



Golden Gate Star-



## RACING INTO HISTORY AND MOUNTAIN VIEW

by Eva Gordon

What: Mozart Foundation Automobile Museum Tour  
When: Saturday, February 23, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm  
Where: Mountain View, CA  
Cost: \$20 per person

In April of 2011, John Mozart opened the doors to his state of the art auto museum in Mountain View. The museum houses anywhere from 60 of his 100 cars, some of the world's finest automobiles on display—including exotic examples like the famous Duesenberg and Ferrari nameplates. His 1937 Alfa Romeo 8C2900 Spyder is an unusually sleek piece of automotive history that has won recognition in some of the world's finest car shows, including the Pebble Beach Concours d' Elegance. Mozart enjoys vintage racing and has many of his racing cars on display.

Many of Mozart's 100 cars are priceless in today's world and today, Mozart's collection is world-renown. A search on the Internet turns up numerous references and photos of him driving his cars on racetracks such as the famous Laguna Seca in Salinas.

All of the restoration is done by his crew in the adjoining "auto shop". They have the ability to fix anything on a car — and sometimes have pieces manufactured when they are no longer available. The building features walls of an unusual composition. The walls are translucent, but not transparent. Grids of small lights are attached to the metal-framed ceiling to bounce off black granite floors, providing just the right amount of light to make the cars "pop" in the light.

(Continued on page 7)

## SELECTING ENGINE OIL FOR YOUR MERCEDES-BENZ - TECH EVENT

by Steve Robinson, Technical Director

What: Technical Event on Selecting Engine Oil for your Mercedes-Benz  
When: Saturday, March 23, 2013, 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM, including lunch and auto clinic  
Where: Fletcher Jones Motor Cars, 5760 Cushing Parkway, Fremont, CA 94538  
Cost: \$20.00 per person

Our friends at Fletcher Jones Motor Cars of Fremont will be hosting this special event featuring two of our favorite MBCA personalities, MBCA National Technical Director George Murphy, and our very own Richard Simonds.

The article on engine oil in the September/October 2012 issue of *The Star* stimulated many responses and inquiries. Richard will be addressing many of these, beginning with a brief history of petroleum and refining, and including characteristics, classifications, and viscosities of the many engine oils currently available for your Mercedes-Benz engine whether gasoline or diesel powered. He will also cover in detail which types of oils, mineral base or synthetic base, are recommended by MBUSA depending on the age range of your vehicle. This comprehensive presentation will certainly make it much clearer which engine oils we should be selecting for our very special Mercedes-Benz automobiles.

Linking appropriately to Richard's presentation on engine oils, George will be identifying and covering a number of internet resources available to the

(Continued on page 7)

### 2013 CALENDAR OF COMING ACTIVITIES

- FEB 3** First Sunday Drive
- FEB 23\*** Mozart Foundation Automobile Museum Tour, Eva Gordon (650)-834-2614 or [eva@well.com](mailto:eva@well.com)
- MAR 3** First Sunday Drive
- MAR 23\*** Tech Event: Selecting Engine Oil for your Mercedes-Benz, Steve Robinson (925) 803-1829 or [sb.robinson@comcast.net](mailto:sb.robinson@comcast.net)
- APR 7** First Sunday Drive
- APR 27** Climb Aboard the Roaring Camp Steam Railroad into the Redwood Forest, Ann Bornstein (831) 786-0782 or [annstitcher@charter.net](mailto:annstitcher@charter.net)

\*Register online at [http://sections.mbca.org/sfba/section\\_calendar.htm](http://sections.mbca.org/sfba/section_calendar.htm) (or form on page 7)

# HI, I'M MAUNA AND YOU'RE...???

By Mauna Wagner, Secretary

Have you ever walked up to a group and felt that everyone knew each other and you didn't know anyone? Did it take you back to your middle school days of cliques and outsiders?

Have you ever had that uncomfortable feeling where "I know I've met you before but I can't remember your name. And I *should* remember !"?

Or how about this? Have you ever started to introduce two people to each other only to find that you've completely blanked on one or both names?

The remedy for all of these squirmy situations is the humble name tag. Yes indeed, the sometimes tacky and much maligned name tag. Whether it's a snazzy (but reasonably priced) badge from the Club Store or a sticky label pressed on you (quite literally!) by your event host, Mercedes Club events are the perfect place to start sporting your name badge. Some of us know each other, some of us don't. We're always running in to people we've met before, who's name may have slipped our minds. At almost every event we have a few new members who'd like to mix and mingle. Let's get those conversations revved up with name tags.

The board has tried several outreach techniques to get more members actively involved in the club – in general, and in club leadership and event planning specifically. We've committed that we'll wear our name tags to help us be more accessible and to help build a sense of community. And it's a two-way street: if you don't remember someone's name, they might not remember yours either. Speaking for myself, I'm not standoffish – I'm just dredging the memory banks to come up with your name. So help me out here!

What's that you say? You have nifty name tags but can't remember to bring them to club events? Then leave them in your car so they'll always be at hand! Have more than one car that you typically bring to events? Keep a set of name tags in each car. Let's all take the first step in getting to know one another by wearing our name tags.

**E-NEWSLETTER NOTICE**—All members with e-mail addresses in the national MBCA membership database automatically receive the e-newsletter. Be sure that the MBCA National Business Office has your current e-mail address to receive the e-newsletter by contacting Renee Herbert at (800) 637-2360. Or send your address correction to Ann Bornstein (SFBA membership director) at [annstitcher@charter.net](mailto:annstitcher@charter.net). Members with no e-mail addresses receive the printed and mailed newsletter. If you want to receive the printed and mailed newsletter, you need to opt-out of the electronic version by contacting editor Dianne Busse at (831) 649-8568 or [diannebusse@hotmail.com](mailto:diannebusse@hotmail.com). To avoid being "undeliverable," be sure to put our editor's address ([diannebusse@hotmail.com](mailto:diannebusse@hotmail.com)) in your list of safe senders.

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## The GOLDEN GATE STAR

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Dianne

## MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

We're proud to recognize our SFBA Section members who have recently celebrated a milestone MBCA membership anniversary. We appreciate that you're part of MBCA and hope that you continue to enjoy the benefits of your membership for a long time. Congratulations!

**Emanuel Schatz**, Danville, 35 years  
**Robert Marshall**, Danville, 25 years  
**Earle and Michelle Shenk**, San Leandro, 25 years  
**Mario Donati**, San Francisco, 20 years  
**Maurice Eckley and Wendy Morgan**, Santa Cruz, 15 years  
**Glenn and Jayne Loo**, Santa Clara, 15 years  
**L. and Pamela Stephens**, Mill Valley, 15 years  
**Tony and Christine Spencer**, Atherton, 10 years  
**Ronald and Marlene Coffey**, Belmont, 10 years  
**Anthony Pagano**, Carmel, 5 years  
**Kara Pannu and Peter Eskildsen**, San Francisco, 5 years  
**Gary and Genie Anderson**, Los Altos, 5 years  
**Frank Ettin**, Livermore, 5 years  
**Walter Rand**, Vallejo, 5 years  
**Martin Appell**, Foster City, 5 years  
**Matthew Lynde**, Hillsborough, 5 years

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

December 2012

(Order name badges from the National Business Office, (800) 637-2360, or online at the Club Store [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org).)

Michael Ayres, San Francisco  
Michael Bender, Novato  
Devin Waterbury and Rich Nunes, Gridley  
Norman and Inke Dingle, Foster City  
Kevin Fick, Orinda  
Peter Gould, San Carlos  
Michael Hubbard, Mountain View  
Rich Lee, Hillsborough  
Johnny Petrakis, San Rafael  
Geoff Sampson, Oakland  
Mark Schultz, Capitola  
Donald Stroh, Larkspur  
Ronald Toney, Oakland

## FIRST SUNDAY DRIVES

First Sunday Drives are casual driving events that are held on the first Sunday of every month. To be notified of the next First Sunday Drive and for more information to links and event photos, please find us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/FirstSundayDrives](http://www.facebook.com/FirstSundayDrives), or go to [www.FirstSundayDrives.com](http://www.FirstSundayDrives.com), or send an email to [join@FirstSundayDrives.com](mailto:join@FirstSundayDrives.com) to join the distribution email list. Questions? Contact FSD administrator Shawn Merrill at [her2011@firstsundaydrives.com](mailto:her2011@firstsundaydrives.com).

Unlike December's drive, Mother Nature was kind to us for our first Sunday drive of the New Year. Thirteen MB's and their owners arrived in Sebastopol ready to take on Sonoma County and her scenic coastline in 55 degree temps.

We wound our way from Sebastopol to Bodega Bay and up the highway to Goat Rock State Park, near Jenner, for the breathtaking sights of the ocean pounding away at the rocks BEHIND us. The sun was bright, and the air crisp, as we took in the sensory delight of seeing the surf line/waves break after the ocean swells passed us. You see, Goat Rock is a small peninsula that jettisons out into the sea right above the water.

After enjoying the delights of Goat Rock, those of us with convertibles took off the tops (who said it was to be 80° outside to enjoy driving with the top down on the car?), and we continued cruising Hwy 116 through Duncan Mills, Guerneville and onto Forestville. Once in Forestville, we had a wonderful no-host lunch of delicious hot sandwiches, fresh cold salads, and pizza.

The next Sunday drive will be February 3, 2013 and will take us from Los Altos to Half Moon Bay. I hope to see you then. In the meantime, drive safe and Happy New Year. Remember, you can always contact me at [her2011@firstsundaydrives.com](mailto:her2011@firstsundaydrives.com) for more information.



Photos by Bill Young

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### Serramonte Auto Plaza Body Shop

Ph: 650.992.1400

### Concord Collision Care Center

Ph: 925.685.2294

### Fremont Collision Care Center

Ph: 510.490.9000

### CSC Of Oakland

Ph: 510.986.1600

### Autowest Collision

Ph: 408.392.1200

### AW Collision Of Carson

Ph: 424.570.4700

### AW Collision Of Calabasas

Ph: 818.600.2600

### AW Collision Of Las Vegas

Ph: 702.551.1100

**AW Collision of Beverly Hills, Opening June 1st - Ph: 424-253-8300**

**www.AWCollision.com**

## CLASSIFIEDS

### NO ADS THIS MONTH

Please support our commercial advertisers! They support our club. Be sure to tell them that you're a member of the club and saw their ad in this newsletter.

[Remember, classified ads are free to members, \$25 for non-members. Your classified ad will appear both in the newsletter and on our web site for one month. Send your "for sale" or "wanted" ad to Dianne Busse, Editor, [diannebusse@hotmail.com](mailto:diannebusse@hotmail.com), or (831) 649-8568 fax.]



## SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 27 Climb Aboard the Roaring Camp Steam Railroad

By Ann Bornstein and Eric Wee

Join your fellow MBCA Members as you ride Roaring Camp's authentically preserved narrow-gauge steam engines through towering redwood groves to the Bear Mountain Summit in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Conductors onboard will narrate the history of the Roaring Camp, the forest, and the steam locomotives that were used to haul giant redwood logs out of the mountains.

The adventure starts with an outdoor BBQ lunch at the "starting point" depot in Felton before departing on the steam train for the 70-minute round-trip ride through the redwood forest. If there are at least 25 sign-ups, we can reserve the observation car that provides panoramic views of the forest and valleys. Save the date for what is perennially a popular event, and look for the registration form and further information in next month's newsletter.

Look for more information and on-line registration information in next month's newsletter.



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# DO YOU KNOW THE WAY TO SAN JOSE?

By Mauna Wagner and Eva Gordon

Over 70 members found their way to the San Jose Fairmont on December 8th for our *Annual Member Appreciation* event and *Holiday Gala Extraordinaire*.

We sipped and supped our way through 6 culinary regions with food and wine pairings. High end sake and British beer were among the wonderful wines to savor.

The music for listening and dancing by the Classy Jazz Trio was perfect for the elegant Pagoda Room.

Members enjoyed dressing up in their exquisite dresses and tuxes and got into a new way of being together at the holidays--that of mixing and mingling with no assigned chairs or tables. Feedback was positive in that people got to meet others and enjoy the festivities.

As part of our Member Appreciation evening, Lois Wong, WebMaster and Laura and Richard Simonds received Members of the Year Awards for their leadership and dedication. Jack Weir, outgoing President, received two awards of appreciation, one from Allen Wrenn, Western Regional Director, and one from Ann Bornstein, Director of Membership.

A number of donations for the Children's Pajamas program were made and a slide show of 2012 in review was available in the bar area.

Following the twilight time event, several people continued the party with live entertainment in the lobby lounge and/or strolled through *Christmas in the Park* Exhibit.

The co-chairs thank everyone for coming and supporting this important club gala.



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# RACING INTO HISTORY AND MOUNTAIN VIEW

(Continued from page 1)

This is an **Invitation Only Event**. The Mozart museum is used only for charitable events, and opened up to car clubs. Join us for a private tour of this unique collection. **The museum address will be emailed to you once you have registered for this event.**

**Photography and/or videotape is NOT permitted and strictly enforced.**

Downtown Mountain View has many culinary delights. We encourage you to extend your stay there and enjoy the area.

Registration deadline is Saturday, February 16, or until sold out. **Please register online at [http://sections.mbca.org/sfba/section\\_calendar.htm](http://sections.mbca.org/sfba/section_calendar.htm).** Questions? Please contact Eva Gordon (650)-834-2614 or [eva@well.com](mailto:eva@well.com).

## ENGINE OIL TECH EVENT

(Continued from page 1)

Do-It-Yourselfer, those Mercedes-Benz owners who still like to do their own maintenance. If you want to see how a job is done or a parts breakdown diagram, George will show us how to access the MBUSA *Startekinfo* system plus MBUSA technical forums. He will be doing this online with the Wi-Fi connection at Fletcher Jones Motorcars. If you want to follow the links in this presentation, bring your wireless capable device, laptop, iPad, etc. with you.

We will have a catered lunch from noon until 1:00 PM. From 1:00 to 3:00 PM, we will have an auto clinic for troubleshooting, and safety inspections for all models of our Mercedes where George and the Fletcher Jones Motorcars technicians will be available to answer questions about your car.

### Schedule:

9:30 – 10:00 AM	Coffee and goodies
10:00 – noon	Tech Event with George and Richard
Noon – 1:00 PM	Catered box lunch
1:00 – 3:00 PM	Auto clinic

### Directions:

From I-880 (Nimitz Freeway), exit at Auto Mall Parkway and go West. Turn left onto Cushing Parkway. Enter at the Fletcher Jones Motorcars Service Entrance (Mercedes-Benz) at 5760 Cushing Parkway. 510-623-1111.

Our Tech Event will be held in the Porsche of Fremont Service Department.

Reservation deadline is Friday, March 15, 2013, in order to provide the caterer with number on lunches needed. **Please register online for the event at [http://sections.mbca.org/sfba/section\\_calendar.htm](http://sections.mbca.org/sfba/section_calendar.htm).** Questions? Contact Ann Bornstein at (831) 786-0782 or [annstitcher@charter.net](mailto:annstitcher@charter.net).

### SELECTING ENGINE OIL FOR YOUR MERCEDES-BENZ Saturday, March 23, 2013 RESERVATION FORM

Names of attendees: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

First Event: Y N

\_\_\_\_\_ persons @ \$20 ea. = \_\_\_\_\_

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Reservation deadline Friday, March 15. For confirmation, include phone # or email above, or **register online at [http://sections.mbca.org/sfba/section\\_calendar.htm](http://sections.mbca.org/sfba/section_calendar.htm)**

### RACING INTO HISTORY AND MOUNTAIN VIEW Saturday, February 23, 2013 RESERVATION FORM

Names of attendees: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

First Event: Y N

\_\_\_\_\_ persons @ \$20 ea. = \_\_\_\_\_

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Reservation deadline Saturday, February 16. For confirmation, include phone # or email above, or **register online at [http://sections.mbca.org/sfba/section\\_calendar.htm](http://sections.mbca.org/sfba/section_calendar.htm)**



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**Please send any address changes directly to MBCA at 1907 Lelary Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80909, or call 1-800-637-2360. We cannot process address changes locally.**

## **LITTLE BERTIE AND BIG BERTHA**

*Steve Robinson, Technical Director*

In 1972, I promised myself within twenty years I would upgrade from my then new Volvo 142E to a Mercedes-Benz. After a few cars in between, including a Volvo 164E, Mercury Capri, Peugeot 505 S-Turbo Diesel and an Audi 5000S, and nineteen years later, I bought my first Mercedes—a new 1991 350SD, Smoke Silver with Crème Beige leather interior. My wife, JuliAnn, named her Big Bertha (I don't name my cars).

Little Bertie arrived in 1996, replacing the Big Bertha—a 1996 E300D, Smoke Silver with Parchment leather. She is still in the stable with only 108K miles on her.

However, I still had a fondness for the W126 chassis and would do a periodic search in the Bay Area. In August, 2008, I found a 1991 420SEL, Smoke Silver with Crème Beige leather with 131K, for sale by the original owner. It came with a solid body, near perfect interior, original window sticker and "fairly" good records. After an inspection by my local mechanic, we made a deal and I took possession early October 2008. She, of course, was named Big Bertha II. Since then, I have thoroughly cleaned the interior, treated the leather, refinished the center console panel, had the wheels refinished, and had an engine intervention when a timing chain guide shattered, causing two bent valves requiring a top-side engine rebuild (masterfully done by Master Tech Ken Adams at Smythe European).

In the fifteen plus years of belonging to MBCA, I have discovered the importance of such an outstanding organization. I have met people who share interests in Mercedes and other marques, enjoy great activities, and value the availability of resources to help maintain our special Mercedes-Benz cars that we love.

