



The Houston Star

MBCA Houston Section Newsletter

March
2005

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May 28th
Tech Session @ Casari's



Happy Days



Not-So-Happy Days

(Story begins on page 2)

President's Message



Yes, that's my beloved 1966 230SL you see smashed to smithereens on the previous page...

The photo at the top was taken during one of her adventures in Mexico... if you're familiar with my car then you know she's led a life that most people would be envious of... from her origins in the Fatherland, to island hopping in the mediteranian, to a run-in with the KGB in Russia at the height of the cold-war, to becoming a three time veteran of the legendary "La Carrera Panamericana" road race in Mexico... the girl has seen it all...

The photo at the bottom of the front page is how she looks at the moment... the result of a careless driver who couldn't see to turn left and just took a chance. The driver of the other vehicle was ticketed for an unsafe turn (in addition to other offenses), but alas, the young man is an undocumented "visitor" to our fair country and aside from neglecting to pay attention to his driving, he also neglected to have insurance, a drivers license, or even the remotest grasp of the English language.

Ok, so I'm venting a bit here... this car is more than just transportation to me, and I suspect that many of you feel the same way about your own MB's.

Sadly I've been through this sort of thing before and am prepared for the battle I will soon face. So, I thought this would be a good opportunity to remind each of you to go over your insurance policies to make sure that your cars have adequate coverage, that you've got more than just the basic limits on liability. If your car is a vintage or collector car then a recent appraisal is good to have on hand in such a situation. Look into collector car policies, but beware the limits some impose. Look into agreed value policies versus traditional policies. Call your agent and ask him what would happen if your car was destroyed or stolen... you might find the answer rather sobering.

So, here's what I've learned:

Love it, Enjoy it, and insure the heck out of it.. The numbers of uninsured motorists out there is staggering, and many of them have nothing to lose, and are never held accountable for their actions.

If any of you find yourselves in a similar situation, give me a call and I'll recommend a great appriaser who also happens to be a member of the Houston MBCA.

I'd also welcome any recommendations, advice or similar stories any of you may have. I've got twelve pages to fill every month, I can't think of a better use of the space than to help each other out by sharing experiences.

Mike Haney - President
MBCA - Houston Section

A very happy Helmut Holder in Southern Mexico with our race team for "La Carrera Panamericana". Sometimes I think Helmut is even more proud and protective of my 230SL than I am.



A very UN-happy Helmut Holder surveys the damage and prepares to once again, work his magic and bring my 230SL back to life, fast, better, and stronger than before.

She's hurt bad, but she's in the right place, and she's in the right hands.

We hope to have her back on the road in time for the 2005 running of "La Carrera Panamericana" in October.



Family reunion of sorts: Kathi & Warner Hoffman owned my 230SL from 1966 to 1996 and met our race team in Morelia, Mexico. The Hoffman's continue to share in the adventures of this amazing car.



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It's that time again!!! The Spring Autocross is Sunday Mar. 13th. at Kingwood College in Humble.

Event cost:
\$10 per driver for members

Drivers should be there by 12:30, event begins at 1:00pm

Contact:
Mike Haney 713-298-4580 for information



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Alphabet Soup - Mercedes-Benz Style:

"Understanding what some of the systems on your Mercedes-Benz are and how they operate will increase your driving and ownership experience. Like all manufacturers, even Mercedes-Benz is fond of acronyms, ASR, ADS, SOG, SRS, just to name a few. We will endeavor to explain some of these systems to you and how they operate to make your driving safer.

ABS: Anti-lock braking. A technology pioneered first in the aviation industry and introduced into automobiles by manufacturers such as Mercedes-Benz. ABS uses computers coupled to your braking system. It prevents your wheels from locking up during a panic stop, thus permitting you to maintain control of the vehicle. Contrary to common belief, ABS will not shorten the distance required to bring you to a stop.

ASR: Anti-Slip Regulation. Regulates wheel spin when accelerating. Excellent in poor or wet road conditions when loss of traction is possible.

ADS: Anti-Dive Suspension. Prevents the front of the vehicle from dipping down in hard braking and allows the driver to adjust suspension settings for sport or comfort.

ABC: Active Body Control. Keeps the body of the vehicle level during aggressive steering, braking or acceleration. The system utilizes suspension and braking controls.

ACSR: Automatic Child Seat Recognition. When equipped with this feature will automatically recognize a Mercedes-Benz child seat and disarm the front passenger air bag. Also, this system will not arm the passenger air bag if the seat is not occupied.

Aromatic: Air suspension system that allows automatic level control with increased vehicle loads. Lowers the vehicle automatically at high speed.

BAS: Brake Assist System. Operates in emergency braking situations. Measures the speed of the driver's foot coming off the gas pedal and onto the brake pedal. Full braking force is applied and ABS takes over allowing the driver to steer. When BAS is activated the driver will feel the brake pedal going to the floor. This is normal.

ESP: Electronic Stability Program. Using sensors located throughout the vehicle to anticipate a possible under or over steering condition that may cause the vehicle to skid. Sensors apply braking force to one or more of the wheels to prevent a skid from occurring. As with any traction system, the vehicle can be driven beyond the physical limits of the system. Always use care in poor driving conditions.

SBC: Sensotronic Braking. Designed to provide very fast and accurate braking response. During ABS and ESP operation the braking force to each individual wheel can be very accurately controlled.

SOG: Shift Optional Gearing. Operating through the electronic transmission controls in 2005, should the driver decide to shift to a lower gear the transmission will downshift to the lowest possible gear ratio permissible depending on vehicle speed.

RSW: Rain Sensing windshield Wipers. Automatically turns on the windshield wipers when it starts to rain. Also periodically lightly applies the brakes to remove possible water collecting on the brake pads or rotors."

The Houston Section of MBCA has been invited to bring out our vintage MB's to show off to the public at this year's Tomball German Heritage Festival.

Over 15,000 people are expected to participate in the fifth annual Tomball German Heritage Festival, scheduled for March 19-20, 2005, in Tomball, Texas. Co-Sponsored by the Downtown Tomball Merchants Association, *CountryStyle Texas Magazine* and the Tomball Sister City Organization, Inc., the celebration will take those in attendance on an overseas adventure to culture and festivities customary in Germany, without ever leaving the streets of Tomball.

Admission and parking for the festival is free. The opening ceremony will take place Saturday morning at 10 a.m. at 200 Market Street with a German "Oompah" band. The Armed Forces Color Guard will post the American, German, and Texas flags, and both the Mayor and German Consulate are scheduled to speak. On Sunday, an authentic church service will be held in the German language at 10 a.m.

The Tomball German Heritage Festival is a wonderful opportunity for the entire family to reconnect with their heritage or simply learn about a new culture. Children will enjoy the KinderFest section of the festival, where a petting zoo, inflatable amusements and other attractions will catch their youthful interests.

If you are interested in displaying your vintage Mercedes please contact Mike Haney @ 713-298-4580 to make arrangements.

more info @: <http://www.tomballsistercity.org/heritage-festival.html>
or: <http://www.thattexasmagazine.com/>

Tomball German

Heritage Festival

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Tomball - Teigle, Germany

Saturday, March 19th, 2005 from 10am-10pm
Sunday, March 20th, 2005 from 10am-6pm
• MAIN AT CHERRY ST. • INFO 281-379-6844 •

Mercedes Marketplace

For Sale: 1986 Mercedes Benz 560 SL. 141000 miles. Located at Odessa, TX. Hardtop hoist, factory tools, and new leather seats. For pictures and more info on condition of car, please email shootinjimster@yahoo.com.



For Sale 1972 Mercedes 350 SL 119,500 miles, Silver with black hardtop, always garaged, no rust, some paint blemishes on hood. Other than that the car is original, runs well. Both tops. \$ 10,500 o.n.o. Peter Parkin (281) 492-2937 peter.parkin@ge.com



Mercedes Marketplace



For Sale: 1970 280S - White with Red interior. Very nice original condition. Chrome is in great shape. Original paint. Presently, I'm hoping to find someone who will finish the work I have begun on this original survivor. It is ready for exterior cosmetics. Work that has been done includes: rebuilt Twin Solex carbs, camshaft turned, timing chain replaced, Duralevers installed, fresh Continental GT8000 tires, front speaker replaced, valve job, engine rebuilt, odometer rebuilt, speedometer cable replaced, new front brake calipers discs and pads, new muffler and exhaust, power steering pump, gas tank cleaned, new gas sending unit, blower motor(in trunk), new distributor, brake booster replaced, transmission overhauled, new battery, radiator cleaned, etc... Over \$11,000 invested, first \$6,000 gets to finish this project! Call Charlie or Cece at (281)354-8871.

MEMBERS: Marketplace ads for members cost \$5.00 for a text ad and \$20 for a picture & text ad. The ads will run for 3 months unless asked to repeat. ALL PICTURE ADS MUST BE PROVIDED IN DIGITAL FORMAT - NO HARDCOPY PHOTOGRAPHS.

NON-MEMBERS: Non-members may run text ads for \$10 or text / picture ads for \$25 per issue. ALL PICTURE ADS MUST BE PROVIDED IN DIGITAL FORMAT - NO HARDCOPY PHOTOGRAPHS.

Make your checks payable to MBCA and send to MBCA Editor, 5528 Jessamine, Houston, TX 77081. **IT MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 10th** of the preceding month's publication to make it into that month's issue.



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MBCA - Houston Section's website now posts the newsletters online every month in full color!!!
Log in and see:

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2005 Calendar of Events

March 13th 2005

Spring Autocross - Kingwood College
Mike Haney: 713-298-4580

March 19th & 20th 2005

German Heritage Festival - Tomball
Details on page 9

April 2005

Bluebonnet Rallye
Details pending

May 28th 2005

Tech Session @ Casari's (12470 Windfern)
Charles Wyatt - 281-469-7428

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