VOL. 49 · NO. 10

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA SECTION

October 2011

ACTIVITIES PLANNING FOR 2012

by Eva Gordon, Activities Director

What: 2012 Activities Planning MeetingWhen: Sunday, October 16, 2011, 1:00-3:00 p.m.Where: Harry's Hofbrau, 1901 El Camino Real

(at Woodside Road), Redwood City

Cost: Nothing, optional no-host lunch

2011 has been another amazing year for Mercedes-Benz club events, so let's continue the fun! All SFBA members are invited to join us for our annual activities planning meeting. This year our 2012 Activities Planning Meeting will take place on a Sunday, prior to the section's Fall board meeting. As in years past, this is the time when we will set our club calendar for the following year. Many of you have great suggestions for venues, and we will be able to decide which ideas we can include in our 2012 calendar.

The meeting is open to the entire membership. We strongly encourage you to come and help us plan where and when we will go and what we will do in 2012. We are also looking for members to host and help volunteer at these events, so please don't be shy, and come help us out! We will meet in the private dining room at Harry's Hofbrau at 1:00 p.m. Harry's offers a huge variety of fabulous food at reasonable prices; we encourage you to try their buffet lunch.

Our section is looking for someone to take over the Activities Director position in 2012. If you are interested in the position, or if you have activity suggestions for 2012 or questions, contact Eva Gordon, Activities Director at eva@well.com.

OKTOBERFEST + MERCEDES = GREAT TIME

by Eva Gordon, Activities Director

What: Oktoberfest & Member Appreciation

When: Saturday, October 22, 2011, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Where: Menlo Circus Club, Atherton
Cost: \$35 adult, \$20 children under 12

It's time for Oktoberfest! But this year it's not just an Oktoberfest—it's an Oktoberfest combined with a show-and-shine car show on the polo fields of the Menlo Circus Club in Atherton. Third time for show-and-shine on the polo field will be the lucky charm. Two years ago they were playing polo, and last year it rained.

On Saturday, October 22, our day will start at 10:00 a.m. as we arrive and arrange our cars on the club's polo field where we will vote for some very unique prizes and awards. We will move to the patio for refreshments and a no-host bar featuring local beers, and then through the traditional Bavarian Buffet and on to the full patio that has been reserved for our exclusive use. The traditional Bavarian Buffet will include a generous assortment of German specialty salads, assorted wursts, sauerkraut, braised red cabbage, an assortment of desserts, coffee, and iced tea. Yes, plenty of room to spread out and enjoy our lunches and special presentations. For our members that like to dance, entertainment will include traditional German style music, and festive dancing is highly encouraged. Worried about the weather? We can move inside where we would have the entire clubhouse in case of inclement weather.

Our Oktoberfest celebration is also our Member Appreciation event where we will recognize our member anniversaries and also honor several of our members with special awards. If you're celebrating a club anniversary this year, please don't miss this great event. Also, if you have a friend or family member that you'd like to introduce to the club, this is a great opportunity to bring non-member guests. Attendance is limited at this event so please make your reservations as early as possible. Reservation deadline is October 12 or when the limit is reached.

You are encouraged to wear traditional German outfits and bring your favorite stein. In our club tradition, prizes will be awarded for the best of each. Event parking opens at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Questions? Contact Eva Gordon at eva@well.com or (650) 834-2614.

2011 CALENDAR OF COMING ACTIVITIES

OCT 1-2 First Sunday Drive

OCT 16 2012 Planning Meeting, Eva Gordon (650) 834-2614

OCT 22* Oktoberfest, Eva Gordon (650) 834-2614

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 Jerry Terstiege, Director at Large

AUTOBAHN DRIVING

Mercedes-Benz autos are designed to be driven at their top speed on the Autobahn, as road conditions and driving skill permit. The Autobahn can provide an enjoyable experience for Americans, provided you approach it with respect, as German drivers do who are required to learn this by attending a comprehensive driving school followed by a rigorous and demanding driving test.

German drivers are very disciplined to drive on the right unless passing, then moving back into the right lane immediately after passing. Unfortunately, even though there are still long stretches of German Autobahn without speed limits, traffic often slows you down. Autobahn speed limits are shown by a number in a circular sign, usually on both sides of the highway. That remains the limit, unless another speed number is shown further down the road.

On sections with heavy truck traffic, the right lane is essentially limited to their speed of about 100-110 kmh (160 kmh = 100 mph). You must always look very far ahead when driving fast, anticipating the need to slow to 100 in seconds if a truck pulls out into the fast lane to pass a slower truck. At the same time, you need to check your rearview mirror regularly while in the fast lane, so that you can see the Porsche, Ferrari, or SLS that is overtaking your 180 kmh by 50 kmh or more. Courtesy (and the law) requires you to move over to let the faster traffic pass you.

Road repair sections are announced by speeds slowing to 100, then to 80, then to 60, to allow all the traffic to be squeezed into narrow lanes on one side of the highway, while repairs are underway on the other side. Residents in some cities have gotten speeds reduced so that the noise level is lowered. In those areas you will see the speed sign 120 or 100 "Lärmschutz." You may encounter speed signs of 100 or 80 "bei Nässe." You can ignore those limits unless the road is wet in these areas that could result in hydroplaning. When past the reduced speed section, a blank circular sign tells you that all previous speed limits are removed.

Hidden remote flash cameras to catch speeders are often located in reduced speed areas. They are set to simultaneously capture the driver's face, the license plate, and the speed. Police are vigilant and will cite drivers for following too closely, passing unsafely, particularly at high speeds, or failing to keep to the right. Autobahns are kept in very good repair, so you don't have to worry about hitting a pothole at high speed. Be attentive. Drive carefully and safely, and you will enjoy your Autobahn experience.

In recent trips to Germany we have reserved mid-sized autos, and either were upgraded or negotiated to pay a few more € per day for a larger car. Because European cars are taxed highly for bigger engines, and because fuel costs are about double that in the U.S., most cars in rental fleets have relatively small engines by U.S. standards. But that doesn't mean underpowered or slow. Our last rental was an E-220, which cruised enjoyably at 225 kmh on a relatively empty Autobahn in Bavaria.

Consider buying a Mercedes-Benz to pick up at the factory, or visit Germany and rent a Mercedes-Benz model such as the economical A- or B-Class that isn't available in the U.S.

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA SECTION www.mbca.org/sfba

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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

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.

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.

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.

All in all, it was a very successful September drive. Approximately sixteen cars showed up for our "Welcome back, FSD!" Starting off from Bad Ass Coffee in Santa Rosa, and with only one or two missed turns, we all made it to the Jimtown Market in Healdsburg for a nice browse and snack. The sun started to break through just in time for the second leg through the beautiful and meandering Healdsburg wine country towards Freestone and the everpopular Wild Flour Bakery, where I loaded up on some takehome treats! Mmmmm sticky buns! For those still hungry for more, it was just a few minutes down The Bohemian Highway into Sebastopol and a great lunch at the Hopmonk Brewery.

Thank you all for making the return of the First Sunday Drives an enjoyable success! Now, on to Cambria's Oktoberfest (October 1-2) for more beer!

Special Offers from Mercedes-Benz of Walnut Creek Exclusively for MB Club of America Members!



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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!

CLASSIFIEDS

NO ADS THIS MONTH

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

[Remember, classified ads are free to members, \$25 for non-members. Your classified ad will appear both in the newsletter and on our web site for one month. Send your "for sale" or "wanted" ad to Laura Simonds, editor, simondsl@pacbell.net, or (650) 592-6318 fax.]

MBCA ELECTIONS

Our SFBA Section election ballot is inserted in this newsletter, and that deadline is October 31. National election ballots were mailed to all MBCA members on September 1, and the deadline for the national election is October 17. Please remember to vote in both the local and national elections. Thanks!

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

August 2011

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

Edmond & Jasmine Bedrossian, San Francisco Roger Bloom, San Francisco Russ & Doris Britschgi, Campbell Jon Clifton, San Francisco Frank Desimone, Santa Cruz Randal & Nikki Gast. San Jose Robert Gilbert, San Ramon Victor & Frances Gotti, San Francisco Himawan Gunadhi & Anh Nguyen, San Jose Stephanie Ager Kirz, Carmel Chris Laver, Half Moon Bay David Light, Walnut Creek William Mah & Martha Vick, San Francisco Andrew Northrop, San Francisco Kenny O'Hara. San Francisco David Pena. Alamo Aswa Pillai & Sangita Dongre, San Jose Thomas Resburg, Danville William Sverdlov, Campbell Millie Vence, Petaluma

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!

Robert Chernotsky & Ursula Schletter, So. San Francisco, *40 years*

Don & Kim Penney, Napa, 25 years
Stephen Belford, Oakland, 25 years
Rick & Carol Guido, San Jose, 20 years
Gary DuHaime & Kimly Diehl, Bethel Island, 20 years
Wayne & Frances Colyer, San Rafael, 20 years
Helene & Leland Smith, Foster City, 15 years
Duane Prestesater, Santa Rosa, 15 years
Thomas & Christa Blanchard, Napa, 10 years
Jack & Hannelore Banks, San Mateo, 10 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.

PLAN TO ATTEND OUR 2011 HOLIDAY BRUNCH

By Eva Gordon, Activities Director

What: 2011 Holiday Champagne BrunchWhen: Sunday, December 4, 2011, 12:00 noonWhere: Hs Lordships Restaurant, Berkeley Marina

Cost: \$52 per person

The holidays are just around the corner, 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. **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.



REFLECTIONS OF LEGENDS OF THE AUTOBAHN & YACHT CLUB DINNER

by Laura Simonds

Thank you, SFBA Section members, for your outstanding support and participation at MBCA's national special event, Legends of the Autobahn. Held on August 19 at Rancho Cañada Golf Club in Carmel Valley, this year's concours exceeded everyone's expectations. Co-hosted by MBCA, BMW Car Club of American, and Porsche Club of America, we saw nearly 500 totally beautiful German vehicles on the greens. Almost 100 of them were Mercedes-Benz vehicles of all ages, models, and sizes that were entered in the judged classes and corral. We were especially proud that MBCA entrants won the Best of Show (Gerry Holzapple's 1969 280SL) and People's Choice (Pat Matthew's 1957 300Sc Cabriolet) Awards from among all three marques.

MBCA participants came from all across the U.S. with the farthest from Maine! We saw some very unusual and rare Mercedes-Benz vehicles this year. I wish there was enough space to show all the fantastic photos of each one!

As MBCA event chairman, I was unbelievably fortunate to have the support of at least 40 volunteers who helped with a wide range of responsibilities: setting up the day before, filling the gift bags, vehicle check-in, field placement, manning the club tent, producing the program book, cleaning up, and judging. Each one of you was invaluable! I must give a gigantic "thank you" to SFBA Section members Charlie and Leslee Marlow, who never stopped offering to do something—so much that I can't mention it all here. I also want to thank SFBA Section members Pat Matthews and Patti Paulson, who eagerly brought four vehicles from his collection in Glen Ellen. The display of his cars was one of the brightest highlights of the show and had attendees in awe!

In this newsletter, you'll see wonderful pictures of the concours. In the November-December issue of *The Star* magazine, you'll see an awesome four-page article about the show with the complete list of winners and more incredible pictures. Plus there's currently an event report on the club's website www. mbca.org.

And, from Robert Schilling about the dinner following Legends:

After a full day on the field, 62 participants and spectators from the concours continued the fun with cocktails and dinner at the Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club. A social hour filled with conversations recapping the events of the day was followed by dinner with a selection of NY steak or seafood entrees. The conversations continued to flow as the sun settled over the masts in the harbor, and a very long day came to its end. Those in attendance were thankful for Bob Doerr's willingness to host our group and my efforts in planning the event. Here and on page 8 are a couple of pictures from our dinner.





Spectators at Legends of the Autobahn were amazed to see this very unusual 1950s Renntransporter and W194 racecar.

OKTOBERFEST Saturday, October 22, 2011 RESERVATION FORM

Name:
Address:
City/Zip:
Phone:
E-mail:
First Event: Y N
adults @ \$35 ea. = \$ children under 12 @ \$20 ea. = \$ Total Enclosed: \$

Make checks payable to SFBA/MBCA and mail to:

Eva Gordon 1301 Quarry Court, #110 Pt. Richmond, CA 94801 (650) 834-2614, eva@well.com

Reservation deadline October 12 or when limit is reached. For confirmation, include e-mail or phone # above. Confirmation will be sent upon receipt of registration.

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:
First Event: Y N
persons @ \$52 ea. = \$
Make check payable to SFBA/MBCA and mail to:

Ann Bornstein 61 Devon Court Watsonville, CA 95076 (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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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.

LEGENDS OF THE AUTOBAHN & DINNER, AUGUST 19, 2011

