



# The Houston Star

MBCA | Houston Section Newsletter

January  
2011

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

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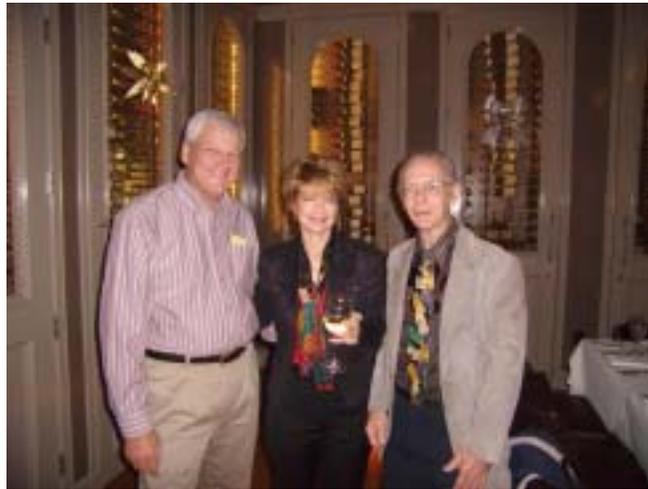
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L-R: Norm and Cathy Glorioso and Richard Wilkins

## Brunch at Brennan's with Benzes

(say it three times, fast!)

By: Joseph Middleton

Brennan's of Houston is a local institution. If the name sounds familiar, it's because it is owned by a family member of Owen Brennan, who founded the original Brennan's in New Orleans' French Quarter. Brennan's of Houston was nearly completely destroyed by a fire that occurred as Hurricane Ike battered Houston in 2008, but Brennan's rose from the ashes and is doing business once again. It's a grand place, situated centrally inside the loop in Houston's Midtown section.

Knowing what Brennan's is all about, sixteen MBCA members came out for Louisiana creole cooking, festivities, gifts, even a little live jazz. After about half an hour of socializing, we sat down to a 3 course meal which included regional fare such as gumbo, turtle soup, crab cakes, beef tenderloin, Gulf Coast seafood, the original Brennan's Bananas Foster and a favorite of Texans and Louisianans (that's Lwizyané if you're creole), pecan pie and creole cheesecake.

(Continued on page 5)

## President's Message

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

From



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

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## Team MBCA, let's go bowling!



Are you ready to bowl? Join MBCA | Houston as we compete against other local German car clubs in our first bowling tournament. The tournament will be held on Sunday, January 30, 2011, 10:00am-noon at Palace Lanes, 4191 Bellaire Blvd. Houston, TX 77025. For more information and to RSVP, contact Mike Haney at [mhaney@3dtriad.com](mailto:mhaney@3dtriad.com), or 713-298-4580.

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

*Welcome!*

*Willkommen!*

Anne Barrett of Houston, TX

Cindy Harrington of Lumberton, TX

John Kosty of League City, TX

Johan and Lydia Pfeiffer of Houston, TX

## MBCA | Houston Section thanks these loyal Club members

Theodore and Marilyn Dinklage of Galveston, TX

Joe Fischer of Houston, TX

Claus Goldbecker of Fredericksburg, TX

George and Maha Hatfield of Klein, TX

Ronald Husbands of Charlotte, NC

Vaughan Lirette of South Houston, TX

Thomas and Frances Lostracco of Nacogdoches, TX

John and Carol Pariza of Houston, TX

Pablo Pulumbarit of Beaumont, TX

Willy Smyt of Porter, TX

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# CASARI'S

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## Brunch at Brennan's with Benzes continued

(continued from page 1)



After we'd all stuffed ourselves, it was time for our infamous gift exchange. Gifts included nutcrackers, a fireplace lighter, an electric wine opener, a plant pot, whiskey, wine, and mixing glasses (do you see the theme?). Our gift exchange was different in that we held a White Elephant gift exchange. Many had their eyes set on certain gifts. I picked my gift of choice and was one of the lucky few who was able to get my gift of choice back in the end after it had been stolen and traded by others. I was lucky! Others weren't so lucky, having to settle for gifts they really didn't have in their cross hairs. I have a feeling that some of those gifts will make a special appearance, reboxed and rewrapped at next year's brunch! After the gift trading was over, we said our goodbyes and looked forward to seeing each other at the next MBCA | Houston Section event.



### F&J EUROPEAN AUTO PARTS INC.

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SPECIALIZING IN MERCEDES BENZ PARTS

FORMERLY WITH MORITZ E.C.P.

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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!

## MBCA to mark 55th Anniversary in 2011



In 1956, the preferred luxury cars of the day amongst most Americans were Cadillacs, Buicks, Lincolns, Mercurys, and Packards. When MBCA was founded in 1956, there were only 200 Mercedes-Benzes in the United States, mostly pre-war models. New models were few and far between, and were sold through Studebaker dealerships. Now, Mercedes-Benz sells 250,000 cars a year in America. Thousands more older models are still roaming our highways as a testament to their reliability and longevity, and there are now hundreds of standalone Mercedes-Benz dealerships nationwide.

Among the luxury brands preferred by Americans, Mercedes-Benz has outlived Mercury and Packard, outsells Cadillac and Lincoln in the US market in the luxury division, and takes one of the top 3 spots among the 10 best selling luxury brands in the USA for 2010. As Mercedes-Benz has grown in America, so has MBCA. 55 years later, MBCA now boasts nearly 20,000 members, and that number grows more and more each day.

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### New Members Dinner

This is the time of year when MBCA | Houston recognizes our newest members. If you joined MBCA | Houston between now and February 2010, this is where we recognize YOU! Don't let the name of the dinner fool you, as this dinner is open to all members. Longtime and current members are especially encouraged to attend and meet our newest members. The date, time and location will be announced at a later date.

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## Technical Q & A

**Question:** The heat on my 1991 300SEL doesn't work when I drive at high speeds on the freeway. What could be causing this problem?

**Answer:** The culprit is most likely your monovalve insert. Over time, the rubber diaphragm wears and eventually develops a tear. Monovalve insert repair kits are available for about \$40 at various online vendors. It's a simple DIY job requiring just a screwdriver, and can be completed in 15 minutes or less.

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](mailto:Saleem@JohansenUSA.com) or call me at 281.883.3792.

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## Recognizing our longtime members

In honor of MBCA's 55th anniversary, I thought it would be fitting to recognize longtime members (20+ years) in our Section. Here they are along with the year they joined MBCA.

### 45+ years

Jerry White of Beaumont, TX (1963)

*Note: Jerry White passed away on December 20, 2010. Our condolences go out to his family.*

### 30-44 years

Frederick Swain of Spring, TX (1977)  
Fred Cannata of Sidney, BC Canada (1978)  
Russ Bonadonna of Houston, TX (1979)  
John Redmon of Tyler, TX (1980)  
Robert Clarke of Houston, TX (1980)  
Carlos Kepke of Houston, TX (1981)

### 20-29 years

Charles White of Lake Charles, LA (1983)  
Ronnie Frings of The Woodlands, TX (1985)  
K. Hodges of Houston, TX (1985)  
Robert Powell of Houston, TX (1985)  
Frederick Mullin of Dickinson, TX (1985)  
John Michna of Houston, TX (1986)  
W. McClellan of Houston, TX (1987)  
Marvin Boyd of Humble, TX (1987)  
Jay Morris of Bellaire, TX (1988)  
James Hutton of Houston, TX (1988)  
Scott Hamilton of Stowell, TX (1989)  
Norm Laman of Webster, TX (1989)  
Gerald Grogin of Houston, TX (1989)  
Steven Russell of Houston, TX (1989)  
Keith Alverson of Houston, TX (1989)  
Gregory Shaw of Friendswood, TX (1990)  
Pickens Jones of Spring, TX (1990)  
Claus Goldbecker of Stafford, TX (1991)  
Richard Wilkins of Houston, TX (1991)  
George Hatfield of Klein, TX (1991)  
Paul Stanaford of Missouri City, TX (1991)

**MBCA | Houston Section wishes to thank the above members for their  
2+ decades of loyalty and support!**

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## MBUSA Roadside Assistance to be available to all MBCA Members in good standing

In the December 2010 issue of the *Houston Star*, it was reported that Mercedes-Benz USA (MBUSA) was making a number of changes to its legendary Roadside Assistance program. Prior to January 1, 2011, all Mercedes-Benz automobiles, regardless of age, regardless of where it was maintained or purchased, its warranty status, or the number of owners it's had, was eligible for Roadside Assistance. As of January 1, 2011, MBUSA Roadside Assistance is only available to any Mercedes-Benz car that is currently under new vehicle, extended, or Certified Pre-owned (CPO) warranty; was purchased from a full-service Mercedes-Benz dealership prior to January 4, 2011 and is still owned by the same owner; or is serviced regularly by a full-service Mercedes dealership (having made a single transaction of at least \$100 in the 18-month period prior to the Roadside call). This meant many MBCA members were now out of Roadside Assistance's coverage.

As part of the ongoing cooperation between the Club and MBUSA, MBUSA recently announced that Roadside Assistance coverage would be available to Club members for their Mercedes-Benz autos. To qualify, the Club member must have been a member of MBCA for at least 12 consecutive months prior to January 1, 2011, and be a current member in good standing. MBCA members whose cars don't already qualify under the standard conditions (warranty, dealership purchased, or regularly dealership serviced), will need to have their membership number available when calling MBUSA's service number. If the number can't be remembered or is otherwise unavailable, the representative will be able to search the MBCA database for the member's name exactly as it is spelled in the database. National Club Editor Gary Anderson suggests the following, "(We suggest that you look at the mailing label on this issue [of the *Star*], and copy your name and membership number onto a card that you can tape inside the glove compartment of each of your cars.)"

This is yet another Club perk, and another reason to make sure your MBCA membership is renewed on time.

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## Winners of the MBCA Fall Raffle 2010

### First Place

Michael Kelfer, Los Angeles Section

### Second Place

Keith Pledger, Orange County Section

### Third Place

Scott Circle, Wichita Section

### Fourth Place

Greg Pearson, Chicagoland

Robert Wollenman, Kansas City Section

Gary Phillips, Triangle Section

Christoph Von Der Osten, Peachtree Section

Gerald Zak, Connecticut/Westchester Section

### Fifth Place

Bradford Holley, Connecticut/Westchester Section

Browne Barr, Seattle Section

Paul Owens, Northeastern Pennsylvania

Bob Hayes, Tampa Bay Section

John Hurt, Cincinnati Section

## Mercedes-Benz USA Delivers First F-CELL Powered B-Class to Californian

From [emercedesbenz.com](http://emercedesbenz.com)



The first new Mercedes-Benz F-CELL hydrogen-powered B-Class vehicles are now available to California residents, making emission-free driving a reality. Mr. Vance Van Petten took the keys to the very first Mercedes-Benz B-Class F-CELL vehicle available to U.S. customers during an official hand-over at the newly renovated dealership of Fletcher Jones Mercedes-Benz in Newport Beach.

Read more at the following link:

<http://www.emercedesbenz.com/autos/mercedes-benz/b-class/mercedes-benz-usa-delivers-first-f-cell-powered-b-class-to-californian/>

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### A few Mercedes-Benz Firsts

As Mercedes-Benz celebrates 125 years this month, let's look back at some of Mercedes-Benz's firsts, many of which are now commonplace on the automotive market.

- 1939 – Inception of passenger-car safety development
  - 1959 – World's first safety body (crumple zones)
  - 1969 – Establishment of Mercedes-Benz accident research
  - 1978 – Electronically controlled anti-lock braking system (ABS)
  - 1980 – Pyrotechnic airbag, seat belt tensioner
  - 1989 – Automatically raised roll-over bar
  - 1995 – Electronic Stability Program (ESP®)
  - 1996 – Brake Assist (BAS)
  - 1998 – DISTRONIC adaptive cruise control
  - 1999 – Active Body Control (ABC), tire pressure monitor
  - 2002 – PRE-SAFE® preventive occupant protection system
  - 2003 – Active light function
  - 2005 – DISTRONIC PLUS, Brake Assist PLUS, Night View Assist
  - 2006 – PRE-SAFE® Brake, Intelligent Light System
  - 2009 – Speed Limit Assist, Lane Keeping Assist, Blind Spot Assist, ATTENTION ASSIST drowsiness detection
  - 2010 – Active Lane Keeping Assist, Active Blind Spot Assist ; LED high-performance headlamps
-

## Auto Bild names E-class 2011 Value Champion



In a value retention test carried out by *Auto Bild* magazine in cooperation with EurotaxSchwacke, the Mercedes-Benz E-class has been named the 2011 Value Champion. According to residual value forecasts, a four year old E-class will have the lowest loss of value in the upper range segment. After four years, the E300CDI BlueEfficiency station wagon will retain 54.8% of its current original value.

Four other Mercedes-Benz autos placed among the top three models in other categories. The C250CDI BlueEfficiency station wagon was among winners in the midrange segment, the S250CDI BlueEfficiency was among the top three winners in the luxury segment, and the GLK350CDI and ML350CDI were among the top SUVs.

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## Infiniti Performance Line may receive AMG power

From [emercedesbenz.com](http://emercedesbenz.com)



Back in April, we brought you news of a partnership between Nissan and Daimler and now we have news that certain Infiniti models may carry “Powered by AMG” badges. Nissan’s Luxury Line, Infiniti, is considering all options for their Performance Line, dubbed Infiniti Hot Models by British Magazine *Autocar*. Options include styling add-ons to full-blown Performance Hot Models with AMG Engines built on the main production line.

Read more at the following link:

<http://www.emercedesbenz.com/autos/mercedes-benz/corporate-news/amg-engines-expected-to-power-infinitis-performance-line/>

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## 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.

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## Give the gift of MBCA membership for 2011



Christmas has come and gone. However, that doesn't mean it's too late to give a belated Christmas gift or a New Year's gift to a Mercedes-Benz owner who hasn't been introduced to MBCA. Some people were lucky enough to buy or receive a Mercedes-Benz as a Christmas gift, but they're not a Club member, so why not help them complete their Mercedes-Benz ownership experience with a Club 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.

Make a resolution for 2011 and resolve to give a MBCA gift membership. It's the gift that gives all year long! For more info, go to [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org), or call the National Business Office M-F 8am-5pm MT at **1-800-637-2360**.

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# 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**

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto:chapmand49@yahoo.com)



## MBCA | Houston Section

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

## 2011 Upcoming Events

### 125th Anniversary of Mercedes-Benz

January 29

### Bowling Tournament

January 30 at Palace Lanes on Bellaire Blvd.

### 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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