



Golden Gate Star-



## TAKE A LONG LOOK AT MERCEDES HERITAGE

by Richard Simonds, Technical Director

**What:** Technical Event at Mercedes Heritage Showroom and Shop

**When:** Saturday, August 11, 2012, 9:30 a.m. – noon

**Where:** 1315 Rollins Road, Burlingame

**Cost:** \$7 per person

Roy Spencer, MBCA member and owner of Mercedes Heritage Showroom and Shop, will show us vehicles currently in restoration, on display, and/or for purchase at this technical event. We will have an opportunity to see one of the most extensive databases on Mercedes-Benz SLs in the country. Our technical event will offer participants a chance to query the database and the Mercedes Heritage team about fine points of Mercedes-Benz vehicles. Roy has expanded his "Our SL" business to include a wider array of services for a broader spectrum of M-B vehicles, with an emphasis on the classics. This event was sold out a few years ago when it was held at the "Our SL" facility. Roy has moved to a much more usable building, and we'll also get a tour of his new place.

As usual, morning treats will be at 9:30 a.m. The tour and technical discussion will go from 10:00 a.m. until approximately noon.

Look for the reservation form in the July and August issues of this newsletter and on the SFBA Section website. Questions, contact Richard Simonds at (650) 592-7613 or [rsimonds@pacbell.net](mailto:rsimonds@pacbell.net).

## TOUR THE OLD SF MINT

By Kara Christelle Pannu, Hospitality Director

**What:** Old San Francisco Mint Tour

**When:** Saturday July 28, 2012 11:00 a.m.

**Where:** 88 - 5<sup>th</sup> Street, San Francisco

**Cost:** \$15 per person

Join us for a behind the scenes tour of the Old San Francisco Mint—just now open to the general public. Tour the mint and experience the history and get a look inside, hear the plans for the facility, and the progress thus far. This is a one-hour tour for a cost of \$15 per person. After the tour, we will have a no-host lunch at the famous 'Wichcraft for their creative soup and sandwiches. It will be a day of learning and fun! Parking is available at the 5th & Mission garage.

**A bit of history:** From 1874 to 1937, the second United States Mint in San Francisco (now known as the "Old Mint") was the most active mint in the U.S. In 1877, over fifty million dollars in coins were produced. By the 1930s, one-third of the nation's gold reserves were stored at the Old Mint. The second United States Mint in San Francisco occupies a central role in San Francisco history. In 1869, Congress appropriated \$300,000 to acquire a new site at 5<sup>th</sup> and Mission Streets and construct a building. Plans were drawn under the supervision of Alfred B. Mullett, Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department from 1866 to 1874. Mullett's design was Classical Greek Revival, Doric columns, and Roman scale and proportions. Sandstone from Newcastle Island in British Columbia was shipped in by three schooners for the facing of the upper floors and for the six colossal columns on the portico. The basement walls were of granite from the Griffith Quarry in Penryn, Placer County, California. On May 26, 1870, the cornerstone of the Mint was laid. The building opened on a rainy Saturday, November 5, 1874. The mint survived the severe earthquake of 1906 due to Mullett's design.

*(Continued on page 11)*

### 2012 CALENDAR OF COMING ACTIVITIES

**JUNE 3** Day at Races & FSD, Eva Gordon (650) 834-2614

**JULY 1** First Sunday Drive

**JULY 28\*** Old SF Mint Tour, Kara Pannu (415) 205-0790

**AUG 5** First Sunday Drive

**AUG 11** Technical Event, Richard Simonds (650) 592-7613

**AUG 17** Legends of the Autobahn, Laura Simonds (650) 592-7613

**AUG 17\*** Monterey Dinner, Mauna Wagner (925) 934-7220

\*Reservation form on page 11, or register online at [http://sections.mbca.org/sfba/section\\_calendar.htm](http://sections.mbca.org/sfba/section_calendar.htm)

# BOARD MEMBERS' MESSAGE

by Richard Simonds, Technical Director

SFBA Section always offers a variety of events to appeal to a wide range of interests for our diverse membership. If you would like to see two of California's finest automotive museums—The Mullin Automotive Museum and the Nethercutt Collection—plan to join me on a road trip that leaves from San Carlos on September 26 at 8:00 a.m. and visit the Mullin Automotive Museum in Oxnard that afternoon. We plan to spend the night in Oxnard; then make our way to Sylmar at 8:30 a.m. to visit the Nethercutt Collection. Two great museums and an interesting road trip down Highway 101. We will be joined on this road trip by other club members from the West Coast who will participate in **StarTrip 2012** as a way to get to **StarFest®** in Phoenix.

It is an MCA tradition to provide a driving event to StarFest from different locales. StarTrip 2012 is how members from the West Coast can make their way to Phoenix for MBCA's biennial premier national event. As you have likely seen in *The Star* magazine, StarFest has a lot to offer the Mercedes-Benz enthusiast. There is always a welcome reception, car show (Concours d'Elegance), rally, and driving events covering defensive driving (instruction), autocross (vehicle handling), time trials (applying your new skills on a closed course), and acceleration runs (formerly known as drag racing). If your "thing" is not driving, there are always interesting tours, shopping, great meals, a banquet (for the food lovers), and lodging at the Arizona Biltmore Hotel, Resort, and Spa (for the sybarites who seek an abundance of pampering).

So, you may be asking, just how can I partake of these wonderful offerings?

For **StarTrip**, go to [www.mbca.org/sfba](http://www.mbca.org/sfba) and click on "StarTrip" for event details. For more information or to get on the list of participants, contact Richard Simonds at [rsimonds@pacbell.net](mailto:rsimonds@pacbell.net).

For **StarFest**, go to [www.starfest2012.com](http://www.starfest2012.com) to get details and to register. For more information, contact Debbie Ichiyama at [StarFestRegistrar@desertstars.org](mailto:StarFestRegistrar@desertstars.org).

We look forward to seeing you from September 26<sup>th</sup> to October 3<sup>rd</sup>, if you participate in StarTrip 2012 and StarFest 2012. May your Mercedes-Benz Star shine bright on the highways and byways of America.

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

## MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA SECTION

[www.mbca.org/sfba](http://www.mbca.org/sfba)

### Executive Board

*President*, **JACK WEIR**  
925.934.7220 Cell 925.899.4298  
Fax 925.930.0446 [jweir39@aol.com](mailto:jweir39@aol.com)

*Vice President*, **GLORIA LOVENTHAL**  
408.289.1933 Cell 408.823.6400  
[glorialov@gmail.com](mailto:glorialov@gmail.com)

*Treasurer*, **LOIS WONG**  
415.601.1329  
[lois.h.wong@gmail.com](mailto:lois.h.wong@gmail.com)

*Secretary*, **MAUNA WAGNER**  
925.934.7220  
[maunaw@aol.com](mailto:maunaw@aol.com)

*Ex-Officio*, **ROBERT SCHILLING**  
650.619.7550  
[res.mbca@offserver.com](mailto:res.mbca@offserver.com)

### Board of Directors

*Activities*, **EVA GORDON**  
650.834.2614 Fax 510.234.4574  
[eva@well.com](mailto:eva@well.com)

*Advertising*, **JANET MIGLIORE**  
650.349.2744  
[janetmigliore@hotmail.com](mailto:janetmigliore@hotmail.com)

*Editor*, **LAURA SIMONDS**  
650.592.7613  
Ofc 650.691.9123 Fax 650.592.6318  
[simondsl@pacbell.net](mailto:simondsl@pacbell.net)

*Photographer & Historian*  
**SANDY DROBILISCH**  
408.782.2305 Fax 408.782.1518  
[drob1931@yahoo.com](mailto:drob1931@yahoo.com)

*Director at Large*, **DON PENNEY**  
707.310.0460  
[don.penney@kp.org](mailto:don.penney@kp.org)

*Director at Large*, **JAMES LINDSTROM**  
415.601.6009  
[benzboi@FirstSundayDrives.com](mailto:benzboi@FirstSundayDrives.com)

*Hospitality*, **KARA PANNU**  
415.205.0790  
[pannukara@yahoo.com](mailto:pannukara@yahoo.com)

*Membership*, **ANN BORNSTEIN**  
831.786.0782  
[annstitcher@charter.net](mailto:annstitcher@charter.net)

*Technical*, **RICHARD SIMONDS**  
650.592.7613 Fax 650.592.6318  
[rsimonds@pacbell.net](mailto:rsimonds@pacbell.net)

*Webmaster*, **LOIS WONG**  
415.601.1329  
[lois.h.wong@gmail.com](mailto:lois.h.wong@gmail.com)

*Director at Large*, **JERRY TERSTIEGE**  
650.574.0741  
[jerryt94404@aol.com](mailto:jerryt94404@aol.com)

*Director at Large*, **VACANT**

*Western Regional Director*,  
**ALLEN WREN**  
916.988.0225  
[mbcawestr@comcast.net](mailto:mbcawestr@comcast.net)

*National Treasurer*,  
650.592.7613 **LAURA SIMONDS**  
Fax 650.592.6318  
[simondsl@pacbell.net](mailto:simondsl@pacbell.net)

## The GOLDEN GATE STAR

Publisher  
Editor  
Photographer

Anza Group - San Jose  
Laura Simonds  
Sandy Drobilisch

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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](mailto:simondsl@pacbell.net) or FAX 650-592-6318. *Laura*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Day at the Races, June 3**—Reservations closed on May 1, but if you want to find out about a “wait list” or cancellations, contact Eva Gordon at (650) 834-2614 or [eva@well.com](mailto:eva@well.com).

**Sierra Nevada Rally Weekend, October 5-7**—Mark your calendar for the first weekend in October and plan to come and participate in the Sierra Nevada Rally. Fall in the mountains means great weather and beautiful fall foliage, and Rally Master Robert Schilling promises an event to be enjoyed by all.

Many know Robert as the founder of our First Sunday Drives, so you know he knows how to pick great driving routes. What many don't remember is that before focusing on the First Sunday Drives, Robert was known for the great rallies he planned for our section. Now back in the Rally Master seat, Robert is promising an event that will be both fun and challenging for all participants. We are told this is not a difficult “time and distance” rally but that is all we are being told in advance of the event.

The weekend will include a welcome reception on Friday evening, a driving rally appropriate for all skill levels on Saturday, an awards banquet on Saturday evening, and a planned route caravan back to the Bay Area on Sunday.

Watch for more details on the event, our famous host resort, and reservation information in upcoming newsletters. If you have any early questions, or would like to volunteer to help on this event, please e-mail Robert at [res.mbca@offserver.com](mailto:res.mbca@offserver.com).

**Holiday Gala, Change of Date from Dec. 1 to Dec. 8—SAVE THE DATE.** Do you know the way to San Jose? Our Holiday Gala Weekend will be on Saturday, December 8, at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose. It will be a Twilight Time Gala from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Co-chairmen are Gloria Loventhal ([glorialov@gmail.com](mailto:glorialov@gmail.com)) and Mauna Wagner ([maunaw@aol.com](mailto:maunaw@aol.com)).



## 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](http://www.facebook.com/FirstSundayDrives), or go to [www.FirstSundayDrives.com](http://www.FirstSundayDrives.com), or send an e-mail to [join-SF@FirstSundayDrives.com](mailto:join-SF@FirstSundayDrives.com).

A perfect day for a May First Sunday Drive—the weather couldn't have been nicer. We started off with 28 cars and ended at Les Chenes Estate Vineyards with 24—someone got lost—hope they weren't following me! ☺ Thanks to Gloria Loventhal and Richard Pederson for planning the event. A special thanks to Candice and Richard Dixon, our hosts at Les Chenes Estate Vineyards, for being so accommodating and closing their tasting room to the public just for us.

## POST-LEGENDS MONTEREY YACHT CLUB DINNER

*by Mauna Wagner, Secretary*

**What:** Cocktails and Dinner  
**When:** Friday, August 17, 2012, 4:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club, Monterey  
**Cost:** \$40 per person

The Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club will be the perfect venue for cocktails and dinner following the Legends of the Autobahn Concours on Friday, August 17. This popular dinner has sold out quickly the past two years, so make your reservation early to guarantee your spot.

Our evening will start at 4:00 p.m. with appetizers and no-host cocktails in the bar and on the deck overlooking the Monterey Harbor. Dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m., making an early evening for those who need to rest up for the weekend or travel home.

Cost for the dinner is \$40 per person and includes your choice of New York Steak or Seafood entrée, along with salad, side, and dessert. Feedback from our previous visits was that the venue was ideal and the food was excellent. I agree completely—you don't want to miss it! This uniquely charming club is casual, so feel free to come directly from the Legends concours field.

Reservations will be accepted in the order that payment is received. Are you displaying a car at the Legends of the Autobahn? In the event of a waiting list, preference for reservations will be given to those that are displaying a vehicle at the Legends event.

Space is limited, so make your reservation quickly if you plan to attend. Please register online at [http://sections.mbca.org/sfba/section\\_calendar.htm](http://sections.mbca.org/sfba/section_calendar.htm). You will receive an e-mail confirmation, along with additional information. Questions about the dinner should be directed to Mauna Wagner at [maunaw@aol.com](mailto:maunaw@aol.com) or (925) 934-7220. Questions about Legends of the Autobahn should be directed to Laura Simonds at [simondsl@pacbell.net](mailto:simondsl@pacbell.net) or (650) 592-7613.

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**www.AWCollision.com**

# JOIN THE FUN AT LEGENDS 2012

MBCA invites you to join the fun and excitement at Legends of the Autobahn 2012 on Friday, August 17, at Rancho Cañada Golf Club in Carmel Valley. Legends 2011 attracted an audience of thousands to view nearly 500 cars on display and gathered worldwide attention.

The “new” news for 2012 is that Audi Club of North America is joining the other co-hosts MBCA, BMW Car Club of America, and Porsche Club of America—making it a 4 German marque show. The event will feature separate club concours judging sites and combined corral parking areas. In addition to mingling among these precision cars, there will be food, displays, club booths, and a Spaten Biergarten.

The other exciting news is that the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center will bring some special vehicles to display. A special display of members’ Gullwings will be featured this year.

To enter one of the six judged classes for 1992 and older vehicles, a \$60 entry fee will apply. Or to display any vintage in the corral, a \$30 entry fee will apply. A gourmet buffet lunch and event polo shirts are optional. The discounted “early bird” registration deadline is August 1, and all registration closes on August 10.

To register, go to [www.motorsportreg.com](http://www.motorsportreg.com). Scroll down to “August 17” then to “MBCA—Legends of the Autobahn” (not BMWCCA, PCA, or ACNA). You can also check [www.legendsoftheautobahn.org](http://www.legendsoftheautobahn.org) for complete details and a link to the registration website.

Register today for judged concours or display-only corral—you don’t want to miss Legends 2012. For information or questions, contact Laura Simonds at 650.592.7613 or [simondsl@pacbell.net](mailto:simondsl@pacbell.net).

**WANTED: VOLUNTEERS AND JUDGES** ... for Legends of the Autobahn. Volunteer jobs include set up on Thursday afternoon, vehicle check-in, field placement, hosting in the MBCA tent, assembling registrants’ gift bags, and (the ever popular) clean up. If you’d like to help, contact Laura Simonds at (650) 592-7613 or [simondsl@pacbell.net](mailto:simondsl@pacbell.net).

We’re also looking for concours judges. If you’d like to be a judge, contact Richard Simonds at (650) 592-7613 or [rsimonds@pacbell.net](mailto:rsimonds@pacbell.net).

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## LEGENDS OF THE AUTOBAHN 2012



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**Register before August 1, 2012 at [www.motorsportreg.com](http://www.motorsportreg.com)**

Scroll to “August 17” then to “MBCA – Legends of the Autobahn”

For event details and a registration link, go to  
[www.legendsoftheautobahn.org](http://www.legendsoftheautobahn.org) and click on the MBCA logo  
or Mercedes-Benz name.

For information, contact Laura Simonds at 650.592.7613  
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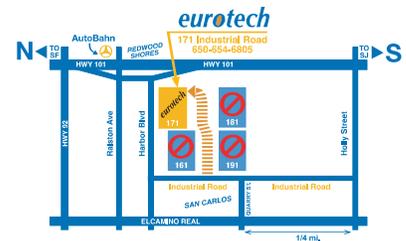


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Based on Autobahn Motors 2012 Competitive Price Comparison List. Service Prices do not include tax and hazard waste disposal fees. Eurotech Complete Auto Care prices valid through September 3, 2012. Competitor prices subject to change without notice. Prices are based on a 2003 E320. \*\* AMG, Maybach and vehicles equipped with Distronic or SBC may be higher. \*Continental 245-45-17

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# MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

*Jerry Terstiege, Director at Large*

## First Mercedes-Benz

Our first Mercedes-Benz is about to have its fifteenth birthday. My wife Krista had wanted a newer and nicer car to replace "her" car, a 1978 Chevrolet Caprice sedan. I used a VW Squareback from 1967 as "my" car.

In 1997, the auto magazine critics were almost unanimous in selecting the Mercedes E320 above all its competitors, so we decided to check it out. A test drive impressed us. We shopped for the best price and found it in Southern California (none of the local dealers were willing to even come near to the price we had in hand). We flew to LAX and were picked up by the salesperson in an S500 who drove us to the dealership where we took delivery, had the controls explained, and were presented with two dozen long-stem roses. We enjoyed an overnight visit with my cousin, whose wife appreciated the roses. Since I worked for United at the time, the flight cost very little, so our only real additional cost was for the extra 500 miles on the car.

The car now has just over 90,000 miles on it. It continues to provide us good service and is still a joy to drive. We follow the Mercedes maintenance schedule, except that I change the oil at 3,750-mile intervals, between Mercedes 7,500 mile maintenance visits. Our Chevy gave us 155,000 miles with no engine problems, which I feel is a testament to 3,000-mile oil changes. The Mercedes is garaged and kept clean, so it still looks much like it did when new.

We have had some problems with the car, the first a persistent shimmy at 55-65 mph while under warranty that couldn't be solved by our local dealer (it was finally fixed by a Costco tire person who did a meticulous wheel balancing). We stopped using that dealer for maintenance when one of his mechanics failed to tighten the spark plugs that had been replaced at the 30,000-mile inspection, and there was obviously no oversight to the finger-tight plugs that then worked loose.

Palo Alto's Park Avenue Motors has been our choice in recent years. They are not inexpensive, but I think it is money well spent to know that you are getting the best possible service that gets done correctly the first time, and club members enjoy a discount there. Often, you get what you pay for.

To add to our Mercedes fleet, six years ago we bought a 1992 500E in Pittsburgh, PA, and three years ago a certified SL550 in Riverside, CA. Both the Chevy and the VW, after recycling, are now possibly part of some newer cars.



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3. Get online. Book your activities & hotel NOW & save a fortune in early-bird discounts
4. Give her the cash you just saved to spend any way she wants (a bigger tip for Sven the masseuse comes to mind ...)

STAY

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Debbie Ichiyama at: [StarFestRegistrar@desertstars.org](mailto:StarFestRegistrar@desertstars.org)



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## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

March 2012

(Order name badges from the National Business Office,  
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Addie Kwan & Calvin Wong, *San Francisco*  
Myron Lee, *Alameda*  
Donna McKinley & Michael Misselwitz, *Redwood City*  
Rich Passanisi, *Novato*  
Hussein Samji, *Palo Alto*  
Franz Von Uckermann, *San Francisco*  
Roger Wright, *Discover Bay*

## 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!

**Pat Matthews & Patricia Paulson**, Glen Ellen, *25 years*  
**Byron & Marshall Fong**, Oakland, *25 years*  
**Dale & Imogene Ilderton**, San Rafael, *15 years*  
**Verena Baumgartner**, Hillsborough, *15 years*  
**John & Leslie Quown**, Sonoma, *10 years*  
**Matthew & Linda Kellett**, San Jose, *10 years*  
**Bernd Fiebig**, Brentwood, *10 years*  
**Donald Rudd & Anne Fleming**, Sunnyvale, *5 years*  
**Jerry & Marilyn Rapoport**, Castro Valley, *5 years*  
**Derek Lee**, San Francisco, *5 years*



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# FILOLI TRIP: BEAUTIFUL DAY

by Janet Stewart Migliore, Advertising Director

We hope that you enjoyed your visit on April 28 to the Filoli Estate located in Woodside. We were especially fortunate to have had spectacular weather, with the gardens and grounds in magnificent bloom. For those of you who attended, you now know that this estate is truly one of the jewels of the Peninsula. Lucky members who brought cameras were able to capture a vibrant canvas of color.

Our tour began at the Visitors Center with a film detailing the history of this 654-acre landmark nestled into the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains, overlooking Crystal Springs Reservoir. The film reviewed the construction of the 35,000 square foot house, and the meticulous planting of 16 acres of formal English gardens. We were then treated to a docent-led tour of the extraordinary home and stunning gardens. William Born, owner of one of the most lucrative gold mines in California, was the original owner of the land. His motto was Fight, Love, and Live. He created the Filoli name by combining the first two letters of each of these words.



life was like growing up in such a place, but she also emphasized how this huge estate was truly very much a home to their family. One of her favorite memories was when she would run from the grand front door, down the esplanade, along the winding drive to Canada Road to welcome her father home each evening. And, of course, she captivated us with personal stories of the celebrity guests and holiday parties, which were out of this world! When I asked what kind of cars the family had, she smiled and said, “Cadillac.” Too bad our club hadn’t visited sooner, we could have changed history!

I would like to acknowledge and thank Larry Stewart Thomas, owner of MB Garage, who generously sponsored this event. I also would like to thank those club members who turned out for this wonderful excursion. I believe these types of member-sponsored events provide our club with additional opportunities for camaraderie, with an added splash of California history.

On the day our club toured, and every time I visit, I am thankful to the last owner. Mrs. Lurline Roth donated Filoli, with an endowment, to the National Trust to ensure that future generations would be able to enjoy the splendor of this special place. She especially wanted the gardens preserved and accessible for public viewing. It was an incredible act of selfless generosity.

Last month, I was fortunate enough to actually meet one of Mrs. Roth’s surviving twin daughters, Lurline Coonan, who is now 93 years old. During a speaking engagement at the estate, she regaled us with exciting stories about what



# MERCEDES-BENZ SAFETY SYSTEMS TECHNICAL EVENT

*by Richard Simonds, Technical Director*

Members and guests praised the quality of the presentation by Lance Cleveland, Master Technician at Park Avenue Motors, on March 31. One member with a 2012 Mercedes-Benz commented, "I learned about features and functions on my high-end 'Assist' programs that are not covered in the Owner's Manual. I got more out of the event than I expected." Others were plainly impressed with the safety features that are standard—or in some cases optional—in their newer Mercedes-Benz vehicles. Many of the active safety systems (electronically-controlled) in current models have been available in older models for close to twenty years. Numerous passive safety systems have been available since the mid-1950s—such as crumple zones and safety cage passenger compartments and the high-strength alloys that make it all possible.

Beyond the featured presenter on the multitude of "Assist" programs, members were given the opportunity to participate in a diagnostic clinic that included a free safety inspection on their vehicle, and several came to the event with specific questions that needed resolution. In between the presentation and the diagnostic clinic, Steve Kirksey, Manager of Park Avenue Motors, made a delicious German-themed lunch with bratwurst, red cabbage, sauerkraut, German potato salad, and special desserts, accompanied by a variety of soft drinks. Then, the pièce-de-résistance was his offer to give any participant a 15% discount on parts and labor during the months of April and May. Everyone got more than his/her money's worth at this event.



**OLD SAN FRANCISCO MINT TOUR**  
**Saturday, July 28, 2012**  
**RESERVATION FORM**

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First Event: Y N

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

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Reservation deadline July 16, or when limit is reached.  
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**Friday, August 17, 2012**  
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\_\_\_\_\_ NY Steak @ \$40 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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**[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, [simonds1@pacbell.net](mailto:simonds1@pacbell.net), or (650) 592-6318 fax.]**

## TOUR THE OLD SF MINT

*(Continued from page 1)*

**Preserving the Old Mint:** After minting operations were transferred to the new San Francisco Mint on Duboce Avenue in 1937, the Treasury Department and other government agencies occupied the building. In 1961 the "Old Mint," as it became known locally, was designated a National Historic Landmark. In 2003, the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society's plan to renovate the building and establish a permanent home for the San Francisco Museum won unanimous support from the Mayor's Old Mint Task Force.

Reservation deadline is July 16. Questions, please contact Kara Pannu at [pannukara@yahoo.com](mailto:pannukara@yahoo.com). Please register online at [http://sections.mbca.org/sfba/section\\_calendar.htm](http://sections.mbca.org/sfba/section_calendar.htm).



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## **FILOLI ESTATE TOUR, APRIL 28, 2012**

