



The Houston Star

MBCA | Houston Section Newsletter

September
2010

www.mbca.org/houston

In this issue

President's Message
and Editor's Note
Page 2

New Members and
Loyal Members
Page 3

Technical Q & A
Page 7

2011 Maybach Updates
and Mercedes-Benz Top
Brand Among Women
Page 9

MBCA's New Website
and Sprinter Tour 2010
Page 10

2012 CLS and
Mercedes Marketplace
Page 11

Upcoming Events
Page 12



Engine bay of a CLS63 parked at Houston Coffee and Cars

A morning at Houston Coffee and Cars- August 2010

By: Joseph Middleton

For months, we've been running reminders in the *Houston Star* about the monthly Houston Coffee and Cars get together held every 1st Saturday morning in Uptown Park. I'd never seen a trip report about it, so I decided to take a visit this month. I called up one of my friends who drives a W211 chassis E500 and asked him to go along with me to check out the scene. Though the event began at 8:00am, we both arrived around 9:15am. To say the parking lot was packed would be an understatement. Cars of all sorts of makes and models were out there. I spotted 1920s Ford trucks, 1960s American hot rods, and current day exotic cars. There was a good turnout of Mercedes-Benz owners as well. Most of the Mercedes-Benzes in attendance were newer models, such as the CLS, W221 S-class, W204 C-class and W211 E-class. Even an SLR was there. As for the older metal, there wasn't much of it to be seen. Besides my 1982 300D, I spotted a blue 1979 6.9 owned by one of our newest Club members, Ed Gorman, and a white W113 Pagoda.

(continued on page 5)

President's Message

Hi MB Enthusiasts,

I just got back from Monterrey Historics weekend in Northern California, and it never ceases to amaze me the number of award winning restorations, turnover concurs winners displayed at Pebble Beach and historic racing cars all in increasing numbers every year. It's like every other house along the coast has some gem tucked under a cover just ready to be shared or driven at the next event. Along the entry into Pebble Beach (not amidst the other marques) Mercedes had a very impressive display combined with the Classic center and Maybach which seemed like the building was a permanent fixture just off the greens.

Back here, we'll have coming up: Board meeting 9/7/10 at Greenway, Fall Social at Benjy's on Washington on 9/19/10 (which includes a raffle for 4 SLK alloys/tires and a few new parts for an SLK), Cars and Coffee 9/4/10 at the uptown square, Leake Auto Auction 9/17-19/10 (go to www.leakecarauction.com), and of course our usuals this fall, Autocross and TGA Oktoberfest (October 16), dates TBD last of the year, the Holiday Brunch, also TBD.

I hope to see many of you at any of the mentioned events. I'm sensing autocrossers will be looking forward to the wheels and tires.

Happy Motoring,

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

Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

I hope you are enjoying the new newsletter, both for its news content and its visual content. The August 2010 issue contained a few changes in accordance with the newest MBCA Style Guide. This issue contains more changes to meet MBCA's required content guidelines for Section newsletters. They are small, but beneficial changes. Those of you with sharp eyes will notice the changes quickly (hint: check out pages 3, 5 and 12, see if you can spot some of the changes!).

If you have any ideas for future newsletter content, or want to submit material, please e-mail me your ideas and submissions for consideration at editorjoseph@gmail.com. The deadline for submissions is the 10th of each month for the following month's issue. Please see the text box on the last page underneath "2010 Upcoming Events" for more information on material for submission. Member input is ALWAYS a good thing.

Many miles of smiles to you and yours!

Joseph Middleton | Club Secretary & Newsletter Editor | [Mercedes-Benz Club of America](#) | [Houston Section](#)

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

Welcome!

Curtis J. Boughan of Jasper, TX

Charles Giglio of Beaumont, TX

Lee Washington of Houston, TX

Willkommen!

MBCA | Houston Section thanks these loyal Club members

Lars and Cindy Bengston of Houston, TX

Charles Brown of Houston, TX

Bill Brutscher of LaPorte, TX

Wes Chain of Katy, TX

Ronald J. Cormier and Bruce A. Sebree of
Houston, TX

Gerald and Helaine Grogin of Houston, TX

Carlos and Marleen Kepke of Houston, TX

William Leach of Houston, TX

Lee Martin of Houston, TX

Fredrick W. Mullin of Dickinson, TX

Robert III and Kathy Powell of Houston, TX

Bob Richardson of Houston, TX

Douglas Seckel of Houston, TX

John and Marissa Shasteen of Stafford, TX

Damon Stith of Houston, TX

Frederick and Somjit Swain of Spring, 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

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

Houston Coffee and Cars

(continued from page 1)

Of course, when you have a bunch of tuned cars with big and/or loud engines, and a captive audience you must show off, it's the law! Ok, maybe I made up that last part (ha!). Attendees made a parade exit onto the I-610 West Loop feeder road, with at least one unlucky showoff being busted by HPD (who patrolled the area by both land and air) for their excessive display. The smell of gasoline and burnt rubber, the rumble of mighty V8s, the thumping of speaker systems, it was a treat for the senses of any automotive fan.

In closing, I really do believe that our Club should do its best to make a solid showing at an upcoming Houston Coffee and Cars event. Let's get a few dozen of our cars together, new, old, diesel, gas, coupe, roadster, wagon, sedan and show them what our Club is all about and why it's worth joining. There had to have been at least 200 cars there and twice as many people, so it's great exposure. You can't beat a fail without a try! What do you say Damon? (hint hint!)



You can view more photos from Houston Coffee and Cars at the links below.

www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Houston-Coffee-and-Cars/250042415686?v=photos

[s836.photobucket.com/albums/zz290/MBCAHouston/
Houston%20Coffee%20and%20Cars/](http://s836.photobucket.com/albums/zz290/MBCAHouston/Houston%20Coffee%20and%20Cars/)



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.

**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.**

Join MBCA | Houston Section on Sunday, September 19, 2010 for our annual Fall Social and Election Dinner

Join MBCA | Houston Section for our annual Fall Social and Election Dinner on Sunday, September 19, 2010 at 5pm. The venue for this year will be the award winning Benjy's on Washington Avenue, located at 5922 Washington Avenue. Houston, TX 77007. Come on out for great food, fellowship among Club members, the opportunity to vote for Club Officers and Directors, and a chance to win a set of rims and tires from an early R230 chassis SLK. These SLK rims are perfect for autocrossing or updating the look of your older Mercedes-Benz auto. There will also be other SLK odds and ends to be raffled off, so make sure to buy your raffle ticket at the dinner!

Cost is \$35 per person. The menu will consist of the following choices.

GREEN PLATES

Choice of:

“THE WEDGE” iceberg lettuce, Texas peaches, buttermilk dressing, feta and guanciale

LARGE PLATES**

Choice of:

CRUNCHY CHICKEN pistachio and pecan crusted, marbled potato gratin, and a sweet corn reduction

GRILLED CANADIAN SALMON with a watercress salad, Asian pears, and vanilla-kumquat vinaigrette

RED WINE BRAISED BEEF SHORT RIBS with jalapeno-potato puree and warm chayote slaw

DESSERT

Choice of:

MOM'S CHOCOLATE CAKE old fashioned cake with chocolate pecan icing and vanilla bean ice cream

“DULCE de LECHES” tres leches South American cake soaked in 3 milks made with “milk candy”

**Vegetarian Entree available upon request

For more information, contact Damon Stith at damstith@yahoo.com, or 832-265-6044.

Please RSVP by September 10, 2010.

Technical Q & A

Question: Hello, I own a 1984 300D. I've owned the vehicle for 5 years now, and lately I've noticed several problems that a mechanically inclined friend thinks are related. The brakes are very hard and require a lot more effort to stop the car, all the door locks do not operate when I lock the driver's side door, and the car takes a long time to shut off, sometimes not shutting off at all. When it does not shut off I have to open the hood and press a lever that manually stops the engine. Would you agree that these problems are related? I'm looking for a second opinion before I bring it to my mechanic.

Answer: Yes, these are all related to a failure in the vacuum system, a very common problem on these particular cars. All the systems you describe depend on a constant supply of vacuum to operate normally. There is either a leak in the network of vacuum hoses and devices all around the car or your vacuum pump is on it's last leg. Your mechanic should be able to test both fairly easily if he knows these cars well.

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.

2010 StarFest®



2010 StarFest®
MBCA'S Premier National Event!
Don't miss out on the Concours d' Elegance,
Rally, Seminars, Clinics, Social & Track
Events and much, much more in the
Beautiful Shenandoah Valley!
September 24-29
Winchester, Virginia

Website:

www.starfest2010.com

Hosted by:



2010 Austin German Tri-Marque Concours & Show

Open to all vintages of **Audi, BMW, Mercedes-Benz** Automobiles

SATURDAY * September 25, 2010

**National Tire and Battery (NTB)
8601 N Mopac Expressway
Austin, Texas 78759**

Staging time: 8:00 am

Rags Down: 9:00 am

Awards: 1:00 pm

Complete official registration form by visiting:

www.Tejaschapter.org

Limit : 90 cars (30/Marque) for judged category
Deadline for registration is **September 17, 2010**

All Proceeds Benefit the Center for Child Protection

Brought to you by:

**National Tire and Battery
Mercedes-Benz Of Georgetown
Roger Beasley Audi
BMW of Austin**

Maybach receives updates for 2011 model year



By: Joseph Middleton

All models of Mercedes-Benz's ultra luxury brand, Maybach, will receive updates for the 2011 model year. Exteriors will receive a raised hood, larger grille, divided bumper, LED daytime running lights, and darker tail light lenses. Interiors will receive .925 sterling silver "Maybach Manufaktur" badging in the backrests of seats, new seat stitching, new interior colors, and new trim and paint options across all model lines.

The standard Maybach 57 and long wheelbase 62 will continue with the same 6.0L, 543hp bi-turbo V12 engine and will receive new 19 inch, 21 spoke light alloy rims. The 57S, 62S and 62S Landaulet versions (the "S" denotes "Special" rather than "Sport") will receive an AMG tuned 6.0L, bi-turbo V12 engine with a horsepower boost up from 604hp in previous versions to 620hp for the 2011 model year. Both the 57S and 62S will receive new 20 inch, 12 spoke light alloy rims.

In addition to new rims and in the case of the 62S, a more powerful engine, both the 62 and 62S will have full power closing rear doors, and an optional 19 inch cinema screen to be mounted to the partition wall. Other options include an electro-transparent rear roof section and optional power glass partition with a retractable curtain and intercom system.

The 62S Landaulet will have the same AMG modified 6.0L, 620hp bi-turbo V12 engine as the 57S and 62S. The 62S Landaulet distinguishes itself from other Maybach models in many respects, perhaps most noticeably with its fixed roof over the driver, and a windproof and weatherproof, black convertible soft-top roof over the rear passengers. The soft-top roof can be retracted electro-hydraulically in 16 seconds. As with the 62 and 62S, the 62S Landaulet will have an optional 19 inch cinema screen to be mounted to the partition wall. Exclusive to the 62S Landaulet will be the option of individualized designs available for placement on partition glass, Antigua white paint, 20 inch rims painted white with high sheen spokes, white front indicator lamps, and dark red tail lamps.

Mercedes-Benz ranks as a Top Auto Brand among Women

A semi-annual report released by women-drivers.com shows Mercedes-Benz to be a top auto brand among women consumers. In 3 out of the 4 categories, Mercedes-Benz placed number 1 as the top auto brand in that category. In the category of Top 10 OVERALL brands, with the average score among all brands in that category being 4.05 points, Mercedes-Benz ranked number 1, earning 4.68 out of 5.0 possible points. In the category of Top 10 brands for PURCHASING experiences at dealerships, with the average score among all brands in that category being 4.27 points, Mercedes-Benz ranked number 1 once again, making a tie with Dodge for that category, earning 4.83 out of 5.0 possible points. In the category of Top 10 brands for BROWSING experiences at dealerships, the average score among all brands in that category was 3.72 points. Mercedes-Benz ranked number 1 again, earning 4.52 out of 5.0 points. The only category in which Mercedes-Benz did not earn the number 1 spot was the category of Top 10 brands for SERVICE experiences at dealerships. In that category, the average score among all brands in that category was 3.91 points. Mercedes-Benz was tied with BMW for the number 2 spot and ranked 4.57 out of 5.0 points, while Acura took the number 1 spot with 4.80 points.

Visit MBCA's all new website



Beginning on September 1, 2010, MBCA will have an all new website! Check it out at www.mbc.org.

Follow SprinterTour 2010: Great American Parks



You may recall the feature in the July/August 2010 issue of *The Star* about a 2009 GL320 towing a 30 foot long Airstream trailer. What would happen if you combined the Mercedes-Benz and the Airstream into one super vehicle? You'd get the 2010 Mercedes-Benz Sprinter Interstate 3500 Class-B Touring Coach. The Sprinter, similar to the one pictured above, is powered by a fuel efficient 3.0L BlueTEC turbo diesel engine, boasts seating for eight, sleeping for two, a convection/microwave oven combo, a stainless steel two burner cooktop, and a 3.1 cubic foot refrigerator. Behind the wheel of the Sprinter, you'll find Rob and Jan, a husband and wife team, as they drive across the country, from Alaska to the tip of the Florida Keys to visit 50 national parks across the nation in 217 days, covering 20,535 miles during their move to New Smyrna Beach, Florida. Their journey began on April 28th, and they won't be done until late November/early December! For those of you wondering about a Texas visit from the duo, the only park they've visited in Texas is Big Bend National Park, some 600+ miles away from Houston. The closest they'll come to Houston is during their visit to Hot Springs National Park in Hot Springs, Arkansas, just 400 miles from Houston. Maybe our Section needs to rent a Sprinter Interstate 3500 Touring Coach for one weekend and write a review on it for a future issue of this newsletter.

To follow Rob and Jan's progress as they hit the open road and visit our nation's great National Parks, visit www.sprintertour.com.

Sneak peek at the 2012 CLS-Class



Here's a sneak peek at the all new, redesigned 2012 CLS. The 2012 CLS will make its official debut in October at the 2010 Paris Motor Show.

Mercedes Marketplace

Mercedes-Benz autos for sale

Location: Bellaire/SW Houston

Prices reduced, MUST SELL!

1972 300SEL, 85,000 miles, needs work,
good parts car candidate, garaged, \$1000 OBO.

1988 190E 2.6, high mileage, garaged, \$800 OBO.

Call Angie: 832-453-9698

Your Classified Ad Here!

If you are selling your Mercedes-Benz auto, Mercedes-Benz parts, or other Mercedes-Benz related paraphernalia, the *Houston Star's* Mercedes Marketplace is the perfect place to run your classified advertisement! For more information, please contact Newsletter editor Joseph Middleton at editorjoseph@gmail.com



MBCA | Houston Section

Joseph Middleton, Editor

Officers

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

Vice President Vacant

Secretary Joseph Middleton
editorjoseph@gmail.com | 713-828-4303

Treasurer Vacant

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

Directors

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

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

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

Harry Ramirez ramirezharry@hotmail.com | 832-216-4409

Renny Keener rennyk@embarqmail.com | 281-354-2057

Richard Wilkins rwilk@usiultrasonic.com | 713-227-6603

Regional Director

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

Newsletter Editor

Joseph Middleton 713-828-4303
Editor's e-mail: editorjoseph@gmail.com
Editor's Fax: 713-523-6341
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, or update your info at:
<http://www.mbca.org>

2010 Upcoming Events

Fall Social/Election Dinner
September 19, 5pm at Benjy's on Washington

Oktoberfest at TGA
October 16

Fall Autocross
November 2010

Holiday Brunch
December 2010

Board of Directors Meeting

September 7

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.

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. 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.