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Lone Star Update

Lone Star Section - Central Texas

AUGUST 2021

On the Road ... with President Alan Syme

Personal safety has been at the top of my mind lately, from getting out and about in the community to driving my Mercedes-Benz both locally and on a long road trip back to Texas from the Pacific Northwest and visiting our children and grandkids in Canada on the way home.

First, you've no doubt seen that the rise in COVID-19 cases from the delta variant has our local governments escalating their threat levels and local hospitals experiencing a shortage of ICU beds.

As Section president, I want to assure you this is something our board is closely watching. The safety of our Section members is of utmost importance as we look at the activities we have scheduled for the rest of the year. In late 2020 and early 2021, we cancelled in-person Section events and board meetings because of COVID-19, and we certainly missed getting to spend time with all of you and enjoy our MCBA Lone Star outings.

Right now, we have two major upcoming events, with others in the planning stages (see the list of events below in this newsletter). The Lone Star Riverboat cruise and a day of events with the Houston Section will be Aug. 21, and the Painted Churches Tour is on Sept. 25.

At this time, we are continuing to plan for these events. We hope to see you at them, but realize that everyone has to make their own decisions about what is the right thing to do to protect their health.

Should anything change, we'll provide updates on our Facebook page and via email and newsletter.

We wish you and your family continued good health – stay safe!

When it comes to safety on the road, we are all lucky to be driving some of the safest vehicles around – Mercedes-Benz. As the company states on the [section of its website devoted to safety](#), "To deliver the best or nothing, safety must come first." Utilizing both engineering and



technology, the company builds cars to make accidents less severe, less damaging and even less likely. As a Benz owner, that's reassuring, although hopefully you haven't experienced this the hard way by having an accident yourself.

But recent headlines – and our drive back to Texas from the Pacific Northwest – underscore that we can't just depend on our vehicle to keep us safe on roadways which are seeing more accidents and deaths than in many years.

A recent Houston Chronicle story stated that Texas is on track for more than 4,000 deaths on state roads this year, with traffic levels returning to normal levels post-COVID. That's a total that hasn't been since the mid-1980s, when the state had millions fewer residents. Similar trends are being seen nationwide.

While the car we drive may have been built with safety in mind, we all have to take personal responsibility when behind the wheel to make sure we stay safe. The easiest things you can do behind the wheel to protect yourself and your passengers is to wear a seatbelt and to put down your cell phone unless you can use it hands-free.

That shouldn't be a problem in your Mercedes – unless you have a vintage model. Fun fact: Mercedes-Benz was the first automotive brand to introduce a voice-operated command system. Debuting in the 1996 S-Class, it enabled drivers to make and take calls using voice activation.

As our summer winds down, let's continue to put safety first as we drive our Mercedes and as we enjoy our Mercedes-Benz Club of America events. We hope to see you soon.

Meet Béla Viktor Karl Barényi:
Architect of Mercedes-Benz safety

Barényi was one of the most exceptional inventors of the 20th century. More than 2,500 patents originated from him. Some of them have saved thousands of lives and still set the automotive standard today. [Learn more.](#)

Upcoming Events

AUG. 21: Lone Star Riverboat

* SIGNUP DEADLINE IS SATURDAY, AUG. 14 *

(Houston Section invited)

Enjoy a sunset cruise on Lady Bird Lake and watch millions of Mexican free-tailed bats emerge from the Congress Avenue bridge. The bats are part of the largest urban colony in North America. Relax on the lake and enjoy narration and history provided by the ship's captain.

Ahead of the cruise, we will be meeting at 5 p.m. for an early dinner (location TBD).

The MBCA Houston Section has been invited to join us. Family and friends also are welcome to attend.

Before dinner and the boat ride, we have the following additional activities scheduled with the Houston Section - all are invited to participate:

Noon: Lunch at [The Oasis on Lake Travis](#) (no reservation, pay for your own lunch)
2 p.m.: Tour the [Bullock Texas State History Museum](#)

5 p.m. - Dinner and drinks
(Location TBD)

7:30 p.m. - Board the Lone Star Riverboat
208 Barton Springs Road
Austin

Event cost:
\$30 members, \$35 nonmembers

NOTE: Deadline to register for the Riverboat cruise is Saturday, Aug. 14.

[RSVP \(required\) and pay](#)
[More details](#)

SEPT. 25: Painted Churches Tour

Join us on a tour of the breathtaking Painted Churches of Texas, east of Austin in the communities of Dubina, High Hill, Praha and Ammannsville. While the churches may appear unassuming from the outside, as you enter the front doors prepare to have your breath taken away by the incredible beauty found inside.

The Painted Churches of Texas date back to the late 1800s and early 1900s, when Czech and German immigrants came to Texas to start a new life. To make their new churches feel more like the ancient Gothic structures of their homelands, the settlers painted the walls, altars and arches of their simple wooden sanctuaries in colorful patterns and tromp l'oeil images.

This is a one-day event, but if you decide to spend the night, there is a limited block of rooms reserved for \$98.99 at the [Best Western Plus](#) in Flatonia. To reserve a room, call the hotel at (361) 865-1989 and ask for the MBCA rate.

Event schedule:

7:45 a.m. – Meet to caravan at the Chevron/McDonalds at 2850 TX 71, Cedar Creek, at the corner of Tucker Hill Road and Highway 71.

9:15 a.m. – Caravan arrives/meet for first tour at Schulenburg Chamber of Commerce, 618 N. Main St., Schulenburg.

Noon/12:30 p.m. – Tour ends, lunch at location TBD.

6 p.m. – Dinner at [Kloesel's Steakhouse](#), 101 E.W. Moore St., Moulton (on your own)

Event cost:
\$20 per person

[RSVP \(required\)](#)
[Pay for event](#)

Future Lone Star Section Events

Oct. 9-10: Hill Country Run
Burnet

Dec. 4: Annual Christmas Party
Home of Alan and Susann Syme
Sun City, Georgetown

Details to come

If you have any questions or suggestions for events, contact Ginny Pitzen at ginnypitzen@yahoo.com or (512) 925-4481.

National Event: Nov. 2-5: Mercedes Freude

Several members of the Lone Star Section are planning to attend Mercedes Freude in Hilton Head, S.C., from Nov. 2-5, and perhaps turn it into a Section road trip with a possible stop and tour at the [Mercedes-Benz U.S. International Inc. Visitor Center/Museum and plant](#) in Vance, Alabama. The museum is the only one

outside of Germany and has several vintage Mercedes on display.

Interested?
Contact Ginny Pitzen at
ginnypitzen@yahoo.com or
(512) 925-4481
[Details at the Mercedes Freude website](#)

Watch for details and other Lone Star events to be announced in future newsletters, emails to members, on our Facebook page and at <https://lonestar.mcba.org>

Have an idea for an event? Contact Vice President [Ginny Pitzen](mailto:ginnypitzen@yahoo.com).

Recent Events

JULY 24: Lunch at Trattoria Lisina

Section members enjoyed fellowship and a delicious lunch at Trattoria Lisina, located on the grounds of The Mandola Estate & Vineyard in Driftwood.

JUNE 26: Show and Shine

The Show and Shine at Martin Park in Horseshoe Bay was an afternoon of showing off cars, socializing and a catered BBQ lunch.

MBCA Fall raffle underway

The International Stars Mercedes-Benz Club of America Fall 2021 raffle is now open for MBCA members.

- First prize: 2021 AMG CLS 53 Coupe
- Second prize: A trip to one of three MBCA Events

Visit raffle.mcba.org for more information and to read the [rules and regulations](#).

Tickets are \$50 each and there is no limit to the number of tickets you can purchase. Entries are due by Dec. 2.

[Download MBCA raffle flyer here.](#)

Welcome New & Renewing Members - July

New Members

Eric Bear
Charles Buerschinger
Kimberly Coilli
Linda Duboisson
Andrew Fawthrop
Michael Halaburda
John Hawkins
Saoramin Lee
Angelia Livingston
Anudeep Thota
Shawn Williams
Matthew Windsor

Renewing Members

Ron Buettner
Mary Byrdwell
Marnina Chen
Thomas Jacobs
Joseph Juchniewicz
Patrick Lawson
Matthew Merrill
Aldo Rosello
Robert Stefoz

Need information on membership? Know someone who wants to join?
 Contact Membership Coordinator [Susann Syme](mailto:susann@mcba.org)

Interested in advertising in the Lone Star Update, the Section's monthly newsletter?

Contact Newsletter Editor Kirsten Voinis for information on sizes and pricing for monthly and annual ads.

Lone Star Section Officers

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