



The Houston Star

MBCA | Houston Section Newsletter

February
2011

www.mbca.org/houston

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Andrea Taner and Mike Haney clutch the trophy in victory.

Bowling with Benzes & Bimmers

By: Mike Haney

After almost two years of planning, the German Car Clubs Bowling Tournament finally came together on Sunday, January 30th at the Palace Lanes in Bellaire. Our "Bowl-off" began with a bit of a scare for it's host, with just minutes until we were set to begin I stood alone against twelve bowlers from the BMW Club. Fortunately, my cavalry arrived just in time to save me from certain death. We had also invited the Porsche, VW, Audi & smart Clubs, but none of them made it out. Perhaps planning this on the same day as the marathon caused a few conflicts.

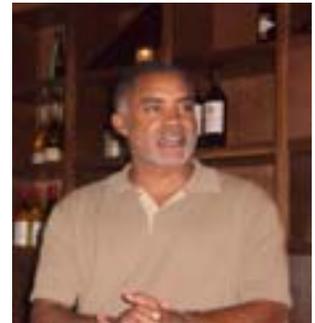
Our team consisted of Jeff and Andrea Taner, Renny Keener, Chuck Wyatt and myself. Once the bowling began it quickly became clear that we had a good bowler, an excellent bowler and a few like me that were just happy to keep the ball out of the gutters. The BMW Club had so many members that they it took three lanes to accommodate them. Our small but brave team all but knew we'd be handing the trophy to the BMW Club at the end of the day.

(See "Bowling" on page 5)

President's Message

Hi M-B Enthusiasts,

Happy New Year, hope everyone had a safe and great transition into the New Year. We've got a good deal of events scheduled this year with the New Members Dinner this coming February and the Tech Session in March. Please plan to attend. Also be on the lookout for info about the Bluebonnet Run and Spring Autocross in coming weeks.



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

New Members Dinner

Come see what the Club is all about!

The annual MBCA | Houston Section New Members Dinner will be held at 5pm on Saturday, February 26, 2011 at Farrago, located at 318 Gray St. at Bagby St. in Midtown. While this is an event to recognize our newest members, established members are especially encouraged to attend to welcome our newest members into the Club. To RSVP and/or for more information, please contact Joseph Middleton via e-mail at editorjoseph@gmail.com, or via phone at 713-487-8197. When you RSVP, please note if this will be your first MBCA event. Please RSVP by February 25.

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

Welcome!

Curtis Clark of Houston, TX

John Goodpasture of Houston, TX

William Parkey of Houston, TX

John Perillo of Friendswood, TX

Zuocong Yip of Houston, TX

Willkommen!

MBCA | Houston Section thanks these loyal Club members

Stuart Archibald of Houston, TX

Russ Bonadonna of Houston, TX

Robert and Jean Clarke of Houston, TX

Sherleta and Barbara Collians of Humble, TX

Dianne and John Cook of Houston, TX

Mel Dumo of Houston, TX

Brian Fogarty of Houston, TX

Arlyn and Millie Hausmann of Conroe, TX

James and Margaret Hutton of Houston, TX

Renford Keener of Porter, TX

Keith and Wilma Ritter of Katy, TX

Gregory Shaw of Friendswood, TX

Doug and Virginia Stoner of Houston, TX

Bob Zienow of Lake Charles, LA

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Bowling

(continued from page 1)



VS.



On the left is a sticker on a BMW CCA member's vehicle. On the right is a sticker on a MBCA member's vehicle. It looks like good prevailed!

As the time wound down and we completed all the games, the scores were totaled, averaged and compared. A quick glance at the BMW club's score cards seemed to confirm our defeat was inevitable. But there seemed to be a bit of confusion and chatter amongst the BMW club members and finally they came over to us with their hands extended offering us their congratulations, as the final score were compared we had the highest average!!! After the shock wore off we handed the trophy to Andrea Taner for safe keeping until the next tournament. Andrea was without question our MVP of the day, her high-scores (about 100 pins higher than MINE!) put us over the top. The first of hopefully many such events shared between the German Car Clubs made for a fun and exciting morning. We look forward to beating them again at the next one. Thanks to the Palace Lanes in Bellaire, the members and board of the BMW Club and all who attended (especially Andrea & Renny!).



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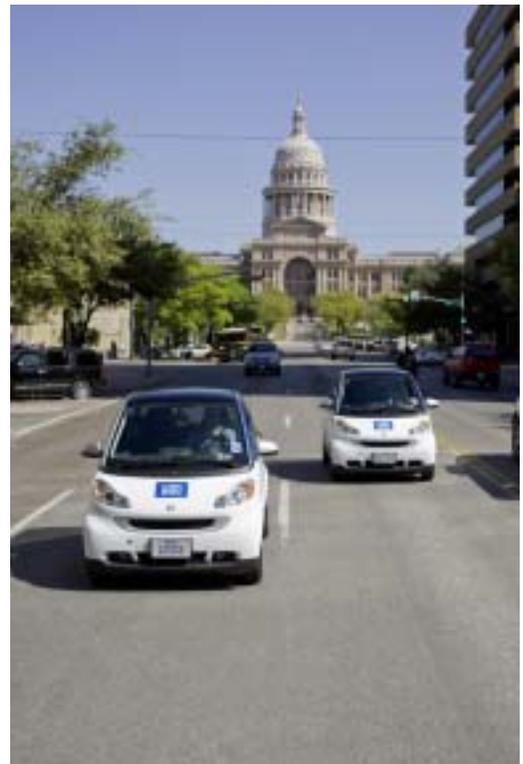
For every gift membership you purchase, and for every new member who lists you as their sponsor, you'll get a 1 month extension of your membership. 1 membership=1 month, and there's no limit! For example, if you tell 12 people about MBCA and all 12 join and list you as their sponsor, you get a 12 month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

Daimler's car2go car sharing program to expand in Austin in 2011



Car2go is Daimler's car sharing program. Its current sole North American based operation is located in Austin and has been available to the general public since May 2010. Car2go will expand its North American operations in 2011 while keeping its North American headquarters in Austin. Currently, car2go operates a fleet of 200 smart fortwo vehicles. For 2011, car2go will add 100 cars to its fleet, and replace the original 200 smart fortwos with 200 all new smart fortwo car2go edition vehicles designed by smart especially for car2go.

80 percent of the new vehicles will have a 100 watt solar roof that is fully integrated in the on-board electronics to supply power to the telematics, and continually charge the car's battery. This allows fuel consumption to be reduced. The system also powers the car's ventilation system when parked which reduces the car's interior temperature.



Technical Q & A

Question: I have a 1995 S420 W140 model. The oil pressure gauge seems to be malfunctioning. It used to be around 1.5 at idle and 3 while driving. Lately I've noticed that it's always at 3, even when the ignition is on but the engine is off. Do I need to replace the oil pressure gauge? Thanks.

Answer: The problem is most likely the oil pressure sensor on the engine, not the gauge itself. The part is located close to the oil filter on the passenger side of the engine, part number 006-542-94-17. Good luck.

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.

Jerry White (1931-2010)



Jerry White, longtime MBCA member, died on December 20, 2010 in Beaumont. He was 79 years old. Mr. White was MBCA | Houston's longest serving member, having been in the club for almost 48 years. Mr. White joined the Club in 1963, just 2 years after the Houston Section was founded. Services for Mr. White were held in Beaumont on December 22, 2010. Mr. White was born in Beaumont on May 8, 1931. He graduated from South Park High School and was vice-president of the first full four-year class at Lamar College of Technology. Mr. White joined MBCA on February 3, 1963 and married the former Norma Ruth Plettman on September 8, 1963. Mr. White served on the board of directors of the Texas Tire Dealers Association, the National Institute of Automotive Service Excellence, and the National Tire Dealers and Retreaders Association. Mr. White received the very first Lifetime Achievement Award from the Texas Tire Dealers Association and was recently inducted into the Tire Industry Association's Hall of Fame. In addition to MBCA, Mr. White was also an active member of the Beaumont Rotary Club, and was a Sunday School teacher and elder at First Christian Church.

Our condolences go out to the Jerry White family.

MBCA | Houston is now on Facebook

facebook

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New 2011 Mercedes-Benz Club Loyalty Rewards Program: A cool \$1000 Discount Off Your Best Deal on a N
danielrogers.com
 I've written about the benefits of being and joining a member of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America before. The NBR for 2011 Loyalty Rewards Program for club...

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 January 7 at 2:32am · Like · Comment · Share · Promote

Mercedes-Benz Club of America | Houston Section Join MBCA | Houston for our first Club event of 2011!

Houston German Car Club Bowling Tournament | Mercedes-Benz Club of America
 MBCA HQ
 Come bowl with MBCA | Houston at the first Houston German Car Club Bowling Tournament on Sunday, January 20, 2011. 10am noon at Felice Lanes, 4195 Bellard Blvd. Houston, TX 77025. For more information and to RSVP, contact Mike Harvey at mharvey@slkroad.com, or 713-298-4585.

Information

Location: Houston, TX
 Founded: 1961
 Insights See All

MBCA | Houston is now on Facebook. Check us out, and don't forget to  Like us!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mercedes-Benz-Club-of-America-Houston-Section/178322852202455>

Meet the 2012 SLK



The SLK has been redesigned for 2012. The US market will receive the SLK250 and SLK350. The SLK250 is the first four cylinder SLK to be offered in the U.S. in years. The SLK250's 1.8L turbocharged gas engine will offer 201HP, propel the sportster from 0-60 in 6.5 seconds, and will achieve a reasonable 27 mpg in mixed driving. The 2012 SLK will go on sale in the States this summer.

Questions? Call your Section President at 832-265-6044 or the National Business Office at 1-800-637-2360 M-F, 8am-5pm MT. Or visit www.mbca.org

Ciento Once Prototype by GWA Is One of a Kind

From emercedesbenz.com



The Forgotten Gullwing. Back in 1970, this car was a hero, breaking all the records with its revolutionary Wankel diesel engine [sic]. A few prototypes were built, but never came out as a production model.

Arturo Alonso, GWA owner, felt that this beautiful and legendary car deserved a revival. Making careful changes to the original design and updating it with modern details, he created, what he calls, the "Ciento Once".

Read more at the following link:

<http://www.emercedesbenz.com/autos/mercedes-benz/concept-vehicles/ciento-once-prototype-by-gwa-is-one-of-a-kind/>

Daimler Heritage: March 2011

75 years ago – from 15 February to 1 March 1936:

The world's first series-produced diesel passenger car, the Mercedes-Benz 260 D (W 138), was unveiled at the International Automobile and Motorcycle Show in Berlin. Also on display at the show were the new passenger car models 170 V (W 136) and 170 H (W 28).

65 years ago – on 22 February 1946:

The first car engine to be built after the end of the war, a 1.7 litre four-cylinder model for the Mercedes-Benz 170 V, was produced in Untertürkheim.

60 years ago – on 24 February 1951:

Daimler-Benz competed in the "Premio Presidente de la Nación Juan D. Peron" in Argentina with three pre-war W 154 racing cars.

25 years ago – from 3 to 8 February 1986:

Daimler presented key vehicle safety elements in Rovaniemi, Finland – acceleration skid control (ASR) for passenger cars and commercial vehicles and the automatic locking differential (ASD) for the automatically activated four-wheel drive (4MATIC) in passenger cars.

2010 a successful year for Mercedes-Benz Sales Worldwide

2010 has been recorded as one of the most successful years in Mercedes-Benz history. Here are just a few of the accomplishments made by Mercedes-Benz last year.

- Double-digit increases every month; sales targets surpassed in many markets
- Fourth quarter was best ever in company's history
- Number one premium brand in Germany; sales growth of 14 percent in the U.S., sales more than doubled in China
- High-value model mix due to strong performance of E- and S-Class
- Dr. Dieter Zetsche: "We're starting the new year with confidence, thanks to a competitive product range and numerous new products."

2012 Mercedes-Benz S350 Bluetec Debuts At 2011 Detroit Auto Show

From autoguide.com



Fans of old school Mercedes-Benz diesels can rejoice, as M-B is adding yet another oil-burner to its North American lineup. The 2012 S350 BlueTec 4MATIC will bow at the 2011 North American International Auto Show.

Featuring Mercedes' stellar BlueTEC V6 turbodiesel engine and the 4MATIC all-wheel drive system, the S350 will put out 210 horsepower and 400 lb-ft of torque with an estimated 29 mpg on the highway.

Read more at the following link:

<http://www.autoguide.com/auto-news/2011/01/2012-mercedes-benz-s350-bluetec-to-debut-at-2011-detroit-auto-show.html>

S-class wins Best Luxury Car award for the fifth time in a row



In the UK, the S-class has won the Best Luxury Car award from What Car? for the fifth time in a row. The judges praised the S-class for its ride quality, handling, and the 3.0L V6 Turbodiesel engine which has “enough performance to keep you interested without upsetting the accountant.”

Read more at the following link:

http://www.carpages.co.uk/mercedes_benz/mercedes-benz-s-class-14-01-11.asp

Daimler Executive: “AMG to go Hybrid”

From autoguide.com



Mercedes will add hybrid technology to its flagship performance vehicles as a way to improve fuel economy rather than add performance. The move is very much the opposite of the Lexus hybrid philosophy, which is designed to deliver added power without an increased carbon footprint.

The news comes via Daimler exec Herbert Kohler, who is in charge of future technologies and engineering at the Mercedes parent company. He even went so far as to say hybrid AMGs are, "a given."

At least initially, Mercedes will follow the improved fuel economy strategy for hybrids, with Kohler commenting that the first vehicles will get start-stop technology as well as brake regeneration.

Read more: <http://www.autoguide.com/auto-news/2011/01/amgs-will-go-hybrid-says-mercedes-exec.html>

Mercedes-Benz has big plans for small cars

From autoweek.com

Breaking outside its American position of rear-wheel-drive luxury vehicles, Mercedes-Benz will launch its new front-wheel-drive architecture in the United States in the next three years in the form of a coupe, SUV and possibly a small wagon or compact hatchback.

Joachim Schmidt, Mercedes' global sales and marketing boss, said Mercedes is developing at least four models based on its MFA, or Mercedes Front-wheel-drive Architecture.

"We will introduce the next generation of our MFA family to the U.S.," Schmidt said in an interview. Two variants, maybe even a third, are planned for the United States, he said. The coupe will be launched in the United States in the summer of 2013. Mercedes insiders call it a "baby CLS" because it will have similar styling to the brand's larger CLS coupe-styled four-door model. An AMG version will arrive in Europe later and is expected to be sold in the United States.

Read more: <http://www.autoweek.com/article/20110131/CARNEWS/110139988#ixzz1Cf8cligS>

See the Twitter powered Mercedes-Benz

Over the past few days, the news of a Twitter controlled Mercedes-Benz has been making the rounds. At first, you may think "you've got to be B.S.ing me", but I kid you not. On YouTube, there are two videos of Mercedes-Benz engineer Werner Scherenberg using a Twitter app on his iPhone to send commands to the Twitter account of the prototype car, a white 2011 CL550. The Twitter account for the CL550 (<http://twitter.com/MBtrCarTest>) is a protected account. Scherenberg's Twitter account feed (<http://twitter.com/WScherenberg>) contains a few simple command tweets sent to the CL550 such as @MBtrCarTest #ignition_on.

To view the videos, visit Scherenberg's YouTube account: <http://www.youtube.com/WScherenberg>

This is all in preparation for the MBtweetrace. Four teams from across the US will drive tweet powered MBs to Dallas for the Superbowl from Feb 2-4, 2011.

You can find more info at <http://www.mbtweetrace.com>

First 2011 Tech Session at Motorwërks

The first Tech Session of 2011 will be at Motorwërks, located at 5704 Southwest Freeway between Chimney Rock and Fountainview on Saturday, March 19, 2011 at 10am. The topics of discussion will be ABS brakes, and the ABC-Airmatic air and hydraulic suspension. For more info, contact Marvin Boyd. mwboyd@embarqmail.com, 281-360-1766.

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/repaired 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. Transmission reverse, horn steering column wire, rear drive train bushings, and power steering gaskets need additional repair in the near future. Shop manuals, tools, and records available. Asking \$2,950, price negotiable.

Contact Garland T. Bauch
281-733-1182

astrodad@live.com

1983 Mercedes-Benz 380SL



For Sale

1983 Mercedes Benz 380SL above avg.,
both tops, blue w/grey leather \$16,750

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**Are you selling your Mercedes-Benz or
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Contact editorjoseph@gmail.com for info.

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

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



Any reasonable offer considered.
Contact Diana Chapman for more info.
chapmand49@yahoo.com



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Joseph Middleton, Editor

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To change your address, visit the MBCA website at:
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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>

2011 Upcoming Events

New Members Dinner

February 26

Tech Session at Motorwërks

March 19

Bluebonnet Run

April 9

Spring Autocross

Mid to late April

Board of Directors Meeting

March 2

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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