



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

*Proudly Serving South and West Texas*

**2015 Issue Three**

**Third Quarter**

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## **Section Leadership**

Acting President – Joe Borrero

Secretary - Kathie Steele

Treasurer - Keith Steele

Director - Joe Aaron

Director - Dick Fitch

Director - Ruben Torres

Webmaster - Paulette Sontag

Newsletter Editor – Charles Dove

## **From the Executive Committee**

This newsletter introduces a new editor, Charles Dove, who will be taking over from Kathie Steele. We're happy to have him as part of our leadership and are sure you will enjoy this new format with photos, graphics, and news all included producing an informative newsletter.

This spring, we attended events at Dick's Classic Cars in San Marcos, a drive and lunch in the Hill Country, and a visit to market days and lunch at Trattoria Lisina in Driftwood. We could not have participated in these events without our volunteers to work to put them together.

According to our Section Bylaws and the national MBCA Bylaws, we must hold elections every two years to choose members for our Board of Directors. All members of our section may also nominate other candidates (with their approval) no later than August 30, 2015. Additional nominations should be sent to Kathie Steele at [dieselbenz@outlook.com](mailto:dieselbenz@outlook.com).

And as always, if you have a story to share about your Mercedes-Benz or a photo of you with your vehicle, please email to any officer. We want to hear from you. Visit our Facebook page to read posts from Mercedes-Benz USA, the Classic Car Center, Formula One news, and other posts. Be sure to "Like" our page.



*Dick's Classic  
Garage*

# Willkommen And Dankeschon!

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

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

Adley Dupuis  
Kyle Kaupert  
Susan Leonhardt  
Leonard Marino  
Peter Minderman

## Loyal Member Renewals

|                   |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Byron Bachschmid  | Ed Hicks          | David Dix       |
| Don Barbian       | Alice Josey       | Charles Dove    |
| Julian Beltran    | Meyer Marcus      | Fred Egloff     |
| Harold Brauner    | Elinor McCarty    | Donald Elliott  |
| Kemal Cinarohlu   | Heather Morlang   | Jeffrey Fissel  |
| James Cline       | Frederick Mullin  | Dick Fitch      |
| William Daugherty | Michael Owens     | Bill Ghedi      |
| Philip Dickinson  | William Rankin    | William Rasco   |
| John Shecter      | Jerrell Snodgrass | John Volk       |
| Eric Werner       | Alton Wilson      | Richard Wiseman |
| Obi Isignuzo      | Elizabeth Lang    | John McFadden   |
| David Snider      | Ben Wallis        | Albert Zuniga   |



From the Newsletter Editor – by Charles Dove

I will be taking over as our section Newsletter editor beginning with this issue. Just a little about who I am. My interest in cars began many decades ago. I was roughly 4 years old when I got my first car. It was a blue 1950's vintage convertible peddle car. I latched onto it in the toy department of a large department store. I didn't want to let go of it when my mom and dad said it was time to leave. Of course I was thrilled when I got that little blue peddle car for Christmas that year. I was hooked on cars ever since I purchased my first *real* car at age 16. I paid something like \$250 for it. To me, it was just perfect! I learned a lot about car maintenance with that 1<sup>st</sup> car and also from my dad. Through the years I have owned many cars. They were all special to me and I loved all of them. I've owned American cars, muscle cars, Italian cars, British cars, and eventually discovered German cars – and the Mercedes Benz! Although I loved all the cars that I've owned in the past, the Mercedes brand has been the most fun, the most reliable, and honestly the easiest to maintain. I have owned 4 Benz's' over the years... from a 380 SEC, a 560SEL to the **500SL** and **S430** that I still own. It doesn't matter which model Mercedes you own, I know you enjoy them as much as I enjoy mine. Being a member of the Texas Hill Country Section of the Mercedes Benz Club of America is rewarding in many ways. Of course we all benefit from discounts on parts and services at the Mercedes dealers. But we also enjoy the club events each month. I especially enjoy events driving the back roads of the Texas hill country. One of the best benefits would be the many friendships that develop with other Mercedes Club members. Our Club leaders work together along with suggestions from our club members to plan events that everyone can enjoy. I hope you will join us for fun, friendship and the enjoyment of your Mercedes.



1992 500SL



2002 S430

## 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](http://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](http://www.mbca.org/membership).



View all benefits - login in to [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org), click on the tab "Membership".





## Texas Hill Country Event News - In April

### Camp Verde and Utopia on the River.

Our group numbering 23 met at the Camp Verde General Store located just outside of Kerrville on the banks of the Verde Creek. The Camp Verde General Store has been in this same location for 150 years. First established in 1857, they offer a wide sampling of food items and products from artisans' and producers around the world. Their restaurant is now open serving a variety of soups, salads, Deli sandwiches, burgers and other country favorites. After indulging with some coffee and a short tour of the General Store, we caravanned on to our next destination of Utopia on the River. Our caravan consisted of 12 Mercedes vehicles of various models and years. The ride took us through the picturesque hill country of Medina County, where we drove by ranches complete with emus and buffalo. Our thanks to Dick Fitch for organizing this event.



*Group Photo in front of the 860 year old Cypress Tree.*

**Utopia on the River** – is a Bed and Breakfast spot located in the Texas Hill Country next to the banks of the Sabinal River. Mercedes group is standing beneath the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest Bald Cypress tree in Texas. Measuring 29 feet around, it is roughly 860 years old. Our group had lunch in the dining room of the lodge.

## ***Driving the hill country:***



As we drove along the Texas back roads to Utopia on the River, everyone enjoyed a cool summer day – perfect weather for having the top down.



Susan and David Leonhardt joined us for the first time. They recently purchase their 2008 CLK350 convertible. Since this first visit, they have become new members. Welcome Susan and David.



We drove the back roads of Texas as they cut through the hills. Onward to Utopia!





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## May Event – Blanco Texas; then off to Driftwood Texas and the Dutchman Family Winery.

*We parked in front of the Historic County Court house in Blanco and displayed our cars.*



Blanco Texas – Market Days. We parked in front of the Old Country Court House.

*After visiting the Market Days vendors, we were off to Driftwood for lunch at Trattoria Lisina Italian Restaurant located next to the Dutchman Winery.*



Trattoria Lisina Italian Restaurant.

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## June Meet – The Scenic Loop Café...



Club members enjoyed dinner from the Café menu along with friendship and conversation. The Scenic Loop Café is located in San Antonio, just south of Boerne Texas. Steve and Barbara Dierks joined our group at this event. Steve and Barbara are members from the Pikes Peak Section in Colorado Springs.

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## Upcoming Events:

The Executive Committee and the Board of Directors are currently in the process of planning future events. As the plans are coordinated and finalized, we will pass that information on to you.



[www.facebook.com/texashillcountry](http://www.facebook.com/texashillcountry)

Always check our website at  
[www.texashillcountry.mbca.org](http://www.texashillcountry.mbca.org)  
for the latest event information and past  
event reports and photos.

### 2015 Election For Section Directors

In accordance with our bylaws, the Texas Hill Country Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America is conducting an election for people willing to serve on our Board of Directors. There will be six Board of Director positions which will be filled. The Directors will serve for a term of two years.

Below are the nominations we have as of August 15, 2015. If there are no additional nominations, then no membership voting is required to take place.

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Joe Aaron     | Dan Coburn   |
| Kathie Steele | John Volk    |
| Keith Steele  | Ruben Torres |

The newly elected Board of Directors will meet in October to elect the section Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) from among the ranks of the Board of Directors. The two year term of the directors and officers will begin on November 1, 2015.

Further nominations may be made by a member in good standing to Secretary Kathie Steele at [dieselbenz@outlook.com](mailto:dieselbenz@outlook.com) no later than August 31, 2015.

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

MBCA  
National Business Office  
1907 Lelaray Street  
Colorado Springs, CO 80909-2872  
800-637-2360  
[www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org)

**South Central Regional Director**



2011 Mercedes SLS AMG

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## ***From the Pit Lane Formula One***

*by Kathie Steele*

At the end of June and eight races into the 2015 season, the Mercedes AMG Petronas Formula One (F1) team has won all but one. The fans are ecstatic. The team race strategy, down to the number of pit stops and which tires to use, has continued to pay off.

Like many fans Keith and I are looking forward to watching the Mercedes team at this year's United States Grand Prix at Circuit of the Americas (COTA) in Austin, Texas. The race will be held over the weekend of October 23-23, 2015 slightly earlier due to the Mexican Grand Prix being added to the race schedule. When we ordered our race tickets, I couldn't help but think back when we were invited to tour COTA while the track was under construction. If you're an F1 devotee, you're excited to have a track of this magnitude and world-wide appeal near you. To be able to see it before the public does? Well, that's once in a lifetime.

In June 2012, we drove to 1,500 acres of ranch land east of Austin. Our track guide greeted us and we were taken to a trailer where we viewed architectural track plans displayed on a large table as construction crews wandered in and out. Our guide was friendly and answered all our questions.

We were then directed to a passenger van. Our guide drove us around the dirt track and stopped periodically to show where the major turns of the track were to be. He would say, "Now, this 133-foot incline will be Turn 1 coming from the start/stop". I looked and could easily see how the German architect and circuit designer of the track, Hermann Tilke, took the natural layout of the ranch land and used it to the advantage of the sport. I bet the ranch cows who roamed these acres are happy not to mosey up that hill anymore.





We watched work crews lay down top soil and caliche before asphalt completed the track. To think this dirt track would soon be transformed with colors of red, white, and blue, metal stands, semi-trucks loaded with equipment, track employees, crazy fans and all their vehicles and RV's, was hard to visualize.

This is not the first track in the United States to host an F1 race nor is it the first in the State of Texas. I looked at several websites and found that in 1959, an F1 race was held at the Sebring International Raceway in Florida. Several sites across the country hosted races as well. In Texas, I was surprised to read Dallas hosted an F1 race for one year in 1984. Until COTA hosted their first race in

2012, there had been no race in the United States since 2007 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.



It will be fun to peruse the merchandise tents at COTA to buy a Mercedes team t-shirt so I can look like other “grey” Mercedes fans at the race. To know that Keith and I were able to tour it that summer makes future visits to the track all the better. If I have learned nothing else about F1, it is that understanding the sport has helped me as a Mercedes owner to better grasp Mercedes-Benz technology. Of course, one would think I could also figure out how to use the buttons on my steering wheel. That steering wheel technology, after all, was developed in Formula One. One would think.

For more information about F1, visit the F1 website at [www.formula1.com](http://www.formula1.com). The Circuit of the Americas website is [www.circuitoftheamericas.com](http://www.circuitoftheamericas.com).

## Something New for 2016:

### C450 AMG Sport 4Matic



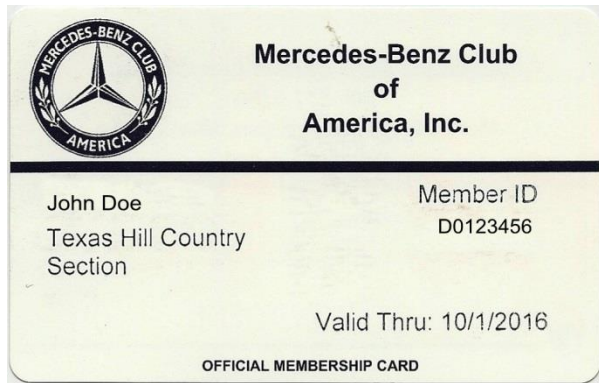
One glance at the all-new 2016 C450 AMG SPORT 4MATIC tells you that it is true AMG, with its characteristic body styling and AMG-exclusive wheels. But the proof is in not just what you see, but also in what you feel: a performance-tuned 3.0-liter biturbo V-6 that delivers 362 horsepower and 384 lb-ft of torque to propels you to 60mph in only 4.9sec. A suspension adopted from the top-of-the-line Mercedes-AMG C63. And the rear-biased AMG Performance 4MATIC all-wheel-drive system found in a number of AMG models.

Inside, the C450 AMG SPORT features the latest refined C-Class craftsmanship and elegance, enhanced with AMG sport seats and exclusive styling and trim.

The all-new 2016 C450 AMG SPORT 4MATIC arrives in the U.S. in the fall of 2015.

Source: mbusa.com





Can't find your Membership Card?

No worries! Just call the national business office at 800-637-2360 or go online at [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org) to request another card.

Keep the card with you to enjoy dealership and other member discounts.

***Texas Hill Country Section|MBCA Is On The Web!***

- National website – [www.mbca.org](http://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)

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.

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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 November issue should be received by the editor by October 10th.