



# The Houston Star

**MBCA** | Houston Section Newsletter

February  
2012

[www.mbca.org/houston](http://www.mbca.org/houston)

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## Celebrating 60 years of the SL Part I

By: Daimler AG

The Mercedes-Benz SL-Class sports cars – introduction

- The tradition of these extraordinary sports cars begins in 1952
- The Mercedes-Benz SL-Class has its roots in racing history
- Every SL generation is an innovation platform for the Mercedes-Benz brand

Stuttgart – In the 1950s, a very special star rose in Stuttgart: the Mercedes-Benz SL-Class was born. It all began with motor racing sports. With its successes in international competitions, in 1952 the 300 SL competition sports car (W 194 series, "SL" stands for "Super-Light"), became the initial spark for the start of two fascinating production sports cars – the "Gullwing" coupé and the roadster: the Mercedes-Benz 300 SL and 190 SL laid the foundation for the tradition of this legendary sports car family in the year 1954.

Mercedes-Benz caused a sensation with the presentation of these two vehicles at the 1954 International Motor Sports Show in New York. Specialists and the general public alike were enthusiastic. The 300 SL was presented for the first time as a series-production sports car (W 198 series), the famous "Gullwing" coupé. The totally newly-designed 190 SL (W 121 series) presented by the company as a roadster, created just as powerful an impact. This first-generation SL sports cars already allowed one to envisage the brilliant future that lay ahead of these attractive and innovative production vehicles with motor sport abbreviations in their designation.

(continued on page 5)

# President's Message

Dear Club Members,

I'll keep it short and simple. The Houston Section is listening to what our members are saying. We want to know what you want, and most importantly, we want to deliver and provide the things you want to have the best MBCA | Houston Section experience that you can have.

In January, some of you participated in a small survey sent to our Club members via e-mail. I want to thank every one of you who responded. The Board and I are examining your responses and will use the data to make sure that the Club is providing the membership with what it needs and wants in order to flourish.

January was a quiet month for the Club, and February was, too. Don't worry, the Houston Section will kick things off in March with a new concept, a combination New Members Meet and Greet/Tech Session. One of the things we found out in the survey is that our members want more technical information. This New Members Meet and Greet/Tech Session will allow new members to meet our current members and gain knowledge and insight into the care and maintenance of their cars. Please see page 6 for more information.

Also in the works for the Spring are our Bluebonnet Run and our Autocross. Both the Bluebonnet Run and our bi-yearly autocrosses are some of our Section's most popular events. Nothing brings out a crowd like scenic drives through the countryside and driving around cones with haste in a parking lot!

As always, take care, and happy travels!

Joseph Middleton | President | [Mercedes-Benz Club of America](#) | Houston Section

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

*Welcome!*

Jason Ahuja of Houston, TX

Robert Burnam of League City, TX

Sherry Hansel of Kingwood, TX

Enid Mays and Gunter Hartig of Houston, TX

Junnu Sam of Missouri City, TX

Bruce Williams of Houston, TX

*Willkommen!*

## MBCA | Houston Section thanks these loyal Club members

Mark Atkins of West Columbia, TX

Robert and Jean Clarke of Houston, TX

Bryan Corey of Friendswood, TX

Brian Fogarty of Houston, TX

Jake Giambelluca of Stafford, TX

James and Margaret Hutton of Houston, TX

Alex Lopez Negrete of Houston, TX

Brian Schneider of Houston, TX

Bob Zienow of Lake Charles, LA

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## Celebrating 60 years of the SL

(continued from page 1)

Based on the legendary Gullwing coupé, the open 300 SL Roadster (W 198 II), which was built in parallel with the 190 SL, was launched in 1957. The body form of the two-seater open car was thus defined as the typical characteristic of the SL family. The 300 SL and the 190 SL together prefigured numerous features of later SL generations and both were thus the forerunners of all the SL series that followed.

In 1963 the SL, W 113 series arrived on the scene; it was dubbed the “Pagoda SL” because of the characteristic shape of its hardtop roof. It was followed in 1971 by the R 107 series that achieved the highest production volume of all SL series to date because of its long production life of 18 years. In March 1989 Mercedes-Benz introduced the R 129 series. Featuring numerous technical innovations, this car carried the SL-Class over into the new millennium. After a production period of twelve years and two facelifts it was replaced in 2001 by the R 230 series – the first one with a steel folding top. Finally, in the spring of 2012 the R 231 series is due to be launched as the next generation of the Mercedes-Benz SL-Class.



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## 2012 New Members Meet and Greet/Tech Session

Join MBCA | Houston on Saturday, March 24 for our first combination New Members Meet and Greet and Tech Session. This event begins at 10am and will take place at Barbara Jordan High School, located near Downtown Houston at 5800 Eastex Freeway between 610 and Kelly Rd. The school will graciously open its doors on a weekend to allow us to use their auto shop and other facilities for a day of food, fun and spreading technical knowledge. There will be lifts on hand for Club members to use to inspect their vehicles with the help of shop instructor Al Lloyd, and Club Vice President and 500eboard.com owner Gerry Van Zandt will be on site to host a hands on technical session featuring one of his lovely Mercedes-Benz vehicles. We will also have lunch and door prizes.

To RSVP and for more information, send an e-mail to [mbca.houston@gmail.com](mailto:mbca.houston@gmail.com), or call Joseph at 713-487-8197.



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### Technical Q & A with Ali Durvesh

**Question:** I have a 1995 E320 with a Check Engine light on. I was told the code for the light is Code #5 - Malfunction of the EGR system. Where should I begin looking to pinpoint the problem?

**Answer:** Begin by checking the metal pipe that goes from the EGR on the exhaust to the other side of the engine under the intake manifold. This line frequently clogs up and requires replacement. Cleaning the pipe will work short term at best. It must be replaced and retails for about \$190 at the dealer. Replacing this pipe requires removing the intake manifold so be sure to order gaskets for that as well. Good luck!

If you have any questions, please send your requests to the *Houston Star* or contact me directly. I can be reached at [ali.durvesh@gmail.com](mailto:ali.durvesh@gmail.com).

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## South Central Region Events

### Magnolia Section (New Orleans)

**Cruise and Brews:** February 11th Drive to Kiln, MS for a brewery tour at the Lazy Magnoliz Brew-ery and lunch in Pass Christian, MS at Shaggy's. Come out and join the fun. Tour is free, lunch is "Dutch treat". After lunch you're free to explore to your heart's content. See [www.mbcanola.org](http://www.mbcanola.org) for more info.

### Texas Hill Country Section (San Antonio)

**Tech Session at Mercedes-Benz of San Antonio:** February 25th, 10am-12pm. We invite you to join us for a technical session at Mercedes-Benz of San Antonio. Mr. Rich Wood, General Sales Manager, invites all members to view their remodeled showroom before we gather in the service bay area where a service technician will demonstrate the procedure of a "20 point inspection" on one or two members' cars. MB of SA is well known in and around South Texas and has been serving customers since the 1970's. The dealership has also offered to wash your Mercedes before we depart for lunch at Jason's Deli. The restaurant is located at 25 NE Loop 410 in San Antonio.

Please RSVP to Kathie Steele ([dieselbenz@wildblue.net](mailto:dieselbenz@wildblue.net)) so the dealership will know how many members to expect and provide the Mercedes model you will drive (gas or diesel, etc) so the dealership can plan their technical presentation accordingly.

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# Mercedes Marketplace

## For Sale: Bluetooth Adapter Puck

Removed from a 2007 S-class. Will work with most 2004-2009 MB models. Part number B67875878.

**\$250**

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281-827-2157**

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# 1987 Mercedes-Benz 560SEL

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## 2001 Mercedes-Benz CLK320

2001 Mercedes CLK320 Convertible (W208 Chassis) is finished in Brilliant Silver Clearcoat Metallic. Original Paint, no accidents. All the body panels are straight with no major dents/dings. This car was purchased by my mother about 4 years ago as a gift to herself for beating cancer. She typically drives her W126 every day, and the CLK only gets driven on the weekends. This car only has 58,700 miles on it.

16" Mercedes Benz Aluminum wheels, finished in factory silver, wrapped in a Matching Set of Goodyear Eagle LS H-Rated tires, the tires have less than 5,000 miles on them, and have plenty of tread left.

The black power fabric top opens and closes normally. The top is in great shape, and the car has always been garaged when not used.

The engine is the 3.2L 18 valve, Single Overhead Cam (SOHC) V6 (M112 - E32) with 218 hp. The engine starts and runs flawlessly. This engine is mated to a smooth shifting 5 speed automatic transmission. There are no leaks, funny noises, or fluid consumption. Car runs and drives great. The brakes work fine with no problem, no warpage, and no fading. Stops are straight and squeak free. The suspension is tight, squeak free and the car drives straight. We recently installed a brand new Interstate Battery (located in trunk), next to the full sized spare tire, which has never seen the ground.

The interior is finished in grey leather. Driver and passenger power seats both work fine with no problem with power tilt/slide for access to rear passengers. All power everything works. Dual zone climate control works fine with no problems at all. Nice condition inside for a 10 year old car. There is a trunk mounted CD changer.

The car has two keys, one original key as well as a new style chrome key.

This car hasn't seen the shop for anything since we owned it (except a flat repair) and I believe my mom has driven the car less than 5000 miles in the three years that she's had it. Texas Registration and Inspection are current.

Asking \$11,000 and entertaining all reasonable offers.

Email: [weschain@gmail.com](mailto:weschain@gmail.com)



## 1960s era Mercedes-Benz parts for sale

\* Set of 4 MB factory original alloys (14 X 6) with 195/70R14 Kelly Metric 600's mounted (<2000 miles).

They include the center hub covers and correct wheel nuts.

They are ready to bolt on and go - complete and great "driver" condition.

No damage to the metal (curb rash or otherwise).

I had been using these occasionally on my 280SL until I sold her. \$600.

\* Original steering wheel in black. Removed from 1968 280SL, but will fit many 1960's cars. Great condition, but not perfect. \$400 OBO.

\* Kangol 2-point seat belts and mounting hardware Black, no damage, but appear used. \$400 OBO.

\* Service manuals for cars between 1958 and 1969 (Big Blue Book). Different books (cover different topics). \$130 together.

\* Rubber door seals for W113 - both L&R. \$60

Will send photos upon request

Contact [sctripp@comcast.net](mailto:sctripp@comcast.net)

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## Hardtop for 1983 380SL or similar model

Selling a dark green hard top with an ivory headliner that I no longer need (a long story). Very good condition. I am very flexible regarding price, i.e., make me an offer.

Contact: Joe Fischer at: [joe.fischer-vbj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joe.fischer-vbj@sbcglobal.net) or (713) 850-1128.

## 1983 Mercedes-Benz 380SL



# For Sale

**1983 Mercedes Benz 380SL above avg.,  
both tops, blue w/grey leather \$13,500**

**713-557-2741**

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<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](mailto:editorjoseph@gmail.com), or update your info at:  
<http://www.mbca.org>

## 2012 Upcoming Events

New Members Meet and Greet/Tech Session  
March 24

Bluebonnet Run  
Late March/Early April

Spring Autocross 2012  
April

## Board of Directors Meeting

March 6

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), unless otherwise noted.

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