



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

Proudly Serving South and West Texas



**May 2013**  
**Inside This Issue**

President's Message

Welcome to New Members  
 Thanks to Renewing Members

Section Leadership and  
 Board of Directors

Membership Benefits

Pop Quiz:  
 How well do you know the Brand?

Event Reports:  
 March Grand AM Races  
 March Visit to Ft. Sam Houston  
 April Visit to San Antonio Missions

Upcoming Events –  
 June Sunday Hill Country Drive  
 July Details to follow  
 September Haag's Restoration Project

National News –  
 Legends of the Autobahn  
 Lake Erie Tour  
 New Mexico VLA Tour

Texas Section Calendar of Events

MBCA Website –  
 A "How to" Navigate the Forums

Pop Quiz Answer

Sponsor & Advertising Information

Article – The Ultimate Garages

My 1969 SL  
 By Jeff Knight

Unimog – 60<sup>th</sup> Year Model Update

Update: Formula One & DTM Racing

MBCA National News

**President's Message**

By Bob Holbrook

Wow! How would you like to win a 2013 Mercedes-Benz SL550 plus \$25,000 cash? The new car and cash are the Grand Prize in the current MBCA Members Only raffle. Each raffle ticket costs \$50.00, ticket orders must be received no later than June 10, 2013, and the drawing will be held on June 20, 2013. To purchase tickets go to [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org), log-in with your user name & password, click the "Membership" tab and then the drop-down option titled "Raffle" to purchase your tickets. If you don't play, you can't win – so order your ticket soon for a chance (or two) at these great prizes.

The Members Only raffle will give everyone a chance to win; however, the Texas Hill Country Section events and dinner meetings GUARANTEE that everyone who attends will definitely have a good time. Our April lunch meeting and tour of Mission San Juan was a great event as well as an educational experience narrated by a wonderful tour guide from the National Park Service who explained the history and significance of the Old Spanish Missions. Our members & guests – and their vintage and modern Mercedes – merged beautifully with the historic backdrop of the 1700s Mission structures.



I wish to extend a special "thank you" to Bella, our 140 pound Neapolitan Mastiff. Bella is a loving and affectionate pet; she also drools. And shakes her head, tossing drool in all directions. For years Bella's drool has landed on my wife's 2000 Durango and has etched into the paint, permanently disfiguring the poor vehicle. For several years my wife (Ana) has gently hinted that a new, non-drool etched SUV would be appreciated and less embarrassing to park in public places.

Last month I vowed to redeem my family's car honor by getting a replacement SUV. While checking the M-B Boerne website I saw an immaculate 2007 ML63 AMG listed. I test drove, loved the ML, and now Ana is very happy with her outstanding M-B SUV. Of course, I realllllly enjoy the 503 horsepower, all-wheel drive, zero-to-60 in 4.5 seconds aspects of the AMG package. Who would have thought an ML could be soooo exciting. So, thanks again Bella for your help! Just stay away from the ML63 or we may have gray fur seat covers.

Enjoy the month of May and drive safely!



**New Members**

Paul Collins  
Marcelo Gamez  
Ken Lucius  
Linda Mayfield  
Joshua Mayo  
Raja Naidu  
Tink Nathan

**Willkommen  
And  
Thank you!**

**Member Renewals**

David Baxter  
Harold Brauner  
Dan Coburn  
Milton Colia  
John Evans  
Laverne Fischer  
G. Green  
Tom Gunderson  
David Lewandos  
William Ohlemueller  
Michael Owens  
John Shecter  
John Volk  
Paul Weseloh  
Richard Wiseman

**Thank you for your support in helping make the Texas Hill Country Section one of the best in MBCA!** Your yearly membership dues help to support our section financially.

If you have provided us with an email address, thank you! If not, **PLEASE** send your email address to [dieselbenz@wildblue.net](mailto:dieselbenz@wildblue.net). Your email address is used strictly to communicate club business and events and never shared with respect for your privacy. Providing an email address simply allows you to receive information in a timely manner rather than on a quarterly basis. It also is more cost effective.

**Thank you for your support and telling others of the many benefits of membership!**

**Mercedes-Benz Club of America  
Texas Hill Country Section  
South Central Region  
Officers and Regional Director**

South Central Regional Director  
Gene Jurick/[gjurick@tx.rr.com](mailto:gjurick@tx.rr.com)

President Robert (Bob) Holbrook  
210-630-7495(c)/[holbrook.robert@sbcglobal.net](mailto:holbrook.robert@sbcglobal.net)

Vice President Joe Borrero  
210-408-1059/[joeb55@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joeb55@sbcglobal.net)

Secretary Kathie Steele  
512-497-9012(c)/[dieselbenz@wildblue.net](mailto:dieselbenz@wildblue.net)

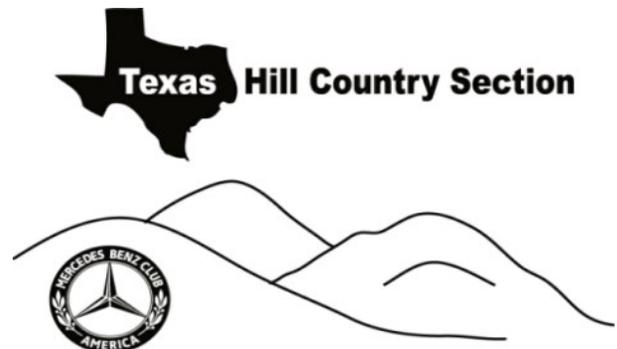
Treasurer Keith Steele  
512-558-1834(c)/[keiths@wildblue.net](mailto:keiths@wildblue.net)

Newsletter Editor Kathie Steele  
512-497-9012/[dieselbenz@wildblue.net](mailto:dieselbenz@wildblue.net)

**Texas Hill Country Section Directors**

(In alphabetical order)

Joe Aaron  
Charlie Cleaver  
Dick Fitch  
Gregory Haag  
Trina Major



## Membership Benefits on MBCA.org

**Member Forums** - Here, you'll find members en masse who can talk, guide, answer or listen to your Mercedes-Benz related questions and comments. There are forum topics such as Women on Wheels (WOW), Youngbucks for younger Mercedes enthusiasts, Interest Groups and Technical topics. And don't forget the Forums for Mercedes-Benz Models and Chassis. Mercedes forums include every model made by Mercedes from A class to GLK, the Sprinter, Smart Car, Adenauer, Gullwing, vintage and collectibles.

**Tech Talk** - This is where the MBCA technical director is available to assist members with their technical questions. Tech Talk is furnished with hard-to-find technical manuals and bulletins from Mercedes-Benz USA (MBUSA).

Click on the **Tech Talk** tab at the top of the home page to read Technical articles submitted by club members and questions answered by specialists such as George Murphy, Pierre Hedary and Jonathan Hodgman.

**Identity Patrol ID Theft Protection Plan** - As an MBCA Member, you can protect your good name with an Identity Patrol plan. Benefits include personal ID theft risk scores, ID monitoring, comprehensive restoration and a \$1 million ID theft insurance policy.

**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 U.S. and Canadian Mercedes-Benz dealers. Call your local Mercedes-Benz dealer in advance to confirm their participation in the Mercedes-Benz Club of America dealer discount program. You must present your MBCA membership card before having service performed or paying for parts.

**The MBCA website abounds with information** - Sign on to the MBCA website ([www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org)) to update your member profile with an email address or phone number. You may use your member ID listed on your membership card as your password. Remember – you may change your password at any time.

**Associate Member Benefits** - Your membership also includes a FREE associate member for one adult living in your household. An Associate member has all the benefits as the primary member, will receive their own membership card, and may participate in any local, regional, or national MBCA event.



### Pop Quiz:

**How well do you know the Mercedes brand and its history?**

One question and answer will be posted in each newsletter (as space allows).

**See how well you do. Take the test, if you dare.**

Many automotive manufacturers will be selling diesel vehicles as a result of higher fuel prices. In this newsletter, there are two questions regarding Mercedes-Benz diesel cars:

- What year did Mercedes-Benz first produce a diesel powered vehicle?
- What Mercedes-Benz model won the world record in 2005?



### Is it Time to Renew Your Membership?

Don't forget to renew your MBCA membership if yours is about to expire this May, June, or July. This will assure continuation of the many benefits MBCA offers, and enables you to maintain or establish your eligibility for MBCA loyalty rewards (requires 12 months of continuous membership - no lapses).

You may also call the national business office at (800) 637-2360 for assistance or go to [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org).



## Grand-AM of the Americas

After racing at Daytona in January, Grand-AM racing arrived at Circuit of the Americas (COTA) in Austin on Friday & Saturday, March 1 -2, 2013. Members of the Lone Star Section, Texas Hill Country Section and Houston Sections attended the event.

COTA arranged parking for us near the track entrance where our vehicles could be parked together. Other car clubs such as Porsche, BMW, Mustang, Audi, VW, and Nissan also attended the event and participated in the parade laps.

We had seats in Section 15 stands where on Friday we watched practice and qualifying. The clubs were divided into two groups for driving the parade laps; some on Friday and MBCA members on Saturday morning.

Saturday, we met bright and early at 8:00 AM to receive instructions from COTA representative, Jason Brewer, before lining up our vehicles to participate in our parade lap. Ten cars made their way onto the track through an underground tunnel. The COTA track is 3.41 miles and contains 20 turns. The only downside in driving the lap was the slow speed required by COTA! So, not fair with a Mercedes. Afterwards, we were welcome to sit and watch other races, venture on a relaxing walk around the track, and check out the vendors.

The track schedule for Saturday also provided fans a walk to the paddock area in back of the main grand stand where each team housed and worked on their cars. There was also time scheduled for a walk to the pit area in front of the main grandstand. The pit area gives fans a close-up view of what goes on when race cars enter the pit for servicing then exit back onto the track.

Many thanks go to the Lone Star Section for organizing this event and to Ginny Pitzen who worked as the club liaison to COTA.





**The Visit to Fort Sam Houston**

We were very excited when MBCA members, Jeff and Maria Knight, suggested we take a tour of Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio before new security measures took effect. And since Jeff works at Ft. Sam, they offered to lead the tour! What more could we ask for?

On Saturday, March 9, 2013, members met at the Longhorn Café for lunch and a quick briefing by Jeff and Maria about the tour. Maps of the base with notable buildings were handed out to members. We began the driving tour pointing out where General Eisenhower lived while at Ft. Sam during WWII, the Gift Chapel built in 1909 and dedicated by President Taft, as well as the First Flight Memorial where military aviation was born at Ft. Sam in 1910 with the first flight in army aircraft.

Along the drive, we stopped at the Quadrangle. There we were met by Joy Kellner who is the President of the Fort Sam Houston Spouses Club and a member of Preservation Society of Fort Sam Houston. Joy gave us a special tour of the Quad describing its rich history. The Quadrangle, built in 1876 as a supply depot, has a distinguished past housing Indian outlaws including the Apache war Chief Geronimo in 1886. The centerpiece of the Quadrangle is the clock tower which still bears the inscriptions and architecture of 19th century Texas.

Leaving the Quad, we drove to the historical museum which was built in the early 1900's where we were given a special tour by Jackie Davis, Curator of historical museum. Jackie explained the history of Fort Sam and its beginning in 1845 when the Post at San Antonio was established. After the Civil War, the Army began to move out of the city onto land donated by the City of San Antonio. In 1876, the construction of the Quadrangle began and the Quartermaster Depot moved into it in 1877. By 1890, it was designated as Fort Sam Houston then expanded in 1905 with the Cavalry and Light Artillery Post. The post evolved into the "Home of Army Medicine" after World War II and into the "Home of Military Medicine" with the establishment of the Medical Education and Training Campus in 2010. Many of America's finest military personnel have served at Fort Sam Houston.

We had a fantastic time and thank Joy and Jackie for their time to speak with us. Many thanks to Jeff and Maria for planning, leading, and executing our club assault on Fort Sam Houston!





## A Spring Drive to the San Antonio Missions

Our April event was held Saturday, April 13, 2013, in San Antonio, Texas at Don Pedro Restaurant and the San Antonio Missions National Historic Park.

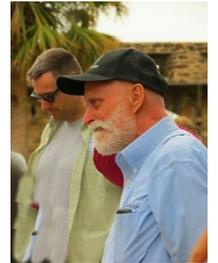
We met in the restaurant parking lot at 11:00 AM for a "meet & greet" then strode into the restaurant to our reserved seating. We met and welcomed new members, ordered lunch, then afterwards met back in the parking lot to hear about the drive to the missions and the plan from Bob Holbrook and Keith Steele.

We had a short drive to the missions then parked and took group photos before walking to the Visitor Center.

The San Antonio Missions are the only concentration of Spanish missions in the United States located within walking distance of each other, unlike the west coast missions which are spread out. The Spanish chose south Texas in 1690 to combat the French incursion in nearby Louisiana. Bob Holbrook relayed how the San Antonio Archdiocese had contributed to the restoration of the missions.

In the Visitor Center, members were able to see displays, visit the gift shop, and if so inclined, watch a short video of the history of the missions. We then joined a guided tour and walked the few feet to Mission San Jose. The San Jose Mission was built in 1720 and was a walled mission to house inhabitants and used for defense to fight off Indian raids and other enemy attacks.

All in all, it was a casual event location where members were able to walk at their own pace and view as much or as little as they wished. We thank all those of you who took time out of your Saturday to join us. And we welcome the new members we met. We hope to see you at another Texas Hill Country Section event soon.





For Upcoming events...

Find our event information at:

- [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org)
- Facebook
- Section Newsletters
- Email Notification
- Via MBCA App

### June Event

Sunday afternoon, June 2, 2013, we'll enjoy an old style drive in the Hill Country with dinner at PoPo's Restaurant.

We'll meet in Kerrville at Interstate 10 & Highway 16 at the Shell Station/McDonalds @ 2:00 PM for our usual "meet & greet" then depart no later than 2:30 PM.

We'll drive the back roads leaving Kerrville and touring the communities of Waring and Welfare before stopping for dinner at PoPo's restaurant at 4:30 PM. Members who wish to meet us only for dinner may do so.

Additional event details will follow. RSVP to [dieselbenz@wildblue.net](mailto:dieselbenz@wildblue.net) at any time if you plan to join us!



### July Event

Event under construction. Details will follow soon!



Summer Break in August – No Events Planned...  
See you in September!

### September Event

In February 2012, we visited with member Greg Haag in La Vernia, Texas to look at the restoration progress of his 1951 220 A Cabriolet.

This September, Greg will be ready for our return to see the completed restoration. We'll have details about the event to pass on to you this summer including the event location. So stay tuned!

Save the Date: Saturday, September 28, 2013

RSVP to [dieselbenz@wildblue.net](mailto:dieselbenz@wildblue.net) so we can count you in our group!



## Enter Your Car and Join the Fun—Legends of the Autobahn 2013

By Laura Simonds

2013 promises to be bigger and better! MBCA invites you to be part of the excitement at Legends of the Autobahn 2013, on Friday, August 16. Held on the greens of the Rancho Cañada Golf Club in Carmel Valley, California, Legends will attract over 500 cars and thousands of spectators.

Co-hosted by MBCA, BMW Car Club of America, Porsche Club of America, and Audi Club North America, this one-day MBCA national special event puts the spotlight on four distinctive German marques. Each club will have separate concours judging sites, but the corral area will combine all four marques.

While Mercedes-Benz of all ages and models are welcome to enter, this year MBCA will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pagoda and 600 models and will feature them in a special display. In addition to mingling among precision German cars, there will be food, displays, club and vendor booths, and a Spaten Biergarten.

A \$60 registration fee will apply for entries in the Concours in one of seven judged classes for 1993 and older vehicle. A \$30 registration fee will apply for entries on display in the Corral (Mercedes of any age). A gourmet buffet lunch, a box lunch, and event polo shirts are optional. The discounted “early bird” registration deadline is July 31, and all registration closes on August 9.

To register, go to [www.motorsportreg.com](http://www.motorsportreg.com). Scroll down to “August 16” then to “MBCA—Legends of the Autobahn” (not BMWCCA, PCA, or ACNA). Your registration will go directly to MBCA. You can also get a link to register on [www.legendsoftheautobahn.org](http://www.legendsoftheautobahn.org) (click MBCA or the Mercedes logo). All event details and information can be found on both websites.

Questions or need more information? Contact MBCA event chairman Laura Simonds, (650) 592-7613, [simondsl@pacbell.net](mailto:simondsl@pacbell.net).



### CIRCLE LAKE ERIE TOUR

September 28 – October 4, 2013  
Sponsored by the Western Reserve  
Section

**All Lodging Reservations Must Be  
Made 30 Days in Advance**

Additional information on sites will be  
provided in the Tour Binder

Questions: Contact Ron Harshman,  
Tourmeister:  
[r\\_harshmen1234@msn.com](mailto:r_harshmen1234@msn.com) Phone:  
218-213-4967

### Texas Section Calendar of Events

(Events Reported as of 5/1)

#### North Texas:

June 16- Ballroom Dancing Instruction & party  
July 13 – DIY Technical Session  
August 10 – Mystery Dinner Theatre (tentative)

#### Fort Worth:

May 25 – Texas History Tour  
June 22 – Q & A Rally  
July 13 – Food ‘n’ Fun Road Trip  
August 24 – Technical Event

Always check the section’s website at [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org)  
for the most complete event information. All dates are  
subject to change.



### New Mexico Section VLA (Very Large Array) Tour

Saturday, June 15, 2013, the NM Section will host an event at the VLA near Socorro, NM. This is a regional event, inviting members from other sections. It will be a day trip with a gourmet box lunch. The tour will be approximately 1-1/2 to 2 hours in duration. If you saw the movie “Contact” you will recognize the location used to film the movie, written by Carl Sagan, and starring Jody Foster.

For more information & to register, check out the section website at [www.newmexico.mbca.org](http://www.newmexico.mbca.org).

## MBCA Forums Keep Members in Touch

One of the many benefits as a member of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America is the online forums. The forums enable members to talk, guide, answer or listen to your Mercedes-Benz related questions and comments. If you're not a forum kind of person, that's not a problem. The forums are very easy to use.

First, sign on the club website at [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org) using the membership number found on your membership card. Remember to change your password later. Click on the *Community* tab at the top of the page and scroll down to *Forums*. There are General forms, Technical forms, Model & Chassis forums, Club Discussions, and Interest Groups.

Participation is free to Club members; limited access to Club guests. Got something to ask? Get answers in the forums.

### Forums

Welcome to the Mercedes-Benz Club of America Forums

Here, you'll find members en masse who can talk, guide, answer or listen to your Mercedes-Benz related questions and comments. Participation in the forums is free to Club members. If you're a guest of this site, you'll have access to our read-only discussions. Like what you see? Join the club to get full Q&A privileges. If this is your first visit, be sure to check out our FAQ page. You may have to register before you can post. To start viewing messages, select the forum that you want to visit from the selection below.

Forum Home My Posts New Posts Active Topics User CP Private Messages Forum Policies FAQ

Mark all forums read

Forum	Topics	Posts	Last post
<b>General Forums</b>			
New Member Introductions	299	1410	by Mauro Celotti 1 day 17 hours ago
New to the site? Stop in here to tell us a little bit about yourself and your car.	6 new		
General Discussion	2068	19293	by Bud Cloninger 8 hours 55 min ago
For General Discussions and cool items about Mercedes-Benz cars that don't fit anywhere else!	16 new		
<b>Technical Forums</b>			
The Classic Center	398	1710	by Pedro S 51 min 36 sec ago
Ask the Parts Desk at the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center. Connect with their experts who have access to more than 40,000 Mercedes-Benz Classic Parts for all models from	3 new		

## Newsletter Quiz Answers:

- The Mercedes-Benz 260 D (top right photo) in the W 138 series was the world's first series-production diesel passenger car. In February 1936, 50 years after the invention of the petrol-powered automobile by Carl Benz, Mercedes-Benz presented this revolutionary vehicle at the International Motorcycle and Automobile Exhibition in Berlin.

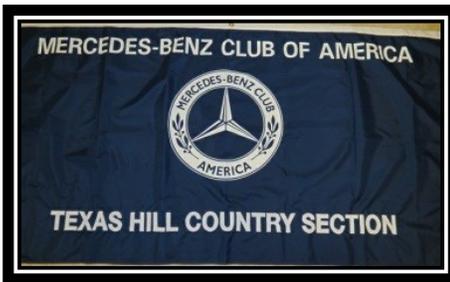
Its 2.6-litre OM 138 four-cylinder engine with the Mercedes-Benz pre-chamber system and a Bosch injection pump produced 33 kW (45 hp) at 3200 rpm, and was installed in the chassis of the petrol-powered Mercedes-Benz 200 with a long wheelbase. The Bosch Four-plunger injection pump allowed engine speeds of up to 3000 rpm and ensured rapid fuel delivery.

- In May 2, 2005 in Laredo, Texas, the Mercedes-Benz V6 CDI diesel engine achieved an impressive list of world records over a weekend (lower right photo). Three standard-production E320 CDI (Common-Rail Direct Injection) vehicles equipped with the 221-hp covered distances of 100,000 kilometers, 50,000 and 100,000 miles respectively. Together the three diesel vehicles traveled the equivalent of almost eight times around the world, with the 100,000 mile record achieving an average speed of 139.699 mph. Despite the extreme stresses, the maintenance-free diesel particulate filter held up magnificently over the entire record distance without any deterioration in performance – further testimony to the reliability and durability of this exhaust technology. The world-record was run under constant FIA supervision.

Source: autochannel.com, mbusa.com



There's one thing you can count on and that's members having a good time. We welcome you to join us for an event, show off that Mercedes-Benz of yours, and meet some wonderful people.



## *You can be a Sponsor of our Section!*

Members and non-members alike are welcome to advertise their business and become a sponsor of the Texas Hill Country Section. We will showcase your business with an ad in our quarterly newsletter, a listing and link on our section website, listing on our Facebook page, an event visit to your business!

In 2013, MBCA serves over 20,000 members; a total of 28,000 including associate members in 87 active Sections (chapters) in 12 North American Regions. The Texas Hill Country Section continues to grow showing a 38% increase in membership in the last year. Our webpage averages 220 visitors per month. That's an expanse of your business location, service and how members can reach your business.

We offer reasonably priced ads and offer four size ads: business card, quarter, half and full page.

Contact any of the section Officers listed in this newsletter for more information about being a Texas Hill Country Section Sponsor!

## **Luxury Garages Gain in Popularity**

Once seen as a catchall space to store bicycles, trash cans and lawn tools, garages are being rediscovered as the ideal place—who knew?—to park cars. Increasingly, many of these spaces are also becoming more lavish—loaded with high-end finishes and man toys, such as flat-screen TVs, underground car lifts and welding equipment.

"People are beginning to see that garages can be as cool as the rest of the rooms in the house," says Lou DesRosiers, president of DesRosiers Architects in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., who has seen a 15% to 20% uptick in garage projects in the past five years. In luxury homes, three bays, finished walls and floors, hot and cold running water and heating systems are becoming standard in the garage, says David Pekel, president of Pekel Construction & Remodeling in Milwaukee. Advances in technology and materials, such as iPad-controlled design elements and quieter car lifts that can hold more tonnage, are producing sleeker, more modern.

Mark Peterson, who lives in the Milwaukee suburbs, outgrew his eight-car garage, which no longer had room for his truck, his three children's cars and his collection of about 30 motorcycles. So he built a new one, which he calls "the ultimate man cave." The 6,000-square-foot space has a main level for vehicles and a lower-level workshop accessible via car lift, designed by American Custom Lifts, an Escondido, Calif.-based company that designs hydraulic and mechanical lift systems. An upper-level loft has a small kitchenette, Oriental rugs, hardwood floors and a leather couch.

Of new homes built in 2011, 29% have a three-car or larger garage, according to Home Innovation Research Labs. These spaces have more bays, taller ceilings and greater square footage, says Ed Hudson, director of the market research division at Home Innovation Research Labs.

By and large, men are the primary users of garages, at 70% overall, Mr. Hudson says. For some purposes, like maintaining vehicles or working on projects, more than 90% of all users are men.

Source: wsj.com





## My 1969 Mercedes-Benz 280 SL

By Jeff Knight



In 1969, about 3 years before I was born, my parents made a very common sense decision: the Knight family of 4 and their dog needed a practical family car- a Mercedes 280 SL. Yes that's right, a four-speed manual coupe. The sports car version- on their behalf they were considerate enough to forget about the soft-top so my brothers, and later I could comfortable sit on a bench seat....facing each other.....

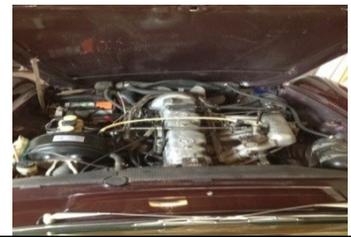
My father has told the story from time to time, which brings an occasional chuckle to all that hear it. He was a young Major stationed in Germany and had decided to take advantage of very favorable Mark to Dollar exchange rate by buying a German car. Eventually his decision cycle ended with the Mercedes for a paltry sum of 3,000 dollars. He reminisces that the thought of paying 3,000 dollars for a car was insane and felt he would never get it paid off. He overcame the apprehension and started the purchasing process. I'm sure toward the end of the transaction the salesman was growing slightly annoyed with Dad passing on all the options: air conditioning "no...", form luggage "no"..., eventually it came to the paint scheme, the old man noticed that the 2 tone option was free, so when asked by the salesman the Old Man jumped on it! To this day I don't believe he didn't want the 2-tone option, but the price was right. Nonetheless, the paperwork was completed, signed and stamped in classic German efficiency, and a short time later he was picking up, arguably, the first 1969 280SL from the Stuttgart plant.

It was something lovely for them and they deserved it. Serving the country then was extremely trying and stressful. To them the Mercedes represented success. It was and still is today, a beautiful, sporty, comfortable (to the front seat occupants) car that they were always very proud to drive. That never changed for them over the years. Hard times came and went, but the joy of driving something lovely, something they earned and deserved was at times, enough to give them hope and face the troubles of the day. Somewhere along the way the "Merc" personified what we thought of ourselves. It was nimble, solid, and seemed to overcome the problems of the day and persevere. Regardless of the mileage, distance, and conditions we knew the "Merc" would get us through. I have to admit by today's safety standards it may be short....I try to put a positive spin on it when I can- it has 4 wheel locking brakes, in the rain it provides a pleasant stream to the vicinity of the drivers gas pedal foot as a reminder to slow down, and seat belts designed to hold you in place to where you can't reach the glove compartment or anything you may drop in either sides foot well as to keep everyone's focus on the road. It had a very early sleep alert system, if you fell asleep it would wake you to the sounds of screeching tires, braking glass, and crumpling metal, thank goodness we never had to test it. Admittedly, from time to time, the Knight family did find themselves traveling sideways or spinning down snowy highways and autobahns, but by God's grace we always made it through without a scratch to us our prize car.

Over the course of Dads Army career, he would store the car while we would take overseas assignments. As a small kid I remember missing it when we left it "state-side" but it would rival Christmas when coming home to it. The happy reunions often times were preludes to some long drives! Two trips before I came into the picture, then three trips across the country after I came along.

I have so many memories both good and bad associated with the Merc that to me, equate to what others would have with their childhood home. I struggled in school and from time to time would bring home less than stellar grades. During that period of time, the Merc had a minor hole in the muffler that would let you hear it a good 5 miles out from the house! Nothing was worse than to hear it slowly come into the neighborhood and literally shake the house as it entered the driveway, knowing I had some explaining to do and hope it was good enough to minimize the pending punishments...Needless to say, I made it through and eventually joined the Army myself. Over the years and the changing dynamics of the family it started to become third car to my parents. It was nice to have on sunny days (a rarity in Washington State where the folks live) but not one you want to use daily as it started to need some pricey work to keep it on the road. Eventually, I wore the folks down to selling me the car. It was a sentimental dream come true! I always thought one of the older Knight Boys would have gotten it, but the stars aligned to where I got it.

Boy, did I **get** it! It took some time and money to keep it up and running, neither of which I had a lot of as my own family began to grow on my military salary. My life, as my parent's life, was marked with many challenges. I left the Army early to start a life in Washington near my family and where we considered home. The Merc remained a great source of driving pleasure, but to me was a big part of my childhood. Time went on and through a casual decision, I narrowly avoided being in the World Trade Center on 9-11. I put my paperwork in to come back to the Army on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September and went back to active duty.



I "sold" the car back to my parents and left to serve. The car sat for years. I was deployed 3 times, the last time in 2010 to Iraq. When deployed you go through an emotional roller coaster. You miss your family, your kids and wonder how your absence affects your kids. You miss birthdays, Christmases, first days of school; the list goes on and frankly can break your heart. When my 2010 deployment began to wind down, the thoughts of my family weighed heavily on my mind. I have 2 great kids and a HEROIC wife. My daughter is a socialite. She makes friends and enjoys life. My Son is like me and my father before me. He has a wonderful soul, a competitive spirit, and is quite bright, but does not make friends easily and has few of them because of it. I worried that the separation of deployment would put a distance between him and me that I might not be able to gap. The question on my mind and heart became how do I reunite with him? The deployment was tough on my wife and daughter, but I felt more for my son as he was always surrounded by girls. I thought about how we can have some guy-time, how could I make up for some lost time? I thought back to my childhood: what was it that always got my juices flowing, what was it that always picked me up and gave me courage to fight on? It came back to me like a thunderbolt! The Merc!

In my mind's eye, there couldn't be anything much more fun than a road trip! As fate had it, we were assigned to Fort Carson CO, a perfect distance for a father-son adventure from Gig Harbor, WA where the car had been stored. I "bought" the car back for what I "sold" it for years ago. The next thing I knew was my son and I was connecting from a half a world away!! From Iraq to him in the US, we talked routes, where we would stay, what kind of music we'd bring, where to put the cooler, the repairs we may need to anticipate. When the time came to start out the journey it was nothing less than magical. We spent a couple of days with my parents, and were off to the open road. Have to admit, it started with a blast from the Marc horn meant to wake up the neighborhood..... I'm ashamed to admit laying on the horn, scaring the ba-jesus out of the neighbors did give me a little bit of a thrill. The car took us on a trip we needed to take.

Not just getting from Washington to Colorado, but getting us to being father and son. It worked, we connected. Me showing him how to tune a radio, read a map and roll down windows (something you don't do in modern cars) gave us a common focus and a basis to bond. As the miles went by, I was able to share stories of me sitting in the back with a dog for a 5 day trip across the states, or if you open the glove compartment for more than about 10 seconds you shouldn't touch the light or it will burn your finger and how his sister used to shove McDonald's straws down the window well and laugh as I yelled.

The car is still with us. I can explain how it works mechanically, but can never really express what it means emotionally. It runs well, but has several quaint leaks. I've learned to find good mechanics and throw money at its problems as they arise. Needless to say the car bought new in Germany for about \$3,000 by a young Major in the Army has connected to many family memories over the course of the next 40 years.

Unlike the Mercedes-Benz GL Class, Unimog actually represents a group of heavy-duty commercial vehicles built for the toughest conditions, and the name itself is an acronym for "universal motor device" in German. And it's been around for sixty years.

Today, the 2013 Unimog range has made its debut, revealing that Mercedes designers have incorporated some of the stylistic features of the previous Unimog concept. In addition, the vehicle also brings more powerful and more fuel efficient engines to the table. They are all being launched with, amongst other things, a completely redesigned panoramic cab, new work and power hydraulics systems as well as synergetic traction drive that allow changing over from manual transmission to hydrostatic transmission while driving. Most changes involve the engines.

Two 'BlueEfficiency' diesel engines with radically new designs ensure that the Unimog complies with the latest emissions standards, and there are also some gasoline offerings, which bring the total number of Unimog engines to seven. The most potent is a 7.7-liter straight-six unit that develops 354 horsepower and a massive 885 pound-feet of torque.

Source: [www.foxnews.com](http://www.foxnews.com)

**60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Conveys Changes To  
Mercedes-Benz Unimog**





McLaren Mercedes pit stop



Mercedes AMG pit stop

### 2013 summer Race Dates

May 26 – Monaco  
 June 9 – Canada  
 June 30 – Britain  
 July 7 – Germany  
 July 28 – Budapest  
 August 25 - Belgium

Source: [www.formula1.com](http://www.formula1.com)

## The 2013 Season begins with Strong Mercedes Performance!

This season has seen a stronger performance compared to the 2012 season from both the Mercedes factory team, Mercedes AMG Petronas, and the McLaren Mercedes team. The recent April 21<sup>st</sup> race in Bahrain left viewers with a three week break before racing in Spain on May 12th. The constructors point standing is as follows:

Red Bull Racing 109 points  
 Lotus F1 Team 93 points  
 Ferrari 77 points  
 Mercedes AMG Petronas 64 points  
 Force India 26 points  
 McLaren 23 points

The Mercedes AMG website quoted driver, Nico Rosberg: “As nice as it was to start from pole this afternoon, it was just as hard to finish in ninth place...We switched to a four pit stop strategy at the end of my third stint but it wasn't enough. We were using the rear tires too much and at the end, I was really struggling and wasn't able to push hard enough”.

The performance during the race isn't matching the pace shown in qualifying. Team Principle, Ross Brawn, noted from Bahrain that the team “struggled badly in the early part of the race when the track temperatures were at their highest. In the second half of the race, as the track temperatures cooled somewhat, the pace was not bad”.

Martin Whitmarsh, Team Principal at McLaren Mercedes, said “both drivers, Jenson Button and Sergio Perez, are fast, forceful and hungry for success – and that's exactly how it should be. It's called racing, and we at Vodafone McLaren Mercedes always allow our drivers to race. It's what this sport is all about”.

Fact: The Circuit of The Americas hosted F1's successful return to the United States last November. The 2012 U.S. Formula 1 Grand Prix attracted 117,429 fans on race day and 265,499 over the three-day event. Don't miss out on what's sure to be an even better event in 2013!

### **Grand Prix Quiz: Which F1 Driver has the most victories in Monaco?**

- Graham Hill
- Jackie Stewart
- Ayrton Senna
- Michael Schumacher

(see answer at bottom this page)

## DTM Racing Coming to USA - cooperation with GRAND-AM and International Motor Sports Association (IMSA)

The German Touring Car Championship, also known as “DTM”, reports the U.S. is scheduled for a race in 2015. DTM once stood for “Deutsche Tourenwagen-Meisterschaft. Today, they are the trademark of the most popular international touring car racing series.

The collective goal is a North American version of DTM, the popular German touring car series possibly running as part of the United Sports Car Racing event weekends. The **United Sports Car Racing** was announced March 14th as the name of the new series resulting from the merger of GRAND-AM and the American Le Mans Series presented by Tequila Patrón. The International Motor Sports Association (IMSA) will serve as the sanctioning body for United Sports Car Racing, which also was announced on March 14th.

DTM enters the 2013 season with new drivers and innovations. In particular, the option tires from series' partner Hankook and the Drag Reduction System (DRS) will add to the excitement in the DTM. Both novelties are to enhance overtaking opportunities for the 22 drivers in the field and to allow for more variety in the race strategy. The DTM Mercedes AMG C-Coupé is the car used by the Mercedes race teams. For the complete article, view the DTM website at [www.dtm.com](http://www.dtm.com).



F1 Quiz Answer:

Ayrton Senna

# MBCA Fast Facts

By Lisa A. Juhl, Director of Marketing



## Every Mercedes-Benz Driver Has a Story — MBUSA Wants to Know Yours

This edition of Fast Facts is a bit different than previous issues. That's because there is an 'all call' for MBCA Member stories. As we all know, MBCA isn't held together simply by the car we drive — it is the unique experiences we've had with and in our vehicles that count most.

Mercedes-Benz USA has a new feature on its Facebook page called "Owner Stories." Owner Stories features photos and video of Mercedes-Benz owners and their cars; and the special stories that go with them.



Go to [https://www.facebook.com/mercedesbenzusa/?app\\_379473163028210](https://www.facebook.com/mercedesbenzusa/?app_379473163028210)

Here, you'll find dozens of stories already submitted by MBCA Members, including Mattie Bombal, Vice President of the Sacramento Section and Keith Morgan, Member of the Greater Washington Section.

New stories are featured every month. Submit yours, along with a photo or video and YOU could be MBUSA's next featured Owner!

# Relax. We Can All Double-Dip Now.

Beginning April 1, 2013, Mercedes-Benz USA is changing the Loyalty Rewards Program for U.S. Members of the MBCA.

### What Has Changed?

Instead of receiving a (maximum) Loyalty Rewards discount of \$1,000 off the purchase or lease price of a NBV 2013 or 2014 Mercedes-Benz vehicle, members can now take \$500 off a NBV 2013 or 2014 Mercedes-Benz vehicle and combine that discount with a second MBUSA incentive — including Guest Appreciation Certificate, European Delivery, seasonal event discounts, the Summer and Winter Clearance sales and other Dealer offers. In some cases, you may actually SAVE MORE THAN \$1,000 when you combine discounts. This new program takes effect April 1, 2013.

### What Is The Same?

1. You must be a "Member in Good Standing" of the MBCA to qualify for the Loyalty Rewards discount. To check your standing, go to [www.mbcusa.org](http://www.mbcusa.org), click the "Login" button at the top right corner of the page then enter your username and password. If you have been a Club Member for 12 consecutive months or longer without lapse, and are still a Member today, a Member in Good Standing symbol will appear at the bottom left of your personal profile page. From your profile page, go to "click here" for time-sensitive terms and conditions and to print an official Loyalty Rewards Certificate in e-mailable only at U.S. Mercedes-Benz Dealerships.
2. Go to your local Mercedes-Benz Dealer and negotiate the best price for your NBV 2013 or 2014 Mercedes-Benz vehicle. Be sure to ask if your Dealer is offering special price discounts, like a Summer or Winter Clearance Sale. On the day of your purchase, present your Certificate to the Dealer to receive an additional \$500 off the price of your new vehicle.

### Which Vehicles Are Eligible?

You may apply your \$500 discount toward the purchase or lease of any NBV 2013 or 2014 Mercedes-Benz vehicle except S-Class Coupes and SLS AMG Roadsters.

### Which Dealer Incentives CAN NOT Be Combined with my \$500 Discount?

There are specific Dealer incentives that may NOT be combined, including: DEEP (Dealer Employee Program); MBUSA Mercedes-Benz Drive Employee Appreciation; MBV (Business Lease Program); Diplomat (designated for diplomats) and all Fleet programs (business to business purchases). Your Dealer can explain these in detail.

### Questions?

Call the National Business Office of MBCA at 800.637.2360 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm Mountain Time



More Than a Car. We're a Community.™

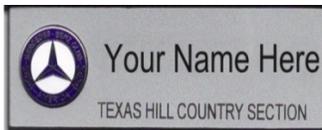
## The MBCA Club Store: Section Name Badge

Create a unique name badge! Choose from three different styles such as magnetic, safety pin, or tie tack. Choose from three different colors: Blue, Gold, or Silver.

- ✓ Generally the top line is name, second line is Section name. For a three line badge you can put name, office held, Section name. You are also welcome to improvise and re-arrange to suit your needs.

For example:

- ✓ City in which you live, year and model of your Mercedes, or the year you joined.
- Order your section name badge by calling the MBCA national business office at 800-637-2360 or visit their website at [www.mbcusa.org](http://www.mbcusa.org). Click on the Club Store tab at the top of the page.



MBCA Texas Hill Country Section Newsletter - published four times a year is the official newsletter of the Texas Hill Country Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America.

Opinions - Opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of either MBCA or the Texas Hill Country Section. Neither MBCA nor the Texas Hill Country Section endorses products or services but may, as part of our informational activities, allow them to be cited in articles and notices.

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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 August issue should be received by the editor by July 10th.