer in using renewable fuels that are better for our environment. We should all be doing our part to reduce our reliance on foreign oil and contribute to our own economy. On top of all that, biodiesel use helps our nation's family farmers, while preserving the land for future generations."

for more info:

<http://www.biodiesel.org/resources/users/artists/willie.shtm>

Thanks to club member Glen Van Slyke for the "Heads-Up" on this and to the National BioDiesel Board.

**YOU NEED OUR ASSISTANCE IF YOU DEMAND AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE SERVICE WITHOUT SACRIFICING SAFETY AND QUALITY.**

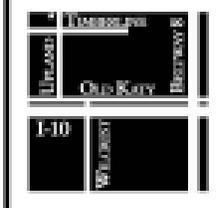


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Willie Nelson and PB President / CEO Bob King



Willie Nelson outside Pacific Biodiesel in Hawaii after filling up with B100



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## Tech Session at Sugar Land Mercedes-Benz

On July 16th Club Members were given a tour of the newest Mercedes-Benz dealership in the Houston area by Steve Williams & Charles Johnson of Sugar Land Mercedes-Benz. Over thirty members attended the event with Steve informing us of the services offered by the new facility and answering a slew of questions from the crowd.

Next we were given a tour of the service shop where Charles Johnson showed us around and provided an example of the new E-Class Diesel. Former president Zia Omer was seen exiting the building behind the wheel on this beauty soon afterwards for a test drive. After the tour of the service shop we returned to the conference room for an incredible fajita lunch provided for us.

Once we'd all had a chance to eat and chat Steve once again took the floor and passed out key-chains to all in attendance, followed by a drawing for some incredible gifts. Two lucky members won the use of the car of their choice for a long weekend! Alas, yours truly wasn't one of them...

All in all, it was a wonderful event and we want to thank Steve and Charles for taking the better part of an entire day out of their busy schedules to show us around.

Mike Haney  
President - MBCA Houston Section





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Tech Session at Sugar Land Mercedes-Benz (continued)



**Steve Williams and Charles Johnson getting much deserved awards of appreciation**

**Ouch, large pieces of metal on the freeways can do some serious damage!!!**



**Smile for the camera...**

**Same awards, different angle...**



IT'S ELECTION TIME AGAIN!!! JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL ELECTION DINNER TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH AT THE HUMBLE CITY CAFE IN HUMBLE, TEXAS.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO TOSS YOUR OWN HAT IN THE RING. WE WILL BE NOMINATING AND ELECTING OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE COMING YEAR.

DETAILS TO FOLLOW IN NEXT MONTHS ISSUE OF THE HOUSTON STAR.

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## *Mercedes Marketplace Featured Car*



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# Mercedes Marketplace

**For Sale: Silver 1982 Mercedes 300 SD** 60,000 miles on engine, Rebuilt transmission \$3,500. Call Fred @ 281-359-6255 (8-6) [04/04]

**For Sale: 1996 SL 320**, Nonsmoker, extra hardtop, beautiful moonstone grey metallic, 8 speakers, 6-CD changer, all records, maintenance up-to-date, garaged at work and home. Purchased in Houston from Mercedes dealer. I am beginning to do a great deal of traveling and don't need this for an airport car. \$20,995. 713-334-1566 or fincommco@aol.com. [03/04]

**For Sale: 2001 Mercedes-Benz SLK 230 Kompressor Convertible.** Sport package with all options, including 6-disc CD changer. 17,400 miles. White with black interior. Excellent condition throughout. Warranty. \$30,269 OBO. Call Richard at 713-629-2105 or 713-850-9399. [03/04]

**For Sale: 1971 280SE 3.5 Coupe** Black w/red leather interior, std. transmission, new A/C, new Blaupunkt Aspen SQR27 AM/FM cassette radio & speakers, original radio available, new leather seats, head rests and center arm rests, new weather stripping on doors & trunk, NO RUST, complete records, excellent mechanical & appearance. Supurb driver. Photos and additional information available on request. \$23,000. Call 325-947-5094 [05/04]

**For Sale:** Set (2) rear tail lights for 2000 S-Class (220) sedan. Call Ron 713-882-4283 [05/04]

**For Sale:** 1972 Mercedes 450SL, 99k miles, cream with dark brown interior. New soft-top, and hardtop has a winch storage system. Interior and dash is all original. Great condition and fun to drive. \$14,500 obo. Call Jennifer @ 281-425-6955 (evening) or jschubert@houston.turbocare.com [06/04]

**For Sale: 2001 SLK 320.** Silver / Charcoal Interior. This car is in New Showroom condition w/ 8,500 mi. Kept in temp. controlled garage. Loaded, custom cover, 6-disc changer, 100k transferrable warranty. \$34,500. Call: Shelton (281) 346-1261 x101 or 281-599-0856 (evening) [07/04]

**MEMBERS:** Marketplace ads for members cost \$5.00 for a text ad and \$20 for a picture & text ad. The ads will run for 3 months unless asked to repeat. ALL PICTURE ADS MUST BE PROVIDED IN DIGITAL FORMAT - NO HARDCOPY PHOTOGRAPHS.

**NON-MEMBERS:** Non-members may run text ads for \$10 or text / picture ads for \$25 per issue. ALL PICTURE ADS MUST BE PROVIDED IN DIGITAL FORMAT - NO HARDCOPY PHOTOGRAPHS.

Make your checks payable to MBCA and send to MBCA Editor, 5528 Jessamine, Houston, TX 77081. **IT MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 10th** of the preceding month's publication to make it into that month's issue.



**MBCA, INC.**  
**HOUSTON SECTION**  
 Mike Haney, Editor  
 5528 Jessamine  
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### REGIONAL DIRECTOR

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 email: [benzer@flash.net](mailto:benzer@flash.net)

## 2004 Calendar of Events

### August 21<sup>st</sup>

Tech Session in Dallas with George Murphy

### September 18<sup>th</sup>

Election Dinner at Humble City Cafe

### October

Annual Oktoberfest Tech Session @ TGA

Want a free car wash?

**Mercedes-Benz of Sugar Land** is giving free car washes to all MB's every Saturday.

MBCA - Houston Section's website now posts the newsletters online every month in full color!!!  
 Log in and see:

<http://www.mbca.org/houston>

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