



The Houston Star

MBCA Houston Section Newsletter

**September
2009**

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WE'RE GOING GREEN !

BEGINNING WITH THE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER WE WILL BE MAILING LINKS TO THE ONLINE FULL-COLOR VERSION OF THE HOUSTON STAR NEWSLETTER TO OUR MEMBERS USING THEIR EMAIL ADDRESSES FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE'S DATABASE. THE EMAIL ADDRESSES WILL BE THOSE YOU PROVIDED TO MBCA WHEN YOU JOINED THE CLUB, IF YOURS HAS CHANGED RECENTLY OR NEEDS TO BE ADDED, PLEASE GO TO <http://www.mbca.org/> & UPDATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION. WE TRIED TO SET IT UP FOR THIS ISSUE BUT IT WAS A LITTLE MORE DIFFICULT THAN WE HAD EXPECTED.

President's Message

Hi fellow Mercedes Enthusiasts,

I just got back from Los Angeles for my sister's birthday party including a day trip to Catalina Island and again went to Mercedes Classic center in Irvine. Unfortunately, Mike Hunz was still at Monterey Historics (I missed that too this year), so I was unable to get into the back to see the latest projects. I did see through the glass a 190SL getting a bare metal paint job, a couple of 111 3.5's worked on (one of which I saw driving down Pacific Coast Hwy in Newport beach on it's way there), a 600 Pullman having suspension addressed and a 123 wagon being stripped for restoration.



It always is a delight to view the preservation of these models painstaking as it is. The one car that I read about with great interest in the Star by Mike was a very low mileage 1979 6.9. Words don't do the car justice, it had ONLY 229 miles! It was like walking into the dealership back in '79. It was white with blue interior and exceptionally original. The story is that the owner liked the model so much he bought another to store.





If you get a chance to go it's worth a look as are all the other original and restored models. Some of the cars that can be viewed at the Classics Center are models of which just a few were ever produced: like a Le Mans race car and several 300SLs.

For you model collectors, they just received a nicely detailed 1:18 scale 600 limousine that I'll be adding to my collection.



Just another reminder of our going green with the newsletter. This was going to occur this month but we still have a few kinks to iron out. If you are not sure we have your email please let us know.

Events we have up and coming are our Fall Social and Election Dinner at The White Flamingo in Spring, TX on 9/19/09 (See article on page 8), Oktoberfest at TGA with Hans 10/17/09 (you really want to make this one). Fall Autocross 11/15/09 at Kingwood Community College. Holiday brunch 12/6/09 (TBD).

Hope to see you at these events.

Happy Motoring,

Damon Stith
Houston Section

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INTERESTING NOTES

A member of your Board of Directors was in Alabama recently, and spotted this big rig carrying some MLs and GLs from the factory in Tuscaloosa along the highway. Turns out they were Euro spec MLs and GLs with spare tires mounted on the tailgates and rear fog lights.

Unless you live in the Birmingham region, you probably don't see new MB Euro models often. Here's a picture of them. Enjoy!



In the recent Cash for Clunkers program (CARS) I read where the new Mercedes E Coupe qualified towards the \$4500 rebate on a new car

As one of the leading industrial complexes in Germany, Daimler-Benz was a prime target for Allied bombers in World War II. In the First World War, the Mannheim-based Benz & Co. and the Stuttgart-based Daimler Motor Company (the two predecessor firms of Daimler-Benz AG) had suffered a lot of disruption but no actual physical damage; it was not so fortunate the second time around. In September of 1944, two weeks of daylight air raids left 60 years of Daimler and Benz history in smoldering ruins.



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FALL SOCIAL AND ELECTION DINNER

This is your friendly reminder to register and attend the Fall Social and Election Dinner at The White Flamingo Restaurant, Saturday evening September 19, at 6:00 PM. You will be glad you did.

To register telephone Marvin Boyd at 281.360.1766 or mwboyd@embarqmail.com with numbers, name(s) and your choice of entrée

Tilapia Meuniere
 Chicken Saltim Bocca
 Hiawian Chicken, or
 Tomato Basil Bowtie Pasta

(see full description in July newsletter at <http://www.mbc.org/houston/>)

You must be registered to be eligible for door prizes.

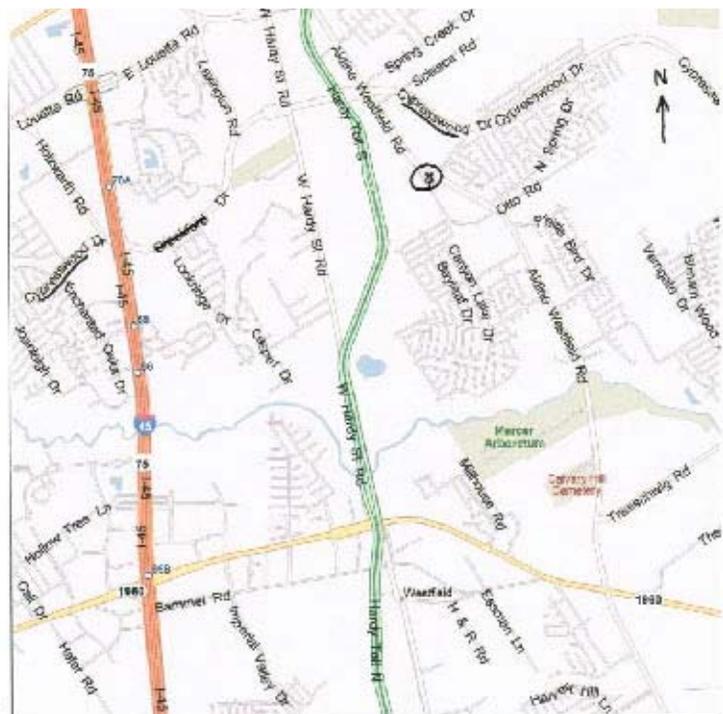
Each entrée is complete with a garden salad, sautéed vegetables, strawberry cheesecake or chocolate mousse cake and ice tea and coffee. Your cost is only twenty-five dollars per person (\$25.00), including tax and gratuity. You may pay cash or check at the door. We will gather at 6:00 pm for a cash bar and social hour.

We will be privileged to have Mr. Wolfgang Sander, Director of Parts and Service, Mercedes-Benz of Houston, North as our guest speaker. He will discuss the planning, time, effort and cost that take place behind the scene in order to service and maintain our Mercedes-Benz vehicles.

Come and elect your board for the following year. Show your support for the board whose primary responsibility is to arrange events for your pleasure and enjoyment. Enjoy a pleasant evening of comrade and a superb dining experience complete with live piano dinner music.

The White Flamingo is located 24307 Aldine Westfield Road, Spring, TX 77373-5952 (281-907-0778).

1. From FM 1960, east of I-45N, travel north on Aldine Westfield Road 3.0 miles to the restaurant on the left.
2. From I-45N, north of FM 1960 travel east of I-45 on Cypresswood Drive (just past Hardy Toll) 2.0 miles, then right, south on Aldine Westfield Road 0.6 miles to the restaurant on the right.



ELECTION OF MBCA - HOUSTON SECTION BOARD

The following slate of Officers and Directors to lead your Club for the following twelve months will be presented for membership vote at our dinner Saturday, September 19 at The White Flamingo Restaurant.

President	Damon Stith
Treasurer	Gail Werner
Secretary	Joe Middleton

Newsletter Editor Buzz Werner

Directors

Marvin Boyd
Paul Danneman
Gerald Grogin
Mike Haney
Harry Ramirez
Buzz Werner
Richard Wilkins
Chuck Wyatt

Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor at the dinner.

Come join us at the Fall Social and Election Dinner. Spend a wonderful evening, cast your vote and show your support for the Board that will arrange events for your pleasure and enjoyment during the following year. Better yet come and join the Board and take an active role in this endeavor.

10 most expensive cars to own and drive

by Russ Heaps Tuesday, August 18, 2009 provided by Bankrate

If you just have to drive your idea of the best car in the world, feel the need to impress every friend and stranger in sight or just have more money than you know what to do with, these cars might capture your fancy.

Here is a list of the 10 most expensive-to-own new vehicles, according to Edmunds.com. Four are from Mercedes-Benz and all but one are European imports. When you consider that the cars on our least-expensive-to-own list cost \$0.39 per mile or less to own, the idea of paying \$3 to \$4 a mile is staggering.

In addition to the average market transaction price and financing rates, the estimates of what it truly costs to own these cars include factors such as fuel, insurance, repairs, maintenance and depreciation. The end result is a ballpark figure for the total cost over the first five years of ownership, as well as the cost per mile based on driving 15,000 miles per year.

All estimates come courtesy of Edmunds.com which features a "True Cost to Own" calculator.

1. Mercedes-Benz SL65 AMG Black Series

Starting price: \$301,750

5-year total: \$364,471

Cost per mile: \$4.86

What pushes the Black Series up the price ladder from the SL65 AMG is the wide use of carbon-fiber body parts and some under-the-hood enhancements. Its 670-horsepower, 6-liter twin-turbo V-12 slingshots this two-seater to 60 miles per hour in less than four seconds. It's also loaded to the gills with high-tech standard equipment.

2. Mercedes-Benz S65 AMG

Starting price: \$202,825

5-year total: \$244,363

Cost per mile: \$3.26

Capable of reaching 60 miles per hour from a standstill in just over four seconds, the S65 AMG combines opulent interior appointments with outrageously aggressive performance. It uses the same 6-liter twin-turbo V-12 found in other high-end Mercedes models but in this application it develops 604 horsepower.

3. Mercedes-Benz CL65 AMG

Starting price: \$205,575

5-year total: \$230,771

Cost per mile: \$3.08

A strikingly handsome coupe, the CL65 AMG is more than a pretty face. Its 604-horsepower, 6-liter twin-turbo V-12 is capable of going from zero to 60 in just over four seconds. Standard gear includes a rearview camera and nighttime vision assist.

4. Audi R8

Starting price: \$126,400

5-year total: \$159,753

Cost per mile: \$2.13

If your goal is to get noticed, there is no surer way to do it than behind the wheel of Audi's R8. Sleek, fast and decadent, the R8 uses a mid-mounted 420-horsepower 4.2-liter V-8 to turn all four wheels. It can dash from zero to 60 in just over four seconds. Sure it's expensive, but it is arguably the most accessible exotic on the market.

5. Porsche 911 Convertible Turbo**Starting price:** \$141,650**5-year total:** \$159,393**Cost per mile:** \$2.13

With an extra-cost options list as long as your arm, this two-seat drop-top offers an array of customizing choices. A 480-horsepower, 3.6-liter twin-turbo flat six-cylinder engine funnels output to all four wheels through a six-speed manual transmission. It gets to 60 miles per hour in less than four seconds.

6. Audi A8 L W12**Starting price:** \$122,625**5-year total:** \$153,588**Cost per mile:** \$2.05

The "L" in its name refers to this luxury sedan's stretched wheelbase, while the "W12" indicates it packs the potent 450-horsepower, 6-liter, W-12 engine under its hood. Fewer than six ticks of the clock are needed for the A8 L W12 to reach 60 miles per hour. Among its standard features are massaging front seats and four-zone automatic climate control.

7. Chevrolet Corvette ZR1**Starting price:** \$106,620**5-year total:** \$146,096**Cost per mile:** \$1.95

The Zeus of 'Vettes, the ZR1 is a supercar by any measure. Motivating it to a zero to 60 time of just over three seconds is a 638-horsepower supercharged 6.2-liter, V-8. Although it doesn't possess the amount of high-end bric-a-brac many of the other entries on this list do, pound for pound and dollar for dollar it may just be the best sports car in the world.

8. Porsche Cayenne Turbo S**Starting price:** \$125,775**5-year total:** \$138,613**Cost per mile:** \$1.85

The only SUV on this list, the Cayenne Turbo S packs Porsche performance into an off-road-capable all-wheel-drive uber package. Turning all four wheels is a 550-horsepower, 4.8-liter, twin-turbo V-8. Reaching 60 miles per hour from a stop takes a hair less than five seconds. A 14-speaker surround-sound audio system and a hard-drive-based navigation system are standard.

9. BMW M6 Convertible**Starting price:** \$111,725**5-year total:** \$138,186**Cost per mile:** \$1.84

The high-performance version of the 6 Series, the M6 is fitted with a 500-horsepower 5-liter, V-10, providing this soft-top with zero to 60 sprints of less than five seconds. A 13-speaker Harman Kardon surround-sound audio system and adaptive xenon headlights are standard.

10. Mercedes-Benz CLS63 AMG**Starting price:** \$99,775**5-year total:** \$137,749**Cost per mile:** \$1.84

No sedan better captures the sleek flow of a coupe's styling than the Mercedes-Benz CLS. In its hopped-up guise as the CLS63 AMG, it complements its drop-dead curb appeal with an asphalt-chomping 507-horsepower, 6.2-liter, V-8 engine. Reaching 60 miles per hour requires just a bit more than four seconds with a top speed of more than 180 miles per hour.

PERSONALIZED CERTIFICATE

Posted by MERCEDES ONLY

Demonstrate proud ownership of your classic or modern Mercedes-Benz vehicle by purchasing a personalized certificate from Mercedes-Benz.

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The handsome certificate is individually issued by the DaimlerChrysler Corporation Archives, with the name of the titled owner of the classic vehicle. It not only confirms the identity of the vehicle, but also testifies to the emotional bond between owner and vehicle.

The certificate also makes an ideal personal gift of lasting value as the owner's name is recorded for posterity in the order books of the Corporate Archives. Generations to come will have a list of these fortunate Mercedes-Benz owners.

A certificate may be purchased by presenting proof of ownership (government-issued title). For more information, contact the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center at 1-866-MBCLASSIC.

http://www.mbusa.com/media/downloads/main/heritage/Classic_Certificate_Application.pdf

Mercedes Marketplace

1985 Mercedes TD-T-300 Turbo Diesel

161K miles, Auto transmission, 5 cylinder, White exterior/Navy interior. Runs well. The interior and body are in excellent condition. Very clean. One owner; Sun roof; low mileage on tires; Garaged in Houston since purchase. \$5000. Call Louise or Bob 713-664-6706.



'82 Mercedes 300CD turbo diesel coupe



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. **\$6500.00**

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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>

Going green

Remember if your email has changed from that which you gave to MBCA when you joined or you just want to make sure you receive the future electronic editions send your preferred e-mail address to damstith@yahoo.com.

2009 Upcoming Events

Fall Social and Election Dinner

September 19

Octoberfest

October 17

Fall Autocross

November 15

Christmas Brunch

December 6

Bowling Tournament

January TBA

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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