

Golden Gate Star-



DILLON BEACH RALLY

by Mauna Wagner, Secretary

- What:** Rally to Dillon Beach
- When:** Saturday, November 19, 2011
- Where:** Sausalito to Dillon Beach (Marin County)
- Cost:** \$20 per person

Those who have previously joined us for this Marin County rally seemed to enjoy the adventure, so we're repeating it!

On Saturday, November 19, we'll meet at a Starbucks near Sausalito and trace our route around Mt. Tamalpais, along the coast by Bolinas and Stinson Beach to the Pt. Reyes National Seashore headquarters near Olema. We'll visit an oyster farm along the way and load up on fresh mollusks.

Our final leg will bring the caravan to the Weir-Wagner home at Dillon Beach, where Mauna will have lunch waiting to warm us. For those who wish, an oyster-scrubbing station and barbeque grill will be available, along with several savory dipping sauces. Participants should bring their own favorite beverages and may bring an appetizer to share.

Cost is a nominal \$20 per person. Final details will be provided and sent to you in early November. **Deadline for reservations is November 12, so send in your reservation form (on page 7) today!**

If you like Marin County in late autumn, with mountain and seaside roads, as well as good fellowship and hearty food in the afternoon, save the date and plan to join us! Questions? Contact Jack Weir at (925) 899-4298 or jweir39@aol.com; or Mauna Wagner at (925) 899-4297 or maunaw@aol.com for more information.

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS MBCA-STYLE

by Eva Gordon, Activities Director

- What:** 2011 Holiday Champagne Brunch
- When:** Sunday, December 4, 2011, 12:00 noon
- Where:** Hs Lordships Restaurant, Berkeley Marina
- Cost:** \$52 per person

The holidays will arrive soon, and it is time to mark your calendars for your favorite holiday celebrations. We invite you to join your fellow club members at our 2011 Holiday Champagne Brunch. Last year we decided to have a brunch instead of a dinner party, and it was such a great success that we decided to do it again this year! **Mark your calendars for Sunday December 4.**

We have reserved a beautiful private dining room at Hs Lordships Restaurant in the Berkeley Marina with plenty of free parking. We will enjoy a gorgeous view of San Francisco and the Bay before settling down to one of the most elaborate buffet brunches in the Bay Area, complete with unlimited champagne! This event will sell out fast, so you won't want to wait to make your reservations—reservation form is on page 7. **Deadline for reservations is November 25.**

December First Sunday Drive: For you driving enthusiasts that want to participate on the First Sunday Drive on the same day, the FSD organizers are planning to end the drive that day at the restaurant parking lot before noon. Two events in one day!

If you have any questions, please contact Eva Gordon at eva@well.com or at (650) 834-2614.

Holiday Giving: For those in the holiday spirit that would like to give to those less fortunate, we are going to have an opportunity to donate at the brunch to a worthy cause, The Bicycle Exchange of Silicon Valley. This organization donates over 500 recycled bicycles annually to needy individuals by providing repairs, helmets, and training wheels for youth riders. These bicycles represent freedom, fitness, and adventure. If you are interested in donating, we ask that you bring cash or a check to the brunch for the Bicycle Exchange effort. Receipts will be provided as your donation is tax deductible. Our Vice President Gloria Loventhal is chairing this effort. Questions? Contact Gloria at glorialov@gmail.com.

2011 CALENDAR OF COMING ACTIVITIES

- NOV 6** First Sunday Drive
- NOV 19*** Dillon Beach Rally, Jack Weir (925) 934-7220
- DEC 4** First Sunday Drive
- DEC 4*** Holiday Party Brunch, Eva Gordon (650) 834-2614

*Reservation form on page 7

BOARD MEMBER'S MESSAGE

by James Lindstrom, Director at Large

With my recent appointment to the SFBA Section Board of Directors, I am eager to get started. I have many great ideas. Starting with filling in as the lead on the First Sunday Drives with Robert Schilling's assistance as he turns over the reins of these beloved outings, I can only hope that I can do the FSD justice. These are big tire tracks to follow!

GROWING LIST OF MBCA MEMBER BENEFITS

If you haven't noticed lately, the Mercedes-Benz Club of America has added several new benefits this year, and you are encouraged to take advantage of them. MBCA members can enjoy year-round savings and special discounts not offered to the general public. Today, you as an MBCA member can enjoy:

- Complimentary membership for one Associate Member
- Subscription to the award-winning bi-monthly club magazine *The Star*
- Monthly issues of the SFBA Section newsletter *Golden Gate Star*
- Loyalty Rewards Program—receive \$1,000 off the purchase or lease price of any new 2010, 2011, or 2012 Mercedes-Benz vehicle after 12 consecutive months of membership
- 15% discount off parts from the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center in Irvine, CA
- Discounts on parts and service at participating Mercedes-Benz dealers
- 24/7 access to forums and technical advice on the MBCA website
- Exclusive access to local section, regional, and national MBCA events
- Accessories, gifts, and apparel from the online MBCA Club Store
- Defensive driving classes, performance driving schools, and DIY technical seminars
- Group trips to Germany
- Car rental discounts at Avis and Hertz
- Discounted moving and real estate services through our Allied Moving Benefits Program
- Free merchandise, travel, and cash back using the MBCA's VISA Platinum Rewards Card
- Discount pricing when members ship their vehicles using Passport Transport
- 15% discount on some of the finest clothes and accessories at Brooks Brothers
- Special rates (up to 20% off the best rate) at some of the most well-known and desirable resorts such as Hotel del Coronado in San Diego, Vail Mountain Lodge and Spa in Vail, CO, Montelucia Resort and Spa in Scottsdale, AZ, and more
- Access to the MBCA Collector Car Insurance Program provided through the partnership of Lockton Affinity and Chubb Insurance
- Preferred pricing for emergency medical transport and evacuation services from MedJet Assist
- Discounts on items available through the Sears Commercial Club Rewards program
- Free classified ads in *The Star*, MBCA website, and the *Golden Gate Star*
- Free or reduced-price admission to M-B Museums worldwide
- MBCA Raffle
- One free month added to your membership for every new member that you sponsor

Check the club's website www.mbca.org/member-benefits for full details and any new benefits.

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA SECTION

www.mbca.org/sfba

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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 simonds@pacbell.net or FAX 650-592-6318. *Laura*

MBCA RAFFLE

You could be one of the lucky members that begins the New Year as a winner! The fall MBCA raffle is underway right now, and the First Prize is \$51,100 cash—enough to buy your own 2012 ML. Second, third, and fourth prizes are also cash.

If you haven't purchased MBCA raffle tickets yet, there is still plenty of time. The ticket deadline is December 1, 2011. To buy raffle tickets, you can go to the club's website www.mbca.org, where you login with your user name and password, click "Membership" tab, and then the drop down titled "Raffle." Or you can call the National Business Office at 800.637.2360. Or you can mail in the entry form that you received in the mail in September.

Remember, there is no limit to the number of tickets you can buy. Good luck, and here's hoping your New Year starts as a winner!

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.

On Saturday, Oct. 1, a small but enthusiastic group drove from Gilroy to the Central Coast to participate in the Cambria Oktoberfest. Then on Sunday, Oct. 2, with the weather as beautiful as can be, we returned home along Highway One, making several leisurely stops along the way in Big Sur at Nepenthe, Post Ranch, and Ventana!

Coming up for November, don your Cardinal Red, when we will meet up in Half Moon Bay and make our way over the hill to the Farm, Stanford that is, and the Rodin Garden. Go Cardinals!

In December, it's all Blue & Gold! We'll find ourselves on the other side of the bay with a route through the Oakland Hills/Berkeley campus to the Berkeley Marina for our Holiday Champagne Brunch at Hs Lordships Restaurant.

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CLASSIFIEDS

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FOR SALE: 2002 SL500. Excellent condition. Has sport package which includes phone & chrome AMG wheels. Gorgeous black over black, with both tops. Always serviced. Runs and looks great. *Only 40,000 miles!* \$22,500. Call Bob at (415) 509-5151.

FREE: You pick up *The Star* magazines 1999-2011. Contact Klaus at kcharlie34@comcast.net.

FOR SALE: 1981 380SE. Euro car, thistle green/green velour. Rebuilt transmission, new timing chain, and much more. Very nice, unique car. Non-sunroof, badge delete, power windows, manual seats. Call Mike at (650) 771-6360.

FOR SALE: 1977 450SEL 6.9. Signal over parchment, 74K miles, great shape. Call Mike at (650) 771-6360.

MISC. FOR SALE: 1980-1990s ECUs, climate control heads, gaskets, lamps, trim, and much more. Call Mike at (650) 771-6360.

FOR SALE: Enclosed storage cart for R107 SL hardtop. This very rare rolling cart fully encases a standing hardtop for maximum protection. For all R107 280, 350, 450, 500, and 560SLs. \$300. Call Robert at (650) 619-7550 or e-mail to res.mbca@offserver.com.

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.]

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

September 2011

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

Paul Frentsos, San Francisco

Jingqiang Guo, Foster City

Rick Hagenow, Grass Valley

James Hargis, Half Moon Bay

Aki Inoue, Los Gatos

Ganesh Jagannathan, Sunnyvale

Larry Leser, Alamo

Shawn Merrill, Pacifica

Frankie Nickson & Lester Savage, San Francisco

Manuel Palmarin, Paradise

Gustav Viale, American Canyon



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!

James Williams, Corral De Tierra, 25 years

George & Susan Hansen, Walnut Creek, 25 years

Paul & Marilyn Howes, Walnut Creek, 20 years

Claudius Anwander & George Weidmann, Germany, 20 years

Peter Haase, San Francisco, 15 years

Stephen Brown, Tiburon, 15 years

Omy & Maria Ronquillo, Fremont, 10 years

Laddie & Janet Petrucha, Saratoga, 10 years

Sylvain Bournhonesque, Berkeley, 10 years

David Mehlhoff, San Jose, 5 years

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.

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 TBD United Airlines Hanger Tour TBD Technical Session	MAY 6 First Sunday Drive TBD Blackhawk Museum Tour	SEPTEMBER 2 First Sunday Drive TBD Nethercut Car Collection Tour 28-Oct. 3 StarFest in Phoenix
FEBRUARY 5 First Sunday Drive TBD Mallya Car Collection Tour	JUNE 3 First Sunday Drive TBD Tahoe Rally	OCTOBER 7 First Sunday Drive TBD Oktoberfest TBD 2013 Planning Meeting
MARCH 4 First Sunday Drive TBD Moffett Field Museum Tour	JULY 1 First Sunday Drive TBD SF Old Mint Tour	NOVEMBER 4 First Sunday Drive TBD Santa Cruz Sailing Cruise
APRIL 1 First Sunday Drive TBD Filoli Tour TBD Diagnostic Technical Session	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

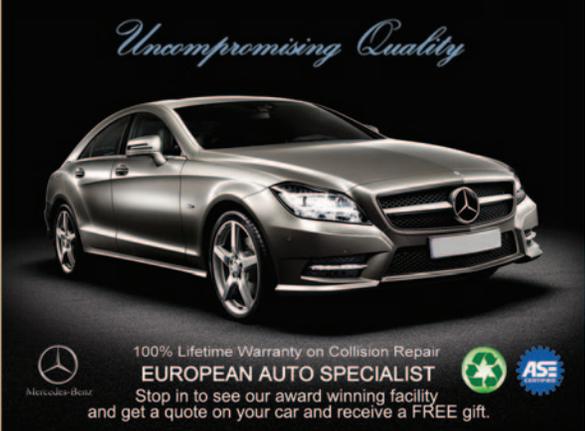


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EUROPEAN DELIVERY PROGRAM SUCCESSFULLY DELIVERED

by Richard Simonds, Technical Director

Tony Spencer, Senior Sales Representative at Smythe European in San Jose, greeted 16 enthusiastic members on Saturday, September 17 for his presentation about how European Delivery works for U.S. buyers and what the benefits are to choosing it. Although coffee and morning treats were available from 9:30 a.m., Tony's presentation did not require any caffeine to keep everyone's attention. There was good interaction among the participants and Tony as the discussion progressed; for the three questions that Tony could not answer with certainty, he responded to everyone by e-mail within a couple of days. He is your European Delivery Program professional, period!

For details about how you can participate in an experience of a lifetime—taking delivery of your new Mercedes car at the factory, staying at top-tier hotels, and driving on the roadways (through picturesque villages) or the autobahns (at delightful speeds) go to: www.mbusa.com/mercedes/european_delivery_program/overview.

Here is a list of the major benefits of the European Delivery Program:

- Every vehicle is custom-ordered to *your* specifications (not just off the showroom floor), and it is a U.S. specification vehicle (totally legal in this country and in California)
- 7% discount on total vehicle MSRP on eligible models
- The \$857 delivery charge is waived, and the car is shipped back to the U.S. at no additional cost
- 15 days of European Road Insurance while you get to drive your very own car in Europe (worth a lot I might add, and the cost of renting a comparable car for 15 days is very expensive)
- Full tank of fuel
- One night hotel accommodation in one of 14 luxury hotels
- MBUSA personal travel concierge service
- Two taxi vouchers for use in Stuttgart (we used ours from the hotel to the Sindelfingen Delivery Center where we picked up our new Mercedes-Benz vehicle)
- Breakfast or lunch at the Sindelfingen Delivery Center Restaurant
- Sindelfingen Factory Tour
- Two tickets to the Mercedes-Benz Museum
- A portable European Navigation System will be provided to those who purchase a U.S.-based Navigation System in their new Mercedes-Benz vehicle
- And, numerous other benefits

In addition to this list of benefits, participants in the European Delivery Program can choose among several optional Trip Packages that can enhance their experience and make delivery in Europe into a top quality vacation. The Trip Packages are:

- Standard Package (as noted, above) for Free Spirits who want to plan their own itinerary
- Black Forest-Alps Rally Package or Alpen Route Package for true driving enthusiasts
- Spa Package for health and wellness-seekers
- Stuttgart Walking Tour Package for those who want to enjoy the sights of Stuttgart

If you have any questions about European Delivery Program and how you can benefit from it, please contact Tony Spencer at Smythe European at (408) 345-2255 or spencert@autonation.com. If you want to talk to me about our two European Delivery experiences, call Richard Simonds at (650) 592-7613 or rsimonds@pacbell.net. I encourage you to **“Put this on your bucket list of things to do.”**



Two gung-ho guys about the European Delivery Program—Richard Simonds (left) and Tony Spencer.

EVERYTHING MERCEDES IN GERMANY

By Laura Simonds, Editor & National Treasurer

From September 26 to October 1, I discovered everything about Mercedes-Benz (and more) in Germany on the annual MBCA German Trip. The large group of 27 MBCA members from across the U.S. included five of us from our SFBA Section—Gary and Genie Anderson, Barry Taylor, and my husband Richard and me. I've known about this club-sponsored trip for years now, and finally I've experienced it. It was awesome, and I highly recommend that you go next year!

We went to the Frankfurt Auto Show, Mercedes-Benz Museum, Daimler's Workshop, the Daimler and Maybach burial sites, Schweinen (pig in English) Museum, Stickel Pagoda Restoration Shop, Meilenwerk Center, M-B Sindelfingen Factory, Center of Excellence (for Maybach and SLS AMG), AMG factory, M-B engine manufacturing factory, M-B Classic Center, Sinsheim Museum, and Dr. Carl Benz Museum. For me, the highlight of the tour was riding in the newest models on the Mercedes test track with the professional test drivers! That's an experience that the public can't have, and it's generously arranged through Daimler for MBCA.

Here are a two of the 1,170 pictures that Richard and I took. That's our group in front of the Schweinen Museum and some of the guys admiring the vehicles in the Classic Center.



DILLON BEACH RALLY Saturday, November 19, 2011 RESERVATION FORM

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

First Event: Y N

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

Make check payable to SFBA/MBCA and mail to:

Mauna Wagner
31 Banbridge Place
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
(925) 899-4297, maunaw@aol.com

Reservation deadline November 12. For confirmation, include e-mail or phone # above. Confirmation will be sent upon receipt of registration.

HOLIDAY CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH Sunday, December 4, 2011 RESERVATION FORM

Name: _____
Guest(s) Name(s): _____
Address: _____
City/Zip: _____
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Make check payable to SFBA/MBCA and mail to:

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(831) 786-0782, annstitcher@charter.net

Reservation deadline November 25 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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EUROPEAN DELIVERY PROGRAM, SEPT. 17, 2011

