



The Houston Star

MBCA | Houston Section Newsletter

June
2011

www.mbca.org/houston

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Ali Durvesh and friends go on a tire smoking fun run in his 1994 E420.

Spring Autocross 2011

By: Mike Haney

The Spring 2011 Autocross was without a doubt one of the most interesting events we've had in awhile. The Weather was gorgeous, my SL was running great and we had a ton or RSVP's. Confidence was high that this was going to be a great day. Reality quickly set though in when I arrived at the site loaded down with cones equipment and find only ONE car there for the event! (Props to Richard) Then, the lot which we'd reserved for the day had roughly 40 cars parked in it... AND... there were two enormous trucks unloading some heavy equipment in the middle of our staging area!

Sometime between disbelief and bewilderment cars began to trickle in... and the big trucks finished their work and left. Ok, so it looked like we'd have enough cars for the event after all, but what to do about the course? All of our designs are based on the full lot. Ok, time for some seat of the pants design work! I grabbed a sheet of paper and scrawled out what could best be described as a series of rough turns and slaloms that kinda-sorta used as much of the available lot as we had available to us.

(See "Spring Autocross" on page 5)

President's Message

Hi M-B Enthusiasts;

The heat is on. It's once again time to check radiator hoses, coolant reservoirs and all fittings for cracks and any seepage as well as water pumps. No one here likes to be without air conditioning or stranded on the side of the road in the hot sun. Also, as precaution be sure to clear debris any areas accessing the radiator, it's amazing what damage a few leaves can do. The Motorwerks Tech session wasn't well received as a result of lack of attendance. If there's a more desired tech session topic please let us know to reschedule and show our support of this highly reputable and dedicated facility.

Please see in the newsletter for upcoming events right around the corner in June/July: Centerville Trip and Summer Social.

Hope to see you.

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



Summer Social at Peli-Peli

Come to our Summer Social at 5pm Saturday, June 18th at Peli-Peli, located in Vintage Park (Highway 249 and Louetta). Cost is \$30 per person.

Send all inquiries and RSVPs to mbca.houston@gmail.com.

See www.peli-peli.com for eatery info.

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

Welcome!

Lillian Brigman of Houston, TX

John Fisher of Houston, TX

Richard Wilcox of The Woodlands, TX

Willkommen!

MBCA | Houston Section thanks these loyal Club members

Ray and Lucero Bruck of Houston, TX

Miguel and Martha Castano of Sugar Land, TX

Coach Gavrel of Houston, TX

K. and Roberta Hedges of New Braunfels, TX

Patricia Jacobs of Reno, NV

Pickens and Faye Jones of Spring, TX

George Kavalon of Houston, TX

David Martin of Katy, TX

Nina Midway and Joy Hannush of Houston, TX

Ted Novosad of League City, TX

Frederick and Alice Perrenot of Houston, TX

Ray and Cecilia Schutter of Houston, TX

Fred Wagner of Houston, TX

Serve on your MBCA Board

Every September, MBCA | Houston elects and re-elects Officers and Board Members. This is **YOUR** Club. **YOU** should have a say in how things are run and perhaps most importantly, you should have a hand in running your Club. Fresh faces and fresh ideas are welcome and will help us avoid complacency and stagnancy. If you are a committed person and have a desire to serve in your Club, please step up by sending an e-mail with your name and the position which you are interested in holding to mbca.houston@gmail.com. Please note that these positions are open to MBCA members **ONLY**.

While all positions are open for nomination, we currently have vacancies in the following positions:

Vice President
Board of Directors (Director At Large)
Activities Chair
Advertising Chair
Hospitality Chair
Official Club Photographer
Technical Chair
Website Chair (Webmaster)

Please send in all nominations to be published in the September issue of the Houston Star by August 20, 2011. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the Members Appreciation/Election Dinner in September.

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Spring Autocross (continued from page 1)

Luckily, the Lotus club had been invited to join us and they turned out in force. In fact, there were more Lotus' there than there were Mercedes. But it was a gorgeous day and there was racing to be done! So the army of volunteers and I set out to try and layout a useable course from my scrawlings while the Lotus Club setup their wireless timing system to demonstrate for us. The course layout was rushed, challenging and VERY tight, but we had to play the hand we were dealt. Once we had a layout in place I gave it a run-through in my SL and made a few more tweaks and gave it the greenlight. As always, we had the drivers walk the course and to get a feel for it. This course was TIGHT, but considering the number of Lotus' in attendance it certainly worked well for their lighter chassis and stiffer suspensions.

Our traditional BBQ lunch was enjoyed by all as more cars continued to arrive. Once the racing began, it was clear the Lotus Club was going to have a great day. Due to the mix of cars, I adjusted to classes to keep it fair for all. When the smoke cleared we had a total of sixteen drivers in four categories.

Class-A was strictly Mercedes with Ali Durvesh taking first place in a 1994 E420 with a best time of 56.21. Second place went to Joseph Middleton in the same E420 with a time of 58.81. Third place went to Miguel Castano in his slick little SLK with a best time of 62.52.

Class-B a mix of six-cylinders with Tor Taklo (who arrived late and ran the course WITHOUT a map OR a walkthrough) turning in some blistering times in his BMW 325i, Tor's best time of 48.69 was also the fastest run of the day! (imagine how well he'd have done if he'd seen the course before running it!). Second place went to Mike Haney in his 1966 230SL with a best time of 56.54. Third place went to Harry Simeonidis in his gorgeous 1968 280SL with a best time of 57.15.

Class-C was also a mix of cars with Ted Ankrum lighting up the course in his Nissan GT-R, turning in a best time of 49.59. Second place went to David DiGloria in his Mistubishi Evo with a best time of 51.37. Third place went to Marios P. in his Audi A6 with a best time of 57.76.

[\(See "Spring Autocross" on page 6\)](#)



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Spring Autocross (continued from page 5)

Class-D was all Lotus, with Ken J. turning in a best time of 49.26 in his Lotus Caterham. Second place went to Paul Kwan (also in a Caterham) with a best time of 50.96. Third place went to Akshay J. in his Lotus Elise with a best time of 51.56.

Considering the daunting challenges the day began with, we had a great event filled with good food, good weather, good times and great cars! Thanks go out to Paul and the Lotus Club for helping with the setup and using their timing system, as well as to LoneStar College - Kingwood for their continued support of our club.

Hope to see you all at the Fall Autocross!



See more photos in our Photobucket album:

<http://s836.photobucket.com/albums/zz290/MBCAHouston/2011%20Spring%20Autocross/>

Technical Q & A

Question: With summer almost here I've discovered a problem when using the A/C in my 1984 300D. It seems to only be blowing air out of the two side vents and the defrost vents on the dash. Last year it was blowing out of the center vents but not the defrost vents. What do you think has gone wrong to change where the airflow is directed?

Answer: That is a common problem with the W123 cars. It sounds like you have a vacuum leak causing the vents to go to their 'default' position, which is side and defrost vents. The leak could be outside the climate control system causing a shortage of vacuum for everything, including climate control. It could also be inside the climate control. There are vacuum pods which are used to open and close flaps to control the airflow. These pods commonly leak vacuum and replacing all of them requires removing the dashboard. I recommend doing them all at once for peace of mind, because if one fails another is likely to fail soon if they are original.

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.

Motorwerks Tech Session

By: Marvin Boyd

Sunil Patel, the car doctor, graciously hosted a tech session Saturday May 14, 2011 at Motorwerks. **Shame on you.** You did not attend, missed a great opportunity to learn from an expert and **contributed to the embarrassment of your Club.** This tech session warranted attendance by more than **three** Mercedes Club members.

Sunil explained the operation of ABS brakes in the nano second world; the greatest advancement in braking since the advent of hydraulic brakes. He talked about air over hydraulic suspension operating at up to 16 bars (2500 psi) air pressure. He mentioned two Mercedes model that have perennial problems with this system.

Disassembled on the work bench was an automatic transmission out of a Porsche. Automatic transmissions are manufactured for Porsche by Mercedes. Sunil is doing a modification which will in essence upgrade the seven speed transmission to a nine, ten or eleven speed unity. Other Porsche owners have been very satisfied with this type of conversion.

The grand door prize was won by Richard Wilkins. Damon Stith won the second place prize and Marvin Boyd won the consolation prize. You should have been there.



Sixth Annual Texas Mercedes-Benz Get Together

It's almost time for the **SIXTH** Annual Texas Mercedes-Benz Get Together! If you've attended this meet in the past, then you'll already know that it's always a fun time, and I hope to see you again this year! If you have not attended this meet before, why not make this year your first time to attend? The meet will be held on Saturday, June 11, 2011 in Centerville, TX with lunch at Woody's Smokehouse, and a Show and Shine at Fort Boggy State Park. A caravan of cars going to Centerville from Houston will meet in the parking lot of the Cracker Barrel located at 14765 North Freeway (located on the southbound I-45 feeder road just south of Airtex Dr.). We will have our pre-departure assembly in the rearmost portion of the Cracker Barrel parking lot near the Guesthouse Inn & Suites hotel at 9:45 am, and will depart at 10:15 am for a 12:00 noon arrival in Centerville. If you wish to have breakfast at Cracker Barrel or at the neighboring Whataburger, you can arrive earlier than 9:45 am, just be ready to pull out with the group at 10:15am. There will be reserved parking and a BBQ lunch in a room reserved especially for the group at Woody's Smokehouse, located on the northbound side of I-45 in Centerville. After lunch, the group will head 4 miles south on State Highway 75 to Fort Boggy State Park for a show and shine. Park entry is **FREE**. After the show and shine, awards will be handed out based on People's Choice for the best vintage model (pre-1980), best 1980s model, best 1990s model, and best 2000s model.

For all inquiries regarding this meet, including RSVPs, please contact Joseph Middleton at 713-487-8197, or via email at editorjoseph@gmail.com



Wings and Wheels at Hobby Airport



Join us for Wings and Wheels at the 1940 Air Terminal Museum at Hobby Airport on July 16 starting at 11am. Admission is \$5. The museum is located at 8325 Travelair Road. Houston, TX 77061. For all inquiries regarding this meet, including RSVPs, please contact Joseph Middleton at editorjoseph@gmail.com.

DriverSource Tour



Save the date. MBCA | Houston will be visiting DriverSource on Saturday, August 27 at 11am. There will be refreshments provided by the Club and rare cars galore. Don't miss this opportunity to see one of Houston's premier automotive attractions.

AMG Miami Beach Polo: Sport of Kings

By: Kimatni Rawlins of Automotive Rhythms

There is never a bad time to visit Miami Beach; we all know that. Yet, when you commingle Beach Polo, AMG performance vehicles and an enthusiastic and overly joyous crowd, your visit to South Florida suddenly escalates to a higher plane. Mercedes-Benz, a genius with meshing their brand with respected and well-known sporting and entertainment events such as New York Fashion Week and the U.S. Open, decisively chose its AMG performance unit to integrate with the 8th Annual tournament, now dubbed AMG Miami Beach Polo World Cup.

Now in their second year as title sponsor of the tournament, the German luxury automaker felt a compelling story could be told by sponsoring the Sport of Kings. You see, Polo reflects on the power and performance of the thoroughbred ponies bred and trained from birth for the sport. The physical play of the game, skills of the players, manipulation of the horses and fast pace of the matches correlates with AMG's "one man, one engine" philosophy as well as the company's ability to build some of the most daring and performance enhanced vehicles on the road today. The sponsor entitlements also allowed AMG to commemorate Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Miami & Mentoring Resource Center by way of the authentic Social Polo 2011 shirts (\$175) with 100% of the proceeds being charitable. In all, \$17,500 was raised for the charity.

The entertaining and energetic weekend consisted of both male and female Match Plays, a horse parade, LA Martina Fashion Show, a concert with reggae band Inner Circle and a John Walsh hosted (America's Most Wanted) private event to benefit the center for Exploited Children. Walsh is also an ardent player for the AMG Polo team and rightfully enjoyed his time in the sand. AMG also unleashed its all-new 2012 CLS63 AMG and its new AMG biturbo V8 engine instilled with up to 550 horsepower. I had the pleasure of experiencing this luxurious and sporty beast a few months back in San Diego. The kinetic energy between man and machine is one of the most glorifying experiences when you unite the vehicle. So I really didn't mind seeing the CLS63 AMG on display at the AMG Miami Beach Polo Tent. Yet, others were enamored with the four-door sports car and grinned from ear to ear. As well, the gull-winged Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG was a prominent component of the aesthetically pleasing environment as it took on double duty at the host hotel, The Raleigh, and at the beach.

Although I'm not the most well versed fan of Polo, I quickly educated myself and became intrigued with the sport which dates back some 3,000 years. The equation for beach polo features two teams of three gallant players who battle in an enclosed sanded area with the objective to score points by hitting a rubber or leather inflated ball with a mallet into the opponent's goal. There are four seven-minute periods called chukkers and the team with the most goals at the end of regulation wins. Now I was all dialed in and conversed with players, fans, social elite and sponsors as if I were the weekend's host. The "aaahhhss" and "ooohhhs" became the standard audio during Match Play while DJs and live musical entertainment kept everyone on their toes at intermissions.

Watch viewing at the Hublot pop-up boutique distracted me often and Grey Goose definitely kept everyone in the VIP loose. It's a day on the beach watching Polo. How much better does it get?



Daimler Heritage: June 2011

100 years ago – on 24 June 1911:

Juan Manuel Fangio was born. He is recognised as the most outstanding racing driver of the 20th century. His name is inseparably linked to Mercedes-Benz. In 1954 and 1955 he achieved key international successes for the brand, including the Formula 1 world championship title. He died on 17 July 1995.

100 years ago – in June 1911:

The Mercedes 8/18 hp went into series production at DMG, adding a further lower-priced, small-displacement model to the model range. At the same time, Daimler's rival in Mannheim launched the Benz 8/18 hp, a small car developed by design engineer Karl Ketterer in the summer of 1910 in the course of an internal competition at Benz.

25 years ago – from 10 to 14 June 1986:

The O 405 T trolley bus, a joint development with Dornier and AEG incorporating an innovative electric drive, was unveiled at the "transport '86" fair in Munich.

eMercedes-Benz.com: Mercedes-Benz to Build Bentley Continental GT Competitor



Reports are coming in that Mercedes-Benz is considering a high-performance four-door that would fall above the CLS and give it a rival to Bentley's Continental GT.

The dedicated hot model was described to UK's Autocar as an "über-CLS". It's likely that it would have an even more dramatic shape than the coupé-like CLS and feature AMG engines and chassis tuning to justify a considerably higher price.

Mercedes believes that it can slot the model into its range — alongside the CL two-door — because of the burgeoning market for ultra-expensive, high-performance models, particularly in Russia and the Middle East. Sorry to our readers in the U.S., they are not building this one for you.

Mercedes is determined to take a larger slice of those sales, bullying aside Bentley's offering and a forthcoming extreme Porsche Panamera GT.

A possible Maybach spin-off of the four-door is also a distinct possibility, say our sources, pointing to the interest shown in the striking one-off 62S Coupé (pictured) that has been displayed at motor shows by German engineering firm Xenatec.

Source: AutoCar.co.uk

North Texas Section DIY Tech Session

What: "Do-It-Yourself" Tech Session

When: Saturday, July 16, 2011

Where: Louden Motorcar Services

11454 Reeder Road, Dallas, 75229

Time: 8:00am to 12:00 Noon

Dress: Work clothes

Bring: Tools, Parts, Enthusiasm, Questions

Next stop on our 2011 "Do-It-Yourself" Tech Session season is Louden Motorcars in Dallas. Loudens opens up their fine facility to us and mans it with their knowledgeable technicians and provides hot coffee, friendly advice and an opportunity to make some new friends, meet a mechanic and learn a lot about your car.

Louden Motorcar Services has been servicing BMW, Porsche, and Mercedes in Dallas since 1977. Steve Louden, founder and president, has been associated with the automobile business since 1958. He spent ten years building and racing sports and formula cars, and another twelve years in a variety of management positions with the Ford Motor Company. This experience included four years of dealership assistance for service related problems.

The company has always striven for quality with attention to details. Steve Louden learned the importance of details from his racing days, and applies these same high standards to today's streetcars.

James Moir, Vice President of Operations and Service Manager, oversees daily operations and offers personalized and friendly service to every customer. You can always talk to someone with the authority to solve your problems.

Email our Technical Director Hyatt Cheek at mbcantx@gmail.com, or ring him up at: 214/327-6890 to reserve your spot for \$10.00, otherwise, its \$15.00 at the door, so, it's best to reserve by phone and stop by on Saturday; the earlier, the better. Autohaus' state-of-the-art service facility and parts department will open to us for four hours.

Legends of the Autobahn

WEST COAST SUMMER CONCOURS



LEGENDS OF THE AUTOBAHN CONCOURS RETURNS TO MONTEREY HISTORICS WEEKEND IN AUGUST 2011

After a very successful 2010 inaugural year, the Legends of the Autobahn: West Coast Summer Concours returns as part of the Monterey Historics Weekend in 2011 on Friday, August 19. Co-hosted by the Mercedes-Benz Club of America (MBCA), the BMW Car Club of America (BMWCCA), and the Porsche Club of America (PCA), Legends of the Autobahn has become one of the “must see” attractions of this world-renowned automotive weekend.

The one-day Legends event brings enthusiasts, owners, and aficionados of distinctive German cars together to view some of the finest marques in the world. Held on the greens of the beautiful Rancho Cañada Golf Club in Carmel Valley, California, Legends attracted an audience of over 1,000 to view the 250 cars on display in its first year. Organizers are expecting an increase in numbers for 2011.



“This year Mercedes-Benz is celebrating the 125th anniversary of the invention of the automobile and MBCA is celebrating the club’s 55th anniversary,” according to Laura Simonds, MBCA National Treasurer and an event coordinator. “With Mercedes-Benz as a featured marque at the weekend’s famed Pebble Beach Concours, this is sure to be an epic weekend for any Mercedes-Benz enthusiast.”

New, experienced, and non-auto enthusiasts are encouraged to attend for the fun and fervor of the show. For those interested in entering the Concours (1991 or older vehicles), a \$60 entry fee will apply. For those wishing to enter their vehicle in display-only corral (any vintage), a \$30 entry fee will apply. Spectators are welcome with no admission fee. There will be food, displays, and club booths where guests can enjoy the cars, mingle, get educated, and more.



Organizers of the event encourage MBCA members to arrange their own caravans for travel to Monterey in August. Hotel reservations should be made as early as possible as this weekend draws people from all over the globe to local hotel rooms. A good on-line resource for reservations can be found at www.resort2me.com. The San Francisco Bay Area Section of MBCA is planning a post-concours reception and dinner for all MBCA members and their guests. For details on the dinner visit the section website at www.mbca.org/sfba and navigate to the event calendar.

To register on-line visit www.legendsoftheautobahn.com/mbca. The discounted “early bird” registration deadline is August 1, and all registration closes on August 12. For more information, contact Laura Simonds at simonds1@pacbell.net or 650-592-7613, or Robert Schilling at res.mbca@offserver.com or 650-619-7550.

Mercedes Marketplace

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 \$11,500 and entertaining all reasonable offers.

Email: weschain@gmail.com



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/repared 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 \$15,000

713-557-2741

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 or (713) 850-1128.

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



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



MBCA | Houston Section

Joseph Middleton, Editor

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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, or update your info at:
<http://www.mbca.org>

2011 Upcoming Events

Sixth Annual TX MB Get Together

June 11

Summer Social at Peli Peli

June 18

Wings and Wheels at Hobby Airport

July 16

DriverSource Tour

August 27

Board of Directors Meeting

July 5

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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