



# The Houston Star

**MBCA** | Houston Section Newsletter



March  
2012

[www.mbca.org/houston](http://www.mbca.org/houston)  
**In this issue**

President's Message  
Page 2

New Members and  
Loyal Members  
Page 3

Technical Q & A  
Page 9

Mercedes Marketplace  
Pages 11-15

**Upcoming Events**  
Page 16

## CL "Grand Edition": The epitome of the luxury coupé

By: Daimler AG

Mercedes-Benz is marking the anniversary of "60 years of the S-Class Coupé" with a new "Grand Edition" model. The features of the CL-Class "Grand Edition" include exclusive designo paintwork, high-quality designo leather appointments and sportily elegant 20-inch wheels. AMG bodystyling elements add a distinctive touch of sportiness, while a special badge indicates the exclusive nature of this anniversary edition of the luxury coupé.

The launch of the sensational 300 S in 1952 established the lineage of today's CL-Class. The large S-Class Coupés from Stuttgart have been considered the epitome of automotive refinement ever since. These two-door luxury-class coupés combine the comfort of a prestige luxury saloon with the dynamics of a sports car in the form of an exceptionally elegant tourer. They offer stunning design, exclusive appointments and top-flight technology. For its new "Grand Edition" special edition model, Mercedes-Benz has further honed the sophisticated and unmistakable style of this design icon, adding further to its cachet and maintaining the brand's leadership status in the luxury car segment.

In order to emphasise further the exclusive, hand-finished character of the CL-Class, Mercedes-Benz has furnished the "Grand Edition" with some of the finest ingredients from the exquisite designo range. Customers can choose between the three designo paint finishes of platinum black metallic, mocha black metallic and the currently very vogueish matt finish of magno cashmere white. A sporty note is added to the car's look by the AMG Sports package, with powerful front and rear aprons and distinctive side sill panels. Also included here are 20-inch light-alloy wheels in a choice of five-spoke or filigree 10-spoke designs. A "Grand Edition" badge provides a discreet indication of the CL Coupé's exclusive-edition status.

**(continued on page 5)**

## President's Message

Dear Club Members,

I know it's been quiet, but don't worry, we're still here. MBCA | Houston is going to start our calendar of events with a bang. We will be holding our first New Members Meet and Greet/Technical Session on Saturday, March 24, 2012 at 10am at Barbara Jordan High School. The Club has been working with Principal Andria Schur and Auto Shop Teacher Al Lloyd to put on an event that's sure to delight Club members both old and new. You don't want to miss out on this event. You can read more about the event on page 6.

The drought had me worried for a bit. I thought that the lack of rain during the Summer of 2011 might spell a dry Spring 2012 and a late wildflower season. Boy, was I wrong. The heavy rains in January and February quenched the parched, thirsty land, causing the Bluebonnets to actually bloom a bit early! Here's hoping they'll stick around long enough for our Bluebonnet Run on Saturday, March 31. See page 9 for more info.

Secretary Norm Glorioso is heading up an event for Pagoda owners and lovers on Saturday, April 28th. The event will consist of an 11am lunch at Benjy's on Washington, and a 1pm visit to the Museum of Fine Arts Houston's Hogg Mansion and Gardens at Bayou Bend. You can find info on this event on page 7.

I also want to take this opportunity to wish Automotive Rhythms a happy 10th anniversary. Kimatni Rawlins is the #1 man at Automotive Rhythms, and he is a friend of MBCA. The worldwide renowned automotive reviewer, whose company is regarded as "The Urban Automotive Experience", has allowed the Houston Section to publish his new car reviews in the *Houston Star*. You can read the latest Mercedes-Benz review from Automotive Rhythms on page 8. We thank Kimatni for his kindness and wish him nothing but the best!

Happy motoring!

Joseph Middleton | President | [Mercedes-Benz Club of America](#) | Houston Section

---

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

*Welcome!*

*Willkommen!*

Akshay Kumar of Stafford, TX

Rodney McLemore of Houston, TX

Brian Stachitus of Katy, TX

Ethan Wood of Houston, TX

**MBCA | Houston Section thanks these loyal Club members**

Oluwole Ajeigbe of Richmond, TX

Lucy Archer of Kingwood, TX

Stephen Dernick of Houston, TX

Mel Dumo of Houston, TX

John and Patti Felker of Stafford, TX

J. and Celia Garcia of Houston, TX

---

# CASARI'S

**- Lifetime Warranty on Body & Frame Repairs -  
Porsche - Mercedes-Benz - BMW**

Glasure Original Paint System on Premises  
No Warranty on Rust Repair

Computer Analyzer

5 Year Warranty on Complete Paint Work  
1 Year Warranty on Mechanical Work

All OEM Replacement Parts

Laser Front & Rear 4-Wheel Alignment

Jorge Casari  
281-469-3302 - Phone  
281-890-2637 - Fax

12470 Windfern Road  
Houston, Texas



**Texas-German Autohaus, L.P.**

## **Service and Repair of MERCEDES and BMW Automobiles**

### **EUROPEAN PERFORMANCE**

Located on *Edloe St.*, between *Richmond* and *Westheimer*.  
State of the Art computerized equipment and tools.  
*Oil Change Special* while you wait.  
*Complimentary Shuttle Service* to your home or office.  
*Free oil & filter change using standard mineral oil or \$35.00 for synthetic motor oil, for new Mercedes Benz club members, with this ad. (Limit one per customer)*  
Factory trained and certified technicians.



**The TGA Team**  
*50 years of experience*  
visit online @ [www.t-g-a.com](http://www.t-g-a.com)

3417 Edloe St. Houston, Texas 77027  
Tel. (713) 850-8282 Fax (713) 850-8818

## Celebrating 60 years of the S-Class Coupe

(continued from page 1)

As with all CL models, the CL "Grand Edition" is also exceptional in technical terms. The active suspension system Active Body Control (ABC) with crosswind stabilisation, for example, sets the benchmark for driving dynamics and comfort on all rear-wheel drive CL models. Safety systems such as the drowsiness detection system ATTENTION ASSIST, PRE-SAFE® automatic emergency braking and the optional Active Blind Spot Assist, Active Lane Keeping Assist, and Adaptive Highbeam Assist systems, ensure that the CL takes pole position in the luxury coupé segment.

And the same is true of the engine range: the current V8 biturbo with a displacement of 4.6 litres and sophisticated spray-guided direct petrol injection system in the CL 500 BlueEFFICIENCY delivers 320 kW (435 hp), provides torque of 700 newton metres and opens up a whole new dimension of efficiency in the luxury coupé segment (9.5 l/100 km combined; 224 g/km CO<sub>2</sub>). The same engine is also used in the CL 500 BlueEFFICIENCY with 4MATIC all-wheel drive. The pinnacle of the engine range is provided by the CL 600 with its 380 kW (517 hp) 12-cylinder biturbo (displacement: 5.5 litres).

Irrespective of which base model is chosen, the CL "Grand Edition" is available for a package price of 4850 euros (excl. VAT). This represents a benefit to the customer of up to 38 percent. The complex designo magno paintwork is priced at an additional 1500 euros.



### F&J EUROPEAN AUTO PARTS INC.

6115 Clarewood  
Houston, TX 77081

SPECIALIZING IN MERCEDES BENZ PARTS

FORMERLY WITH MORITZ E.C.P.

PH 713/773-0887

Parts Rep.

## A Shining Star Emerges at This Year's Oscars: The New Mercedes-Benz 2013 SL550

Written by Automotive Rhythms



Hollywood's elite gather to honor this year's most celebrated stars at the Kodak Theater on Sunday Feb. 26th for the 84th annual Academy Awards, Mercedes-Benz USA (MBUSA) is stepping out in high style with its own impressive talent. The all-new 2013 SL 550 Roadster. This sixth generation SL, conceived with a legendary past in its rearview mirror, will be introduced by a campaign launch oriented around the theme "State of the Art" to debut during this year's Oscar broadcast with a 60 second spot, complimented by a live broadcast from Times Square and a digital extension on OTRC.com.

"The new SL is totally redesigned with innovation and styling that breaks new ground in the category," stated Steve Cannon, president and CEO, Mercedes-Benz USA. "The Oscars is a great moment to kick off this campaign, which artfully portrays the historical significance and beauty of the SL as the new model steps into the spotlight to create the next chapter in a storied legacy."

The spot entitled "Art" opens with the 1952 300 SL Carrera Panamericana racecar speeding by a cheering crowd, soon to be passed by the 1960 300 SL convertible whipping through a completely different background, only to be taken over by the next generation... The successions continue as the subsequent models speed through different eras and different worlds which blur one into the other, until suddenly, the all-new 2013 SL accelerates to take the lead and is introduced as "our most breathtaking model ever."

In addition to the Academy Awards premier, there will be a six-week television flight of "Art" to run through April and May to coincide with the vehicle retail launch. Broadcast placements include special events such as the PGA Masters, the NCAA Final Four tournament and network season finales. This all will be complemented by a one-page print execution to run in titles reaching affluent lifestyle segments such as GQ, Departures, Forbes, Fortune and Town & Country. On the digital side, pictures and video of the new SL will be shared on top leading social media sites (YouTube, Twitter) to efficiently boost awareness and engagement for enthusiasts, featuring the its history and latest technological advancements.

### About the Mercedes-Benz 2013 SL-Class

The 2013 SL550 will be available in U.S. showrooms this spring. Vehicle Highlights include:

- \* Sophisticated all-aluminum bodyshell: For the first time, the SL is being produced almost entirely from aluminum and weighs as much as 308 pounds less than its predecessor.

- \* Even better driving dynamics due to new direct injection engine, which is more powerful and economical than the outgoing generation.

- \* Other new features include the unique FrontBass system, which turns the luxury sports car into a concert hall – with the top down or up - and the highly efficient MAGIC VISION CONTROL., a new, intelligent and wipe/wash system.

- \* A retractable hard top that can be operated using a space-saving electrohydraulic mechanism, converting the SL from coupe to roadster and back again in a matter of seconds. In contrast to its predecessor, the new SL offers two versions of the retractable hard top - glass or the unique panoramic roof with MAGIC SKY CONTROL.

- \* A unique combination of driver assistance systems, including the drowsiness detection system ATTENTION ASSIST and the ADAPTIVE BRAKE, both of which are standard as well as the anticipatory occupant protection system PRE-SAFE, also standard.

---

## Houston Pagoda Event Saturday, April 28, 2012



**What:** A chance to meet other Pagoda owners over lunch and a visit to the Museum of Fine Arts Houston (MFAH) Hogg Mansion

**Where:** 11:00AM Benjy's Restaurant at 5922 Washington Ave. (713) 868-1131/1:00pm MFAH's Hogg Mansion and Gardens at Bayou Bend

**Who:** Pagoda Owners or anyone interested in the Mercedes-Benz 230SL, 250SL and 280SL (W113 chassis)

**Cost:** Lunch will be on an individual basis. Benjy's menu is varied and moderately priced.

**Additional Information:** At Bayou Bend, Pagodas will be allowed to park on the circular drive in front of the mansion. Other vehicles will need to enter the property from the visitor center at 6003 Memorial Drive. Maps / directions to enter the property from Kirby and Lazy Lane Blvd will be provided to participants to RSVP.

**RSVP:** Norm Glorioso. (832) 717-0083. [ncglorioso@comcast.net](mailto:ncglorioso@comcast.net)

---

## 2012 New Members Meet and Greet/Tech Session

Join MBCA | Houston on Saturday, March 24 for our first combination **New Members Meet and Greet and Tech Session**. This event begins at 10am and will take place at Barbara Jordan High School, located near Downtown Houston at 5800 Eastex Freeway between 610 and Kelly Rd. The school will graciously open its doors on a weekend to allow us to use their auto shop and other facilities for a day of food, fun and spreading technical knowledge. There will be a lift on hand for Club members to use to inspect their vehicles with the help of shop instructor Al Lloyd. Bring your toolboxes, as you can use the lift to perform light maintenance items such as motor oil, transmission, or differential fluid changes, just remember that it's BYOF&F (bring your own fluids and filters). Club Vice President and 500eboard.com owner Gerry Van Zandt will be on site to host a hands on technical session featuring one of his lovely Mercedes-Benz vehicles. We will also have lunch, and a chance to win door prizes, such as a **\$100 Gift Certificate for Benjy's Restaurant**. Admission is \$5 per person and will be collected on the day of the event.

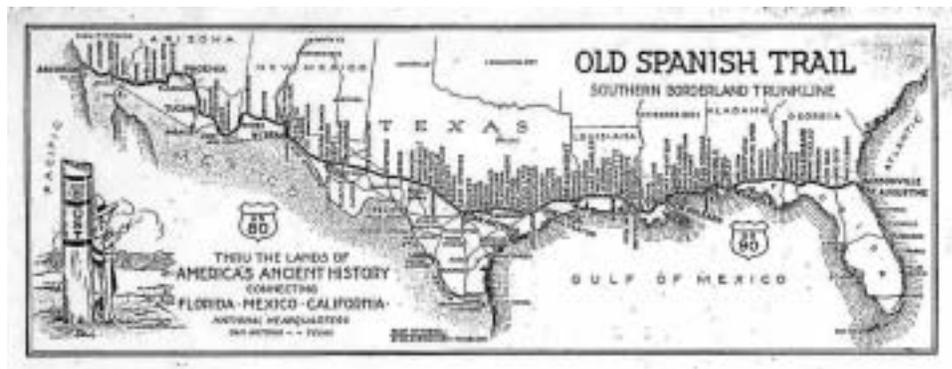
To RSVP and for more information, send an e-mail to [mbca.houston@gmail.com](mailto:mbca.houston@gmail.com), or call Joseph at 713-487-8197.



## Bluebonnet Run on the Old Spanish Trail

Our annual Bluebonnet Run will be held on Saturday, March 31. We will gather at the Hermann Park Bayou Parkland Pavillion, located at 6520 Almeda Rd at 9:45am and depart at 10am. We will take a journey on a portion of one of America's first transcontinental auto trails, the Old Spanish Trail, from central Houston and into the areas out west to check out the bluebonnets and see the sights.

To RSVP and for more info, please e-mail [mbca.houston@gmail.com](mailto:mbca.houston@gmail.com)



---

## Technical Q & A with Ali Durvesh

**Question:** I recently replaced all the rubber seals on my 240D including door seals, trunk seal, window seals, sunroof seals, etc. All these seals cost a small fortune and I was wondering what is the best way to protect them from drying out and cracking like the original seals?

**Answer:** I highly recommend a product called Aerospace 303. It blocks damage caused by UV rays similar to sun screen for your skin, but it's not greasy like Armor All. I use it myself on all exterior rubber as well as interior trim like the dashboard, wood trim, etc. I believe this to be a critical preventative maintenance item in Houston where the sun is so intense during the summer months. Reapply it every 2 weeks; you can buy it online or locally in boating shops.

If you have any questions, please send your requests to the *Houston Star* or contact me directly. I can be reached at [ali.durvesh@gmail.com](mailto:ali.durvesh@gmail.com).

---

## South Central Region Event Lone Star Section (Austin)

### Join us for our annual “Shine and Show”

Saturday, May 5, 2012 from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Landa Park - Pavilion 6

New Braunfels, Texas

The Mercedes-Benz Club of America | Lone Star Section and the newly formed Hill Country Section invite you and your family to join us at our spring “Shine and Show”.

This year’s event will begin with a scenic drive to New Braunfels, Texas where we’ll meet to socialize, enjoy some delicious Bar-B-Q from Rudy’s “Country Store” and host a car show featuring our beautiful “washed and shined” Mercedes-Benz vehicles!

First, Second and Third Place Certificates will be given in the following categories:

Best Pre 1970’s, Best 1970’s, Best 1980’s, Best 1990’s, Best 2000’s and People’s Choice!

This year’s menu from Rudy’s will consist of brisket, turkey, beans, cole slaw and potato salad. At a cost of \$10 per person which can be paid CASH the day of the event.

Please RSVP your total number attending to [MBCALoneStar@aol.com](mailto:MBCALoneStar@aol.com)

no later than Wednesday, May 2, 2012 so we know how much food to order

plus e-mail you our caravan meeting time, location and driving route.

# Mercedes Marketplace

## 1980 Mercedes-Benz 300D

4 Door Sedan, 5 Cylinder diesel engine with a 4 speed manual transmission, sun roof and power windows.

Odometer Mileage: 92,500

Engine runs well; body has some rust and the car requires maintenance /repair of the master / clutch slave cylinder.

**Price: \$895**

**Phone: 281-716-3994**



# 1987 Mercedes-Benz 560SEL

97000 Miles — Original Paint & Interior

Maintained by TGA past six years – needs nothing

Many extras including 750W Sony/JLAudio/MBQuart sound

An outstanding classic 126 priced at \$13,500

(281) 416 - 0936



# 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 over 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 \$11,000 and entertaining all reasonable offers.

Email: [weschain@gmail.com](mailto:weschain@gmail.com)



## 1960s era Mercedes-Benz parts for sale

\* Set of 4 MB factory original alloys (14 X 6) with 195/70R14 Kelly Metric 600's mounted (<2000 miles).

They include the center hub covers and correct wheel nuts.

They are ready to bolt on and go - complete and great "driver" condition.

No damage to the metal (curb rash or otherwise).

I had been using these occasionally on my 280SL until I sold her. \$600.

\* Original steering wheel in black. Removed from 1968 280SL, but will fit many 1960's cars. Great condition, but not perfect. \$400 OBO.

\* Kangol 2-point seat belts and mounting hardware Black, no damage, but appear used. \$400 OBO.

\* Service manuals for cars between 1958 and 1969 (Big Blue Book). Different books (cover different topics). \$130 together.

\* Rubber door seals for W113 - both L&R. \$60

Will send photos upon request

Contact [sctripp@comcast.net](mailto:sctripp@comcast.net)

---

## 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](mailto:joe.fischer-vbj@sbcglobal.net) or (713) 850-1128.

## 1983 Mercedes-Benz 380SL



# For Sale

**1983 Mercedes Benz 380SL above avg.,  
both tops, blue w/grey leather \$13,500**

**713-557-2741**

---



## MBCA | Houston Section

Joseph Middleton, Editor  
P.O. Box 753  
Houston, TX 77001

### Officers

**President** Joseph Middleton  
mbca.houston@gmail.com | 832-713-MBCA

**Vice President** Gerry Van Zandt  
gerry@vanzandt.us | 281-518-2960

**Secretary** Norm Glorioso  
ncglorioso@comcast.net | 713-397-1830

**Treasurer** Gerald Grogin  
gerrygrogin@att.net | 713-667-8979

**Activities Chair** Nina Midway  
ninamidway@aol.com | 281-686-2989

**Membership Chair** Joseph Middleton  
editorjoseph@gmail.com | 713-487-8197

**Technical Chair** Ali Durvesh  
ali.durvesh@gmail.com

**Immediate Past President** Damon Stith  
damstith@yahoo.com | 832-265-6044

### Directors

Marvin Boyd mwboyd@embarqmail.com | 281-360-1766

Jeffrey Cooke cooke.houston@gmail.com | 713-914-8708

Mike Haney mhaney@3dtriad.com | 713-298-4580

Chuck Wyatt ctwyatt@sbcglobal.net | 281-469-7428

### Regional Director

Charles Boyd 580-255-4040  
E-mail: cl.boyd@sbcglobal.net

### Newsletter Editor

Joseph Middleton 713-487-8197  
Editor's e-mail: editorjoseph@gmail.com  
Club Website: http://www.mbca.org/houston

### 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>

## 2012 Upcoming Events

New Members Meet and Greet/Tech Session  
March 24

Bluebonnet Run  
March 31

Spring Autocross 2012  
TBA

## Board of Directors Meeting

March 6

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.

The *Houston Star* is the official publication of **MBCA | Houston Section**, and is provided solely for the benefit of its members. Opinions and ideas are for information only. No official authentication is implied by the editor/publisher, MBCA, MBUSA, MBAG or DBAG. No inference should be made that the products or services advertised or reported herein have the approval or recommendation of the editor/publisher, MBCA, MBUSA, MBAG or DBAG. Consult an authorized dealer or qualified mechanic for specific applications to your vehicle. Material for publication may be sent to [editorjoseph@gmail.com](mailto:editorjoseph@gmail.com). Deadline is the 10th of each month for the following month's issue. The editor reserves the right to edit, and to refuse, any submissions and/or advertising. Submission of material constitutes permission to publish. Permission to reproduce material original to the *Houston Star* is granted provided proper credit is given.