

Golden Gate Star-



MBCA/SFBA GOING TO THE DOGS

by Eva Gordon, Activities Director

What: Guide Dogs for the Blind Tour
When: Saturday, June 4, 2011, 1:00 p.m.
Where: Guide Dogs for the Blind, San Rafael
Cost: \$10 per person

In the beginning...

It all began with a dream—the dream of creating the first guide dog training school on the West Coast. It was a dream shared by Lois Merrihew and Don Donaldson, who volunteered their efforts along with many others. They recognized the need to help wounded servicemen who would return from World War II without their sight. They believed in the potential of dogs to serve as guides for the blind.

The school was incorporated in May 1942. A German Shepherd named **Blondie** was one of the first dogs trained. **Blondie** had been rescued from a Pasadena dog pound. She was later paired with Sgt. Leonard Foulk, the first serviceman to graduate from the new school.

Today...

In 1947, the school moved from Los Gatos to their present 11-acre location in San Rafael. They now have 2 locations—San Rafael and Oregon—and have graduated more than 10,000 teams since 1942.

Both campuses house students in exceptional dormitory facilities which include dining rooms, exercise rooms, libraries, computer rooms, and social areas. Both are located near major metropolitan centers, providing graduated training from quiet rural areas to congested city streets and public transit. The dogs and puppies are cared for in meticulous kennels and state-of-the-art veterinary clinics. Labrador Retrievers, Golden

(Continued on page 8)

TECH EVENT: AUTOMOBILE ARMOR & COLLISION REPAIR

by Richard Simonds, Technical Director

What: Technical Event
When: Saturday, May 21, 2011, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Where: EMC Collision, 41041 Albrae Street, Fremont
Cost: \$5 per person

EMC Collision (one of our advertisers) provides a full range of authorized collision services for virtually every high-end vehicle in the country. In addition they are one of a few companies in the United States that can create up to six different levels of security (armor-cladding) for vehicles. They are somewhat unique in that they create these special purpose vehicles themselves, rather than outsource the work to low-wage workers in other places. They have customers from around the world who have cars customized for security purposes. Creating high-security vehicles requires a high-level of skills in keeping the vehicle's integrity at maximum, while assuring that the additional weight is overcome with powertrain enhancements as well as suspension upgrades to provide a high degree of maneuverability.

EMC offers the following services:

- EMC Auto Service: a "Complete Car Care Center" that can handle servicing for quite a range of vehicles
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- Mum Sports: does ECU and performance tuning for drivers who are looking for a bit more "get-up and go," or "better fuel economy," or "smoother transmission-shifting" by "re-mapping" the chips that handle the engine and transmission management tasks
- Auto Rental Exotics: provides luxury auto rentals
- AVA Armory: creates executive protection vehicles

(Continued on page 8)

2011 CALENDAR OF COMING ACTIVITIES

- MAY 15 **Day at the Races**, Eva Gordon (650) 834-2614
- MAY 21* **Collision Repair Tech Event**, Richard Simonds (650) 592-7613
- JUNE 4* **Guide Dogs Tour**, Eva Gordon (650) 834-2614
- JULY 9 **Tech Event @ Borelli Motorsports**, Richard Simonds (650) 592-7613
- JULY 16* **Off-Road Driving Event**, Eva Gordon (650) 834-2614
- AUG 19 **Legends of the Autobahn**, Laura Simonds (650) 592-7613
- AUG 19 **Monterey Dinner**, Robert Schilling (650) 619-7550

*Reservation form on page 9

BOARD MEMBER'S MESSAGE

by Kara Christelle Pannu, Hospitality Director

Spring Has Sprung!

Aaah, it seems Spring is finally here, and that means you will find me tooling around with the top down, enjoying the beautiful weather, between April showers and May flowers to come. Though much cooler than my first convertible, circa 1986 in South Florida, I am enjoying this Bay Area Spring, volatile as the weather may be, much much more.

Back then it was New Wave on the radio, the '80s poofy hair thing, way too much make up and costume jewelry, and my hazardous driving skills! Now, it is just me in old jeans, Sirius Satellite radio (still blaring), probably somewhere in a windy back road in Napa, enjoying a peaceful day, hoping that I have better driving skills now...though, I have a feeling my speeding tickets may not be an indication of this.

I want to take this time to welcome our new members and invite new and old members to join us on one of our fun events in the Spring and Summer of 2011. There are many car clubs around, a few of our members are in several, but I think we have a diverse and interesting group. Certainly, I have been out and about with other clubs, but I always want to come home. I encourage everyone who has not been out on one of our group events, show up, kick some tires, and have a great time with us.

I really adore animals, so I am looking forward to the Day at the Races, and the Guide Dog Tour in particular. However, for you sporty off-road-types, the Off Road Driving Event will be different than anything I have done in this club, or any club, for that matter.

Bring the family and your friends! I am excited about getting more of us out—now that the weather is cooperating here and there for us (in between sleet, rain, and maybe periodic snow). I want to see some new faces...and new (and old) cars!!

Safe driving...tops up or down!



MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA SECTION

www.mbca.org/sfba

Executive Board

President, JACK WEIR
925.934.7220 Cell 925.899.4298
Fax 925.930.0446 jweir39@aol.com

Vice President, GLORIA LOVENTHAL
408.289.1933 Cell 408.823.6400
glorialov@gmail.com

Treasurer, THEO BURGER
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morbier4u@gmail.com

Secretary, MAUNA WAGNER
925.934.7220
maunaw@aol.com

Ex-Officio, ROBERT SCHILLING
650.619.7550
res.mbca@offserver.com

Board of Directors

Activities, EVA GORDON
650.834.2614 Fax 510.234.4574
eva@well.com

Advertising, JANET MIGLIORE
650.349.2744
janetmigliore@hotmail.com

Editor, LAURA SIMONDS
650.592.7613
Ofc 650.691.9123 Fax 650.592.6318
simondsl@pacbell.net

Photographer & Historian, SANDY DROBILISCH
408.782.2305 Fax 408.782.1518
sandoreng@att.net

Director at Large, DON PENNEY
707.310.0460
don.penney@kp.org

Director at Large, CHESTER PLOMGREN
510.523.3894
cplomgren@hotmail.com

Hospitality, KARA PANNU
415.205.0790
pannukara@yahoo.com

Membership, ANN BORNSTEIN
831.786.0782
annstitcher@charter.net

Technical, RICHARD SIMONDS
650.592.7613 Fax 650.592.6318
rsimonds@pacbell.net

Webmaster, LOIS WONG
415.601.1329
lois.h.wong@gmail.com

Director at Large, JERRY TERSTIEGE
650.574.0741
jerryt94404@aol.com

Director at Large, VACANT

Western Regional Director, LANCE TAYLOR-WARREN
775.722.3274
wstrgndirmbca@gmail.com

National Treasurer, LAURA SIMONDS
650.592.7613 Fax 650.592.6318
simondsl@pacbell.net

The GOLDEN GATE STAR

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Editor Laura Simonds
Photographer Sandy Drobilisch

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MEMBERSHIP information or renewal, call toll free 1-800-637-2360

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*

LET'S GET DIRTY IN THE SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS

by Eva Gordon, Activities Director

What: Off-Road Driving Adventure
When: Saturday, July 16, 2011, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Where: Home of Peter & Mary Judy,
Santa Cruz Mountains, Los Gatos
Cost: \$20 per person (includes lunch)
Who: M-Class, G-Class, and Unimog Owners & Enthusiasts

While not all of our members have the four-wheel drive vehicles that will be required to participate in the driving portion of this event, our **Off-Road Driving Adventure** will be an enjoyable day for both drivers and spectators alike. Mercedes-Benz manufactures some of the most capable off-road driving machines on the planet, and this event will provide the opportunity to experience and observe them as they go through their paces on a very challenging course.

One of our local members has teamed up with Mike Serpe (the leader of the G-Wagen Group and a highly accomplished off-road adventurer) to design and build a 20-acre off-road track around his house in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The track is challenging, and for those with the right vehicles, this will be a great opportunity to learn more about the ability of your car and the driving technique needed to maximize the safety and enjoyment of driving in challenging situations. For those without all-terrain vehicles, there

will be the opportunity to observe driving participants in several areas along the track and cheer them on as they navigate turns, hills, and a boulder or two.

So that everyone has the opportunity to drive a Mercedes-Benz in an off-road environment, there will be a light-hearted competition open to any who want to participate—and the vehicles will be provided for this portion of the event!

Our day will start at 11:00 a.m. with a “walk-through” of the track and a presentation highlighting the schedule for the day. BBQ buffet lunch will be included but participants are encouraged to bring their own picnic and camp chairs to set up in the observation areas around the property. For those planning to participate, MBCA requires an insurance waiver that will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

Participation is limited due to availability of parking on the property. If you can, please arrange carpools with other members you know. The reservation slip provides an area where you can indicate that you will be ride sharing. The reservation deadline is July 6. Questions? Please contact Eva Gordon at eva@well.com or (650) 834-2614.

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Legends of the Autobahn

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and MBCA's 55th anniversary at an
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featuring three German marques

Friday, August 19, 2011 during Monterey Classic Car Week

Rancho Cañada Golf Club
Carmel Valley, California

Register now at

www.motorsportreg.com

Search on name and date of event, and enter your
Mercedes-Benz for judging or display only in the corral.



For additional information, contact **Laura Simonds, (650) 592-7613** or SimondsL@pacbell.net



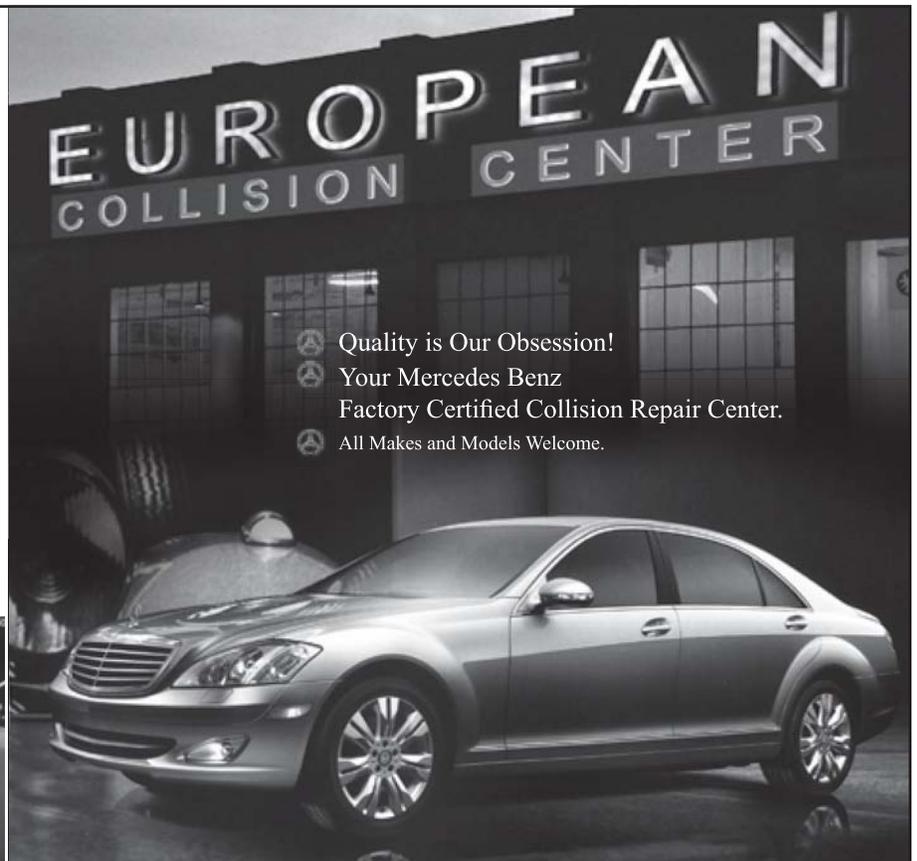
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MORE AWESOME EVENTS COMING!

TECHNICAL EVENT: SUSPENSION AND TIRES

When: Saturday, July 9, 2011, 9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Where: Borelli Motorsports, 521 Charcot Ave #211, San Jose
Cost: \$5 per person

All of our vehicles keep us in a state of suspended animation. To keep our vehicles from being too animated, to get some clarity about how Mercedes-Benz suspension systems work (they use different adjustments from many other manufacturers), and how tires work with suspension components to influence the ride and performance of *your* Mercedes-Benz, **save this date.**

More details and a reservation form will appear in the June and July issues.

THE SPORT OF KINGS: DAY AT THE RACES

When: Sunday, May 15, 11:00 a.m.-5:00p.m.
Where: Turf club, Golden Gate Fields, Berkeley
Cost: \$35 per person

Although the April 10 reservation deadline has passed, you may still be able to join your fellow club members at the exclusive Turf Club at Golden Gate Fields to enjoy an afternoon of live horse racing. **But you have to act now and contact Eva Gordon at eva@well.com or (650) 834-2614 to inquire if there's space to attend.**

Our day begins with complimentary valet parking upon arrival at the Turf Club and will gather and mingle between 11:00a.m.-12:00p.m. in the Bayview Lounge bar with its spectacular view overlooking the San Francisco Bay. We will migrate to our seating in the Turf Club to watch the racing and enjoy a gourmet buffet lunch. Live racing begins at noon, and gourmet lunch is served from noon until 2:00 p.m.

Your \$35 ticket includes valet parking, entry ticket to Golden Gate Fields, entry to the Turf Club, reserved seating in groups of four, racing program, and our very special gourmet buffet brunch with tax and tip included. The Turf Club dress code requests "smart casual" dress and does not allow shorts, sweat suits, t-shirts, tank tops, thong-style shoes, or ball caps.



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- ✓ Factory equipment
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From registered street

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

March 2011

(Order name badges from the National Business Office, 1-800-637-2360, or online at the Club Store www.mbca.org.)

Randall Banta, Foster City
Bernard Bove, Vallejo
Tracy Ellsworth, Morgan Hill
Brian Han, San Leandro
Victor Lacombe, Santa Rosa
Chris Lee, San Jose
Reginald Love, Santa Rosa
Hugo Luke, Foster City
Robert Lustan, Vallejo
Bernard Mulligan, Morgan Hill

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!

Kaye Bergren & Francis McCaskey, San Jose, 25 years
William Assad, Tracy, 25 years
David Abercrombie, San Francisco, 25 years
Albert & Patricia Boro, San Rafael, 20 years
Weldon & Renee Bankston, Los Gatos, 20 years
Jerry & Krista Terstiege, Foster City, 10 years
Lynn & Douglas Planchon, Fremont, 10 years
Leonard & Sylvia Gerald, Penngrove, 10 years
Albert Strickland & Lynne Despelder, Capitola, 5 years
David & Elizabeth Pagano, Pittsburg, 5 years
Susan Nejman & Craig Lynch, Redwood City, 5 years
Milton & Carol Loo, San Jose, 5 years

Ready to tour the brewery with hats, safety glasses, audio headsets, and beer glasses!





StarTrails 2011

Ouray, CO



August 17 - 21, 2011

Join the Pikes Peak Section for a national special driving event in the beautiful Rocky Mountains of Colorado

Off-Road: Certified instruction & guided trail driving
On-Road: Defensive driving & scenic itineraries

For more information, visit our website at <http://startrails.mbca.org>
Or call the Registrar at 719-576-9737; email at startrails2011@aol.com



OUR DAY WITH BEER AND STONE

by Jerry Terstiege

“Honorary BeerMaster” certificates were awarded to our 15 members who braved the stormy weather on March 26 to attend the Anheuser-Busch Brewmaster’s Tour in Fairfield. We got to sample a number of the many Budweiser and other beers on this informative tour organized by ex-President Robert Schilling and expertly guided by Mike Holloway. Built in 1976 on 170 acres, the plant has a floor area of 700,000 square feet.

In 1857, Adolphus Busch immigrated to the U.S. from Germany. Eberhard Anheuser, another German immigrant, had purchased a St. Louis brewery in 1860. Busch followed the time-honored tradition of advancement by marrying Anheuser’s daughter Lilly, joining his father-in-law’s brewery as a salesman, later becoming a partner and finally president of the company. President for 33 years, he is considered to be the founder of the company.

Budweiser beer was first brewed in 1876. A combination of art and science, brewing begins in large mash tanks where ground barley malt is mixed with water. Milled rice is cooked in water and combined with the malt. Natural enzymes in the malt break down the grain’s starch into fermentable sugars. After straining, this wort is transferred into brew kettles and brought to a boil. Natural hops are added for flavor, aroma, and character. Yeast is then added to the cooled wort in the primary fermentation tanks to convert the fermentable sugars to carbon dioxide and alcohol. During this stage of the brewing process, the wort becomes beer.

Beechwood chips are spread on the bottom of lager tanks; the beer is then transferred into the tanks. A portion of freshly yeasted wort is added. Lagering is part of secondary fermentation in which the yeast settles on the wood chips and works until the beer is completely fermented. As this occurs, the beer is naturally carbonated and its final flavor develops. Bottling and shipping follow. Our lengthy tour took us through the entire process.

We then took an enjoyable lunch break at the Blue Frog brewpub nearby.

Duracite Custom Countertops was our next stop for a tour of their Fairfield facility organized by our section’s Hospitality Chair Kara Pannu and graciously hosted by Duracite’s President, Fadi Halabi (a club member).

We toured several acres of outdoor and indoor areas where a huge selection of large granite and other stone slabs were displayed. We saw where and how the slabs were accurately measured and cut to precise tolerances using a state-of-the-art German-made Kuka multi-axis robotic cutting machine.

In addition to granite from the U.S., Brazil, and India, Duracite also provides Soapstone, wood and man-made surfaces—Corian and Zodiac by DuPont, Vetrazzo and Cambria. Duracite manufactures and installs (using their own trained technicians) the custom countertops ordered at Costco, Lowe’s, and Home Depot stores and also works with contractors. In their Fairfield showrooms, the finished products can be seen in the display kitchens and baths. We got an education in stone and granite installations.

LEGENDS OF THE AUTOBAHN CELEBRATES “125! YEARS OF INNOVATION”

On the third weekend in August the Monterey Peninsula plays host to the world’s preeminent automotive event—The Monterey Historics Weekend—that culminates with the famed Pebble Beach Concours on Sunday. In honor of their 125th anniversary, Mercedes-Benz has been selected as a featured marque for 2011. Always a gracious sponsor of the event, MBUSA is sure to pull out all the stops when it comes to showing their wares, and world class Mercedes vehicles can be expected from all over the globe. For any Mercedes enthusiast, this weekend is a “not to be missed” affair.

Yes! Make a weekend out of it! Although the Pebble Beach Concours is a star attraction, there are lots of other events throughout the weekend—most notable, the **Legends of the Autobahn: West Coast Summer Concours**. After a hugely successful launch in 2010, MBCA is repeating their involvement in this very special show that highlights the German marques of Mercedes-Benz, BMW, and Porsche. With all the focus on Mercedes-Benz throughout the weekend, Legends of the Autobahn promises to be one of the most memorable events in MBCA history.

Legends of the Autobahn will be held **Friday, August 19, on the greens of the Rancho Cañada Golf Club in beautiful Carmel Valley**. There are two options for entering your Mercedes-Benz automobile: “judged” for 1991 or older vehicles, or “display only” corral for vehicles of any vintage. “Early-bird” entry fee until August 1 is \$60 for judged and \$30 for corral. “Late-bird” entry fee from August 2-12 will be \$75 for judged and \$40 for corral.

Registration is available online now at www.motorsportreg.com. Scroll down to August 19 to find “MBCA—Legends of the Autobahn.” Final registration deadline is August 12 but don’t wait until the last minute to make your plans as hotel rooms book up very quickly for this weekend. Visit www.monterey.com or www.resort2me.com for accommodation resources.

As in 2010, the SFBA Section is planning a Friday night dinner following the Legends concours. Watch future newsletters for more details and a reservation form. Space will be limited and preference will be given to SFBA members with vehicles entered in the show.

Volunteers and judges will be needed. If you’d like to help at the event, contact Laura Simonds at (650) 592-7613 or simonds1@pacbell.net. If you’d like to be a concours judge, contact Richard Simonds at (650) 592-7613 or rsimonds@pacbell.net.

Don’t delay—Legends of the Autobahn is truly the perfect kick-off to an epic weekend for any Mercedes-Benz enthusiast. We’ll see you there!

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: 2000 SL 500. EXCELLENT, many extras. 75K miles. Brilliant Silver/black leather. Recent service: A/C, engine coolant, tranny fluid and filter, brake fluid, spark plugs and wires, fuel filter, front pads and rotors. Contact John at jnidecker3@gmail.com or call (510) 864-1785 (Alameda) for more details and photos. \$15,500.

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.]

TECH EVENT: AUTOMOBILE ARMOR & COLLISION REPAIR

(Continued from page 1)

We'll see their service center, staging areas, and their closed-transport trailer for cars that need to be brought to the center without being assaulted by the elements. They have many luxury vehicle certifications and provide a 100% satisfaction guarantee.

Plan to arrive about 9:30 a.m. for coffee, juice, and treats. We'll start the event at 10:00 a.m. **Reservation deadline is May 13.** Questions? Contact Richard Simonds at rsimonds@pacbell.net or (650) 592-7613.

Directions: From the north, take I-880 South toward Fremont. Take the Stevenson Blvd exit. Turn left on Albrae Street (the first left turn). Follow Albrae Street around to the corner of Stewart Avenue. From the south, take I-880 North toward Fremont. Take the Automall Parkway exit (Westbound). Turn right on Christy Street. Turn right on Albrae Street. Follow Albrae Street around to the corner of Stewart Avenue.

CIRCLE LAKE HURON TOUR

You are invited to join fellow MBCA members in the second Great Lake Mille, a tour around Lake Huron including the Bruce Peninsula and Georgian Bay on September 24-30, 2011. You may apply for participation with an interesting car of any marque as long as you are, or become, an MBCA member. Registration fee of \$235 includes kick-off dinner, reception at Benmiller Lodge and Spa, ferry to Manitoulin Island, concluding German buffet, tour binder with driving suggestions, and commemorative vest. Registration deadline is August 15, 2011. For more information and registration materials, contact Ron Harshman, Tourmeister, at (218) 213-4967 or r_harshman1234@msn.com.

MBCA/SFBA GOING TO THE DOGS

(Continued from page 1)

Retrievers, and Labrador Retriever/Golden Retriever crosses are the breeds used. Professional staff and veterinarians nurture, groom, train, and prepare the dogs for their futures as guides.

Tours....

If you have always wanted to view and find out more about this amazing organization, we have organized a tour for our members. Please join us on Saturday, June 4, to go inside and behind the scenes of this training facility. Tour begins at 1:00 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person. Reservations are limited to the first 30 persons. **Reservation deadline is May 25th.** Questions? Contact Eva Gordon at eva@well.com or (650) 834-2614.



So many granite slabs to choose from at Duracite.

**GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND TOUR
SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2011
RESERVATION FORM**

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

First Event: Y N

_____ persons @ \$10 ea. = \$ _____

Make checks payable to SFBA/MBCA and mail to:

**Ann Bornstein
61 Devon Court
Watsonville, CA 95076
(831) 786-0782, annstitcher@charter.net**

Reservation deadline is May 25 or when limit is reached.
For confirmation, include e-mail and phone # above.
Confirmation and directions will be sent upon receipt of registration.

**TECH EVENT: AUTO ARMOR & COLLISION REPAIR
SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2011
RESERVATION FORM**

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

First Event: Y N

_____ persons @ \$5 each = \$ _____

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 May 13. For confirmation, include e-mail and phone # above. Confirmation will be sent upon receipt of registration.



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.

We've had an increasing number of "bad" e-mail addresses which causes your e-newsletter to be undeliverable. Be sure to put our editor's address (simondsl@pacbell.net) in your list of safe senders.

**OFF-ROAD DRIVING EVENT
Saturday, July 16, 2011
RESERVATION FORM**

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

First Event: Y N

We will ride share _____ drivers or _____ passengers.

_____ will drive the track in a: _____

@ \$20 ea. = \$ _____

_____ will observe only @ \$20 ea. = \$ _____

Make checks payable to SFBA/MBCA and mail to:

**Ann Bornstein
61 Devon Court
Watsonville, CA 95076
(831) 786-0782; annstitcher@charter.net**

Reservation deadline is July 6, or when limit is reached. For confirmation, include e-mail or phone # above. Confirmation will be sent upon receipt of registration.



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MAILING ADDRESS: 2909 BRITTAN AVE. • SAN CARLOS, CA 94070

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.

BREWERY AND DURACITE TOURS, MARCH 26, 2011

