



Golden Gate Star-



TOUR OF THE UNIQUE MALLYA AUTO COLLECTION

by Eva Gordon, Activities Director

What: Mallya Auto Collection Tour
When: Thursday, February 9, 2012, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Where: 28 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito
Cost: \$15 per person

We invite you to join your fellow club members to tour the famous Auto Collection of Indian liquor and airline baron Vijay Mallya. The collection consists of more than 260 cars worldwide, and a precious portion of the Mallya collection is displayed in Sausalito, California. Collection Manager Malcolm Page will share the histories and technological information of the cars and his adventures working for billionaire and entrepreneur Dr. Vijay Mallya. Malcolm's love for cars has grown to an overall enthusiasm and interest in transportation and the history of transportation, which includes cars, airplanes, trains, boats, etc. His expertise and knowledge in the history and values of cars associates Malcolm with a select network of other "CAR EXPERTS" across the globe that Malcolm interacts with on a regular basis. To find out more about Vijay, Malcolm, and the collection, go to www.mallyacollection.com.

We have a limited amount of space available for this tour, so please return the reservation form on page 9 before the February 1 deadline, to insure that you are included in this great opportunity. **Please note that our tour will be on a Thursday!** Questions, please contact Eva Gordon at eva@well.com or (650) 834-2614.



ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS AND YOUR MERCEDES-BENZ

by Richard Simonds, Technical Director

What: Technical Session
When: Saturday, January 21, 2012, 9:30 a.m. – noon
Where: Bay Area Motorworks, Inc., San Jose
Cost: \$7 per person

There are several ways in which electronic systems can help you learn about what is going on in your vehicle and how to improve its performance. Bay Area Motorworks, Inc. will cover the benefits of using the **Mercedes-Benz Star Tester** and demonstrate how it operates. They will also demonstrate the brand new **Hunter Smart Weight Tire Balancing System** and provide a tire balancing for one member's car. Bay Area Motorworks, Inc. is one of three shops in all of California with this machine.

CEO William Sverdlov will demonstrate how the Mercedes-Benz Star Tester can help identify what is going on in the multitude of electronic, computer-controlled systems in your Mercedes-Benz. By running the Star Tester a trained technician can assess everything from fault codes to actual real-time data about how each system is performing. Further, adjustments can be made to electronic control modules in real-time. Given that modern Mercedes-Benz vehicles have 50 or more electronic control modules, the value in being able to see how they operate and change performance parameters is really significant.

After seeing the Mercedes-Benz Star Tester in operation, we will receive a demonstration of the Hunter Smart Weight Tire Balancing System and the newly released **Hunter Auto 28 Tire Changer**. This new tire changing machine provides the safest tire de-mounting and mounting of any device on the market. Tires and rims are touched by nylon or plastic parts, some of which roll along the rim to avoid any sliding contact or risk of scratching

(Continued on page 8)

2012 CALENDAR OF COMING ACTIVITIES

- JAN 1 First Sunday Drive
- JAN 14 Aviation Day, Jerry Terstiege (650) 574-9741
- JAN 21* Electronic Systems Tech Event, Richard Simonds (650) 592-7613
- JAN 22 Section Board Meeting, Mauna Wagner (925) 934-7220
- FEB 5 First Sunday Drive
- FEB 9* Mallya Auto Collection, Eva Gordon (650) 834-2614
- MARCH 4 First Sunday Drive
- MARCH 31* Diagnostic Tech Event, Richard Simonds (650) 592-7613

*Reservation form on page 9

BOARD MEMBER'S MESSAGE

By Eva Gordon, Activities Director

As another year closes, another year begins. Living in the Bay Area offers us a vast array of possibilities for club participation. As a club, last year we visited many great places and areas. This year will be no different. We will be visiting aviation sites, three auto collections, two historical sites, sailing on Monterey Bay, drinking Bavarian beer, and driving East to Nevada and as far south as Los Angeles.

Here is a quick overview of our next year:

We will start the year with a rare behind the scenes tour at the San Francisco Airport United Hangar Tour. One of our members, Ernie Ordasi, has volunteered to lead the event and share this opportunity with us. February will take us to Sausalito, where we will tour the private auto collection of billionaire and entrepreneur Vijay Mallya. March we will head to Mountain View where we will visit the Moffett Field Aviation Museum. April will take us outside to Filoli Gardens in Woodside. Janet Migliore, who is on our board, is a docent there and will share the lovely spring gardens in bloom with us. May we will head east to the Blackhawk Museum auto collection in Danville. If you have never been there, you won't want to miss it. June we will head to Tahoe for a classic auto rally. This will be a weekend event that you won't want to miss either.

July we will head to the Old SF Mint which is one of the historical sites we will visit. August takes us to Carmel where we will once again participate in the Legends of the Autobahn and dinner to follow in Monterey. September we will head south to the Nethercutt Auto Collection just outside of Los Angeles. This will be the first stop for those heading on to StarFest in Phoenix. Our traditional Oktoberfest celebration will take place in the Bay Area, and the location will be announced closer to the date. November we will have a sunset sail on the Chardonnay yacht out of Santa Cruz harbor. Finally December we will hold a traditional Holiday Event for our members, location to be announced.

Along with all these events, we also have several Technical Events in the works. The first is this month at Bay Area Motorsworks in San Jose. The second will be a Diagnostic Tech Session in April. Sign-ups for both are in this newsletter.

The full Calendar of Activities is posted on our website www.mbca.org/sfba. Please refer to it for activity updates. In addition to these activities we would like to encourage our members to get involved and come to our board meetings. We hold board meetings four times a year. The dates are also posted on the calendar. If you would like to attend, please let us know by contacting Secretary Mauna Wagner at maunaw@aol.com.

As an event planner, I couldn't be more pleased with the amount of input I have received from our members. It is because of all of you that we have such wonderful events and participation. The recent economic factors have played a major role in tailoring our events. We have listened to all of you and have been working hard over the past few years to make our events more relevant to our members.

Members have also continued to help out with running the events which is always appreciated. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me. The Board is always willing to mentor anyone who wants to help out planning an event.

Thanks to all who conceptualize, organize, execute, and attend our great events! I am looking forward to another great year!

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA SECTION

www.mbca.org/sfba

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The GOLDEN GATE STAR

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You can send that wonderful article or ad via E-mail or FAX to me for inclusion in the Golden Gate Star simondsl@pacbell.net or FAX 650-592-6318. *Laura*

NEWS AND NOTES

AVIATION DAY, JANUARY 14—Reservations flew in (pun intended), and are now closed for our tour of the United Airlines Maintenance Operation Center at San Francisco Airport. Several tour groups have now been created because of the reservation response. If you are interested in attending, please check with Jerry Terstiege if there have been any cancellations. You can contact him at jerryt94404@aol.com or (650) 574-9741.

SFBA SECTION BOARD MEETING, JANUARY 22—The quarterly Board Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 22, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., at Harry's Hofbrau, 1909 El Camino Real, Redwood City. All board meetings are open to SFBA Section members. An optional no-host dinner will follow. If you plan to attend, please contact Secretary Mauna Wagner by January 18 at maunaw@aol.com or (925) 934-7220.

MEMORIAL CONCERT TO HONOR LINDSAY DROBILISCH, JANUARY 15—SFBA Section members are invited to a memorial concert to honor Lindsay Drobilisch. It will be held on Sunday, January 15, at 3:00 p.m. at the Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Lindsay was a very active member and former secretary of our club, who passed away last July.

FIRST SUNDAY DRIVES

First Sunday Events are casual driving events that are held on the first Sunday of every month. To be notified of the next First Sunday event and for more information to links, event photos, please find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/FirstSundayDrives, or go to www.FirstSundayDrives.com, or send an e-mail to join-SF@FirstSundayDrives.com.

The December weather was spectacular for the 20 cars that caravanned from Pleasant Hill to the holiday brunch site at Hs Lordships Restaurant in the Berkeley Marina. Our route started over some not-very-often traveled twisty back roads of Orinda and Lafayette. The second leg brought us to Inspiration Point in Tilden Park for a break and a view, and then we headed over the Berkeley hills for the final leg through the UC campus and down University Avenue to the restaurant. A wonderful champagne brunch awaited us there, and we joined many more members who weren't on the drive. Everyone was grateful for James Lindstrom re-activating the FSD program.

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2012 CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

Be sure to check your monthly newsletter and the section's web site for the latest updates on activities.

JANUARY 1 First Sunday Drive 14 Aviation Day at UAL 21 Technical Session 22 Section Board Meeting	MAY 6 First Sunday Drive TBD Blackhawk Museum Tour	SEPTEMBER 2 First Sunday Drive TBD Nethercutt Car Collection Tour 28-Oct. 3 StarFest in Phoenix
FEBRUARY 5 First Sunday Drive 9 Mallya Auto Collection Tour	JUNE 1-2 Tahoe Rally 3 First Sunday Drive	OCTOBER 7 First Sunday Drive TBD Oktoberfest 22 Section Board Meeting & 2013 Planning Meeting
MARCH 4 First Sunday Drive TBD Moffett Field Museum Tour 31 Diagnostic Technical Session	JULY 1 First Sunday Drive TBD SF Old Mint Tour 22 Section Board Meeting	NOVEMBER 4 First Sunday Drive TBD Santa Cruz Sailing Cruise
APRIL 1 First Sunday Drive TBD Filoli Tour 22 Section Board Meeting	AUGUST 5 First Sunday Drive 17 Legends of the Autobahn 17 Dinner in Monterey	DECEMBER 2 First Sunday Drive TBD Holiday Party & Day @ SFBA Archives



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MERCEDES-BENZ SAFETY SYSTEMS

by Richard Simonds, Technical Director

What: Technical Event / Diagnostic Clinic / High-Mileage Award Certifications
When: Saturday, March 31, 2012, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Where: Park Avenue Motors, Palo Alto
Cost: \$20 per person, including a catered German-style lunch

In the past 15+ years, Mercedes-Benz and other luxury manufacturers have been adding features to our vehicles to improve safety and usability. This technical event will provide you with an understanding of what they do, why they do it, and (to the extent possible) how they work. The Master Technician, Lance, at Park Avenue Motors will present technical information about:

- DISTRONIC PLUS active cruise control with PRE-SAFE® Brake
- ATTENTION ASSIST
- Blind Spot Assist / Active Blind Spot Assist
- Lane Keeping Assist / Active Lane Keeping Assist
- Night View Assist PLUS with pedestrian detection
- PARKTRONIC with Parking Guidance
- Adaptive High Beam Assist

After lunch we will provide two special services at no charge:

- Diagnostic Clinic / Safety Inspection
 - You can discuss your vehicle with the technician who will check all fluids and do under hood and under vehicle inspections. If you are having a challenging problem, bring your vehicle in to discuss it with the technician in real time.
 - Others may observe if their vehicle is not being diagnosed/inspected.
 - High Mileage Award Certification
 - Has your Mercedes-Benz reached certain milestones? You can apply for a high mileage award and grill badge. The magical mileage points are:
 - 250,000 km / 155,000 miles
 - 500,000 km / 312,000 miles
 - 750,000 km / 468,000 miles
 - 1,000,000 km / 625,000 miles
 - 1,000,000 miles
 - Bring your vehicle and supporting records to apply for this honor from MBUSA/DAG.

Snacks and coffee will start at 9:30 a.m. The technical presentation will start at 10:00 a.m. Lunch with German-style food will be served, and immediately afterward the Diagnostic Clinic-Safety Inspections and High Mileage Award certifications will be offered to those who want to participate or observe.

Send in your reservation (see page 9) by the March 26 deadline. Driving directions will be sent with your confirmation. Questions, contact Richard Simonds at rsimonds@pacbell.net or (650) 592-7613.



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MEMBER OF THE YEAR—CHARLIE MARLOW

by Jack Weir, President

One pleasure of the section president is to select the recipient of the Member of the Year award. There are various criteria to consider: volunteer efforts on behalf of the club, enthusiasm for the club and the marque, and membership promotion. After taking nominations from various other section members, I had an easy decision in selecting **Charlie Marlow as SFBA Section's 2011 Member of the Year**.

So, what made my decision so easy? Charlie wholeheartedly and generously assisted in the planning, coordinating, and running of the 2011 Legends of the Autobahn, MBCA's national special event, held during the Pebble Beach Concours week in August.

Nominated by Laura Simonds, general chairman of Legends of the Autobahn, she offered this very long list of Charlie's contributions:

- Being MBCA's trophy sponsor
- Participating in planning meetings with the other car clubs
- Organizing all field placement of Mercedes vehicles
- Storing Pat Matthews' classic cars featured in the car show
- Finding a volunteer Mercedes to display Borrani Wheels, and then putting on and taking off the wheels and tires
- Receiving, storing, and returning all equipment for the MBCA membership display
- Supplying cases of water at the event
- Providing the space and help at his shop to assemble the entrants' gift bags



I think you're getting the sense of Charlie's tremendous volunteer efforts for many months during 2011. His contributions were a significant reason why Legends of the Autobahn was such a huge success.

Charlie has also been a long-time supporter of MBCA. In his independent shop in Seaside, Marlow Mercedes-Werks, he has MBCA membership materials everywhere, as he actively promotes membership. His shop has also been a starting place for "First Sunday Drives."

We're proud to award this honor to Charlie Marlow, and we can't express our appreciation and gratitude enough for his generous volunteer efforts. Congratulations!

TAKING THE SLOW ROAD ON DILLON BEACH RALLY

By Mauna Wagner, Secretary

On November 19, eighteen cars and 33 people attended the biennial Dillon Beach Rally. After a short drivers' meeting in Sausalito, where quiz sheets were passed out, we started on Hwy. 1, the Shoreline Highway (a quiz question) which we followed basically all the way to our final destination in Dillon Beach.

The weather was perfect, and we passed some of the most gorgeous forest and coastline scenery in California. We stopped at the Pt. Reyes National Seashore Visitor Center for a break (and where Rosemary Akey and her ride partner Lise carefully noted 25 species of birds—another quiz question). Our next stop was the famous Cowgirl Creamery in Pt. Reyes Station where we sampled and purchased cheese for our lunch.

Our final leg took us north through the small towns of Marshall and Tomales, where we headed west for the Wagner-Weir beach house, Osprey Landing (another quiz question). On our arrival Mauna and her helpers served soup, chowder, and sandwiches, as well as a huge spread of appetizers and desserts, many of which were provided by participants. And, as has become traditional for this rally, the helpers prepared and served a constant stream of hot Pacific oysters purchased that day at a local oyster farm.

As one might expect, Rosemary and Lise ran away with the quiz questions prize. We may have to change the rules next time! Thanks to all the participants and helpers for the best Dillon Beach Rally yet!

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

From time to time, we 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!

William & Betty Starritt, Gilroy, 35 years
Steven & Barbara Olson, San Jose, 30 years
Phillip & Jean Brown, Novato, 15 years
Gary Zellner, Los Altos, 10 years
Michel Bertin & Isabelle Bailly, Palo Alto, 10 years
Richard & Cheri Perez, Cupertino, 5 years
Jan & Guilaine Hedquist, State College, PA, 5 years
Steven Finsterbusch, El Dorado Hills, 5 years
Daniel Bender, Oakland, 5 years

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

November 2011

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

Mark Crisler, Sonoma
Katie-Jane Dimo, San Francisco
Lauren & Kent Goldman, San Francisco
Erik Gustavsson, Los Gatos
Vikram Joneja, San Ramon
Thomas MacPherson, North San Juan
Eric Schmidt, Santa Rosa
Deborah Uzzle, Salinas
Robin White, Mountain View

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE BY ORIGINAL OWNER: 1989 190E 2.6. Four-door sedan/4-speed automatic. Exterior smoked silver metallic; interior dark brown. Mileage 115,368. \$3,500. Contact C. Palestro at (408) 779-8694 (Morgan Hill) or cpalestro6@aol.com.

FOR SALE: 1964 230SL Roadster. Runs and looks good, rebuilt engine 16 years ago from Smythe European at 105,000 kilometers, currently 112,000. No rust, always garaged, metallic burgundy with tan MB-TeX interior, automatic, missing soft top & frame, includes hardtop holder, hoist & covers. \$21,000. Contact Greg in Novato at ggener@comcast.net.

FOR SALE: STAR magazines, 32 years, 1980 through 2011, complete except for three issues. Excellent condition. \$199. Contact John at jnidecker3@gmail.com or (510) 864-1785.

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 Laura Simonds, editor, simondsl@pacbell.net, or (650) 592-6318 fax.]

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. 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 Laura Simonds at (650) 592-7613 or simondsl@pacbell.net. To avoid being "undeliverable," be sure to put our editor's address (simondsl@pacbell.net) in your list of safe senders.

ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS

(Continued from page 1)

the rim or abrading the tire. Even the tire balancing weights have changed significantly over the past several years, and we will see what is new and how it can improve the ride quality and tire life of your Mercedes-Benz.

Snacks and coffee will start at 9:30 a.m. The technical event and demonstrations will start at 10:00 a.m. and end around noon. Send in your reservation (form on page 9) by the January 14 deadline. Driving directions will be sent with your confirmation. Questions, contact Richard Simonds at rsimonds@pacbell.net or (650) 592-7613.

MERCEDES-BENZ SAFETY SYSTEMS
Saturday, March 31, 2012
RESERVATION FORM

Names of attendees: _____
Address: _____
City/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

First Event: Y N

_____ persons @ \$20 each = \$_____

Participate in Diagnostic Clinic / Safety Inspection: Y N

Year and Model of Vehicle to be diagnosed: _____

Diagnostic Item Needing Attention: _____

Bringing a Vehicle for
High Mileage Award Certification: Y N

Year, Model, Mileage of Vehicle to Certify: _____

Make checks payable to SFBA/MBCA and mail to:

Richard Simonds
2909 Brittan Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070-3520
(650) 592-7613, rsimonds@pacbell.net

Reservation deadline March 26 or when limit is reached.
For confirmation, include e-mail or phone number above.
Confirmation will be sent upon receipt of reservation.

SFBA SECTION RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to our own SFBA Section members who were winners in the December 2011 MBCA raffle. Drum roll, please:

First Prize, \$51,000 – **John Humphries** of Scotts Valley
Fourth Prize, \$1,000 – **Philip Mancini** of Hillsborough

John was notified of his “win” while in Hawaii celebrating his 50th wedding anniversary. That’s quite a surprise gift! Maybe we’ll see John at a section event soon in a brand new Mercedes-Benz!

ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS AND YOUR MERCEDES-BENZ
Saturday, January 21, 2012
RESERVATION FORM

Names of attendees: _____
Address: _____
City/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

First Event: Y N

_____ persons @ \$7 ea. = \$_____

Year and Model of the vehicle you plan to drive: _____

Use it to demonstrate the Star Tester? Y N

What you want to know about by testing it? _____

Use it to balance a set of wheels and tires? Y N

Problem you are having with tire balance or wear _____

Make checks payable to SFBA/MBCA and mail with to:

Richard Simonds
2909 Brittan Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070-3520
(650) 592-7613, rsimonds@pacbell.net

Reservation deadline January 14 or when limit is reached.
For confirmation, include your e-mail or phone number above. Provide a SASE with your address to receive a mailed confirmation.

MALLYA AUTO COLLECTION TOUR
Thursday, February 9, 2012
RESERVATION FORM

Names of attendees: _____
Address: _____
City/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

First Event: Y N

_____ persons @ \$15 ea. = \$_____

Make check payable to SFBA/MBCA and mail to:

Ann Bornstein
61 Devon Court
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(831) 786-0782, annstitcher@charter.net

Reservation deadline is February 1st, or when limit is reached. For confirmation, include e-mail or phone number above. Confirmation will be sent upon receipt of registration.



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

DILLON BEACH RALLY, NOVEMBER 19, 2011

