Golden Gate Star

VOL. 50 • NO. 10 SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA SECTION October 2012

SAIL THE CHARDONNAY ON MONTEREY BAY

by Sandor Drobilisch, Historian & Photographer

What: Chardonnay Sailing Tour & Lunch
When: Saturday, November 3, 2012, 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Where: Santa Cruz Harbor
Cost: $75 per person

Fall is one of the best times of the year to go sailing! Spend the day on the Monterey Bay! Take a first class cruise through the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary aboard the 70-foot sailing yacht, the Chardonnay. See protected wildlife, take in the beauty of the coastline, and experience the exhilaration of sailing. Relax on the spacious deck or in the cabin.

The large, modern galley and seating area are designed to accommodate a large group for daily sails. There will be lots of good food, wines, beers, and soft drinks served by the friendly crew while we landlubbers enjoy the magical view from the deck of this magnificent vessel! And for those who would rather be out of the wind, there is a spacious dining room below with all the comforts needed.

It was a bit more than four years ago when my beloved wife Lindsay organized this cruise in 2008 to sail on the Chardonnay on the open ocean for a couple of hours. Well, Lindsay passed away in 2011, and now I am organizing this event in her memory.

We will gather at 10:30 a.m. and sail 11:00 sharp! Check-in is at 790 Mariner Park Way, Santa Cruz, CA 95062. The yacht can take 49 passengers, so this is a first-come, first-served rule for reservations! Reservation deadline is October 22. Please register online at http://sections.mbca.org/sfba/section_calendar.htm (or form on page 9). Questions? Call Sandy at (408) 782-2305. For more information about the Chardonnay Sailing Tour, go to www.chardonnay.com.

HOLIDAY GALA EXTRAORDINAIRE!

by Gloria Loventhal and Mauna Wagner, Co-Chairs

What: Holiday Celebration & Member Appreciation
When: Saturday, December 8, 2012, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Where: The Fairmont Hotel San Jose, Pagoda Room
Cost: $55 per person, all inclusive

Please join us at twilight for a tour of five international culinary regions with wonderful wine pairings. The French Chef is creating a special menu of small plates and a selection of wines especially for us. France, Italy, Japan, and California will be well represented—along with Germany, home of Mercedes-Benz! Music will be provided by the Classy Jazz Trio, and there will be a no-host bar for those wishing cocktails. Because this is our annual Member Appreciation celebration, the cost is only $55 per person, and you will need your member number to register.

The Fairmont is making 25 guest rooms available to us at $109, plus applicable taxes and fees, for those who wish to stay overnight. Make your reservations by going to The Fairmont website at https://resweb.passkey.com/go/themercedesbenzclub to reserve at this special rate. Reservations for these 25 rooms must be made by November 21, 2012 to qualify for the special rate. Additional rooms may be available at the hotel's regular rate. There will be plenty of parking available, both at the hotel and in nearby lots.

In keeping with the holiday spirit, you'll have an opportunity to participate in The Fairmont's Pajama Drive. If you wish to contribute, please bring children's new pajamas to donate to this worthwhile cause.

Downtown San Jose will be all decked out for the holidays, with "Christmas in the Park" right across from the hotel.

(Continued on page 5)

2012 CALENDAR OF COMING ACTIVITIES

OCT 21 **2013 Activities Planning Meeting**, Eva Gordon (650) 834-2614
OCT 27 ~~**MBRDNA Tech Event**, Richard Simonds (650) 592-7613~~ **SOLD OUT**
NOV 3* **Chardonnay Cruise**, Sandor Drobilisch (408) 782-2305
DEC 8* **Holiday Party**, Gloria Loventhal (408) 289-1933

**Register online at http://sections.mbca.org/sfba/section_calendar.htm (or form on page 7)*

BOARD MEMBER'S MESSAGE

by Eva Gordon, Activities Director

Event Registration Online–We have made changes!

As time goes by, the board is very aware that we need to make changes to keep up with the changing times. We live in the birthplace of technology, and our members have asked us to keep up with technology. The time has come for us to adopt "Online Registration." We have finally answered your requests!

This summer we took a poll of 30 members at one of our technical sessions, and twenty-eight said they would prefer online registration for events. Therefore, we have implemented online registration with Motorsportreg, an online registration company just for car club events. It allows you to sign up easily online using a credit card or an E-Check. Our first rollout was for the SF Mint Tour back in July. Since then we have implemented it for all of our events going forward.

Our goal was to have online registration implemented this year. Our next goal is to have everyone *using* the online registration by next year!

Now you see in our newsletter links to register online for an event. Also on our club home page you see red "Register" buttons in a list under Upcoming Events in the left hand column. And on our Calendar of Events page, you will be able to click on the "Register" buttons listed by month. We are still honoring written mailed in forms until the end of the year. But we are trying to make it painfully obvious for you to register online.

So far, many of you have gone online to register. As with the rollout of any new product, there are always hiccups. We are trying to figure those out. When you send us a filled-out reservation form in the mail, we have to go to the website and fill it out for you. That is double the work for us. We would appreciate it if you would take the time to use the online registration. Hopefully by the beginning of next year, we will no longer need to have written and mailed reservation forms.

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.

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The GOLDEN GATE STAR

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Editor Laura Simonds
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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*

ACTIVITIES PLANNING FOR 2013

by Eva Gordon, Activities Director

What: 2013 Activities Planning Meeting
When: Sunday, October 21, 2012, 1:00-3:00 pm
Where: Harry's Hofbrau, 1901 El Camino Real (at Woodside Road), Redwood City
Cost: Nothing, optional no-host lunch

Once again, it's that time of year when we begin to plan our next year's events. This has been another great year of events for our section, so let's continue the fun! We invite all our SFBA members to attend our annual Activities Planning Meeting. We will hold the meeting on Sunday from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., just prior to the SFBA Section Fall Board Meeting which is from 3:30-6:00 p.m. We will meet in the private dining room at Harry's Hofbrau, which offers a huge variety of fabulous food at reasonable prices; we encourage you to try their buffet lunch.

This is the time when we will ask members for suggestions of events and venues so that we can include them in our 2013 calendar of events. 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 2013. As always, we are also looking for members to host and volunteers to help at these events, so please don't be shy. This is your club too, and it is all run by volunteers!

We would appreciate it if you would RSVP for the event by contacting me if you will attend. Or if you cannot attend but have an event idea or would like to volunteer, please contact me prior to the meeting and let me know. Looking forward to hearing from you, Eva Gordon at eva@well.com or (650) 834-2614.

2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICER ELECTIONS

by Robert Schilling,
Ex-Officio & Nominating Committee Chairman

SFBA is one of the largest and most active MBCA sections in the country. This distinction doesn't come easy. Our section is a success because we have both great members and great leaders. Over this last year we have been fortunate to have great leaders—Jack Weir as President, Gloria Loventhal as Vice-President, Mauna Wagner as Secretary, and Theo Burger/ Lois Wong sharing responsibilities as Treasurer. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank these Executive Board officers as well as all of the other board members who work hard to make our section run.

The Nominating Committee has worked closely with the Leadership Committee and other board members in identifying the leaders that we feel will continue to provide the highest quality MBCA experience for our members and continue the long-range goals of the section. The members running for election are listed on the enclosed ballot that I highly encourage you to complete and return. Yes, barring any unforeseen write-in candidate, this slate of candidates will be elected whether you return your ballot or not. The reason it is still important to return your completed ballot is two-fold. It shows the candidates that they are supported by the general membership and provides assurance that our members are pleased with the direction of the club. Also, a high response rate shows our national club that our members are engaged and involved. Please vote your ballot per the provided instructions!

If you would like to include a personal note, an event suggestion, ideas, or suggestions for bettering your club experience, or just general kudos for our new leaders, please feel free to do so. The Nominating Committee will be sure any and all comments are relayed.

Thank you in advance for your participation in our election.

NEWS & NOTES

Technical Event at Mercedes-Benz Research & Development North America (MBRDNA), October 27. You must really like this event, because it sold out in the first month of publicity! This is a rare opportunity to see the workings of the worldwide Research and Development team for telematics and infotainment systems in Mercedes-Benz vehicles. If you want to get on the "wait list," contact Richard Simonds at rsimonds@pacbell.net or (650) 592-7613.

Fall 2013 MBCA Raffle. You surely received your announcement of the Fall 2013 MBCA Raffle by now, and hopefully you've already purchased your tickets. You can't win unless you play. And, just ask some of your fellow SFBA members who have won in the past two raffles—they played and won! You can purchase tickets by returning the flyer that was mailed to you, or go to www.mbca.org, or call (800) 637-2360. Deadline is December 3. Tickets are $50, and prizes are $50,000, $10,000, $5,000, and $1,000. As the flyer says, "dress up your driveway with a new Mercedes!"

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Ph: 650.992.1400	Ph: 510.986.1600	Ph: 818.600.2600
Concord Collision Care Center	**Autowest Collision**	**AW Collision Of Las Vegas**
Ph: 925.685.2294	Ph: 408.392.1200	Ph: 702.551.1100

AW Collision of Beverly Hills, *Opening June 1st* - Ph: 424-253-8300

www.AWCollision.com

MERCEDES HERITAGE TECH EVENT REVISITED

by Richard Simonds, Technical Director

Roy Spencer, owner of Mercedes Heritage in Burlingame, gave a valuable talk about how the saying "It is only original once" has permeated the collector car movement. Much more weight is given to a car that is original than to one that is restored. Today, restored typically means "over-restored" to a standard that would never have been met by a manufacturer. Perhaps custom-bodied cars would be as perfect as today's restored cars, but that is the limit on what original cars were ever like when they left the factory.

To illustrate his point Roy used several classic Mercedes-Benz automobiles that were as close to original as possible. His best example was a well-worn 300SL Roadster that still had the dust on it from its recent liberation from a barn (see picture on last page). This car was a great example of what we call "a barn find." By pointing out how a collector looks at an original car, we better understood why Roy said he would probably not even wash off the dust before putting the roadster on the market. The new owner can decide what to do next with it. He then showed us other vehicles that were very close to original, including a 180 sedan, 300c sedan, 230SL coupe/roadster, and several other cars in his new facility. It was another enlightening presentation that brought current thinking about classic cars—the cars of Mercedes-Benz heritage—and how those cars are being valued for their originality.

Mercedes Heritage (formerly known as Our SL) has an extensive database about SLs, and Roy is growing that database to include a larger swath of information about a larger array of Mercedes classics. If you have questions about your classic Mercedes, are looking to buy or sell a classic Mercedes, Roy is one person who should be considered as a professional resource. He can advise you on repair shops, restorers, and what it takes to make a classic as close to original as possible. He has also been a strong supporter of MBCA and our SFBA Section for many years. You can contact him at roy@mercedesheritage.com or by phone at (650) 343-7980.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: MBZ Hardtop Holder (230SL, 250SL, 280SL, 450SL, 500SL, 560SL). $150. Contact Ron at (408) 265-1534.

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.

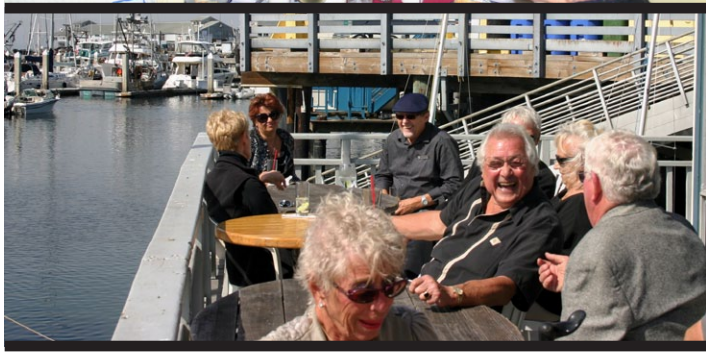
[Remember, classified ads are free to members, $25 for non-members. Your classified ad will appear both in the newsletter and on our web site for one month. Send your "for sale" or "wanted" ad to Laura Simonds, editor, simondsl@pacbell.net, or (650) 592-6318 fax.]

FIRST THE CARS, THEN THE YACHT CLUB

by Mauna Wagner, Secretary

Beautiful weather, great views, and good food—what could be better? After a great day of interesting cars at Legends of the Autobahn on August 17, fifty-seven boisterous Mercedes enthusiasts enjoyed cocktails and dinner at the Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club. SFBA members were joined by club members and Mercedes fans from Long Beach, Kansas City, Canada, and even far-away Germany. MPYC members Sydney and Doug Storkavich were our hosts at the club.

The yacht club staff welcomed us warmly as the cocktail hour began. Many enjoyed the balmy weather on the deck, watching the boats come in from a day on the water, while some preferred to be inside closer to the appetizers. Dinner was a choice of seafood or steak, with yummy sides and a scrumptious fruit tart for dessert. We knew it would be a popular, successful event, and the MPYC didn't disappoint.



HOLIDAY GALA

(Continued from page 1)

Please register online http://sections.mbca.org/sfba/section_calendar.htm to be a part of our celebration. Registration deadline is November 28. Attire is black tie optional. Food, wine, generosity, and camaraderie in a beautiful setting—this will be an unmatched experience!

Questions? Contact Gloria Loventhal at glorialov@gmail.com or (408) 289-1933, or Mauna Wagner at maunaw@aol.com or (925) 934-7220.

MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

Sandor Drobilisch, Historian & Photographer

This was the *second* Mercedes that I was in love with—the first one was the '58 190 four-door sedan we bought for a very modest $130. After four years of knuckle-busting education smeared with lots of elbow grease, in the end we had a sweetheart of a car with a unique modification nobody else had—and this is the story connected with that second car in the picture here!

You see, the first one was running fine after all my work, but it had the original shifting lever built onto the steering column (like all the cars of her age, kind of "dorky" if you know what I mean), and it was well worn and rattled and really showed her age! By now, I was getting pretty familiar with the old Benzes, including the 190SL, and I thought I would replace the shifting arm on my sedan with the floor shifter from the SL! Well, nobody wanted to try it, so I cut out the floor over the transmission of the sedan, made an adapter for the SL transmission lid, and installed. Now I had the sporty shifter, and in a short time, even my wife Lindsay learned to use it. This is how I came to cast my eye on these two basket-case 190SLs, sadly rusting away at a Milpitas yard. I got both of them for $3K. One had a sick engine, but I got it going soon, sold it for $3K, and I began the love affair with the one in the picture!

Three years later I started driving it. What joy and pride it was! In those years I was not in the position to buy a car like that. As a matter in fact, when I was showing photos of *my* SL to friends in Germany, they assured me that it would not be advisable to own a car by an engineer like I was—management in Germany did not like "wannabe" guys! But, in California, that little car gave me much happiness. I drove it a lot and enjoyed lots of "thumbs up" by all sorts of drivers—even Hells Angel types flew me a salute of some sort one time on the Santa Cruz highway! Later, I bought a hardtop for it. *Mistake!* It gave me a claustrophobic feeling. So I drove it on dry days only and loved every minute doing it for almost twenty years!

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

August 2012

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

John Biason, *Carmel*
Jonathan Buck, *San Jose*
Joseph Evans, *San Jose*
Aaron & Randi Feigin, *Saratoga*
Susan Gardner, *Carmel by the Sea*
Desmond Hayes, *San Francisco*
Randy Hietter, *San Mateo*
James Jackson, *San Ramon*
Farhad & Ariana Kashani, *Los Altos*
Melvin & Ann Kleb, *Carmel Highlands*
Gil Kliman, *Woodside*
Kevin Landon, *Monterey*
Richard Law, *Mountain View*
David & Holli Logan, *Carmel Highlands*
Mick McGuinness, *Oakland*
William Oakes, *Santa Cruz*
Mohammad Saatnia, *San Jose*
Jeff Thomas, *Cupertino*
Tuan Tran, *Newark*
Dacia Welch, *Martinez*

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

We're proud to 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!

Richard & Beverly Traxler, Hillsborough, *45 years*
David & Becky Hunt, Sunnyvale, *30 years*
Roy Tucker, Union City, *25 years*
Ralph Moceo, Santa Cruz, *25 years*
Walter & Marilyn Davis, Sun Lake, AZ, *20 years*
Glenn & Victoria Wildman, Gilroy, *20 years*
Keith Dacosta, San Carlos, *15 years*
Rosemary Akey, San Francisco, *15 years*
James & Patty Diefenbach, Henderson, NV, *10 years*
Guy & Gay Harris, Castro Valley, *10 years*
Walter & Zoe Klippert, Moraga, *10 years*
Richard Town, Livermore, *10 years*
Sunil Gharat, San Jose, *5 years*
Ronald & Lanette Forstestad, San Francisco, *5 years*
Robert & Valerie Donelson, Kelseyville, *5 years*
Suzanne Mohler, Healdsburg, *5 years*
Steve Sankey, El Cerrito, *5 years*
Sherry Glover, Lafayette, *5 years*

HOLIDAY PARTY
Saturday, December 8, 2012
RESERVATION FORM

Names of attendees: _____
Address: _____
City/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

First Event: Y N

____ persons @ $55 per person = $_____

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 Nov. 28. For confirmation, include phone # or email above, or **register online at http://sections.mbca.org/sfba/section_calendar.htm.**

CHARDONNAY CRUISE
Saturday, November 3, 2012
RESERVATION FORM

Names of attendees: _____
Address: _____
City/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

First Event: Y N

____ persons @ $75 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 Oct. 22 or when the limit of 49 attendees is reached. **Please register online at http://sections.mbca.org/sfba/section_calendar.htm.** For confirmation, include email or phone number above. Confirmation sent upon receipt of registration.

Golden Gate Star

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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.

MERCEDES HERITAGE TECH EVENT, AUGUST 11, 2012