



Texas Hill Country Section Newsletter Of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America

Proudly Serving South and West Texas

2015 Issue One

First Quarter

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Section Leadership

- President - Robert (Bob) Holbrook
- Vice President - Joe Borrero
- Secretary - Kathie Steele
- Treasurer - Keith Steele
- Director - Joe Aaron
- Director - Dick Fitch
- Director - Ruben Torres
- Webmaster - Paulette Sontag
- Newsletter Editor - Kathie Steele

President's Message

By Bob Holbrook

Premonitions. About 4-5 months ago I began having strong and repeated compulsions to clean-up paperwork, to throw away or donate unneeded items, and – yes – the desire to sell several of my beloved Mercedes. I listed and sold the elegant 1989 560SL and also sold my beautiful and irreplaceable 1950 170S. Both went to good new homes. I really did not understand the reasoning for my actions since they were totally alien to my entire life's behavior. Why was I letting go of things that I loved and putting affairs in order for the people that I loved even more?

Then on Sunday morning, December 20, 2014, I got out of bed, fed the cat, and began making a pot of coffee for my wife and me to enjoy. By the time I turned-on the coffee maker, my right leg and arm were tingling; I sat down and almost instantly had no movement on my right side. It was a stroke. Somehow I recognized what was happening and called for Ana, my wife. I told her that I was having a stroke and asked for some aspirin; I remembered that aspirin were recommended at the earliest signs of stroke or heart attack. She immediately helped and called 911. The EMTs arrived within 15 minutes and rushed me to the emergency room.

Thanks to the Lord I am alive and did not suffer more severe limitations. Fast action, good treatment, and excellent physical therapy have helped me re-gain much of my arm, hand, and leg movement. I still don't have full dexterity in the finger keyboard skills or hand writing; I am walking with use of a walker; and the arm/leg strength is less than previous. But I am walking, I have returned to work, and I can use my left hand for typing. My wonderful wife drives me to-and-from work (bless her!), and I hope to start practicing driving skills again soon. I am continuing therapy twice a week.

Thank you to the Board Members and to all of the great Section folks who have visited, sent messages, and included me in your thoughts and prayers. Your support and concern have been a key part in helping with my recovery. As I have said in the past, the Mercedes products are superb - - but the people of our Club are truly fantastic! I hope to see you soon.

Thank you for your support in helping make the Texas Hill Country Section one of the best in MBCA!

**WILLKOMMEN
AND
DANKESCHON!**

We thank you for being a member of this Club. Because of your loyalty and support, your yearly membership dues help to support our section financially and we are able to produce and deliver a Section Newsletter; host fun and unique Section Events like car shows and Oktoberfest; and bring you the latest technical, maintenance and general driving information about your Mercedes-Benz vehicle.

New Members

- Ronald Feldman
- Robert Jemerson
- Patrick McGoldrick
- Patricia Mitchell
- Dahlia Ruiz
- Jj Sanchez
- James Speer
- Ty Tracy

Member Renewals

- Michael Adamek
- John Agnew
- Jeff Aykroyd
- Odel Couch
- Jeffrey Fissel
- John Flanagan
- Kathryn McCall
- Maurice Miles
- Barbara O'Connor
- William Ohlemueller
- Eduardo Paez
- Charles Sachs
- John Schrock
- Nickey Smith
- Ruben Torres
- Thomas Tredici



Invest \$49, earn \$500.

Pay \$49 a year as a Member of MBCA and after 12 months, get \$500 off the price of a NEW Mercedes-Benz. Not a bad return for a 12-month investment ...

MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING

How Members Qualify

1. You must be a "Member in Good Standing" with MBCA for qualify for the yearly Rewards Discount. To check and confirm standing, go to mbca.org. On the right column of the page that enter your username and password. If you are a current MBCA member and have been a member for 12 consecutive months, a Member in Good Standing, member will appear in the bottom left corner of your profile page.
2. From your profile page, go to "Click Here" to view these website's terms and conditions and to print an official yearly Rewards Certificate, renewable up to U.S. Member's Day membership. **NOTE:** Your yearly Rewards Certificate may only be printed ONCE. It will expire 90 days from the print date.
3. Go to your local Mercedes-Benz dealer to register the best price for your NEW Mercedes-Benz vehicle. Remember to ask your dealer if they are offering any special price discounts like a member or extra clearance sale. On the day of your purchase, present your yearly Rewards Certificate to the dealer to receive an additional \$500 off the price of your new vehicle.

Can the \$500 Discount be Combined with Other Discounts?

No, MBCA members in good standing can take \$500 off a NEW Mercedes-Benz vehicle and combine that amount with in-store MBCA incentives, including: Dealer Appreciation Certificate, European Delivery, seasonal event discounts, clearance sales and other dealer offers.

Which Mercedes-Benz Vehicles Qualify for the \$500 Discount?

No time limit on the \$500 Discount based on purchase or lease of any NEW Mercedes-Benz vehicle except: Sprinter Van, SUV, SLS AMG Coupe and SLS AMG Roadster.

Are there Dealer Incentives that CANNOT be Combined with the \$500 Discount?

Yes, there are some dealer incentives that may NOT be combined with the \$500 discount including: MS (Special Employee Incentive), MSBA (Mercedes-Benz Drive (Master Appreciation) P.P. (Master Lease Program) Dealer's (Integrated) financial programs, all their programs (limited to business customers). Your dealer can require these incentives in detail.

Questions or More Information

Call the MBCA National Business Office at 800.637.2360
Mon-Thurs 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. & Fridays 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. MT

Visit www.mbcacommunity.com for more information.

**Mercedes-Benz Club of America
National Information**

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South Central Regional Director

Gene Jurick - gjurick@tx.rr.com

Benefit with your Membership!

Dealer Discounts on Parts, Service & Accessories at Participating Mercedes-Benz Dealers - The presentation of your membership card may entitle you to 5%, 10% or (up to) 20% off parts, service and accessories from the U.S. and Canadian Mercedes-Benz dealers. Even if your vehicle is under warranty, not all service is covered. Call any of our local Mercedes-Benz dealers in advance to confirm their participation in the MBCA dealer discount program. You must present your MBCA membership card before having service performed or paying for parts.

Renew Your Membership – You do NOT need to wait until your renewal date before extending your club membership. Renew for 3 years, get 3 months FREE. Renew for 2 years, get 2 months FREE! These renewal offers are good indefinitely, and members may renew at any time to receive the free months. There is no extra benefit for renewing for just one year.

Mercedes-Benz Models & Chassis Forums - Mercedes forums include every model made by Mercedes from A class to GLK, the Sprinter, Smart Car, Adenauer, Gullwing, vintage and collectibles. Go to www.mbca.org and sign in using your membership card to participate.

See all the benefits available to you as a club member at www.mbca.org/membership.



View all benefits - login in to www.mbca.org, click on the tab "Membership".

Mercedes-Benz as a Brand is Changing

The website, emercedes-benz.com, reports Mercedes is going through some sort of a revolution. They're building cars that would've been hard, if not impossible, to imagine with a Mercedes badge on the hood not further than a decade ago.

The wave of three-pointed star changes has been set in motion for quite some time now, with all-wheel-drive AMG's being an example as good as any, but it hasn't been until recently that the Germans have fully come out of the closet.

Out of the well-known German triumvirate, Mercedes-Benz are by far the most traditional, keeping to their luxurious ways like paint sticks to a G-Class Professional.

Read more at www.emercedesbenz.com.



March – Begin with Market Days in Blanco, Texas then drive to Driftwood for lunch & winery visit on Saturday, 3/21/15.

April – Hill Country Drive to Utopia, Texas with lunch at the Utopia on the River B & B. Saturday, 4/25/15.

May – Stay tuned for updates.

Houston Section – Texas meet up in Centerville, Texas on Saturday, 5/23/15.

Always check our website at
www.texashillcountry.mbca.org
for the latest event information and past
event reports and photos.



www.facebook.com/texashillcountry

And the award goes to...Dick Fitch!



The 2014 Member of the Year award was presented by section president, Bob Holbrook, to Dick Fitch at the November car show.

Dick's contributions and his leadership have been of great value to our young section. Dick serves as a board member, leads hill country drives, and writes informative newsletter articles. Congratulations Dick and thank you for volunteering your time!

Pop Quiz: How well do you know the Mercedes brand and its history?

See how well you do. Answer on page 6.

A Mercedes-Benz AMG vehicle is totally different in its design and enhanced performance than non-AMG vehicles. The engine shop is located in Affalterbach, Germany and employees about 1,100. There, a single AMG technician assembles the complete engine (V-8 or V-12) and is therefore responsible for everything about the engine.

How many AMG engines would you guess are built annually at the Affalterbach factory and how long do you think it takes to build a single AMG engine by hand?



Engines stored at the AMG factory

Formula One News

The 2015 season begins next month with the first race of the year, the Australian Grand Prix, March 13-15th.

In January, our Mercedes team headed to Silverstone, England where drivers, Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg, unveiled the 2015 W06 Hybrid (see photo right).

The W06 is visually different to the 2014 model. There are obvious differences with the nose tip and how it feeds into the chassis. The nose itself has been modified, with Mercedes opting for a shorter solution than those seen on the new McLaren and Ferrari. The size of the shark fin has been increased, while the rear packaging has been reshaped, particularly in front of the rear wheels.

Christian Horner, of Red Bull racing, states "The performance of the Mercedes power unit has been hugely impressive - they've done an amazing job to come up with such a refined and complete package," Horner, Red Bull's team principal, said in an interview on the team's official site.

Horner further said "Those guys [Mercedes] aren't going to stand still either. It's down to the teams to try and catch Mercedes now and we have a lot of work going on with Renault to try and reduce that gap."

Source: formula1.com, mercedes-amg.com.



Quiz Answer:

It takes just 3.5 hours in production time to build one V-8 AMG engine. A V-12 can take a whole work day. In 2013, there were 32,200 AMG engines built.

World-wide, AMG is the largest manufacturer of handcrafted engines. About 800 engineers work at the plant developing the vehicles.

A metal plate is put on every engine with the signature of the mechanic who assembled it (right).



The AMG showroom
in Germany

2015 Election for Section Directors

Every two years, our section will conduct an election for our Board of Directors as stated in our By-Laws. This is the time for members who are willing to serve to come forward.

Seven members serve as our Directors. Any member (with current/active membership) may submit his/her name to serve on the board. Send nominations to Kathie Steele, Section Secretary, no later than August 15, 2015. Please do not nominate another section member unless he/she has agreed to serve.

A ballot with the list of nominations will then be included in the August newsletter. If there are NO nominations, other than for those already serving that are received by the secretary by the above date then no membership voting is required to take place.

Officers of the Section will be elected by the Board of Directors from among the members of the board.

The Board of Directors will serve from November 1, 2015 until October 31, 2017.

If you wish to help in other ways with the operation of our section, please contact Kathie Steele via email at dieselbenz@outlook.com.





Our Experience with the Mercedes-Benz “R-Class” By Amelia and David Brooks

After building a home in a semi-rural area of Eastern Ohio, and thinking that we would need an all-wheel drive vehicle, we began our ownership of Mercedes-Benz vehicles in the year 2001 with a ML320 medium-size SUV. We followed that purchase with another ML320 after a few years, and enjoyed the experience of driving quality automobiles. As we had not owned a SUV before; Amelia found that the height of the vehicles and their stiffer suspensions to be uncomfortable to her. So, when it came time to change cars, we looked for another Mercedes-Benz vehicle that would give us the all-wheel drive capability with a smoother ride and a lower profile for entry and exit, and we found all of that and more in the R350 Class.

In 2008, we purchased our first R350 and very quickly fell in love with the model. It met all of the desires of Amelia in regard to the softer ride thanks to the Multi-Link rear suspension, and the good handling of the Double Wishbone front suspension for me. Today’s Mercedes-Benz automobiles seem to be getting lower, and the SUV’s seem to be getting higher relative to the ground. Unfortunately, as we get a bit older, it gets harder to climb in and out; however, the R350 Class is much easier to enter and exit because of the medium height of the vehicle.

We like the large size of the “R” for safety, and the convenience of carrying a larger load of “stuff” or friends and family. For those of us that had a station-wagon when we were raising our children, it seems like we have turned back the clock to an earlier time. The size and weight of the SUV is not a problem, as the power to weight ratio is excellent when you need it with the 3.5 liter 268hp V6 engine.

So here we are today with our 2011 R350, knowing that the 2012 R350 model was currently the last year that the SUV was sold to customers in the U.S.A. Yes, they are still building the car in Alabama; but only for export. We are hoping that they will change their minds and resume sales in our country; but just in case we will never find another newer “R”, we purchased an extended Mercedes-Benz warranty out to 135 thousand miles and seven years from the in-service date of March 31, 2011.



Texas Hill Country Section|MBCA Is On The Web!

- National website – www.mbca.org
- Section website - <http://texashillcountry.mbca.org>
- [http://www.facebook.com/pages/ Texas Hill Country Section| Mercedes-Benz-Club-of-America](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Texas+Hill+Country+Section|Mercedes-Benz-Club-of-America)

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Advertising - We welcome advertisers whose subject matter is relevant to MBCA or of interest to members of the Section. Advertising runs for one year (four issues) starting with the first issue. MBCA members may place a classified ad for free providing that ad is Mercedes specific. No inference should be made that products or services advertised herein have been approved by the MCBA/Texas Hill Country Section board of directors or this newsletter editor.

Articles and Submissions - Copy should be e-mailed to the editor by the 10th of the month prior to the next issue. For example, submissions for the May issue should be received by the editor by April 10th.