



The Houston Star

MBCA Houston Section Newsletter

**June
2009**

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SPRING AUTOCROSS

Another autocross, another gorgeous day... We were taunted with clouds and the occasional drop of rain but as always, the weather for the Spring Autocross was near perfect!

We had one of the most diverse mix of cars in recent years attending the event with everything from a Jaguar XJ8 to a Cadillac CTS and even a Caterham (Lotus 7) running with our beloved Mercedes'. As has become the custom, once the course was laid out and the equipment was setup, we took a few minutes to enjoy a BBQ lunch and catch up with old (and new) friends. Once our appetites were taken care of we had our dessert in the form of racing!

The fastest time in "Class-A" was taken (at the cost of a LOT of rubber) by Mr. Stone in his AMG E55 with a best time of 55.94.

The fastest time in "Class-A" was taken (at the cost of a LOT of rubber) by Mr. Stone in his AMG E55 with a best time of 55.94.

"Class-B" was taken by Fred Mahler in his SLK32 with a best time of 56.59. Second place went to Gunter Sundag in his SL320 with a best

continued on page 3

President's Message

Hi All,

The weekend at Keels and Wheels was once again viewing water craft and automotive bliss. This year's honorees were Duesenberg and the cars of Carroll Shelby. Shelby himself who was scheduled to be this year's grand marshal was unable to attend due to the threat of swine flu that is plaguing the nation now. He's ok, but his medical advisers suggested he wait and return when his health would not be possibly compromised. We hope he comes back another year.

There were some of the most beautifully restored Shelby's and Duesy's. I actually had the privilege of judging Shelby Mustangs this year. Notably a white GT 350 that underwent a 2-1/2 year restoration. I never saw such a pristine example. The owner had every nut and bolt refurbished and even the proper paper tags and markings from whence it came down the assembly line. I still am in awe. One very interesting vehicle that made it was the only Tucker convertible in existence. It's known as the "Vera" as Tucker called it, was started but never finished at the factory. Benchmark Classics presented the unfinished car as it was. They do plan to complete it to specs that Mr. Tucker had planned. Look for it in upcoming periodicals.

Summer temperatures are upon us and it's time to crank up the A/C. It's also a good time to have it serviced. Make sure your refrigerant is at the recommended level. Check and inspect belts and components (compressor vacuum pump etc) are in good working order ready for the heat. No one wants to be without A/C during summer in Houston.

For upcoming events, we've scheduled a driving event with the Lotus club 6/20/09 at Grandsport Speedway on FM 2004 about 3 miles west of Gulf Freeway in Hitchcock (3 miles west of the dog track), space is limited for further details please email me at Damstith@yahoo.com. A trip to Centerville 6/27/09 headed up by Joseph Middleton that's always a good turnout. And an auto restoration scheduled for 7/25/09 more on that later...

Happy Motoring,

Damon Stith
Houston Section

SPRING AUTOCROSS (from page 1)

time of 61.84, followed by Ted Ankrum in his SLK350 with a time of 62.65.



“Class-C” was easily won by Chuck Wyatt in his C230K with a best time of 58.02. Second place was Damon Stith who made his 300SE do things I’m quite sure would void his warranty, bringing in a best time of 60.99. Third place was taken by Al Durvesh in his ’82 280SL with a best time of 64.66.

“Class-D” became the “non-MB” category and was absolutely dominated by Paul Kwan in his Caterham (Lotus 7) roadster. These cars are almost tailor-made for autocrosses and are extremely agile and quick. Paul’s best time was 54.78 seconds, a full 6+ seconds ahead of second place, taken by Wes driving the Cadillac CTS with a best time of 60.93. Third place went to Al Angulo in his Jaguar XJ8 with a best time of 63.06.



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SPRING AUTOCROSS (from page 3)

I hereby official DARE it to rain on the fall autocross... that's right, I dare the skies to open up!!! I've been doing these autocrosses for many years at this point and one day I WILL get to play in the rain!

I would like to thank the hordes of helpers that wrangle cones and equipment, coordinate the food and help make this event possible. I'd also like to thank Lone Star College for graciously allowing us to use their facilities, and I look forward to seeing everyone at the Fall Autocross (bring your raincoats!) ;-)

Mike Haney
MBCA - Houston Section



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A Glorious Group of Classics Touring Salzburg and the UK

from MercedesHeritage.com May 6,2009

Following a lifelong association with the Morgan Motor Car, in particular the Plus Four sports model of 1958-1962, which I have raced and rallied throughout the UK and Europe, I became enraptured by the fabulous lines of the Mercedes-Benz "Pagoda" SL roadster, also officially known as the Type W113 SL roadster. I just had to have one! Especially so, following a particularly wet rally in Wales in the Morgan, and watching the comfort of the competitors in a Pagoda! A 280SL soon joined the stable and we enjoyed many spirited events in the car. See the photos below.



What a fabulous collection of Classic Mercedes-Benz motor cars greeted us. From the 1929 SSKs, four of them. Several 1929

630Ks, and our own club (Mercedes-Benz Club, GB) technical expert Jeremy Stevens in his Type 170Vb sedan, and so many 300SL Gullwings and 300SL roadsters, I think all the factory ever made were there! Several Type W111 220SEb Fintails, and an exact replica of the Eugen Böhringer's W113 230SL roadster.

Carlsson releases the CK63-RS or Raising the SL63's game

March, 2009 OurSL

Merzig, Germany-based Mercedes tuner, Carlsson, has turned its talents to the 2009 SL63 and delivered a flat black thug that is capable of delivering you and a brave passenger to 100 km (62 mph) in just 4.1 seconds. That's damn quick and requires an awful lot of horsepower - 600 to be exact - to drag the relatively heavy SL down the road so quickly. As the press release notes, Carlsson "invigorates" the eight cylinder engine with "significantly more performance." Significant indeed, and significant enough to earn 0-100 km bragging rights by 1/2 second over arch-rival AMG.



Advancing the recent trend of matte finishes to its most extreme level yet seen, the CK63-RS's "Stealth Titanium Graphite" paint is a bold stroke and looks fabulous. At least to most California hot rodders. My brother's cool 40 Ford coupe was also painted Stealth Titanium Graphite but in 1962 we just called it flat black. In paint-speak, the reason this color is so "flat" is because it uses only five "gloss units" in its Standox paint chemistry compared to most matte finishes containing 20-25 gloss units. Sascha

Pfeffer, Standox's application technology manager, notes "the color shade still remains brilliant and is neither blurred nor milky." Absolutely, just like my brother's 40 coupe. I think most European enthusiasts will have a heart attack when they see the car, wondering when the car will be painted. That is, if they haven't already fallen over after hearing the \$349,673 price tag.

However, the CK63 may be a tough sell as a new SL65 "Black Edition" costs less and we believe the



new Gullwing due to arrive in a year or so will (probably) be significantly less. Of course, it's a niche car that will find buyers who simply need to own what most of their automotive peers cannot or will not own. If the brief for the CK63-RS was to build something quicker than AMG's offerings while offering an utterly unique appearance and integrating some special technical improvements, then Carlsson has succeeded. They just had to use AMG's platform to achieve their goal.

CENTERVILLE RALLY

The **FOURTH** Texas Mercedes-Benz Get Together is coming soon! Caravans leaving from Austin, the DFW Metroplex, and Houston will once again converge upon the midway point between Houston and Dallas on I-45 known as Centerville on Saturday, June 27, 2009 for a day filled with automotive fun.

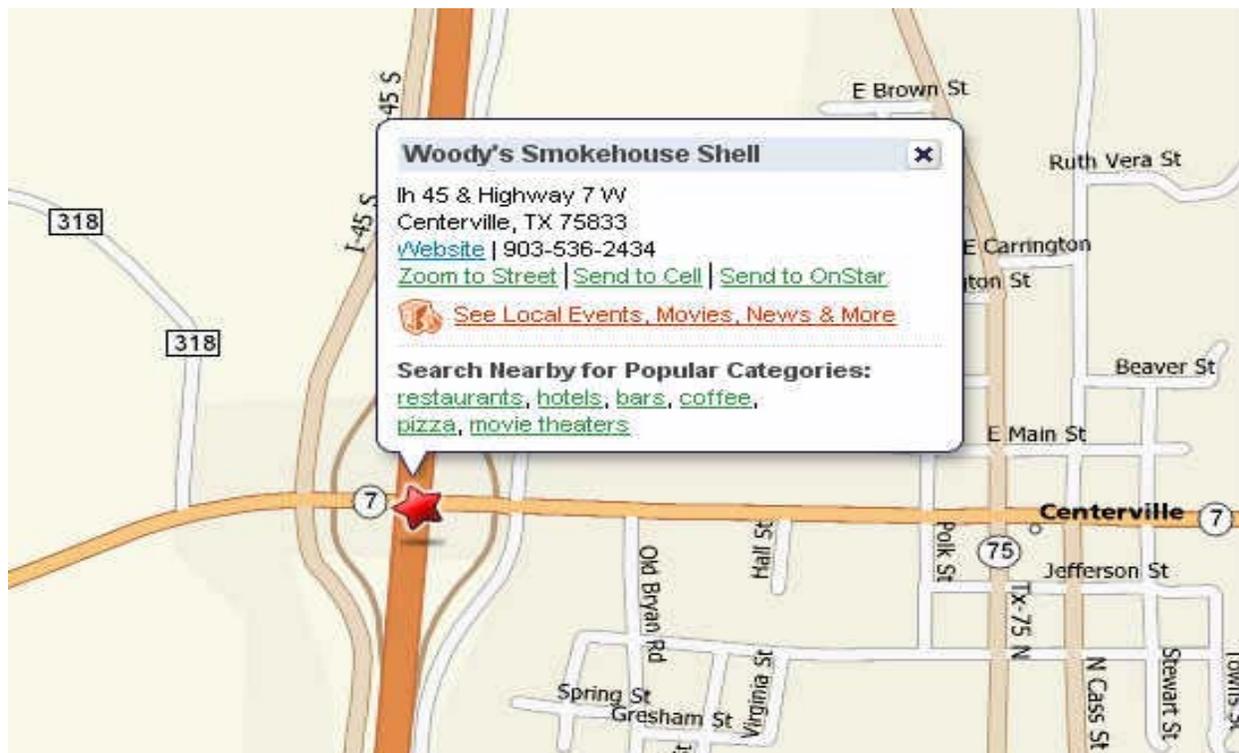
It doesn't matter what kind of Mercedes-Benz you have (or in some cases, don't have), old, new, pristine, ragged, diesel, gas, Sprinter, Smart, or whatever. We want **YOU** to attend this increasingly popular event. This get together has become so popular over the years that it has drawn repeat attendees from locations as far away as Tennessee, Mississippi, and Kansas.

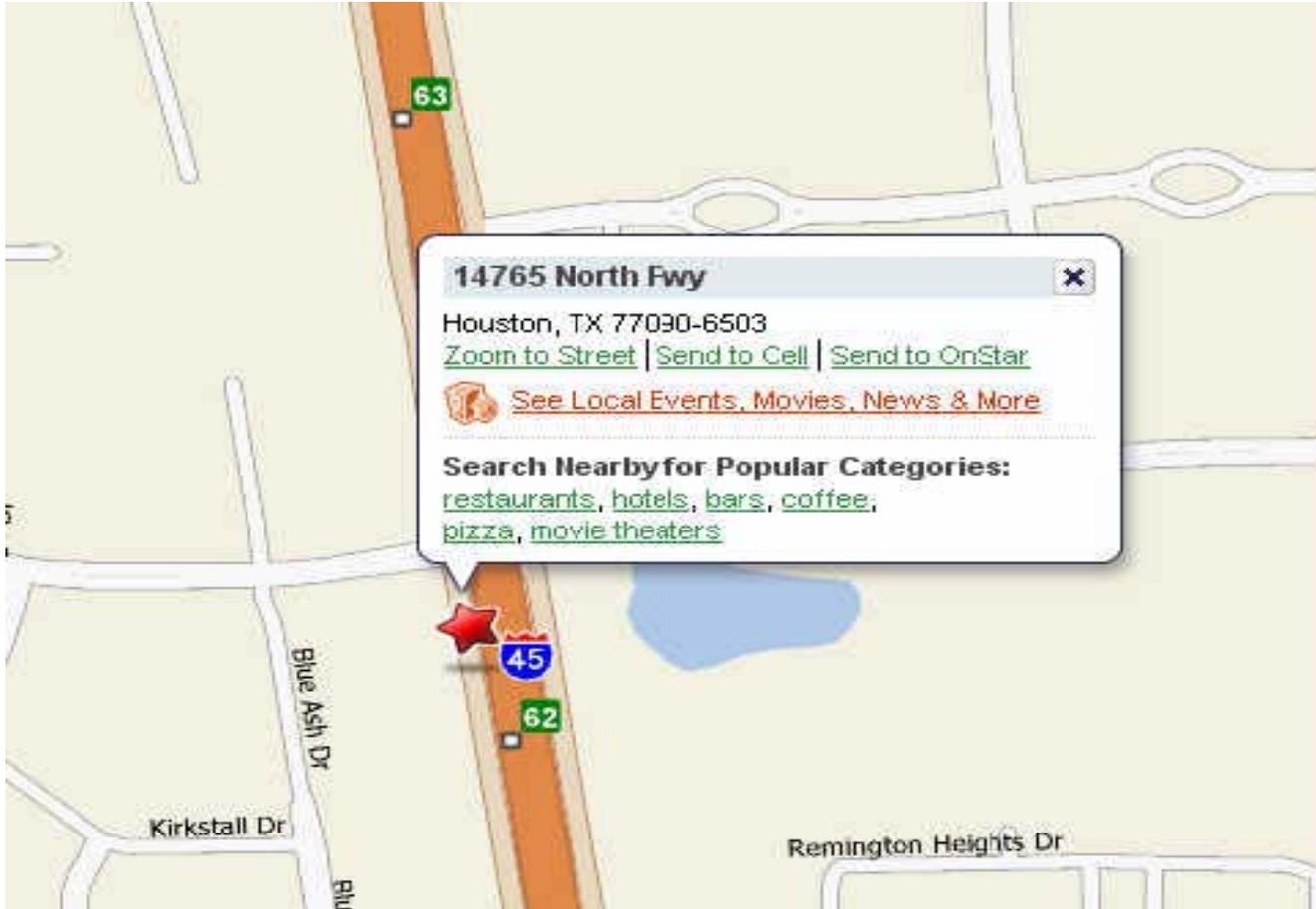
A caravan departing from Houston will meet at the rear of the Cracker Barrel parking lot on I-45 near Airtex at 9:45am and depart at 10:15am. We'll arrive in Centerville at Noon where we will head to Woody's Smokehouse on the northbound feeder road. Over the past three years, the staff at Woody's Smokehouse has treated our group well, with friendliness and excellent service. This year will be no different. At Woody's, we will have reserved parking and a BBQ lunch in a room reserved especially for our group.

After lunch, we'll caravan 4 miles south on Highway 75 to Fort Boggy State Park for the Show and Shine. Admission to Fort Boggy is now free. Four awards will be given to owners based on People's Choice voting for Best Vintage Model (pre-1980), Best 1980s model, Best 1990s model, and Best 2000-present model. So bring your camera, some water, sunscreen and maybe a hat, and prepare to have fun at the Premier event for all Mercedes-Benz owners in Texas.

Be sure to tell your family and friends who own Mercedes-Benzes about this event. If you don't attend any other Mercedes-Benz event this year, attend this one!

For more information, please contact Joseph Middleton at Jmiddle122@aol.com, or at 713-828-4303. This is not an event to be missed!





TEXAS PARKS & RECREATION
Fort Boggy State Park

Fort Boggy State Park map showing a trail system with various icons for amenities like water, restrooms, picnic tables, and parking. A legend on the right lists these icons: Water, Restroom, Picnic Table, Shelter, Gathering Area, Hiking Trail, and Park Trail. A "Rules" section lists park regulations such as "No pets allowed in day-use areas" and "No alcohol consumption". A "Park Reservations" box provides the phone number (512) 389-8900 and the website www.parks.texas.gov. The address "1001 Hwy. 29 South, Decatur, TX 75742" and phone number "979-942-1111" are also listed.

MBCA RAFFLE 2009

ENTRY DEADLINE: JUNE 15, 2009
DRAWING: JUNE 30, 2009



First Prize:
\$51,225 CASH
EQUIVALENT TO A
2009 SLK300
(actual car not shown)

Second Prize: \$40,620 CASH EQUIVALENT TO A 2009 C300 4MATIC SPORT SEDAN
Third–Fifth Prizes: \$5,000 CASH EQUIVALENT TO A GERMAN TOUR, TRIP FOR TWO



Ticket requests must be received before June 15, 2009. Raffle rules and entry information are available at www.mbca.org or on request from Raffle, 1907 Lelaray Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80909, (800) 637-2360 or (719) 633-9283 (fax)

Michigan Raffle license number R00611

Mercedes Marketplace

1985 Mercedes TD-T-300 Turbo Diesel

161K miles, Auto transmission, 5 cylinder, White exterior/Navy interior. Runs well. The interior and body are in excellent condition. Very clean. One owner; Sun roof; low mileage on tires; Garaged in Houston since purchase. \$5000. Call Louise or Bob 713-664-6706.



'82 Mercedes 300CD coupe turbo diesel



160K miles, Auto transmission, 5 cylinder, Brown w/Palomino interior. My car for the past 25+ years, it has been well cared for and is reliable, economical, and in excellent condition. Must be seen to be appreciated. **\$6500.00**

Call Gail Morrison 713 468-7776 or 713 201-5804 for an appointment.

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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Moving?

In order to change your address, go to the web site of the MBCA at:

<https://www.mbca.org/mbca/addchange.htm>

Want to know about events in a more timely manner?

For improved communication: If you desire to receive reminders and updates regarding Section events electronically please send your preferred e-mail address to service@danngo.com.

2009 Upcoming Events

Centerville Rally
June 27

Auto Restoration
July 27

Election Dinner
September 18

Octoberfest
October 18

Board of Directors Meeting

5:30 PM of 1st Tuesday of odd numbered months at the Mercedes-Benz Greenway dealership 2nd Floor Conference Room

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