



The Houston Star

MBCA | Houston Section Newsletter

December
2010

www.mbca.org/houston

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An original MBUSA Roadside Assistance Vehicle, circa 1983.

Source: MBUSA Literature

MBUSA Makes Changes to Roadside Assistance Program

By: Joseph Middleton

Until December 31, 2010, every Mercedes-Benz, no matter the warranty status, no matter where the current owner purchased it, and no matter where it is regularly serviced, is eligible for Mercedes-Benz USA's (MBUSA) Roadside Assistance program (including the complimentary services of towing to a dealership, battery jump starts, flat tire changes, and a small amount of fuel). Effective January 1, 2011, MBUSA will enact changes to its Roadside Assistance program.

Under these changes, vehicles must meet certain criteria to be eligible for Roadside Assistance. Vehicles meeting this new criteria include any vehicle under any Mercedes-Benz warranty (New Vehicle Limited Warranty, Extended Limited Warranty, Certified Pre-owned Warranty), any vehicle out of warranty that is regularly serviced by an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealership (a single transaction of at least \$100 in the 18 months prior to the Roadside call), or was purchased directly from an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer by the current owner prior to January 4, 2011.

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President's Message

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

and

HAPPY NEW YEAR

From

Damon Stith | President | [Mercedes-Benz Club of America](#) | Houston Section

MBUSA Makes Changes to Roadside Assistance Program

(continued from page 1)

This means Mercedes-Benz vehicles that are not under warranty, not regularly serviced by an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealership, or not purchased directly from an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealership are no longer eligible for Roadside Assistance, including complimentary services. Owners of Mercedes-Benz vehicles that will not meet the eligibility standards for Roadside Assistance after January 1, 2011 can become eligible by visiting their local authorized Mercedes-Benz dealership for service to qualify for Roadside Assistance, or they can purchase each individual service through the Mercedes-Benz Customer Assistance Center at the time of service.

For more information, contact the Roadside Assistance program information hotline at 1-888-454-9907.

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

Welcome!

Willkommen!

Zia Omer of Missouri City, TX

Robert Plante of Houston, TX

Christopher Thomas of Cypress, TX

MBCA | Houston Section thanks these loyal Club members

Keith Alverson of Houston, TX

Marvin Boyd of Humble, TX

William Caudell of Houston, TX

Kevin and Any Dean of Beaumont, TX

James Trout & Jeanette Jackson of Pearland, TX

Maurice and Maria Karras of Kingwood, TX

Richard Kendall of Houston, TX

William Mack of Spring, TX

John Michna of Houston, TX

Donald Netzband of Houston, TX

Charles and Dianne Ozment of Sugar Land, TX

Ray and Donna Priest of Conroe, TX

Kevin Sheffield of Dayton, TX

Roberto Spears of Humble, TX

James Woody of Spring, TX

CASARI'S

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

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

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Houston, Texas



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Looking Back at 2010



Clockwise from top right: Bluebonnet Run, Fifth Annual Texas MB GTG, Oktoberfest at TGA, MB of Sugar Land Oktoberfest, Annual Fall Autocross



F&J EUROPEAN AUTO PARTS INC.

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Houston, TX 77081

SPECIALIZING IN MERCEDES BENZ PARTS

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PH713/773-0887

Parts Rep.

Did you know?

For every gift membership you purchase, and for every new member who lists you as their sponsor, you'll get a 1 month extension of your membership. 1 membership=1 month, and there's no limit! For example, if you tell 12 people about MBCA and all 12 join and list you as their sponsor, you get a 12 month extension. It's that easy. So spread the word about MBCA!

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year & Happy Holidays from Your MBCA | Houston Officers and Directors!



Mike



Damon



Chuck



Marvin



Renny



Joseph



Gerry

Technical Q & A

Question: The steering wheel on my 2010 C300 has become hard to turn, and I hear a groaning noise. What's wrong? A brand new vehicle shouldn't be doing this!

Answer: Mercedes-Benz has just recalled 85,000 vehicles, namely the 2010 C-class, E-class sedan, and 2010-11 E-class coupes and cabriolets due to a power steering leak caused by a loose fitting. Your nearest MB dealer will remedy the problem at no cost. To all, if you have one of the above models, take it to your local MB dealer to be checked out, you don't want power steering failure during an evasive maneuver!

If you have any questions, please send your requests to the *Houston Star* or contact me directly. I can be reached at Saleem@JohansenUSA.com or call me at 281.883.3792.

Benz Blurbs



Quick 0-60 & quick depreciation

According to Forbes, two Daimler offerings lose their value the fastest. The smart fortwo retained 17% of its total value over 60 months. The Mercedes-Benz S65AMG didn't do much better, retaining only 16% of its total value over 60 months. That may not be good news to original owners who thought those vehicles would hold their value, but it's certainly good news for those in the used car market who want to add a fortwo or S65AMG to their stable!

Read more at this link:

http://www.forbes.com/2010/10/27/cars-resale-value-lifestyle-vehicles-depreciation-residual-used_slide.html



License and registration please!

Save it for the autocross you speed demons! An auto insurance analysis performed by Verisk Analytics reveals that out of the ten most ticketed vehicle models in the United States, three of the listed vehicles were Mercedes-Benzenes! On the top of the list was the SL-class, which racked up an astounding 404% of moving violations per 100,000 miles driven. Number six on the list was the CLS63 AMG, with 264% of violations, and the CLK63 AMG, which took the number nine spot with 179%. The vehicle with the least moving violations per 100,000 miles was the Buick Rainier (don't act surprised!) at a mere 23%.

Read more at this link:

<http://www.verisk.com/Press-Releases/2010/Auto-Insurance-Analysis-Does-What-We-Drive-Affect-How-We-Drive.html>

Only a look at 2011

Here's what we have tentatively planned for the entire year of 2011 thus far. This is subject to change, so keep an eye on your inbox and future newsletters for news of any changes.

January: Bowling Tournament

February: New Members Dinner

March: Bluebonnet Run

April: Spring Autocross

May:

June: Sixth Annual Texas Mercedes-Benz Get Together in Centerville

July:

August:

September: Members Appreciation and Election Dinner

October: Oktoberfest

November: Fall Autocross

December: Annual Holiday Brunch

Mercedes-Benz reports October sales of 19,076

On November 3, 2010, Mercedes-Benz reported that sales for October were up by 4.9% for the month, and up 20.1% on a year to date basis. The best selling vehicle for October 2010 was the E-class, which sold 5,568 units. The C-class came in second place, selling 3,771 units, and the M-class came in third, selling 2,826 units.

Other notes of interest include a 60.4% increase in the sales of the S-class, a 47.5% increase in sales for the CLS, and the R-class reported a 52% increase in sales. Additionally, 59 SLS AMG vehicles were also sold during the month of October.

The Mercedes-Benz Certified Pre-Owned program has posted a 31.05% increase over sales from October 2009, and a 9.5% increase over 2009 year to date sales during the same timeframe.

Annual Fall Autocross 2010 Results

Class A		Class B		Class C		Class D	
1	Ted Ankrum Nissan GTR 52.82*	1	Dennis Nunn E430 58.20	1	Mike Haney 230SL 58.52	1	Paul Kwan Caterham 53.50
* Fastest overall time							
2	John Stone E55 54.57	2	Ali Durvesh E420 60.29	2	Chuck Wyatt C230K 59.73	2	Jeff Taner Boxster 57.94
3	Brian Cook E550 58.19	3	Fahad Munawar Infiniti G35 72.69	3	Harry Simeonidis 280SL 66.16	3	Scott Williams CTS-V 58.54

The smart fortwo electric drive comes to the United States

Source: smartUSA



First introduced to the United States in June 2010, the smart fortwo electric drive marks a natural evolution of the smart brand and amplifies its environmental leadership. With an unparalleled eco-heritage, smart developed the electric drive as the next logical extension of the fortwo platform which continues to be a trendsetter in addressing issues facing urban mobility and conservation. The smart fortwo electric drive is a zero-emission visual statement on the ultimate conservation of materials and further defines the independent spirit of smart. Based off of the iconic smart fortwo, which has the smallest footprint of any vehicle on U.S. roads, the smart fortwo electric drive is the purist's play in transportation electrification. The vehicle enters the U.S. market at an ideal time as the United States sets policy goals on CO2 reduction and independence from oil-based fuels.

Beginning in the fall 2010, smart USA is strategically deploying a test fleet of 250 model year 2011 vehicles, equipped with second generation electric drive technology, across the United States. Vehicle placement is nationwide, with an emphasis key on electrification leadership regions and Department of Energy grant areas to ensure ample vehicle charging locations. A majority of smart USA dealers have signed on to the program for showcasing electric drive technology to customers in their communities. The phase-two vehicles are targeted to early adopters of electric drive technology who are helping define new alternatives in transportation for the United States and interested in making a passionate statement on conservation and environmental awareness. Branded "Team 250," placements include companies, municipalities, organizations and individuals committed to a four year/40,000 mile lease. The "Team 250" is an elite club that has direct access to the smart USA team, receives electric drive communications, has the ability to participate in exclusive dialogue regarding their electric drive ownership experience and is invited to special events and forums. Leases start at \$599/month for a standard coupe and \$649/month for a standard cabriolet plus security deposit and additional available options, not including tax, title, license and dealer fees. This lease price factors in the \$7,500 federal subsidy for electric vehicles, but does not include state and local municipal subsidies which, when available, can lower the lease price when added in. Leases include a limited warranty for four years or 40,000 miles, the duration of the lease.

Ecology is a hallmark of the smart fortwo, from the environmentally friendly manufacturing process in Hambach, France, to the recyclability of 95 percent of the vehicle's parts. Additionally, the vehicle's diminutive size translates to less material consumption in its production and a practical vehicle concept for low cost commuting and other urban travel.

See this link for more info:

http://media.daimler.com/Projects/c2c/channel/documents/1948157_electric_drive_Press_Kit_FINAL.pdf

Mercedes-Benz plans to celebrate 125th Anniversary of the Automobile

From [mercedesbenz.com](http://www.mercedesbenz.com)



On January 29, 1886, Carl [sic] Benz received the patent for the world's very first car. It was on that day that the one of the most significant inventions to grace the earth, the automobile, was born. In 2011, the automobile will celebrate 125 years on the road and the only place to view its' entire 125 year history is at The Mercedes-Benz Museum in Stuttgart.

Read more here: <http://www.mercedesbenz.com/autos/mercedes-benz/classic/mercedes-benz-museum-prepares-for-the-automobiles-125-anniversary/>

Mercedes-Benz confirms production of CLS Shooting Brake



Mercedes-Benz has confirmed plans to put the CLS Shooting Brake into production in 2012, with the swoopy wagon set to be built along side a handful of other Benz models at its plant in Sindelfingen. Originally shown in concept form at the Beijing Motor Show earlier this year, the CLS Shooting Brake will likely debut in production guise early next year. The standard CLS sedan powertrains will carry over to the wagon, including the CLS63 AMG version debuting at the LA Auto Show.

Read more here: <http://www.autoblog.com/2010/11/08/mercedes-benz-confirms-production-of-cls-shooting-brake/>

MBUSA RECALL NOTICE



MBUSA has recalled 85,000 vehicles for a potential power steering failure. The models being recalled are the 2010 C-class, the 2010 E-class sedan, and the 2010-11 E-class coupe and cabriolet. The models may have a power steering leak caused by an improperly torqued connection, which will cause power steering fluid to leak and cause the power steering system to improperly function or even fail. Owners affected by the problem can take their vehicle to their local Mercedes-Benz dealer to have the power steering checked and fixed at no cost. For more information, contact your local MB dealer.

Give the gift of MBCA membership



If you're looking for a Christmas gift for a MB owner who hasn't been introduced to MBCA, why not give the gift of MBCA membership? For \$45, you can purchase a 1 year membership for whomever you wish, plus their associate. Do you have a friend or loved one who's been promising to join the Club and has yet to join? Well, a gift membership may be that boost they need to finally come into the Club. A gift membership is also a nice way to bring in someone who wants to be part of MBCA, but can't join or had to let their membership lapse because of this uncertain economic climate.

Your recipient will receive the MBCA benefit of discounts at Avis, Hertz, and selected dealerships among other businesses, plus a subscription to *The Star*. Furthermore, MBCA will also extend **your** membership by 1 month for each gift membership you purchase.

For Christmas 2010, choose a MBCA gift membership. It's the gift that gives all year long! For more info, go to www.mbca.org, or call the National Business Office M-F 8am-5pm MT at **1-800-637-2360**.

Mercedes Marketplace

Mercedes-Benz parts for sale Location: SW Houston/Missouri City

Used and new parts for sale for Mercedes-Benz autos ranging from the 1960s-1980s. Parts include **Pagoda Euro headlights**, 2nd generation W126 SEL/SDL **velour interior parts**, M102 oil filters, 2 brand new W201 interior wood trim pieces, W201 right corner lamp, W201 front rotors & pads, plus more assorted MB parts. You can take it all home for \$2100 obo, or you can buy the parts individually.

Contact Angie for more info: 832-453-9698

1968 Mercedes-Benz 250S for sale



Engine and mechanical systems restored including alternator, water pump, radiator, transmission, fuel tank, front drive train, brakes, power steering, speedometer, horn, tires, and air conditioner.

Exterior and interior body, seats, seat belts, radio, heater core, and window gaskets need repair or restoration. Shop manuals, tools, and records available. Asking \$2,950, price negotiable.

Contact Garland T. Bauch
281-483-1309

garland.t.bauch@nasa.gov

1998 Mercedes-Benz SL600 for sale Converted to SL74 by RENNtech

Formerly owned by Marshall Field V.

35K miles

The modifications done by RENNtech and their cost are listed below.

520HP 7.4L V12 engine: \$32,000

Upgraded transmission: \$1,290

Lowered by 1 inch: \$800

Rear sub-frame modifications: \$1,950

14 inch front Alcon brakes: \$5,760

12 inch rear Alcon brakes: \$3,490

RENNtech rear muffler: \$1,790

RENNtech resonator bypass: \$1,140

RENNtech front and rear sway bars: \$1,135

RENNtech hiflow intake: \$1,245

Larger radiator: \$1,225

Vented hood: \$3,000

Recaro seats: \$6,700

Anti penetration glass: \$2,700



Contact Diane Chapman for more info.
chapmand49@yahoo.com



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Joseph Middleton, Editor

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Are you moving?

To change your address, visit the MBCA website at:
<http://www.mbca.org>

Let's keep in touch!

If your e-mail address has changed from that which you gave to MBCA when you joined, or if you just want to make sure you receive future newsletters, send your preferred e-mail address to editorjoseph@gmail.com, or update your info at:
<http://www.mbca.org>

2010-11 Upcoming Events

Holiday Brunch

December 5 at Brennan's of Houston

Bowling Tournament

January 2011 at Palace Lanes in Bellaire

New Members Dinner

February 2011

Bluebonnet Run

Spring 2011

Board of Directors Meeting

January 4

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.

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