



The Houston Star

MBCA Houston Section Newsletter

December
2004

In this issue...

Cover Car
Page 1

President's Message
Page 2

Oktoberfest @ TGA
Page 4

Calendar of Events
Page 12

Upcoming Events

December 5th
Holiday Brunch
Woodlands Marriott

January 29th, 2005
Tech Session

February 2005
New Members Dinner



Bob Johnson's 1971 280SL

To say Bob and I go waaaay back is a bit of an understatement, he's my brother... yes, I know different last names... it's complicated. But this story is about his car.

Bob turned 40 a few years back (as many of us have), and to appease the middle aged crazy we all knew was lurking within him, his better half Eva and I plotted and schemed on how to make this milestone special... and what better way than with a car that itself was a milestone.

I've enjoyed my 1966 230SL for many years and while it is a unique car, it was neither the first, nor the last of the w113 bodystyles built. So we sought out to find a 1971 280SL with all the options. The 1971 was the last of this body style with only 830 of them made because the factory was retooling

for the replacement R107 bodystyle.

Hoping to avoid the adventures I've encountered restoring my 1966 230SL, we sought out one that had already been restored and would need little attention if any.

As was the case with last months covercar, Ebay provided us with the car we wanted. The car was located in New Orleans and had extensive records and all the options available at the time. After some fierce bidding we emerged victorious. A quick flight was booked and myself and a co-worker were headed to the "Big Easy" with a backpack full of tools (just in case).

(continued on page 3)

President's Message



Ok, you finally get to read about Texas-German Autohaus' Tenth Annual Oktoberfest, the story begins on page four, but to sum it up.. if you missed it, you missed a lot! Hans told me he was going to make this one special and he really went all out to ensure that it was.

Coming up SOON we're holding our Annual Holiday Brunch. This year we'll be at the Woodlands Marriot (details on page 9) on December 5th, starting at 11:00am in the "Montgomery Room - A" on the 3rd floor. The Holiday Brunch is typically our biggest event of the year and it's "Gift Exchange" certainly livens things up every time. So mark your calendars and send the suit off to the cleaners, it's party time!!!

Don't forget, we're always looking for pictures and stories about our members cars for the cover page... Please forward pictures and info on your favorite MB to me at the address listed on the back page.

Mike Haney
President - Houston Section



This Greek Taxi has logged over 2.8 million miles. Owner Gregorios Sachinides recently donated his 1981 240D to Mercedes-Benz to be displayed in the MB Museum in Stuttgart.

(Cover Car Continued)

The seller met us at the airport, and while the car had a few minor scratches not disclosed, it otherwise seemed to be in pretty nice shape. We signed a few papers and hit the road.

As you can imagine, Bob was more than a little surprised to see the car sitting in front of his house that evening. The surprise was not to end there regrettably, after having the car inspected by Star Motor Cars, Helmut Holder and MPH Automotive, it was clear that she was not all she had been advertised to be. The color was not original and there was rust hiding under the carpet. Well, after an exhausting battle with the seller to "make it right" Bob ended up "making it right" himself.

Bob uses the car as his "daily driver" and it has been seen at more than a few of our club events. I drove the car in the annual bluebonnet rallye this year since my 1966 230SL was in the middle of an engine rebuild, and got a chance to enjoy it a bit for him. So far we haven't made any 230SL vs. 280SL / brother vs. brother road trips, but I can see one coming up one day soon.

The car has had it's share of repairs since he has owned it, but it's beauty and style is something that can never be taken away from it. In my opinion, this model has the perfect blend of classic styling with modern conveniences. It is more than capable to holding it's own in freeway traffic and looks quite stylish out on the town with it's silver paint and red leather interior.



Oktoberfest at Texas-German Autohaus

Saturday October 16, 2004 was an autumn day in Houston worth remembering. Just right for Texas-German Autohaus' Tenth Annual Oktoberfest. This event started at 10:00 AM with partly cloudy skies and temperatures in the 70's.

Our host had prepared a lengthy demonstration of brake service and maintenance on three generations of Mercedes-Benz automobiles. The first generation is four wheel drum brakes; the second generation is four wheel disc brakes and the third generation was the latest state of the art electronically controlled four wheel disc brakes.

Our first inspection was on a 1955 220 Cabriolet that featured four wheel drum brakes. Everyone was able to see what was necessary to replace the wheel cylinders and how the brake shoes would push out on the inside wall of the brake drum to stop this impressive automobile. What is interesting about Mercedes-Benz service is that all the replacement parts for the wheel cylinder replacement parts, drums and brake shoes are still available from the factory. Both Hans Richter and his service technician James were able to answer everyone's questions regarding the care and service on this automobile's braking system.

The second generation braking system was found on Hans Richters' 1993 500E sedan. MBCA members were able to watch a demonstration of a pressure flush of the brake fluid which can be done in our own garage with the proper equipment. However, Hans suggested it is more common practice to remove the master cylinder which simply unfastens at the mount quite easily. Then all one has

(continued on page 6)



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

FIVE DECADES OF THE MERCEDES-BENZ SL

the **SL** experience

THE ULTIMATE SL RESOURCE BOOK

368 pages. Hardbound.
Full color. \$65 + \$4 s/h
612.377.0155 Fax 612.377.0157

 TheSLExperience.com

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



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

Oktoberfest at TGA (continued)

to do is empty the brake fluid and clean the sediment at the bottom of the reservoir. James also was able to show our members how easily the calipers were removed, and replacement of the pads was easy to do. One discussion took place where James illustrated how easy it was to replace the wear sensor and how it works to warn the driver when the brake pads need immediate replacement. It is also interesting to find out that the emergency brake is still inside the rear wheel hub and that the design has remained the same for many years.

The third generation braking system was on a 2003 500 SL roadster. The 500 SL brakes are maintained in two ways. First was to connect the 500 SL to the computer and using Star Diagnostics to run the automated tests to determine what faults exist for the brakes. The software automatically checks the wear on the pads, the wear sensors, the calipers, wear on the rotors, whether or not there is warping on the rotors and the condition of the master cylinder. At each step during the diagnostic test, the technician has a real time procedure to repair each and every fault that the software finds. The other method is to download a 30 page procedure which describes in detail pad replacement, rotor tolerances, master cylinder flushing and cleaning, etc.

Everyone was so engrossed with our host's brake system demonstrations, we almost forgot about our luncheon. This year's meal was a most splendid authentic German Oktoberfest feast consisting of roast pork loin with a light broth gravy, German noodles, a dumpling and the most delicious red cabbage I have ever eaten. No Oktoberfest is complete without German beer and there was an abundance of it. We were treated with German Bavarian Music by a male

(continued on page 8)





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



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



Emil A. Armendariz
 Owner

The Hard Top Hoist Company

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

PO Box 2268
 Houston, Texas
 77252-2268

Toll Free 877.219.6332
 Local 713.694.4505
 Tech Support 888.751.9967
 Email: email@eztop.com

Helmut G. Holder

Helmut Holder Consultant
 Classic Mercedes Restoration
 Mechanical Repair
 Rare Used Parts

1802 Afton
 Houston, Texas 77055
 (713) 683-4526 (713) 683-1066 Fax

Oktoberfest at TGA (continued)

vocalist and at one point several of us were getting into the swing of an old Bavarian beer drinking song. Even though some of us didn't recall the words, the spirit of good fellowship, excellent beer, delicious food and authentic German music, everyone of us could almost imagine what an Oktoberfest celebration must be like and for some, one can be sure it brought back pleasant memories of the German homeland and previous Oktoberfest celebrations.

President Mike Haney presented the TGA Team with a commemorative award for hosting ten years of MBCA Oktoberfest Technical Sessions. The entire membership applauded our appreciation and congratulations for our hosts' warm hospitality in sponsoring this event. Marvin Boyd and Mike Haney then proceeded to the drawing of door prizes. Next it was Hans' turn, and not to be outdone, presented some excellent prizes one was a limited edition beer stein, and the second was a pewter plate with European sports cars stamped into the metal. There were other fine gifts given but the excitement of the moment prevented one from taking note of all of them.

Before we knew it it was mid afternoon and time to get into our trusty German made autos and make the trip home taking with us many good memories of wonderful conversations, meeting new friends, and most of all a technical session worth remembering for a long, long time.



Join us for our Annual Holiday Brunch on Sunday, December 5th at The Woodlands Marriott Waterway Hotel & Convention Center. (next to The Woodlands Mall)

Event Begins at 11:00am in the Montgomery Room 'A' (3rd floor)

Cost: \$30 per person

RSVP by Dec. 1st:

Carol Bowen (281) 296-2444

or Norma Kilway (936) 321-5092

Please limit gift exchange to \$20

Mercedes Marketplace

**For Sale:**

1972 350SL. 83K miles, cream with dark brown interior. Truly fine example of early 107. Meticulously maintained.

Completely original.

Hardtop and original wheels in storage.

Complete records. It's as good as it sounds.

\$14,000. Call 936-662-8169 or 281-465-4066.



Mercedes Marketplace

For Sale:

2002 C-32 Mercedes AMG, immaculate condition. Black exterior, gray interior – waxed monthly. Xenon lights, CD changer, rear window shade and tinted windows. 100k transferable warranty. 41,000 miles. Original owner. \$38,500. Call John at (936) 321-0690. [10/04]



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
Houston, Texas 77081

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	MIKE HANEY 713/298-4580
VICE PRESIDENT	
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	281-395-6359
Haskell Smith	281-360-9550
Richard Wilkins	713-227-6603
Charles T. Wyatt	281-469-7428

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: mhaney@3dtriad.com
Editor's Fax: 713-660-8550

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Steve Russell	936-321-2475
email:	benzer@flash.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>

2004 Calendar of Events

December 5th

Holiday Brunch - Woodlands Marriott

January 2005 29th

Tech Session - European Star Motors

February 2005

New Members Dinner - details pending

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, 5528 Jessamine, Houston, TX 77081**. 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.