



The Houston Star

MBCA Houston Section Newsletter

**May
2009**

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BLUE BONNET RUN

On Saturday, April 18, five hardy members of the Houston Chapter and their guests drove their Mercedes to The Gander Mountain parking lot in the Pouring rain and agreed that it was not a good day for a drive in the country.

Even though we had received word from our man in Sealy that there were a lot of the blue flowers to be seen along our projected route he also advised that the day before parts of that same area had absorbed, well received up to four and a half inches of rain and there was still plenty of low spots that were keeping much of it.

It seems that there is a two year pattern with the rainouts. If you recall, two years ago the rain came on our run day also but not as bad; and those who came out chose to persevere and took the drive anyway. Then last year it was a beautiful sunny day. That means that next year we should have a terrific day as our friends in the Fort Worth Chapter had for theirs (pictured above)

President's Message

Hi All,

The rainy season is here; ok it seems sometimes it never leaves Houston. This is the time of the year I think about wet tire performance. We all know how it can puddle anywhere it seems within seconds depending how hard the rain falls and typically it does. With so many tire brands, tread patterns, and performance types it's hard to know exactly what to choose for ultra wet weather performance. I visit Discount Tire Direct as well as Tire Rack often to find out what's new and an excellent deal when comparison shopping for tires and tire brands. There's a myriad of types from Grand Touring to Ultra High performance Touring etc... I think what I enjoy most are the testimonies from owners who identify their driving styles and cars to further help aid decision making. I'd like to have a tech session with one of the leading tire manufactures to explain what all the different types mean to we down to earth folks. I'd also still like to hear from you indicating what you like to learn about tires for this type of meeting.

Speaking of rain and flooding: There's still an element of safety we need to retain such as treading in high water. I've gone through many high water crossings in a couple of my old diesels. They seemed unstoppable but, U-boats they are not. The rule is: If you can't see the curb or if you're unfamiliar with the road, do not cross it. Better to be safe than stranded. I, like many of us need to practice a little more patience when trying to wade through unknown depths of water. Also, those in SUV's need to realize that being up higher doesn't exclude you from simple courtesies and not water bogging the smaller vehicles causing them to stall. I've seen this happen one too many times. Where you are going to in a hurry will still be there in a couple of minutes more.

Unfortunately, we weren't able to have the Bluebonnet run this year due to Mother Nature giving us too much moisture. If you haven't run out 290 to Brenham there are still many beautiful areas with very thick covering of blue bonnets. It's worth the drive.

Up coming events along with Keels and Wheels will be the new E Class debut at Alex Rodriguez Mercedes in Clear Lake. Please come join for hors d'oeuvres and wine on the evening of April 29th from 6 to 9pm. The special Sterling Moss SLR will be there along with a few other notable classics. It promises to be quite a presentation. Please note the closing of 45 south at NASA Road 1, use Hwy 3 as an alternate.

Happy Motoring,

Damon Stith
Houston Section

➤ ALEX RODRIGUEZ MERCEDES-BENZ INVITES YOU... ➤

PRE-PARTY

THE ALL NEW 2010
MERCEDES-BENZ E-CLASS
PREVIEW SHOW

Keels
Wheels

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 29, 2009

PRESENTED BY TITLE SPONSOR
ALEX RODRIGUEZ MERCEDES-BENZ
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

CONCOURS D' ELEGANCE



FEATURING

THE FIRST CHANCE TO PREVIEW THE
2010 MERCEDES-BENZ E-CLASS

AND

A SNEEK PEEK AT SOME CLASSICS TO
APPEAR AT THE 14TH ANNUAL

KEELS & WHEELS

CONCOURS D' ELEGANCE



It's here.



2010 Mercedes-Benz E-Class

Witness History.



1968 Shelby GT 500 KR



ALSO ON DISPLAY

- 650 Horsepower
- Supercharged V8
- 0 - 60 in 3.5 Seconds
- Top Speed 217mph



- Vertical doors
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Mercedes-Benz SLR

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INCLUDING OTHER CLASSICS SUCH AS THE KURTIS KRAFT INDY 500
THE 1957 FORD VICTORIA AND THE 1967 JAGUAR MARK II 3.8



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SPRING AUTOCROSS

Come join us at the fall autocross on Sunday, May 3 and enjoy a Bar-B-Q lunch, with fellow members of MBCA Houston Section! Bring your blankets, lawn chairs and your family as we enjoy Spring in Houston. Autocross drivers should be there by 12:30 and the event begins at 1:00. A full spread of meat, sides and drinks will be available for you and your family to feast on as the drivers take to the course. Cost is \$10/person.

The event will be held at Lone Star College in Humble (Formerly Kingwood College). The cost per driver is \$10.00 for members. There is no charge for spectators! We must have RSVP's for all attendees to insure that we have enough food. Please RSVP or you may go hungry!

RSVP to Gail Werner (352-263-1990) or peterbgailm@juno.com by April 30 if you plan to attend and let her know how many will be in your party. For more information on the autocross, contact Mike Haney at 713-298-4580. See you there!



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2009 Gullwing-America 300 SL Panamericana

300 SL gets modernized

From egmCarTech

Arturo Alonso and his company Gullwing America are working on the 'rebirth' of the Mercedes-Benz 300 SL Gullwing. Known as the 2009 300 SL Panamericana, the model is based on a reproduction made by Gullwing AG - who produces the closest model you can get to the real 300 SL.

Power comes from a 5.5L V8 M-133-55 engine that is used on the SLR and other AMG models. The engine will be mated to a speedtronic transmission and has been retuned to produce 370-hp with a maximum torque of 391 lb-ft. In 2010 Gullwing America will also offer a V6 M-272-E35 unit that produces 320-hp and a peak torque of 266 lb-ft.

The 2009 SL Panamericana will be painted silver with blue accents. There is also an option of white with red stripes and a Black version. The interior will feature the instrument panel that is identical to the original 300 SL.

See pictures on following page

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

2009 Gullwing-America 300 SL Panamericana



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.

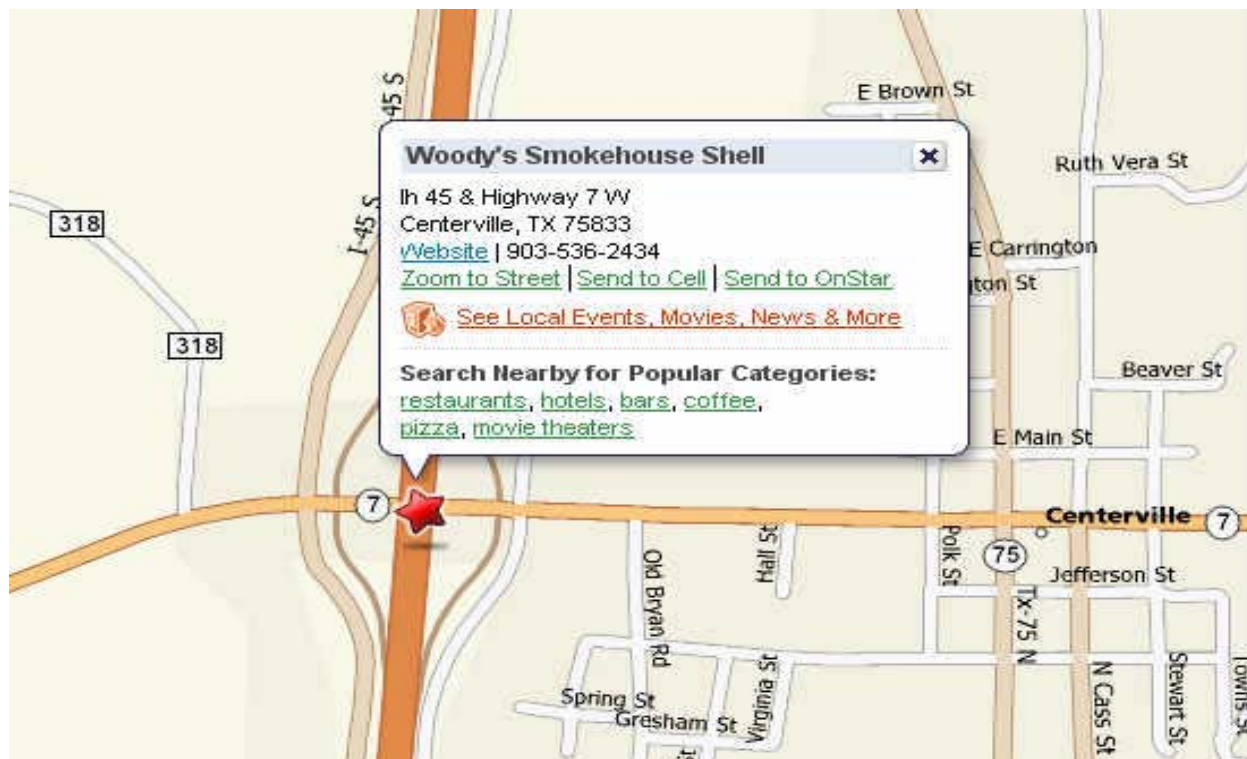
It doesn't matter what kind of Mercedes-Benz you have (or in some cases, don't have), old, new, pristine, ragged, diesel, gas, Sprinter, Smart, or whatever. We want **YOU** to attend this increasingly popular event. This get together has become so popular over the years that it has drawn repeat attendees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

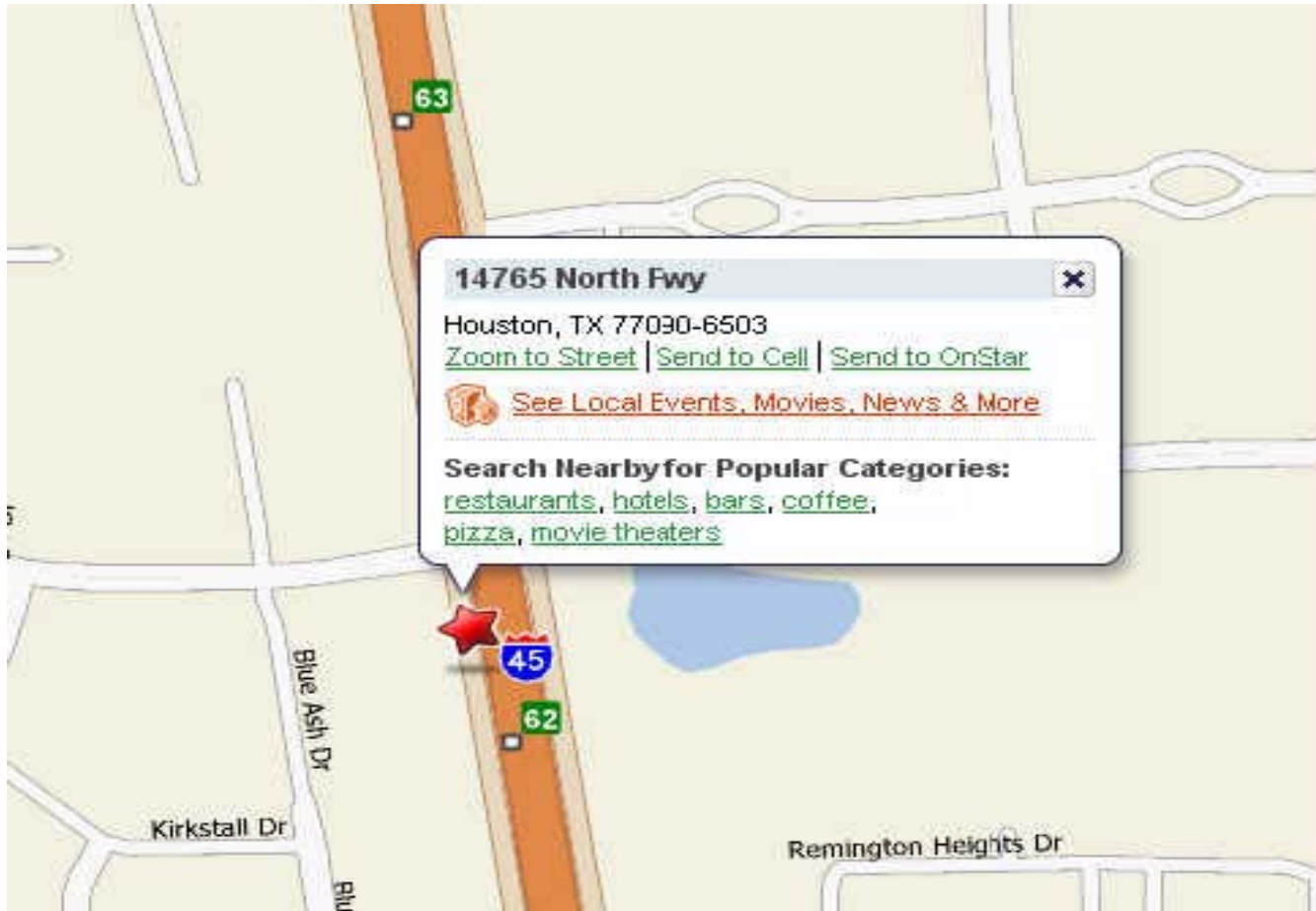
A caravan departing from Houston will meet at the rear of the Cracker Barrel parking lot on I-45 near Airtex at 9:45am and depart at 10:15am. We'll arrive in Centerville at Noon where we will head to Woody's Smokehouse on the northbound feeder road. Over the past three years, the staff at Woody's Smokehouse 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 costs \$2 per person for those aged 13 and older. 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!





Gold Mercedes

Time Magazine Monday, Sep. 07, 1959

Next to Marlene Dietrich, Germany's most ageless export is the fast, shapely Mercedes-Benz, whose three-pointed-star symbol has long been associated with riches and beauty. To the world's auto connoisseurs, the Mercedes offers not only superb craftsmanship and loving attention to detail, but conservative styling that has not basically changed since the 1930s. But even the grand old lady of the auto world (Stuttgart's proud Daimler-Benz, Mercedes' maker, claims to be the world's oldest auto producer) occasionally indulges in a bit of sprucing up. Last week Daimler-Benz showed off its new Mercedes models.

Sleek, solid-colored and almost chromeless, the new cars held few surprises—but some bonuses—for Mercedes fans. The lower-priced 180 models (\$3,300 to \$3,567 in New York) and the luxurious 300 SL Roadster (\$10,978) were basically unchanged. But Mercedes' new 220 series of six-cylinder sedans, the most popular in the line, appeared in a sleeker new version, with a redesigned engine that boosts power output to a top of 134 h.p. The medium-priced 220 (\$4,767 with fuel injection) has a somewhat lower, slightly streamlined body that keeps the unmistakable Mercedes look, a slight suggestion of tail fins, new and larger wrap-around windows (35% more glass), a lower, broader radiator grille, and 50% more luggage space.

Stock Sensation. While many eyes are set on the European small car and its new U.S. competitors, Daimler-Benz is out to grab a heftier share of the big-car market. The U.S. already buys 10% of its production, and its U.S. sales are racing 160% ahead of last year, are expected to top 15,000 cars by year's end. With 54% of its production going to 136 countries, Daimler-Benz has hiked worldwide sales 16% this year, expects to run up a 1959 sales figure of \$600 million for the best year in its history.

To keep up with the demand, Daimler-Benz has 83,000 employees working in seven German plants, plants in Argentina, Brazil and India, assembly lines in Mexico, South Africa, Belgium, and Ireland. Together, they are striving to shrink the company's order backlog of 82,000 cars and trucks, equal to six months' top production. As a result, Daimler-Benz stock is one of the greatest sensations on West Germany's booming stock market. A blue chip by nature, it is also the market's star riser, has gone up 400% in the past year, and last week alone jumped 10% to hit \$800 a share.

Fourth Biggest. The man in Mercedes' driver's seat is foxy Friedrich Flick, 75, a convicted war criminal who lost 80% of his steel fortune at war's end, bought a 37½% interest in Daimler-Benz between 1954 and 1957. Flick has driven Mercedes so fast and furiously that his stock has risen in value from \$20 million to \$200 million, and he has rocketed back to become Germany's No. 2 industrialist (after Alfried Krupp). Seeking a smaller car for the Mercedes line, Flick had Daimler buy 88% of the competing Auto Union company, which puts out the D.K.W. buggy (Manhattan price: \$1,995). Counting Auto Union's sales of \$120 million yearly, Flick's Daimler complex now ranks as the world's fifth-biggest automaker (after the U.S. Big Three and American Motors).

European automen are sure that Flick yearns to grow still bigger. They buzz that he is working toward a merger with a major French or Italian automaker to dominate the car industry in the European Common Market. He has had Daimler buy preferred shares that can be converted into 5% of Studebaker-Packard Corp., his U.S. distributor. But a key factor in Daimler-Benz's plans will be the effect of the new U.S. compact cars on Mercedes' vital U.S. sales. Daimler-Benz is less worried than most other European car makers. Says President Fritz Konecke: "Our appeal is to a different kind of customer."

Mercedes Marketplace

'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

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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.mbc.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

Spring Autocross
May 3

Centerville Rally
June 27

Auto Restoration
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Election Dinner
September
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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