



The Houston Star

MBCA | Houston Section Newsletter

November
2010

www.mbca.org/houston

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Dr. J. Garcia autocrosses his 2004 SL500

Fall Autocross 2010

The Fall Autocross always draws a crowd, and this year was no exception. As usual, there was free BBQ, good weather, and a nice mixture of cars present including a Maybach (which was not participating in the autocross), a Lexus LS430, a Cadillac CTS-V, two Caterhams, a Nissan GT-R, an Infiniti G35 coupe, a smart car, and a big Ford F-150 SVT Raptor which showed the crowd why it's better suited for offroading instead of autocrossing! In addition to the usual crew, we had a few newcomers to spectate with us including Jude Sims and Carolyn Middleton. A full list of winners will be released at a later date, but winners this year included Ted Ankrum, Mike Haney, Ali Durvesh and John Stone IV. Congrats to the winners!

(Photos on page 2)

President's Message

Hi MB Enthusiasts,

The past month was a whirlwind of car events starting with the largest Cars N Coffee I've been to and heard that there were more than 500 cars there. TGA Oktoberfest as usual was phenomenal, Hans did it again, excellent food and drink. Nice German music, a quandary for Helmut of Clyde Drexler's 280 SE Cabriolets blown engine. A ride in one of our member's new Maybach, one impressive automobile (maybe we'll get a write up on the owners impressions). A visit at the Rolls/Bentley dealership to meet with the craftsmen from Crewe and view and select original parts. Another Oktoberfest at Sugarland Mercedes Benz, along with a Jaguar Concours around the corner in front of First Colony Mall. Ending with two Autocrosses, ours and BMW/Porsche's at the Houston Police Academy. Whew, I hope most of you got a chance to attend one if not all including some beautiful weather.

Upcoming Events: Cars N Coffee 11/6/10, location Uptown Square. Holiday Brunch TBA.

Happy Motoring,

Damon Stith | President | [Mercedes-Benz Club of America](#) | Houston Section

Fall Autocross 2010 Photos



[\(More photos on page 5\)](#)

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

Welcome!

Willkommen!

Jason Alford of Kingwood, TX

Jackeline Gascon-Brewton of Pearland, TX

Bryan Corey of Friendswood, TX

Gary D. Ladd of Sugar Land, TX

John L. Green of Houston, TX

Vicki Lewis of League City, TX

Jude Sims of Houston, TX

MBCA | Houston Section thanks these loyal Club members

Robert C. and Daphne Bryan of Waller, TX

Melvin K. Lofton of Houston, TX

Alvaro Mejia-Cosio of Houston, TX

Mack A. Miller of Klein, TX

Linda Skidmore of Houston, TX

Stanley C. Tripp of Sugar Land, TX

Charles and Cristina Wyatt of Tomball, TX

CASARI'S

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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)
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Tel. (713) 850-8282 Fax (713) 850-8818

Fall Autocross Photos

(continued from page 2)



L-R: Jude Sims (standing), Renny Keener, Ted Ankrum (seated), Bryan Postman, Ann Ankrum (seated)

See photos from the Autocross at this link:
<http://s836.photobucket.com/albums/zz290/MBCAHouston/Fall%20Autocross%202010/>

See videos from the Autocross at this link:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/mercedesbenz911mb>



F&J EUROPEAN AUTO PARTS INC.

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Houston, TX 77081

SPECIALIZING IN MERCEDES BENZ PARTS
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Parts Rep.

Want to place an ad in the *Houston Star*? Well, this space can be yours! Contact the editor at editorjoseph@gmail.com for more info.

MBCA | Houston celebrates Oktoberfest with TGA

By: Chuck Wyatt

It has been my pleasure to help with the Oktoberfest for the past few years. Yet as I look back, it seems that every narrative starts off the same. It seems that each year that I have written about this event, the weather has been picture perfect.

Again, it was another perfect day to go to our October celebration at TGA. It was very clear, warm and sunny. For the Houston area, it seemed like a typical fall morning with a day that might make it into the lower 80's maybe middle 80's. Our arrival was a little late and as a result guests were already arriving. The tables and chairs were set up complete with tablecloths, and place settings, a place for our German musicians, the serving table and



most importantly the coolers containing our refreshments. As we arrived, there was plenty of hot coffee, pretzels, sweet rolls and everyone was already having a good time just conversing about great German cars most of which were Mercedes Benz. We signed up for the door prize drawings and spent a couple of cups of coffee finding out who was there and catching up on some much needed car talk. Pretty soon, we were ready for the technical session to start. Our host, Hans Richter started it off with a discussion on maintaining the new Mercedes Benz hybrids. We soon discovered that his personnel had already been trained and qualified to work on these new models, and were shown the manuals for the hybrids. James Wilkerson shared useful information and in some cases warnings on what to do if something bad happens to the electrical system. One thing they mentioned is to never attempt to jump start another car with a hybrid as it will destroy the electrical system of the hybrid. I'm sure that the Mercedes Benz factory is working very diligently to solve these problems so that they will be even safer in the future.

As noon quickly approached it was time for lunch. As usual the food was great, with pork shank, sauerkraut, and German potatoes. We presented our host Peter Ulrich with the plaque commemorating sixteen consecutive years of Oktoberfest with TGA's guests and MBCA | Houston. Then came dessert which was Blue Bell vanilla ice cream with apple strudel. It seemed even better than last year's. There was lots of German music, German beer, good German snacks, German beer, German food, and more German beer. There was plenty of time to talk with friends, make some new acquaintances and walk around and look at some fine German cars. No Oktoberfest is complete without our door prize drawings and this year was no exception. This year the club had some nice prizes and Hans went the extra effort to give away 3 limited edition German beer steins and other great prizes including a TGA polo shirt for the customers/members who travelled the greatest distance to get to this event.

Before we knew it, it was mid afternoon and time to thank Hans, his wife Christiania, Peter Ulrich and his wife Ellen, the service advisors Richard Burger and Matt Burrage, James Wilkerson, Willie Ware, Deborah Deleon, and the rest of the TGA staff who made this celebration possible. Besides giving our MBs top service and care, their honesty, fairness, and customer care makes TGA one of the top Mercedes Benz repair facilities in this region. It was a great time to be had by all and everyone will probably look forward to next year's Oktoberfest at TGA.

See photos from the TGA Oktoberfest at this link:

<http://s836.photobucket.com/albums/zz290/MBCAHouston/16th%20Annual%20TGA%20Oktoberfest/>

Technical Q & A

Question: I took my 1988 300E to get the alignment done and they said that the rear wheels require alignment as well. I've never heard of a rear wheel alignment before. Is this true?

Answer: Yes, your vehicle has adjustments for alignment at all four wheels. Not all alignment shops know how to properly align these cars, so be sure the shop you are taking your car to is qualified and has done Mercedes alignments before.

If you have any questions, please send your requests to the *Houston Star* or contact me directly. I can be reached at Saleem@JohansenUSA.com or call me at 281.883.3792.

An imperially sweet time in Sugar Land at the Mercedes-Benz of Sugar Land Oktoberfest

By: Joseph Middleton



Sugar Land, TX has already been made sweet by the presence of Imperial Sugar, but 10 classic Mercedes-Benz models ranging from 1966-1989 made the town even sweeter. Club members, including 30+ year MBCA veteran Fred Cannata and his 77,000 mi 1978 280CE, came out to Mercedes-Benz of Sugar Land's Oktoberfest to show off their rides. Other attendees showing off their rides included, but were not limited to Richard Wilkins and his 1966 250SE cabrio, Steve Bausermann and his 1970 280S, Leon Hulon and his 1982 300CD, yours truly and his trusty 1982 300D, and Gerry Van Zandt and his 1989 560SEC sporting a freshly rebuilt engine that Mr. Van Zandt rebuilt himself in his home garage during the Summer of 2010. Talk about hands on, DIY talent!

Inside the dealership, we found free German food, free beer, a live band, and free fall themed photos for the kiddies. Even though he did not have a classic Mercedes-Benz to show off, Club President, Damon Stith attended the festivities, as did Jude Sims, one of our newest members. Everyone in attendance had a good time. Our cars on display attracted many who passed by. Some stopped to take pictures with our cars. Others chatted it up with owners, telling stories of how seeing those bodystyles in their youth inspired them to purchase a Mercedes-Benz in adult years.

On behalf of the Club, I would like to say "Thank you" to Lynn Masters, and the rest of the Mercedes-Benz of Sugar Land staff for inviting us to the Oktoberfest.

Join us for our Annual Holiday Brunch

MBCA | Houston closes out each year with our Annual Holiday Brunch. This year will be no different. An exact venue, date and time has not been finalized as of the publication of this newsletter. However, that information will be e-mailed to members as soon as it becomes available.

Keep an eye on your e-mail inbox for details!

Mercedes-Benz introduces two new V8s for 2011 model year



The all new M157. Photo Courtesy of MBUSA

Mercedes-Benz is introducing some new V8 powerplants for the 2011 model year. They will be smaller in displacement, achieve greater fuel economy, and also produce greater power than their predecessors.

The new 4.6L V8, internally designated as the M278, replaces the outgoing 5.5L V8 M273. With 20% less displacement, the M278 will produce 429 HP and 516 lb.-ft of torque, that's 12% more HP and 32% more torque than the M273. The M278 also boasts 10% greater fuel economy than the M273, and is electronically governed to 155mph. The M278 is able to do all of this by the help of twin turbochargers, stop/start technology, and direct injection. The US market will find the M278 making its debut in the 2011 CL550 4Matic before spreading to other models.

The old 6.3L V8, designated as the M156, will be replaced by an all new 5.5L V8, designated as the M157. The M157 is a variant of the M278, and is also a twin turbocharged engine. Like its M278 brother, the M157 also utilizes stop/start technology, direct injection, and is limited to 155mph. Horsepower and torque output for the M157 is 536 HP and 590 lb.-ft of torque. The M157 will be found in the 2011 CL63 AMG and 2011 S63 AMG.

If those numbers are not high enough, both the CL63 and S63 will be available with the AMG performance package, which will increase the M157's power to 563HP and 664 lb-ft of torque, and increase the top speed to 186 mph.

MBCA Fall Raffle 2010



Garage Space Sold Separately.

Enter the MBCA Member-Only Raffle
Purchase a \$50 MBCA raffle ticket and you could win \$51,900 in cash — enough to buy your own 2010 SLK 350 Roadster. All you have to find is a place to park it.

First Prize
\$51,900 Cash
Equivalent MSRP of a 2010 SLK 350 Roadster (or spend it any way you wish)

Second Prize
\$5,000 Cash

Third Prize
\$2,500 Cash

(5) Fourth Prizes
\$1,000 Cash

(5) Fifth Prizes
\$500 Cash

For more information, please see the link below:
<http://www.mbca.org/sites/default/files/reference/raffle-2010b-flyer.pdf>

Deadline is December 1, 2010. Winners to be announced on mbca.org on/about December 15, 2010.

smart USA and Nissan to Collaborate on new vehicle for US market



smart USA and Nissan are collaborating on a 5 door, gas powered B-segment vehicle for the US market. The vehicle would be procured and distributed from Nissan under the smart name and sold at smart USA dealerships. The new vehicle is expected to be available for retail sale in the fourth quarter of 2011.

For more info, see <http://soundboard.smartusa.com/talk/2010/10/06/60/>

Mercedes-Benz introduces 41mpg, 201hp S-class



Mercedes-Benz has introduced its most fuel efficient S-class yet. The 2011 S250 CDI BlueEfficiency is powered by a 2.1 liter, two-stage turbocharged 4 cylinder diesel engine which has an output of 201 hp, 369 ft-lb of torque, and can launch the vehicle from 0-62mph in just 8.2 seconds with a top speed of 149mph. The S250 gets 41 mpg in the European cycle, and boasts the lowest CO2 emissions of any vehicle in its class at 149 g/km. Before you run out to your local MB dealer and try to order one, just know that this car will not be offered in the United States. Instead, the United States will get the still highly efficient S350 BlueTec diesel for 2011.

Event Ideas for 2011

Our Club participates in the usual events each year such as the Bluebonnet Run, the Annual Texas Mercedes-Benz Owners Get Together, and TGA Oktoberfest. For 2011, those events will surely take place as they have proven to be popular events, but we've been thinking about some more events to throw into the mix. Here's just a few ideas we've thrown around.

Defensive Driving School

Day trip from Houston out west toward San Antonio on the Old Spanish Trail

Day trip to Beaumont & Lake Charles areas to meet with our Houston Section Members who reside in those locales

Do It Yourself Tech Session

Track Day

Bowling Tournament

Visit to the Drive In Movies

Cruise to Galveston

MBCA Showing at Cars & Coffee

Visiting and participating in local car shows

If you have any event ideas that you'd like to submit for consideration, please submit them to mbca.houston@gmail.com.

Mercedes Marketplace

Mercedes-Benz autos for sale
Location: Bellaire/SW Houston

Prices reduced, MUST SELL!

1972 300SEL, 85,000 miles,
good, complete parts car, \$800 OBO.

1988 190E 2.6, high mileage, new battery, garaged,
\$1000 OBO.

Call Mrs. Owens: 713-661-3993

1968 Mercedes-Benz 250S for sale



Engine and mechanical systems restored including alternator, water pump, radiator, transmission, fuel tank, front drive train, brakes, power steering, speedometer, horn, tires, and air conditioner.

Exterior and interior body, seats, seat belts, radio, heater core, and window gaskets need repair or restoration. Shop manuals, tools, and records available. Asking \$2,950, price negotiable.

Contact Garland T. Bauch
281-483-1309

garland.t.bauch@nasa.gov

1998 Mercedes-Benz SL600 for sale Converted to SL74 by RENNtech

Formerly owned by Marshall Field V.

35K miles

The modifications done by RENNtech and their cost are listed below.

520HP 7.4L V12 engine: \$32,000

Upgraded transmission: \$1,290

Lowered by 1 inch: \$800

Rear sub-frame modifications: \$1,950

14 inch front Alcon brakes: \$5,760

12 inch rear Alcon brakes: \$3,490

RENNtech rear muffler: \$1,790

RENNtech resonator bypass: \$1,140

RENNtech front and rear sway bars: \$1,135

RENNtech hiflow intake: \$1,245

Larger radiator: \$1,225

Vented hood: \$3,000

Recaro seats: \$6,700

Anti penetration glass: \$2,700



Contact Diane Chapman for more info.
chapmand49@yahoo.com



MBCA | Houston Section

Joseph Middleton, Editor

Officers

President	Damon Stith damstith@yahoo.com 832-265-6044
Vice President	Vacant
Secretary	Renny Keener rennyk@embarqmail.com 281-354-2057
Treasurer	Gerald Grogin gerrygrogin@att.net 713-667-8979
Membership Chair	Joseph Middleton editorjoseph@gmail.com 713-487-8197
Historian	Chuck Wyatt ctwyatt@sbcglobal.net 281-469-7428

Directors

Marvin Boyd	mwbayd@embarqmail.com 281-360-1766
Mike Haney	mhaney@3dtriad.com 713-298-4580

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
Editor's Fax:	713-523-6341
Club Website:	http://www.mbca.org/houston

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<http://www.mbca.org>

2010-11 Upcoming Events

Holiday Brunch

December 2010

New Members' Dinner

February 2011

Bluebonnet Run

Spring 2011

Spring Autocross

Spring 2011

Board of Directors Meeting

November 2

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.

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