



# *The Houston Star*

MBCA Houston Section Newsletter

**March  
2009**

## In this issue

**Car Mystery Solved**  
Page 1

**President's Message**  
Page 2

**Regional Event**  
Pages 8-9

**Mercedes Marketplace**  
Page 10

## Upcoming Events

**New Members Dinner**  
March 21

**Annual Bluebonnet Run**  
April 18

**Regional Event**  
May 1-3



## **CAR MYSTERY SOLVED**

I am sure many of you wondered about the fabulous "Mystery Car" that appeared in our January and February issues (see page seven in January issue and front page of February issue). Well, the secret is out. The Mystery Car is a 1937 Packard Super Eight Dietrich Convertible Limousine owned by Robert and Gail Supina. Many thanks to the Supinas for letting us enjoy that picture. As an added bonus, Robert has

agreed to share his 1937 Packard Super Eight LeBaron Town Car with us. This Town Car is one of sixteen produced and the only known survivor, and it won the top trophy at Keels and Wheels in 2003. Richard Wilkins tells me that he was at Keels and Wheels in 2003 and witnessed Buzz Aldrin presenting the trophy for the LeBaron Town Car.

(Lucky Richard.- Ed)



## President's Message

Spring is on the horizon. What usually coincides with this? Cleaning. OK, I'm not talking about the cleaning you do underneath the couch or atop crown molding, I'm boasting about the special care that goes into keeping our very unique cars running and looking their best. Mind you my friends this is not an enchanted walk thru the trees. This takes attention to detail, muscle, patience, deliberation and money. Did I mention money? Keeping our rolling gems on the road is costing more and more these days with the rising costs of replacement parts.

It seems that father in Stuttgart would like to further cripple us with astronomically priced replacement parts for the cars we've known to last for 1 million miles. Or at least 100,000 (with proper maintenance) before anything major had to be replaced. This type of reliability has almost vanished. Look at Consumer Reports as of late. Also, just ask someone who had to replace an evaporator out of warranty. OUCH! For instance a few years ago you could buy a fuel distributor for a 126 V8 and you'd be set back a few hundred dollars. Today the same part is \$2000. This is not inflation but, our beloved Automobile manufacturer pricing this thing out of reach. Why, because they were designed to last more than 150,000+mi before needing replacement? I'm not sure. I know I've mentioned before the quality woe's occurring in these expensive German taxis lately. I'm hopeful that the new models coming out including the new C class will return some of that "engineered like no other car in the world" instead of engineered like no other, back to the free world.

OK, I'm done ranting and raving. Let's go back to cleaning the car internally. Start with renewal of your air filter (if you use a K & N air filter then it's a good time to wash and lightly re-oil), thus keeping the replacement of that expensive MAF (mass air flow) component away. Next it's a good measure to change your oil which hopefully you'll have all the other fluids checked at that time. It's also a good time to clean the leaves that blow down in the space below the windshield. Over time this can collect and do more damage than you think especially if it gets wet. Also, time to inspect the wiper blades as rainy season is heading our way. I know I've been there when I wished I would've changed these going down an oil and grime soaked just rained upon freeway. Nice!

Last but not least, the muscle straining do it yourself wax job. For you very detailed persons; a compound then wax. There are many great products that stand out, Meguiars, Zymol just to name a couple. As a matter of fact one of our Tech sessions will involve a detailing "how to" care for your cars aging paint coming later in the year. See you soon!

Keep a look out for the details of the Regional event coming this May. Agenda inside!

Happy Motoring,

Damon

## Mercedes-Benz Celebrates G-Class 30th Anniversary With Bare-Bones Off-Road Model

(from Automobile Magazine)

“Wait,” you say; “Isn’t the G-wagen still in production?” Sure, but while its exterior has changed little over the past three decades, other things have. As North Americans, we’re most accustomed to the posh, “comfort-oriented” W463 model, which was developed from the spartan W460 and W461 models, first introduced in 1979. As the G shifted from a commercial/military workhorse to an expensive plaything, the W461 range faded into the background, sold only to the Swiss government - until now.



The 2009 Mercedes-Benz G-class EDITION30.PUR, a limited-edition model that’s intended to celebrate the G-wagen’s roots, shifts back to the W461. Although most changes come underneath the skin (you’ll find a 2.7-liter turbo-diesel I-5 underhood, and an actual electronic transfer case in lieu of a full-time four-wheel-drive system), the only visual clues are the beveled front fascia and old-school grille.

Interestingly, the EDITION30.PUR can be ordered as a rather spartan device or as one full of neat goodies, like the black example shown here. Buyers can opt for two different off-road packages, which add things like sixteen-inch aluminum wheels, brush guards, and a roof rack with ladder. Standard equipment includes four cloth-trimmed bucket seats, rubber floor mats, manual air-conditioning, and a wooden cargo floor.

If that’s not fancy enough, Mercedes-Benz also plans on offering a G-class EDITION30, which reverts to the supreme W463 series. Built off the G500, the EDITION30 is little more than a trim package, adding a unique black paint hue, interior trim, and aluminum wheels. It’ll run twice the price of the EDITION30.PUR, but no matter – neither model will make its way to the U.S.

# CASARI'S

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

Glasurite 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

## Annual Bluebonnet Run

This year the Bluebonnet run will be held on April 18.



Plans are still being formed but it looks like a trip to the Brenham area and a visit to a local winery. More details will follow in the next newsletter but mark you calendar - April 18. This is always a fun event - a time to get the cobwebs out of your car with a drive in the country on a beautiful spring day!



### **F&J EUROPEAN AUTO PARTS INC.**

6115 Clarewood

Houston, TX 77081

SPECIALIZING IN MERCEDES BENZ PARTS

FORMERLY WITH MORITZ E.C.P.

PH713/773-0887

Parts Rep.

See The Houston Star in  
FULL COLOR Online:

<http://mbca.org/houston/star.htm>

## New Members Dinner Saturday, March 21 – 5:30 PM

Join us at Maggiano's Little Italy for a great Italian dinner. This is the event held each year to introduce those who have joined the Mercedes Benz Club of America in the last year. So all you new members - come out and meet us "old timers." If you have questions on your own Mercedes or any other model, it's meetings like this that will introduce you to people who have the answers. Come and enjoy the company of other Mercedes owners. Come out and become active in YOUR club. Get Involved. We would love to meet you!

The dinner at Maggiano's will be "Family Style" - all you can eat! In order to take advantage of this, we have been asked that we be seated no later than 5:30. The dinner will consist of 5 courses and the choice will be as detailed below. You do not have to decide until you are at the restaurant. The price is \$26.50 per person and that is for all you can eat! The bar tab will be run on an individual basis. Because we had inadvertently scheduled the Show & Shine in the New Members dinner time slot you can arrive early and we will try to set aside a space where we can park together and do what we do best – talk about cars!

### MENU

#### Appetizers - Choose between

##### **Barb's Spinach & Artichoke al Forno**

Diced artichoke hearts, spinach, tomatoes and asiago cheese baked with alfredo sauce until bubbling and golden; served with crispy Focaccia bread.

##### **Bruschetta**

Italian garlic bread toasted and topped with a tomato bruschetta relish made of diced tomatoes, balsamic vinegar and roasted garlic.

#### Salads - Choose between

##### **Caesar Salad**

A traditional Caesar salad of romaine lettuce tossed with Caesar dressing, croutons and shaved parmesan cheese.

##### **Maggiano's Salad**

Iceberg and romaine lettuce, crumbled bleu cheese, crispy Prosciutto, red onions, tossed in our signature House Dressing.

#### Pasta - Choose between

##### **Fettucine Alfredo, Broccoli**

Traditional fettucine noodles tossed with broccoli and garlic in a creamy alfredo sauce.

##### **Mom's Lasagna**

Whipped ricotta cheese layered with pasta sheets, crumbled meatballs, Italian sausage and marinara sauce. Topped with provolone cheese and your choice of our meat or marinara sauce.

#### Entrees – Choose- between

##### **Chicken Parmesan**

Lightly breaded chicken breasts fried and topped with provolone cheese and marinara sauce.

##### **Salmon Lemon & Herb**

Filet of salmon sautéed with fresh herbs and spinach; served in a light lemon butter & clam sauce.

#### Desserts - Choose between

##### **N.Y. Style Cheesecake, Seasonal Fruit**

New York style ricotta cheesecake topped with fresh berries and whipped cream.

##### **Tiramisu**

Ladyfinger cookies soaked in espresso and coffee liqueur layered with mascarpone cheese; dusted with cocoa powder and served with chocolate.

Please Confirm your  
attendance to Buzz Werner  
281-745-7307 or pbbuzzw@juno.com  
Space is limited to the 1st 25 reservations

Maggiano's Little Italy  
2019 Post Oak Blvd  
Houston, TX 77056  
(713) 961-2700

## 2010 Mercedes-Benz E-class AMG Sports Package



When the 2010 Mercedes-Benz E-class goes on sale, buyers will have the option to enhance the car's appearance with the AMG Sports Package. The package can be added to all engine configurations and includes some interior and exterior tidbits that are not available individually.

Outside, the E-class wears a new body kit sporting more aggressive side skirts with revised front and rear aprons. The wheels are 18-inches in diameter with 245-series tires up front and 265-series tires in the rear. The brake's calipers are painted silver and wear the Mercedes-Benz logo and the discs are cross-drilled. The car is also 15mm lower all around as part of the included "Direct Control" suspension.

On the inside, the seat contours are optimized to provide more lateral support when cornering. They are clothed in a combination of microfiber and man-made leather. The floor mats bear the AMG logo and the pedals are stainless steel with rubber studs. Nappa leather is used on the three-spoke AMG sports steering wheel and also on the gear lever. The package includes standard paddle shifters on the back of the steering wheel as well.

This announcement is currently only for European models. However, expect the same or similar package to be available on the U.S.-spec car when it launches in July.

(Automobile Magazine)



# HOUSTON REGIONAL EVENT

## AGENDA AND ACTIVITIES

### FRIDAY, MAY 1ST

Welcome Reception at the Hilton Nassau Bay and Marina 6 PM

We have reserved a block of rooms under the Houston Chapter of the MBCA. A discounted rate has been negotiated for members. The hotel's phone number is 281-333-9300

### SATURDAY, MAY 2ND

Start off the day off with a visit to Keels and Wheels and enjoy the beautifully restored vintage automobiles and boats as well as many new and exotic models.

At 2 PM in the afternoon we have arranged a group tour of the Johnson Space Center

In the evening there will be a dinner cruise on Clear Lake. There are two choices for a dinner buffet. Please mark your choice on the registration form. To add to your enjoyment there will be an open beer and wine bar as well as water, juice and soft drinks included with the dinner. Space is limited to 49 persons so get your tickets sooner rather than later. The boat will leave from the Hotel at 7 PM. You are asked to board by 6:30.

#### Option # 1

Garden Salad w/ 2 Dressings  
Robinette Famous Green Beans Almandine  
Parslied Long Grain Rice  
Grilled Herb Marinated Breast of Chicken  
Roasted Garlic Mushrooms  
Rolls and Butter

#### Option # 2

Garden Salad w/ 2 Dressings  
Savory Parmesan Baked Tomato  
Bay Scented Wild Rice Blend  
Turban of Flounder with Shrimp and Crab Mornet  
Wrapped Flounder Fillets Stuffed with Crab and Shrimp  
Dressing,  
Served with a Seafood Mornet Sauce  
Rolls and Butter

### SUNDAY, MAY 3

Beginning at 10 am we will have our semi-annual AUTOCROSS at a location on the north side to be confirmed. That way visiting members can participate in the event on their way home. There is a registration fee to enter and a small charge for the barbeque lunch.

As you can see from the list of events there will be a lot happening that weekend. With this list of events, volunteers are needed to insure we are successful and that other clubs will see the type of event the Houston Chapter is capable of sponsoring. If you are interested in helping with the planning or helping at any of the events please email or phone any of the board members listed on the last page of the newsletter.

---

# HOUSTON REGIONAL EVENT

## MAY 1-3, 2009

### REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/email \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Section \_\_\_\_\_

#### Friday Evening:

Reception/Mixer # attending \_\_\_\_\_ X \$20 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Saturday:

Keels and Wheels # \_\_\_\_\_ X \$25 = \_\_\_\_\_

NASA Tour # \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner & Cruise # \_\_\_\_\_ X \$65 = \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate choice of:

Grilled Herb Marinated Breast of Chicken \_\_\_\_\_

or

Turban of Flounder with Shrimp & Crab Mornet \_\_\_\_\_

#### Sunday:

Barbeque Lunch \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_

Autocross # driving \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form and your check no later than April 20, 2009 to:

Gail Werner, Treasurer  
1802 Reseda Drive  
Houston TX 77062-6019

## Technical Session



On January 17, 2008 we were wowed by the technical expertise presented to us by Sunil Patel owner of Motorwerks at 5704 Southwest Frwy. However we neglected to include the photo showing Damon Stith (president of our Chapter) presenting Sunil with a plaque to show our appreciation for the time taken in the Technical Session

## *Mercedes Marketplace*

### FOR SALE BY OWNER

**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. \$7000.00

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

1111 Bering Drive, Houston, Texas 77057.



## FOR SALE 1985 380SL

Black with tan leather. Black removable hard top and new black soft top. Always garaged, outstanding condition. Looks and runs like a new car. Selling to make room for a new car that I have ordered. 112,770 miles. Car is garaged in The Woodlands. Call 281-367-5212. \$17,500



## FOR SALE

### **1983 MERCEDES-BENZ 380 SL.**

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 removeable. 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.



MBCA, INC.  
HOUSTON SECTION  
Buzz Werner, Editor  
1802 Reseda Drive  
Houston, Texas 77062

## OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Damon Stith 832-265-6044
VICE PRESIDENT	Vacant
SECRETARY	Joseph Middleton 713-828-4303
TREASURER	Gail Werner 352-263-1990
IMMEDIATE PAST PRES.	James Sandoz 281-469-7428

## DIRECTORS

Marvin Boyd	281-360-1766
Paul Danneman	713-589-9082
Gerald Grogin	713-667-8979
Kesa Guest	281-554-9107
Mike Haney	713-298-4580
Harry Ramirez	832-216-4409
Buzz Werner	281-745-7307
Richard Wilkins	713-227-6603
Chuck Wyatt	281-469-7428

## REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Charles Boyd 580-255-4040  
email: [cl.boyd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cl.boyd@sbcglobal.net)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Buzz Werner  
[pbbuzzw@juno.com](mailto:pbbuzzw@juno.com)

Editor's Fax: 281-271-8072  
Web Page: <http://www.mbcga.org/houston>

### ***Moving?***

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

<https://www.mbcga.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](mailto:service@danngo.com).

## 2009 Upcoming Events

**New Members Dinner**  
March 21

**Annual Bluebonnet Run**  
April 18

**Regional Event**  
May 1-3

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

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

*The Houston Star* is the official publication of the Houston Section, MBCA, 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, MBNA, 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, MBNA, MBAG or DBAG. Consult an authorized dealer or qualified mechanic for specific applications to your vehicle. Material for publication may be sent to **MBCA Editor**, 1802 Reseda Drive, Houston, Texas 77062. 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.