



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

Proudly Serving South and West Texas

2016 Issue Four

Fourth Quarter

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President's Message

By Kathie Steele

While I drafted this message, I sat at my computer and tried to grasp that the year is almost over. Where did the time go? Keith quickly stuck a calendar in front of me and pointed out that the month said *November*. You see what passes for humor in my house? So, there you have it. It is November and this is the last newsletter issue for 2016.

We have had a nice variety of events which included a visit to Mercedes-Benz of San Antonio in August, a September drive to Cortez, Colorado, a Texas-sized event mid-September in Austin at Circuit of the Americas, and an October picnic and car display in New Braunfels.

Next month, we'll end the year with a holiday dinner at the Petroleum Club in San Antonio. We hope you will join us for this fun holiday filled evening.

As soon as events are confirmed for 2017, Martin, our webmaster, will post the event to our webpage and we'll make an announcement in member email.

As the year ends, we think back on all the things we're thankful for. I would like to take the opportunity to thank and acknowledge the assistance from our leadership group: John Volk, Dan Coburn, Keith Steele, John Rothermel, Ruben Torres, Charlie Dove, Martin Rios, and Joe Aaron. We all work together to provide you with club news, fun and informative (and out of town) events, and we perform all the administrative duties as required by the national business office in Colorado Springs.

President's message continued on next page...

Section Leadership

President – Kathie Steele

Vice President – John Volk

Secretary/Webmaster – Dan Coburn

Treasurer - Keith Steele

Director - Joe Aaron

Director – Ruben Torres

Director – John Rothermel

Newsletter Editor – Charles Dove

Webmaster – Martin Rios

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Some fun items that we have added this year are photo and video clips taken at club events and posted to You Tube. Yeah, we've gone Hollywood! Charlie Dove & Martin Rios are recording, editing, and posting event clips and photos from road trips and car displays, etc. We hope you enjoy watching them. There are links to these slide show clips in this newsletter.

Let us hear from you in 2017. If you have an event idea, please compose an email with all the pertinent information and send to John Volk at iamjv@yahoo.com. We are always looking for new event ideas from all areas. I'm pleased to say we will be planning more trips around Texas (Corpus Christi) as well as nearby states in 2017.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting our section with your membership. It's not just the cars, or the events, or the benefits that make this club special, but hearing from you and meeting you. Have a wonderful holiday season and New Year.

Formula 1 - Circuit of the Americas – the biggest ever Formula 1 weekend.

The photos below were taken by Kathie and Keith Steele. They attended the Formula 1 Circuit of the Americas that was held in Austin, Texas in October. This year, the Formula 1 USGP set a new attendance record. This was the 5th anniversary for this event. Attendance had dropped in past years due to problems with funding and tax issues. This year, there were over 265,000 attendees over the three day weekend.



Club Event News – August – A Technical Session Hosted by: Mercedes-Benz of San Antonio

Our group met at 9:45 on Saturday morning in the dealership lobby where we were greeted by Wayne Burchard, the Shop Forman, and Chris Lichte, the AMG Specialist. We had the opportunity to get some Starbuck's coffee and visit with club members. It's always a pleasure to have a little time to visit with friends.

From the Mercedes-Benz showroom, Wayne and Chris maneuvered us through the service area. In one of the service areas, there stood a 2016 silver AMG GT S. Actually it was a 'Pre Owned' vehicle with 380 miles on it and it was for sale. Chris showed us the car in great detail.



It was an AMG and just his specialty. You could tell he really knew the AMG designation and loves what he does... he pointed out all the really cool features with the car. It was gorgeous and any one of us would be proud to own it. That is if you could turn loose of the \$154k for it. My problem is that when I see a particular Mercedes model that I would just love to own, I have to figure out how old it has to be before I can afford it. After looking at the AMG GT, we were divided up into 2 groups. One group was given an in depth tour of a new S550. Wayne showed us under the hood, inside the car, and underneath the car. He then asked the group questions about the general mechanics to test our basic Mercedes knowledge. For each answer, correct or not, we were given raffle tickets that we would use later in the day. This was just for participating in the discussion. The other group was given a tour by Chris Lichte of a new E300 with the same question and answer routine. The E300 is equipped with one of the new 4 cylinder single turbo engines that develops 241hp. The S550 is equipped with a 7 speed automatic transmission, a 4.7 liter twin turbo V-8 developing 449 hp. An optional 6.0, 523 hp twin turbo V-12 is also available.

At the completion of our technical session, we were given some trivia questions relating to the history of the Mercedes brand. Of course more raffle tickets were given out for the number of correct answers on the test. After that, club members were asked to introduce themselves to Wayne and Chris and tell about their own experiences with the Mercedes brand – what sparked their interest in the Mercedes, how many they own or had owned over the years etc. This was a pretty interesting part of our day. After all, we all like to talk about our cars. Afterward, we were provided lunch by the dealership. At this point, our raffle tickets came into play. Wayne drew the winning tickets. Many club members won some really cool prizes.

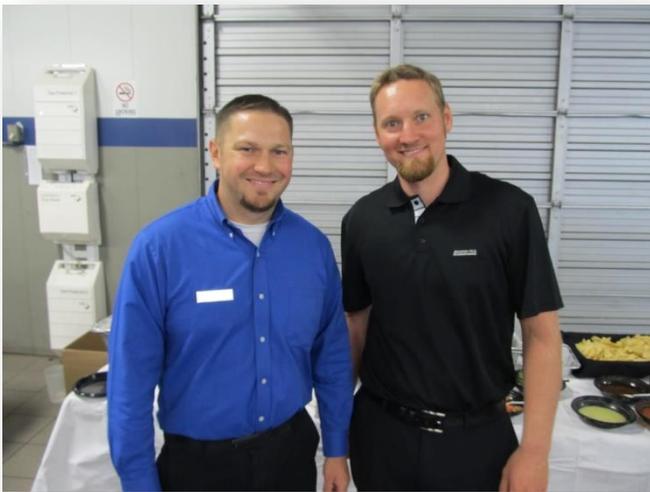
Mercedes-Benz of San Antonio always treats us very well. And we really appreciate their hospitality! Thank you to MBofSA, and a special Thank You to club member Bill Rasco for organizing this event! For more photos and a slide show: [Click here](#)



Mercedes-Benz of San Antonio – Technical Session



Trivia Questions pertaining to the history of the Mercedes-Benz. – Below: Mercedes-Benz owner experiences and stories.



Our MB of SA hosts – Wayne and Chris.



The September Event – Cortez Colorado & Mesa Verde; Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Texas Club Members

For our September meet, we joined the Rocky Mountain Region for an event in Cortez, Colorado. All in all, there were 28 people who attended from sections in Colorado, New Mexico, Texas and Arizona. Those driving from Texas included John Volk, John's friend Don Nelson, Sak & Bebe Reeves, Keith & Kathie Steele, and Gary & Shirley Joiner.

The event was organized by Michael Davison who is the Director for the Rocky Mountain Region. We stayed at the Holiday Inn Express in Cortez where Michael had arranged a Friday night hospitality social gathering. Members enjoyed refreshments and finger food. After a brief presentation by Michael, we participated in a card game for prizes.

Saturday morning, we left for Mesa Verde National Park. It was a beautiful drive up the mountain at a slow, steady pace. The drive ended at the visitor parking area at an elevation of 7,000 ft. We then walked down along the cliff to wait for our national park tour guide. There are 600 cliff dwellings in the area, but the Mesa Verde dwelling is the largest archaeological preserve in the U.S. The dwellings we toured were built about 800 years ago, and after about a century later, the people left and moved to New Mexico and Arizona. Once our tour guide arrived, we were given a brief introduction to the dwellings and began the descent around the cliff.

After our tour, members stayed to further explore areas of the park or to drive back to Cortez for lunch and an afternoon of shopping. Later, we met for dinner in downtown Cortez where Michael had arranged outdoor seating at the Stonefish Sushi and More restaurant. The cool and dry Colorado weather made the evening enjoyable.

There was another hospitality gathering Saturday night after dinner at the hotel. Sunday morning, some members drove to view the Four Corners monument while others headed back home.

We had a great time and enjoyed meeting members from the other sections. We give our sincere thanks and appreciation to Michael for inviting us to their event.

John Volk's C300





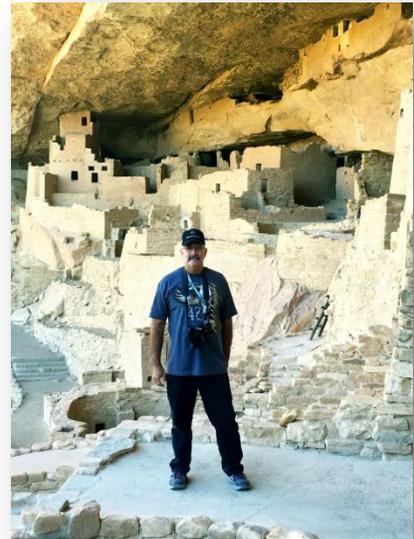
Kathie & Bebe



Sak and his SL63 AMG



Above: Bret Jurick - NTX, Kathie Steele - Texas Hill Country Section, Arno Pitzen - Lone Star, Joe Middleton - Houston, Terry Kiwala - Club President, Gene Jurick - Regional Director, Norm Glorioso - VP Lone Star Section.



John Volk



For more photos and a slide show of this event [Click Here](#)

Our October Event – The Mission Valley Community Center New Braunfels, Texas



The Mission Valley Community Center was originally a school house. German settlers established the community in 1845. At that time, children were educated in private homes. Later, as the community grew larger, a school and playground were needed. Soon, families in the community donated land to construct a school building. A 16ft x 18ft school house was constructed. There were approximately 35 students during the 1873-1874 school year. The rock school building was the only educational center for many years. In 1950 it closed its doors and students went to New Braunfels Independent School district. The rock structure still looks like it did

when it was constructed in 1870's with the exception of the added front porch and the rear storage room. It now serves as a community meeting place and was an ideal location for our October Club event. We met at 11:00 on Saturday morning. We enjoyed the cool morning air

as we sat outside the school house. A lunch of Texas Barbecue was served inside the school house along with many side dishes provided by club members. We also enjoyed some very excellent Strudel that was purchased at a New Braunfels bakery.



Our cars were displayed on the school house playground arranged by model. Quite an assortment of beautiful Mercedes cars. After lunch, board members stayed to discuss future club events. It was a very enjoyable day for all.



For more photos of this event and a slide show:
[Click Here](#)

**Classified Section
Offered For Sale:**

Your Ad can go here. Provide the year, model and make. Include any specifics that you wish to tell potential buyers.

Classified ads for Mercedes-Benz automobiles, or Mercedes-Benz parts and/or accessories can be placed in our newsletter. Ad content should be sent to: riopaloma@sbcglobal.net by the 10th of the month before the quarterly newsletter is published. February ads should be received by January 10th. Please include 1 or 2 photographs to go with your ad. **Ads are offered FREE for Club Members.**



Upcoming Events:

November 19th This month's event has a very short notice. Our original plan did not work out, so as an alternative, those who can, will meet for lunch at 12:00 on Saturday the 19th at the Alpine Haus in New Braunfels (251 S. Seguin Ave.) After lunch, a short drive to Andrea's Hill Country Gardens to see the Holiday Haus (588 FM1863). Club Members will be offered a 15% to 25% discount on purchases. If you can't make the lunch, try to meet at Andrea's Hill Country Gardens at 2:00. See a preview of Andrea's Holiday Haus: [Click Here](#)

December 15th 6:30 – 9:00 - The December holiday dinner will be held at the Petroleum Club, 8620 N. New Braunfels, Suite 700. RSVP by December 8th. For more information, visit our website at : <http://texashillcountry.mbca.org> or contact Kathie Steele at: dieselbenz@outlook.com.

**Willkommen
And
Dankeschon!**

We thank everyone 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(s).

New Members

Cecil Briggs
Jerry Burklund
Clarinda Miller
Chris Morrison
Steven Ogden
Gilberto Silvas
Charles Wade
Mark Woods

Loyal Member Renewals

Robert Banks
David Brooks
Tutti Burkett
David Burleson
Marcy Cavazos-Colunga
Daniel Coburn
John Davis
John Felinski

Richard Frey
Tom Gunderson
William Morris
Robert Morris
Raja Naidu
Cecil Patterson
David Shulman
David Snider



REMINDER: If we do not have your email address, you are missing out on the majority of the communications from the Club. Please go to www.mbca.org, log in and update your info to stay updated on all we have going on.

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.

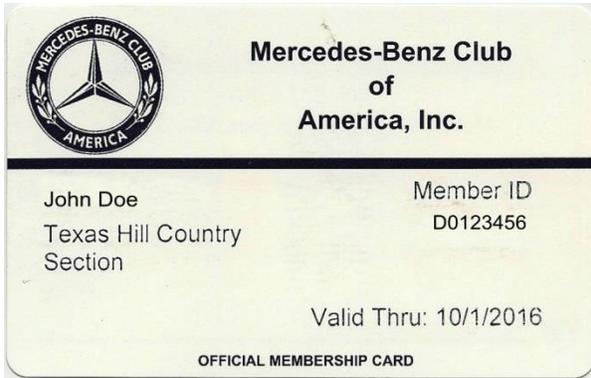
Mercedes-Benz Models & Chassis Forums - Mercedes forums include every model made by Mercedes from A class to GLK, the Sprinter, Smart Car, Adenauer, Gullwing, vintage and collectibles. Go to www.mbca.org and sign in using your membership card to participate.

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".





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 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
- 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 (riopaloma@sbcglobal.net) by the 10th of the month prior to the next issue. For example, submissions for the February issue should be received by the editor by January 10th.