



The Houston Star

MBCA Houston Section Newsletter

**July
2010**

www.mbca.org/houston

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The Fifth Annual Texas Mercedes-Benz Get Together

By: Joseph Middleton

Every summer, I try to put on an event for all Texas Mercedes-Benz owners. This year was no exception. On Saturday, June 5, 2010, about 10 Mercedes-Benzes gathered at Cracker Barrel in North Houston to assemble for the caravan to the Fifth Annual Texas Mercedes-Benz Get Together in Centerville, some 100 miles north. The Houston contingent consisted of SLs, SLKs, a 6.9, a 300D, a SEC, and some E-classes. At 10:15am, the Houston crew set forth and made the trek north on I-45 to Centerville. Upon arriving in the reserved parking lot at Woody's Smokehouse in Centerville, we found some of our friends from Waco and Houston had already beaten us there. In the next 15 minutes, our other partners from Dallas and Austin arrived and we all went inside for a BBQ lunch. The excellent staff at Woody's treated us to free baseball caps, drink cozys, and free samples of turkey jerky, beef jerky, and buffalo jerky. After eating, we made our way to Fort Boggy State Park for the Show and Shine. After voting, the award winners were announced.

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President's Message

Hi MB Enthusiasts,

We had a pretty busy month in May with all of the events that were planned and participated in. With the heat already upon us, June and July will be less active outdoors. Keep a look out for an indoor event this summer on 7/17, Wings and Wheels at Hobby Airport (**see page 9 for more info**).

I recently had the opportunity to join BMW for their ultimate drives, introducing the new 5 series and several of their other models, which were either updated or recently introduced. What was fun about this again was the competition they included from Mercedes and Lexus. For just about every line of models they had, there was a top competitor, two for the 5 series, and one for the 3 series that you drove back to back thru downtown and some freeway driving. My intent was to compare the new E Class against the new 5. Unfortunately the E was involved in a mishap at the dealership and couldn't make it that day. I'm always impressed when manufacturers provide entertainment and hands on data collecting for buyers. This allows one to compare immediate differences in a certain model range. It's even better when this is done without a pressured representative clogging your judgment. Mercedes is overdue for one of these events. There are some impressive models and refreshes coming up. Mercedes, are you listening? If you participated in this event last month and were able to drive the new E next to the new 5, please send a few comments.

Upcoming events. **July:** Cars N Coffee: **7/3/10**, Wings & Wheels: **7/17/10**. September Fall Social: **TBA**. **October:** TGA Oktoberfest, and Fall Autocross. **December:** Holiday Brunch. Dates for all will be announced soon.

Thanks,
Damon Stith
Houston Section President

Editor's Note

First of all, let me begin this note by thanking Peter "Buzz" Werner for his nearly two years of service as newsletter editor. I know the old saying goes, "you have some big shoes to fill", but I hope you don't mind if I bring my own pair of shoes to fill as I follow in Buzz's footsteps! With the help of my fellow members, I want to make this the best newsletter possible, perhaps even making it an award winning newsletter. To reach that goal, I can't do it alone. So I'm asking, when you go to club events, take plenty of photos (preferably digital) and be sure to send me your photos so I can consider them for publication. If you have a self-written article that's relevant to the club and you want it published, send it to me. If you come across some Mercedes-Benz related news, send that too! I have created an e-mail address just for the purpose of receiving material for publication, and that e-mail address is editorjoseph@gmail.com. Keeping with our Section theme of going green and the National club's theme of advancing MBCA into the 21st century, I would like to keep all submissions e-mail based. Speaking of such, this newsletter is e-mail only. If you are a Houston Section member and are somehow reading this newsletter and have not received it via e-mail, it's probably because you have not provided an e-mail address, or you have a bad e-mail address listed in the roster. To make sure you receive the latest in MBCA-Houston news, please update your e-mail information by e-mailing the info to geni@mbca.org, or by calling the National Business Office (NBO) Mon-Fri between 9am and 6pm Central Time at 1-800-637-2360. If you update your information (that includes postal mail and e-mail addresses), the NBO will e-mail you a **10% off coupon for any one item in the Club Store!** So, make sure your information is in order!

-Joseph Middleton, Houston Section Secretary and Newsletter Editor

Report: Mercedes-Benz S350 Bluetec joining lineup for 2011



Mercedes-Benz has confirmed to Autoblog that the S400 hybrid won't remain the only efficiency-minded member of the S-Class family for long. The S350 Bluetec will be coming to the U.S. market for 2011 as the first diesel S-Class since the mid-1990s. The S350 will use the same 3.5-liter turbodiesel V6 already used in Mercedes' ML, GL and R-Class SUVs. That engine is rated at 210 horsepower and 400 pound-feet and includes a urea injection system to treat the NOx emissions in the exhaust.

We expect the S350 to at least match – if not beat – the 22 mpg real-world results we achieved with the S400 gas-electric earlier this year, and it will probably have similar performance thanks to its exceptional torque. There is no word on pricing, but we anticipate it will sticker at or below the S400's \$87,950 base price for 2010.

[Source: [Autoblog](http://www.autoblog.com), <http://www.autoblog.com>]

MBCA-Houston welcomes the following new members

Garland Bauch

Duncan and Catherine Elliot

Michael Hendricks

George Kavalon

John Lovett

Fred Wagner

Welcome!

Willkommen!

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Fifth Annual Texas Mercedes-Benz Get Together

(continued from page 1)

In the category for best pre-1980 automobile, the winner was Mike Haney of Houston and his 1966 230SL. For the rest of the winners, a rather peculiar thing happened. For the first time in the history of the Show and Shine Awards, there were ties in at least 3 out of the 4 categories. For the 1980s category, the winners were Kevin Locke of Austin and his 1984 300D, and Matthias Funke of Dallas and his 1985 500SL Euro. For the 1990s category, the winners were Larry Jameson of Austin and his 1994 SL600, and Cory Gomes of Austin and his modified 1999 CLK430, complete with lambo doors and two tone paint. For the 2000s category, the winners were W.L. "Bill" Brutscher of Houston and his 2006 SL600, and Will Daca of Dallas and his 2009 CLS550. In all, there were about 28 cars at the get together and about 40 people were there. Many of the attendees let me know they were looking forward to next year's meet. I'm looking forward to next year, too. There's nothing like good food, good cars, and good folks. Here's to next year! Special thanks to the staff at Woody's Smokehouse, the park rangers at Fort Boggy State Park, and Margaret Moneyhon of *Centerville News*.

Another article about this event was published in the June 16, 2010 issue of *Centerville News*. Ed.



See more photos from this event on page 8.



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Technical Q & A

Question: Ever since an A/C shop converted my car to R134 it hasn't been blowing as cold as it used to. I had them double check it and they haven't found any problems. What do you think could be causing this? The car is a 1987 300SDL. Thank you.

Answer: It's definitely that time of the year again! Originally your car came with R12 refrigerant. When it is converted to R134 it does not run as efficiently. There are several options such as fitting a better condenser but the simplest option is reverting the system back to R12. R12 does cost more than R134 and isn't readily available in Auto stores, but you will prefer it in the long run. In the Houston heat you can't really rely on R134 in a system designed for R12. 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.

2010 StarFest



2010 StarFest[®] MBCA'S Premier National Event!

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Don't miss out on the Concours d' Elegance, Rally, Seminars, Clinics, Social & Track Events and much, much more in the Beautiful Shenandoah Valley!

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- MBCA National Special Event celebrating three German marques
- Friday, August 13, 2010 during Monterey Classic Car Week
- Rancho Cañada Golf Club, Carmel Valley, California
- Enter your Mercedes-Benz for judging or display only in the corral
- Register at www.motorsportreg.com, search on name or date of event
- For additional information, contact Laura Simonds, (650) 592-7613, simonds1@pacbell.net



Formula One United States Grand Prix to call Austin home



On May 25, Formula One announced that the Formula One United States Grand Prix will be held in Austin, TX from 2012 through 2021. While Formula One is no stranger to Texas (once holding races on the streets of Dallas), this will be the first time a facility specifically built for Formula One will be built in the United States. It looks like a Houston Section roadtrip to Austin in 2012 and beyond is in order!

More photos from Centerville

Photos Courtesy of Brent Fruzia



See more photos at the following links:

<http://tinyurl.com/27btb26>

<http://tinyurl.com/259vkr6>

Wings and Wheels Invite

Come join the Houston Section on Saturday, July 17, 2010 for Wings and Wheels at the recently restored 1940 Air Terminal Museum at Hobby Airport, located at 8325 Travelair Rd., just off of Telephone Rd. The Houston Section will represent the Wheels portion of this Wings and Wheels event, so we need a good number of cars to show up. The more, the better. We will meet at the museum at 12 noon. The admission ticket cost is \$10 Adults, and \$5 Kids (12 and under). The cost is waived if you fly-in, but be warned that driving your Mercedes-Benz fast along the freeway does not count as flying low! The ticket price covers lunch, static aircraft tours, special programs in the Starliner Theater, museum tours, and admission to the museum. A Cessna Skylark will be raffled off by the museum during the event. So if you want a chance to win it, call the museum for more information at (713) 454-1940. To RSVP for the event, or for more information, please contact Joseph Middleton at 713-828-4303, or via e-mail at "jmiddle122 at aol dot com."

Wings and Wheels Website: <http://www.1940airterminal.org/WingsAndWheels/>

Do you have a subscription to the EPC?

Whether you're an avid do-it-yourselfer who likes to get your hands dirty, or simply an owner who buys parts to have them installed by someone else, the Electronic Parts Catalog (EPC) needs to be part of your virtual toolbox. Sometimes, you'll walk into the dealer, or go to your favorite foreign auto parts store, or browse an online parts vendor looking for a part for your beloved Mercedes-Benz. No matter how much detail you use to describe the part to the person at the counter, or how long you browse for the part on the parts website, it just can't be found. The guy behind the counter is getting frustrated and has no idea what you're talking about, and the website is getting you nowhere. What to do? Easy! Subscribe to the EPC! It's the same software they use at the dealer, so it's the real deal. If you own a U.S. spec Mercedes-Benz, each one year subscription is free. If you own a Euro spec Mercedes-Benz, or just like looking for Euro parts to install on your U.S. spec car, you can get a subscription for World Cars for just \$12 a year. It's truly worth it. No longer will you get funny looks or an error message. Just enter your VIN, find the part you need and enter the part number into the website, or print it out and give it to the person at the parts counter and they'll find exactly what you need. After all, it's much easier for your parts guy to search for "123-984-00-61" rather than "that shiny spring clip thingy by the mirror".

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<http://epc.startekinfo.com/epc/home.jsp>

Mercedes-Benz Vehicle Quality at an All Time High



In the current quality study conducted by market research institute J.D. Power and Associates for the American market, Mercedes-Benz achieved the best result since 1990. The IQS study (“Initial Quality Study”) assessed the as-delivered quality of vehicles from model year 2010 after 90 days.

Read the article in its entirety at the link below

<http://www.mercedesbenz.com/autos/mercedes-benz/corporate-news/mercedes-benz-vehicle-quality-at-an-all-time-high/>

Xenatech to produce limited edition Maybach 57S coupe



German engineering firm, Xenatech, is collaborating with Daimler to build a limited edition Maybach 57S coupe. The 57S coupe is intended to compete with Rolls Royce’s Brooklands and Phantom coupes. The 57S coupe will remain the same length as the already long sedan, and will utilize the same 6.0 liter, 600hp V-12 twin turbo engine as the sedan. Only 100 examples will be built, and will sell for about \$800,000 each.

Mercedes Marketplace

Mercedes-Benz autos for sale
Location: Bellaire/SW Houston

1972 300SEL, 85,000 miles, garaged, \$1500 OBO.

1984 500SEL, 155,000 miles, \$1000 OBO.

1988 190E 2.6, high mileage, garaged, \$900 OBO.

Call Angie: 832-453-9698

1983 Mercedes-Benz 380SL

Pristine. Red with red hard-top and black soft-top. Natural leather. **53,500 original miles**. TOTALLY ORIGINAL with exception of dealer-installed double timing chain. Absolutely no body work or rust. Always garaged and regularly serviced, all/most records. Purchased in 1994 from second owner with 39,000 miles. New Michelin tires, spare never out of trunk. A/C converted to non-FREON refrigerant.

As original as minor repairs will permit. New Alpine radio purchased, but not yet installed. The black soft-top is original and has a totally clear plastic window. The hard-top is removable. I can provide a rack for vertical storage of the top. I also have a new, high-quality car cover. **Asking \$18,000**. Call: 713-850-1128.





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2010 Upcoming Events

Wings & Wheels
July 17

Fall Social/Elections
September 2010

Oktoberfest @ TGA
TBA

Fall Autocross
TBA

Board of Directors Meeting
July 6

Board Meetings are open to all MBCA-Houston 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 of Houston Greenway. 3900 Southwest Freeway. Houston, TX 77027.

Moving?

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

Going green!

Remember, if your email has changed from that which you gave to MBCA when you joined, or you just want to make sure you receive the future electronic editions send your preferred e-mail address to damstith@yahoo.com.

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