



# *The Houston Star*

*MBCA Houston Section Newsletter*

*May  
2005*

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*Upcoming Events*

June 4th  
Tech Session @ Casari's

June 25th-28th  
(National Event)  
Gemütlichkeit - Waterford  
Michigan

July 16th-19th  
(National Event)  
StarTrack '05  
BeaveRun Motor Sports  
Complex near Pittsburg.



## **Harry Simeonidis in his 1968 280SL**

Ok, so we didn't get the rain I've been hoping for over the past five years, but perfect weather aside, the Spring Autocross held at Kingwood College on March 13th was a fun day for all who attended. We had a nice mix Mercedes-Benz's from various bodystyles and vintages.

In Class "A" the Heavyweights, Ted Wu took first place in his E55, with Lee Martin right behind him taking second place in his SL500. Rounding out the class was Jorge Garcia in his new (and gorgeous) SL500.

In Class "B" the Middleweights, Barry King drove his 300CE into the number one slot, with Chuck Wyatt taking his C230K into second place, and Joseph Middleton taking third in his 300D.

In Class "C" the Lightweights (in displacement only!), Family rivalries took on new meaning as the Cook Family pitted father against sons. The weapon of choice was a CLK320 and Dad (John) proved he's still top dog by taking first place, while Brian took second place with Joel just one second behind him, taking third.

In Class "D" the Vintage Class, John Lindy drove his pristine 240D into first place, with Harry Simeonidis pushing hard in his 280SL, and Richard Wilkins took third place in his 250SE. This class was surprisingly the closest of all with only a two second difference between first and third!!! During the "fun runs" afterwards, Local legend Helmut Holder took the wheel of

**(continued on page 3)**

## Vice-President's Message

### Technical Sessions and Memorial Day Do Not Mix!!!!

An obvious oversight scheduled our spring Technical Session on Memorial Day weekend. With almost everyone planning trips, family gatherings, outings with friends, it was decided to re-schedule the Technical Session for Saturday, June 4, 2005 at Casari's.

This Tech Session is going to be one of our best ever! Ever wonder how someone can take car crunches and make them look like new? We are pleased to announce a Paint and Body Technical session.

Everyone interested in the right way to maintain the exterior of a Mercedes Benz cannot afford to miss this get together with other Mercedes Benz owners. This session will cover a variety of topics.

Did you know that only Mercedes Benz paint specifically blended and mixed to the exact factory specifications can be used on your car's exterior.

George Casari has a full day planned complete with a tour of the body shop, paint rooms and the equipment used to mix Mercedes Benz paint. Believe it or not there is dedicated equipment just for blending and mixing our Mercedes' paint.

We will see a painting technician take a component, prepare the metal for painting, spray the primer, apply the paint, the clear coat, and bake the paint onto the component.

Have you ever wondered the best way to preserve the paint's exterior. We are going to be shown the proper way to Detail a Mercedes Benz on one of our member's cars.

How about those nicks and that pepper the front and hood of our prized possession? George will teach us the correct way to apply touch up paint to make it look like new!

This is one Technical Session not to miss! Everyone who wants to keep their car looking like the day it came off the showroom floor cannot afford to miss this meeting.

Come one, Come all and enjoy some very useful information, have a bite to eat and meet some new friends. Why there's even a rumor that after our enjoyable meeting at Casari's there will be a late afternoon trip to Harbor Freight or Northern Tools, so come join in on the fun!

Charles T. Wyatt - Vice President  
MBCA - Houston Section

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(continued from page 1)

Richard Wilkins' 250SE and made several impressive runs.

Remember, that while the autocrosses are a great deal of fun, they also give us a chance to safely push the limits of our cars and to learn how they'll handle in a panic situation. I'm always amazed that the people that take off with smoking tires and clenched fists don't do as well as you (or they) expect, and doubly amazed that the ones that are smooth and fluid with hardly a squeal coming from the tires have such fast runs. It's all about the path of least resistance and while there are many websites devoted to the "Art" of autocrossing, learning to stay calm and in control at all times seems to be the key.

Someday I'll get my rainy autocross, but until then we'll just have to settle for perfect weather. As always, I want to thank Kingwood College for providing us with excellent facilities & security, I'd also like to thank all the members that came out early to help set up equipment and cones, you guys make this possible.



**Joseph Middleton in his 300D**



**Richard Wilkins & Helmut Holder in Richard's 250SE**



**Member's Queue up for the start of the Spring Autocross 2005**

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(continued from page 3)



**The Cook Family's CLK320 tears into the corners**



**Jorge Garcia warms up his new SL500**



**Ted Wu breaking in a set of tires the hard way**



**John Lindy shows us his 240D is more than just pretty!**



**Lee Martin opens up his SL500**

(continued on page 6)

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Winners of the Spring Autocross, March 13th 2005 at Kingwood College

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Coming Soon from Turner Publishing Company:  
**Mercedes-Benz Club of America Commemorative  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition History & Pictorial**

Dear MBCA Club Member:

MBCA will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary throughout 2006. In addition to a number of events in the founding sections (New Jersey and Chicago, IL), a National Route 66 Tour, a possible new StarFest, and a European Tour of key places around Stuttgart, such as the DaimlerChrysler factory and new museum (opening in 2006), we are producing a **50<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative book about MBCA**.

Here is a grand opportunity for **you** to be a part of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary book by:

- Submitting information, historical records, stories, and photos from the earliest days of MBCA to more recent special activities that have defined MBCA.
- Look through your files for interesting information that might be a part of this limited edition, custom-made book about MBCA, its people, its history, its relationship with Daimler-Benz / DaimlerChrysler / Mercedes-Benz USA / and others that were important to our development as a club.
- Making a commitment now to purchase a copy (or copies) of the book prior to its release in June 2006. (The more copies that are pre-sold, the more pages our book will have. The more pages we have, the more specialized stories and content we can include. You can own **the definitive book** about the club that we all enjoy.)
- Participating in this once-in-a-lifetime celebration of 50 years of MBCA by owning *the* book that will capture information not available in any other single resource.

**Bruce Adams** has agreed to be our MBCA Editor, is currently gathering information about the early history of MBCA and is working to get new material, interviews with early club members, photos and articles from *The Star*, and lots of special content that will celebrate a half-century of club history.

Bruce has already made arrangements to include **MBCA People & History**, such as information about Dr. Milton Allen, founder of MBCA in New Jersey in 1956; Donn Wald, first full-time MBCA Business Manager; Bob Nitske, author of many books on Mercedes-Benz and MBCA National President; and more. He plans to include information about **MBCA Awards** and their recipients, plus some **History of Mercedes-Benz** (including early history in the United States).

Information about how to submit materials and pre-order your special, limited-edition book about MBCA are included in this brochure. Please consider how important this is and what a special book it will be in your own personal collection of Mercedes-Benz and MBCA history.

I'm looking forward to this special time in our club's history. Thank you for being a part of it.

Sincerely,



Richard Simonds  
National President

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**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](mailto:shootinjimster@yahoo.com).

**For Sale: 1967 Mercedes-Benz 230S.** Anthracite with red interior. Excellent original condition with repaint about twenty years ago. The interior is beautiful. The car has an automatic transmission, power steering and a Kuhlmeister air conditioner. All accessories work except the clock. I have owned this car since August of 2002 and have found it to be extremely road worthy and reliable. Helmut Holder has adjusted the carburetors (original Zeniths) and other minor items to bring it into spec. The radiator was recored early last year. The 90,000 mile service (D and Z) has just been completed by Helmut. An extensive collection of spare parts is available although the car needs nothing. Check collector Car Trader and other websites. Sixties era fintails can be had for \$2,000 to \$4,000 on any day but they are tired, worn and rusted. One could not bring them to the condition of this car for twice what I am asking, \$10,000. Please call James at (713) 818-1581. If there is no answer leave a voice message with a phone number and best time for me to return your call.

# Mercedes Marketplace



**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



**For Sale: 1980 Mercedes-Benz 450 SEL:** 4-door Sedan. Recently passed state inspection. Engine has been overhauled. All repair receipts are available for the past 12 years. The air conditioning and heating components have all been replaced. The car is in good condition, has new tires, but needs a transmission. Asking \$2500. Ron Johnson 713-892-6770 or 281-438-8955

**For Sale: 1974 Mercedes-Benz 450 SL Hardtop:** The top is Mint Green and in very good condition Asking \$400. Ron Johnson 713-892-6770 or 281-438-8955

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### June 4th 2005 (Local Event)

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

### June 25th-28th 2005 (National Event)

Gemütlichkeit - Waterford Michigan  
Phil Trupiano - (586)293-5933  
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### July 16th-19th 2005 (National Event)

StarTrack '05 - BeaveRun Motor Sports Complex  
near Pittsburg. Dave Fabyonic (724) 327-7361  
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