



The Houston Star

MBCA Houston Section Newsletter

**August
2005**

In this issue

Summer Tech Session
at Casari's
Page 1

President's Message
Page 2

Vice President's Message
Page 8

Calendar of Events
Page 12

Upcoming Events

September 24th
Election Dinner

October
Oktoberfest @ TGA

November 13th
Fall Autocross

December 4th
Holiday Brunch



Summer Tech Session at Casari's

Our first event of the summer occurred on June 4, 2005 which isn't the first day of summer but in Houston, who knows what season it is! What better way to spend a warm Saturday morning than touring a paint a body shop and see how the professional paint and body technicians make a crumpled, scratched, dinged up Mercedes Benz look showroom new! So many members expressed an interest in this gathering of Mercedes Benz owners, that was scarcely enough room to park our prized German engineered machines on the parking lot. It's really cool to see so many silver stars lined up together of all makes and models.

It has been about 2 years since we had a paint and body technical session and this one lived

up to its expectations. We started out checking in at the front desk and then chatting for about 15 or 20 minutes about our favorite subjects and three new members attended as well. A big Texas Howdy to all of our new members to a fantastic group of motor car enthusiasts.

Our host Jorge Casari put together a rather comprehensive demonstration of auto painting and the equipment he used was state of the art. Did you know that one of his senior technicians had been working at Casari's for eighteen years? There were three of his staff there to show us every facet of what it takes prepare a component for painting, applying the primer, the base coat, the clear coat. His two paint rooms can hold a full size SUV for painting. But in the case
(continued on page 3)



President's Message

Summer winds down as your local Mercedes-Benz Club activities wind up, we took a bit of a break to avoid the heat, but now the events are stacking up... We'll be having our annual election dinner in late September in which we'll choose the officers and board members for the coming year. I'll be stepping down as president and handing the reins over to someone new.

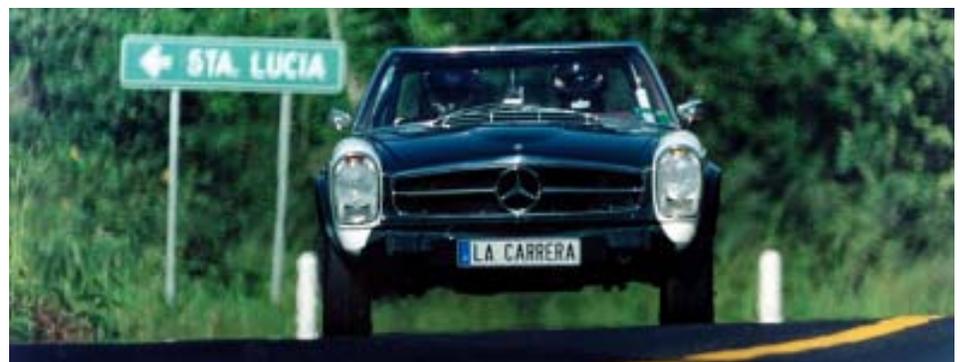
Our current vice-president Charles Wyatt has his hat in the ring and certainly has my endorsement, but the Election Dinner will be the venue for the final decision. Also up for office is board member Alberto Gomez-Rivas, Alberto has served on the Board of Directors and shows great promise as a potential vice-president. Keep in mind that the entire purpose of the Election Dinner is to choose and formally elect both officers and board members. The Election Dinner is open to all members and nominations can be made at the dinner itself. So, if you'd like to join the Board, or simply voice your opinions, this is the time and place to do it!!!

It's been quite an adventure serving as President of such a large auto club, an adventure that I've enjoyed. I'm sure that the next President will be as overwhelmed as I have been at the enthusiasm of members and event sponsors alike. I thank you all for the opportunity to have served as your president and encourage each of you to consider joining our board of directors and become personally involved in organizing and coordinating future events for the club.

Politics aside, we've got a lot ahead of us, the Election dinner in September, The annual Oktoberfest hosted by Texas German Autohaus in October, and the Fall Autocross on November 13th at Kingwood College... Then we'll wrap up the year with the Holiday Brunch on December 4th, Hosted by Marjorie Russell.

Sincerely,

Mike Haney - President
MBCA - Houston Section



(continued from page 1)

of a S500, these paint rooms are set up with automatic timing and temperature that the paint heats up to the precise temperature and timing precise factory specifications. Then there was the wall of Mercedes Benz paints that are mixed to exact Mercedes Benz factory paint mixtures using a special purpose computer. By the way, there was another wall of computerized mixing for the others such as BMWs, Ferraris, Bentleys, and even the American paints. We then saw numerous demonstrations of applying the polishing or rubbing compounds. Then as the morning temperatures rose, so did our interest in the detailing part of the session. One of our member's cars was rolled in and it was cleaned using clay and a sparse amount of rubbing compound. Then piece de-la-resistance, applying the wax with a combination of direct drive buffers and then the random orbital buffers. Man, did that car shine and everyone's reflection was easily seen in the hood! The amazing part was that the hood, roof and trunk were finished in about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour. The days of "Wax on. Wax off." are long gone.

With the right equipment and polishing compounds and wax, any Mercedes Benz can have and complete exterior detail in about 1 – 2 hours, and when we get really good at it, 2 coats of wax. Of course this demonstration appeals to those of us who enjoy detailing our own equipment. But even if one pays to have it done by a professional, the steps used during the demonstration reveals how really easy it is to do and if we are privileged to watch, one can determine if a professional job is really being done.

For the lunch break, our host served an excellent bar-b-que complete with beef and chicken fajitas, sausage, potato salad, cole slaw and beans. There was abundance of ice cold water, sodas, iced tea and even for those aficionados who are so inclined, an very good red wine from Venezuela. As with



(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

all of our events, there was a door prize drawing and a few eyebrows rose when one of our new members Stephen Dernick drew a winning ticket that turn out to be him! Our president Mike Haney, chose random members to draw the winning tickets but one cannot wonder what the odds are of that happening again. Then Mike made some announcements of up coming events and Charles Wyatt presented a plaque of appreciation to Jorge expressing our thanks to a most interesting technical session. Many thanks to our photographer Alberto Gomez-Rivas who volunteered to take a few photos for the newsletter. This technical session will be a more memorable one and it was nice to see so many old friends, make some new ones and take with us some good information on care and maintenance of the finest motor care on the road.



CASARI'S

- Lifetime Warranty on Body & Frame Repairs -
Porsche - Mercedes-Benz - BMW

Glasure Original Paint System on Premises
No Warranty on Rust Repair

Computer Analyzer

5 Year Warranty on Complete Paint Work
1 Year Warranty on Mechanical Work

All OEM Replacement Parts

Laser Front & Rear 4-Wheel Alignment

Jorge Casari
281-469-3302 - Phone
281-890-2637 - Fax

12470 Windfern Road
Houston, Texas

See The Houston Star in FULL
COLOR Online:

<http://mbca.org/houston/star.htm>

Hans Gottwald's Foreign Auto Body Shop Inc.

1517 Silber Road
Houston, Texas 77055

Hans Gottwald

President - Owner

713/680-2266 Voice

713/680-0613 Fax



1969-2002 32 Years of Quality Collision Repair
In Remembrance of the Victims of September 11, 2001

God Bless America



Mercedes-Benz

Curt Rich

Since 1981 at

Star Motor Cars

7000 Katy Road / Houston, TX 77024

Tel: 713-868-6820

E-Mail: curt@curtrich.com

Web Site: www.curtrich.com

Sales * Leasing * New * Pre-Owned * Fleet
National Champion - Mercedes-Benz Product Knowledge



Texas-German Autohaus, L.P.

Service and Repair of MERCEDES and BMW Automobiles
EUROPEAN PERFORMANCE

Located on *Edloe St.*, between *Richmond* and *Westheimer*.
State of the Art computerized equipment and tools.
Oil Change Special while you wait.
Complimentary Shuttle Service to your home or office.
Free Oil and Filter change for new customers.
 Factory trained and *certified technicians*.



The TGA Team

50 years of experience

visit online @ www.t-g-a.com

3417 Edloe St. Houston, Texas 77027
 Tel. (713) 850-8282 Fax (713) 850-8818

Helmut G. Holder

Helmut Holder Consultant
 Classic Mercedes Restoration
 Mechanical Repair
 Rare Used Parts

1802 Alton
 Houston, Texas 77055
 (713) 683-1526 (713) 683-1066 Fax



F&J EUROPEAN AUTO PARTS INC.

6115 Clarewood
 Houston, TX 77081

SPECIALIZING IN MERCEDES BENZ PARTS
 FORMERLY WITH MORITZ E.C.P.

PH 713/773-0887
 FX 713/773-0767

Parts Rep.
 FEDERICO & JAVIER



HardTop Hoist, Inc.

Manufacturer of E-Z Top HardTop Hoist
www.eztop.com

PO Box 2268
 Houston, Texas
 77252-2268

Toll Free 877.219.6332
 Local 713.694.4505
 Email: angie@eztop.com



The Zero Mile 300SL

Every so often something truly amazing comes along in the automotive world. In 1954 it was the Mercedes-Benz 300SL, a sports car so strikingly advanced that it became the symbol of Mercedes' postwar renaissance.

Among countless Americans moved by the 300SL's design was Bob Doehler, a senior stylist at Studebaker-Packard, the South Bend, Indiana, automaker that would soon become the American distributor for Mercedes-Benz. Doehler's position ultimately allowed him to do something that no one had ever done before—purchase a 300SL part by part!

Story courtesy of Denis Adler and Scott Grundfor

Read all about it in next month's issue!



Vice President's Message

Another hot July Sunday morning arrives with the usual high humidity, clear skies, and the beginning of another magnificent sunrise, with the birds chirping, and having feed the cat, a quick glance at the two white automobiles sporting the silver star a difficult decision needs to be made. Do I do a little maintenance of the trusty machines that take us to and from our destinations or watch the Hockenheim race where the McLaren Mercedes are battling the Renault's for the world championship in Formula 1 racing. No issue, the race!

This is an exciting year for Mercedes Benz in that they are faced with lagging sales, but new models like the the aerodynamic lines of the new CLS, the SLK's new appearance (the AMG's performance is similar the to the new Corvette), and 22 world records with the new E series diesel. What more can an owner of the world's finest engineered cars want. So put on the home theater speakers, turn on the wide screen, get a cup of your favorite Sunday morning beverage, and let's watch the race.

As I write to you today, we have an potentially exciting year in store for us at MBCA Houston. There are new friends joining us, out tech sessions and autocross events are going to be better and more interesting than ever. The new member's reception is in the planning stages with a most interesting venue planned for us by Alberto Gomez-Rivas who is devoting considerable effort in planning a wonderful evening of good food, our favorite beverages, and maybe something interesting for us to enjoy as well. Last year's new member's dinner featured a slide show of one of our present members Safari to Africa which was very entertaining. So let's all support Alberto is welcoming our new members and having a great evening together with some of our Mercedes Benz Club companions. I encourage everyone to come out this year and let's have some fun together.

Our president and current Board of Directors appeals to our membership to let us know how we are doing this year and your comments and suggestions and assistance in helping us put together events that appeal to us. Just like the Mercedes Benz factory in Stuttgart, we eagerly consider and constantly strive to provide something more than the Star Magazine and the Houston Star newsletter reading material. That is why we appreciate a phone call, E-Mail or suggestions for improvement at our events and strive to plan improved events that everyone has an interest in becoming better or even something new.

One improvement is our new Member's Test Drive reports. The article on the new ML launched a series of articles on new products from the factory. Thank you Richard for taking the lead and providing an excellent narrative on the capabilities, performance and opinions of the enhanced .

So, everyone have a great Houston Sunday morning and look forward to meeting some of our new members, conversing with present members and thank you for supporting this organization.

*Charles T. Wyatt - Vice President
MBCA - Houston Section*

Be part of the election of the Officers and Board of Directors for the Houston Section, MBCA



Join us for our annual election dinner to be held in the Hunt Room at Rudi Lechner's. Enjoy fine German food while we're nominating and electing Officers and the Board of Directors for the coming year. The process is open to any nominations, so you're invited to toss your own hat in the ring to help us out.

Details to follow in the September issue of The Houston Star

Mercedes Marketplace



For Sale: 2001 SLK320

54,000 Miles, Transferrable 100K Mile Extended Warranty, Excellent condition, Xenon Headlights, 6 Disc CD Changer, Hands-free Phone System, Brilliant Silver w/ Salsa Interior (Charcoal/Red), Brand new rear tires, Original Owner.

Call Gert:

281-996-0020 Daytime

281-648-1208 Evening



For Sale: 1986 Mercedes-Benz 560 SL. 141000 miles. Located at Odessa, TX. Hardtop hoist, factory tools, and new leather seats. For pictures and more info on condition of car, please email shootinjimster@yahoo.com.

For Sale: 1967 Mercedes-Benz 230S. Anthracite with red interior. Excellent original condition with repaint about twenty years ago. The interior is beautiful. The car has an automatic transmission, power steering and a Kuhlmeister air conditioner. All accessories work except the clock. I have owned this car since August of 2002 and have found it to be extremely road worthy and reliable. Helmut Holder has adjusted the carburetors (original Zeniths) and other minor items to bring it into spec. The radiator was recored early last year. The 90,000 mile service (D and Z) has just been completed by Helmut. An extensive collection of spare parts is available although the car needs nothing. Check collector Car Trader and other websites. Sixties era fintails can be had for \$2,000 to \$4,000 on any day but they are tired, worn and rusted. One could not bring them to the condition of this car for twice what I am asking, \$10,000. Please call James at (713) 818-1581. If there is no answer leave a voice message with a phone number and best time for me to return your call.

Mercedes Marketplace

For Sale: 1988 Mercedes 560 SL, \$16,500 Teal color, Low (92,000) miles. Soft top in great shape. Hard top comes with overhead garage storage rack and wench. Recent engine maintenance has this car running smoothly and powerful. Environmentally safe air conditioning coolant. 5 Premium Goodyear tires have less than 10,000 easy miles on them.



Only selling this car to help pay for daughter's college or else your only chance to enjoy it would be watching me drive by. Call 936-271-1230, or e-mail kmharris@houston.rr.com Kathy or Roger.



For Sale: 1980 Mercedes-Benz 450 SEL: 4-door Sedan. Recently passed state inspection. Engine has been overhauled. All repair receipts are available for the past 12 years. The air conditioning and heating components have all been replaced. The car is in good condition, has new tires, but needs a transmission. Asking \$2500. Ron Johnson 713-892-6770 or 281-438-8955

For Sale: 1974 Mercedes-Benz 450 SL Hardtop: The top is Mint Green and in very good condition Asking \$400. Ron Johnson 713-892-6770 or 281-438-8955

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**, 3702 Quail Circle, Sealy, Texas 77474. **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
Harry Ramirez, Editor
3702 Quail Circle
Sealy, Texas 77474

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	MIKE HANEY 713/298-4580
VICE PRESIDENT	CHARLES T. WYATT 281-469-7428
SECRETARY	MARVIN BOYD 281-360-1766
TREASURER	MARJORIE RUSSELL 936-321-2475
IMMEDIATE PAST PRES.	DAVID COLE

DIRECTORS

Carol Bowen	281-296-2444
Alberto Gomez-Rivas	713-781-4377
Jim Johnson	281-457-5759
Harry Ramirez	832-216-4409
Haskell Smith	281-360-9550
Richard Wilkins	713-227-6603

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Jeff Evans	936-321-5092
Norma Kilway	936-321-5092

Club Historian: Ruth Johnson
Web Page: <http://www.mbca.org/houston>

Editor's Email: ramirezhenry@hotmail.com
Editor's Fax: 713-660-8550

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Charles Boyd 580-255-4040
email: Charlie@id1.texoma.net

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>

2005 Calendar of Events

September - 24th 6 pm

Election Dinner - Rudi Lechter's on Gessner at Westheimer
Alberto Gomez-Rivas / 713-781-4377

October

11th annual Oktoberfest @ Texas German Autohaus

November 13th

Fall Autocross @ Kingwood College
Mike Haney / 713-298-4580

December 4th

Holiday Brunch
Marjorie Russell / 936-321-2475

The Houston Star is the official publication of the Houston Section, MBCA, and is provided solely for the benefit of its members. Opinions and ideas are for information only. No official authentication is implied by the editor/publisher, MBCA, MBNA, MBAG or DBAG. No inference should be made that the products or services advertised or reported herein have the approval or recommendation of the editor/publisher, MBCA, MBNA, MBAG or DBAG. Consult an authorized dealer or qualified mechanic for specific applications to your vehicle. Material for publication may be sent to **MBCA Editor**, 3702 Quail Circle Sealy, Texas 77474. Deadline is the 10th of each month for the following month's issue. The editor reserves the right to edit, and to refuse, any submissions and/or advertising. Submission of material constitutes permission to publish. Permission to reproduce material original to *The Houston Star* is granted provided proper credit is given.