



THE LONE STAR

November 2011

Volume 20 , Issue 4

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President's Message



It's been a great year, we have hosted some fun parties, socials, informative tech sessions and driving events.

Due to the extreme temperatures this summer, we took some time off in July and August.

Just a day after our trip to Tow, Texas to attend the Grape Stomp at Fall Creek Vineyards, the Central Texas area was struck by a series of horrific fires.

Several of our members were directly affected by the fires. Their lives have been turned upside down and inside out since that day. My heart goes out to the victims of the fires and especially to those who lost their homes and property. The Lone Star Section made a \$500 donation to the Bastrop Fire Department to assist with repair and replacement of equipment that was damaged while fighting the fires. I'm proud to be a part of such a generous organization.

In September, we had a really nice time at Mercedes-Benz of Georgetown as they showed us the new SLK and CLS models. Our banquet was cancelled due to limited response of the members. I'm sorry we didn't get a chance to meet, as it has always been a fun event. I hope you all can join us for the upcoming Holiday party.

As always, I encourage our members to take an active role in the Club. We are always looking for help in providing content for the newsletter and the website. We also value your feedback regarding future events you might like to attend.

I want to wish you all health, happiness and prosperity in the coming year. I look forward to another great year of serving the membership of this club.

Please note, the monthly meetings will be held at The Daily Grill at the Domain beginning January 12th, 2012.

Thanks again to everyone who helped make each event a success!

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday season !

Bryan Harter

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THE LONE STAR

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

I would personally like to welcome our newest members to the Lone Star Section!

**Steve Quenan
David Baker
Meredith McAleenan
James Ayers**

I hope you will join us for some events that are of interest to you. We encourage you to make the most of your membership. The club is about enhancing the ownership experience. We all share an appreciation of a fine automobile, some like the old, others like the new, we drive them slow, we drive them fast, thru education we can make them last. We will host a number of technical sessions on repair and maintenance, some socials to try out new restaurants and bars around town, drives thru the hill country and car shows of various types and styles.

If you have any suggestions for events, please let us know. Our event coordinator can be reached at MBCALoneStar@aol.com

RENEWING MEMBERS!

Thank you to all our loyal members for renewing their membership with the Lone Star Section. I hope to see each of you at many of our upcoming events!

Jack Bego	Patricia Figures	Mary Joseph
David Borek	J Fox	John Malatesta
Rene Cortinas	Robert Harger	R Marmann
Craig Cunningham	Robert Hargett	Henry Merhoff
Bill Donnelly	S Iglehart	Bruce Sasse
Dorothy Drummer	Wayne Ingram	Karl Schmid
James Duran	Richard Irizarry	Monica Woods
Jim Durbin	Scott Isensee	J Youman
Gary Ekstrom	David Jameson	



THE LONE STAR

BENEFITS

2011 Loyalty Rewards Program (U.S.) Get \$1,000 off the price of your next Mercedes-Benz. Being and staying a member of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America has its privileges. Members of the Club who have enjoyed 12 consecutive months of membership or longer without lapse, and who are current members today, qualify for the NEW Loyalty Rewards Program offered by Mercedes-Benz USA to Mercedes-Benz Club of America members only.

Mercedes-Benz Classic Center Club members receive 15% off hard-to-find parts from the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center in Irvine, California. The Center caters to the needs of classic car enthusiasts like you with a vast array of services. From car sales to meticulous restorations, its manufacturer-trained technicians offer a wealth of expertise you won't find anywhere else. Because in the end, the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center isn't only restoring cars ... it's restoring dreams.

Visit them at <http://www.MBUSA.com/Classic> or speak to an expert directly at 866.MB.CLASSIC (866.622.5277).

Brooks Brothers A maker of fine clothing since 1818, is offering Members 15% off all regularly priced clothing and accessories. Like Mercedes-Benz, Brooks Brothers dedication to quality and craftsmanship is unprecedented within their industry.

SEARS NBO Marketing Director Lisa Juhl has negotiated a partnership with one of the largest retail companies in America, Sears. All MBCA members can now receive special pricing (from 5 to 50 percent off) on the everyday products that help make a house a home — from flat screen TVs, fitness equipment, water heaters and appliances to lawn and garden, garage storage, mattresses and gift cards. Even Craftsman® Tools.

The Hotel del Coronado One of America's most iconic resorts, The Hotel del Coronado has offered guests the finest in hospitality for well over 120 years. Only Mercedes-Benz Club Members receive 20% off the best rate, plus complimentary daily breakfast for two and a host of other preferred guest benefits when you stay at one of the most well known and desirable destinations on the west coast.

La Costa Resort and Spa, Carlsbad California Lush gardens, two legendary golf courses and relaxation all vie for your attention when visiting this gorgeous Southern California utopia. Make your next vacation or business trip absolutely exquisite by visiting this award winning hotel and resort. Only preferred MBCA Members receive 20% off room rates, complimentary daily breakfast for two and a plethora of other exclusive services.

Barton Creek Resort and Spa, Austin Texas Southern hospitality unlike any other resort, meticulously maintained championship golf courses and an unparalleled spa supply guests with plenty of reasons to return. MBCA Members have access to exclusive discounts and services that other guests don't.

Read more about these and other Member benefits in the current issue of The Star® and on the national MBCA website: www.mbca.org > "Membership" > "All Benefits"



THE LONE STAR

Saturday, August 27, 2011 Fall Creek Vineyards

A small caravan of brave souls set out from North Austin on a beautiful but hot day heading for the Tow, Texas where we met up with 4 more vehicles full of members from Houston and South Austin. The drive thru the Highland Lakes was beautiful! We toured the wine making facilities and many attended the wine tasting classes as well as sampling some food from noted Chefs in the Austin area. Joyce even got her feet dirty by stomping a few grapes. It was 117F when I returned to my vehicle....I think everyone had a nice time even with the extreme temperatures.





THE LONE STAR

Thursday, September 8, 2011 New SLK350 / CLS550 Preview Mercedes-Benz of Georgetown

Hanspeter Tobler! This was so much more fun than the typical board meeting! I can't wait to do it again. Thanks again to Jim Briggs for arranging for the food and to Charlene for putting it all together!

Thanks again to Mercedes-Benz of Georgetown and especially to Mike Lindberg, Ron Coleman, Mike Presta and Richard Weaver for a great evening. Ron gave us an in-depth review of the new CLS550 and SLK350, he and Mike Presta then proceeded to answer all of our questions about the new models. We held a short meeting in the board room while everyone enjoyed the salad and lasagna from Brooklyn Heights restaurant.

To top off the evening, Mr. Lindberg donated a Nike / Mercedes Golf bag and a Mercedes picnic set for a raffle. Congratulations to Melanie Wallace and





THE LONE STAR

UPCOMING EVENTS



HOLIDAY PARTY

Please join us on **Saturday December 3rd**, at 7:00pm at the Cat Mountain Club House for a Holiday Gathering.

Appetizers and Refreshments will be provided by the Club. Please feel free to bring a desert or your favorite holiday beverage to share.

Watch your email for an upcoming **Evite**.

Cat Mountain Club House
6007 Mount Bonnell
Austin, TX 78731

CHARITY

On September 8th, during our monthly meeting held at Mercedes-Benz of Georgetown, the club members voted to make a \$500 donation to the Bastrop Fire Department. On September 9th, Lee and Joyce Melugin delivered the check to the Bastrop Fire Dept., Inc.. I applaud the level of generosity I have seen exhibited by the Lone Star Section members. One more reason that I'm proud to be a part of this club.

Here are Joyce's comments she sent to me:

"Lee and I delivered the check to the Bastrop Fire Dept., Inc. today. The treasurer and several of the fire-fighters were gathered in the station behind one of the trucks so we were able to talk with them. Seems their hoses have suffered a lot of damage (cuts, etc.), as well as their trucks. They were very appreciative of the donation. I asked if they had an estimate of the containment and she (treasurer) said probably no more than 10%. She said this could go on for a long time."

Joyce

MEETINGS

In an effort to attract new members we thought we might like to change the venue for the monthly meetings for 2012. Beginning on January 12th, we will meet at **The Austin Daily Grill at The Domain**. The General Manager, Michael Holcomb has arranged for us to use one of the private rooms for our monthly meetings. The food and atmosphere at the Daily Grill have been well received by our members in the past during social events held on the patio. There is plenty of free parking as well as valet parking right out in front. We are working with them to define a special menu for the Club and they will offer happy hour prices until 7:00pm. Please come out and join us in January to help plan the events for the year.



THE LONE STAR

Pampered Auto Care

Austin
16299 FM 1325
Austin, TX 78728

512.310.1107

Cedar Park
1403 W. Whitestone Blvd. (FM - 1431)
Cedar Park, TX 78613

512.335.3955

Pampered Auto Care offers substantially lower labor rates, factory original Mercedes parts and a select group of top mechanics led by Edin, our dealer trained Master Mercedes Mechanic.

We offer a full range of auto repair services including Mobil 1 oil changes, alignments, brakes, state inspections, A/C service, A & B maintenance services and much, much more.

We pamper our customers and their cars by offering:

- *Courtesy rides back home or to the office*
- *Plastic seat covers, steering wheel covers and floor mats to protect your vehicle*
- *Substantially discounted pricing on car rentals*
- *After hours key drop*
- *Discounted flat bed towing rates through a preferred vendor*
- *Complementary soft drinks*
- *Pre-buyer's inspection from one of our highly skilled mechanics for your next used car purchase. We will be happy to show you what we find.*
- *A convenient North Austin location off of FM 1325 (MoPAC) near Round Rock's La-Frontera shopping center. You can shop or browse while we service your vehicle!*





F1 NEWS

F1 Austin: Construction on Schedule

Formula 1 track designer Hermann Tilke says that construction work at the new Circuit of the Americas track in Texas is on schedule, as he dismissed any suggestion that building work was running late.

Speculation about the United States Grand Prix venue surfaced in India last weekend when sources revealed that F1 supremo Bernie Ecclestone had told teams there were some questions marks about it hosting the race in 2012.

Although Ecclestone later revealed that his fears were based more on issues inside the promotional company than on the track being ready in time, that did not stop questions about the building progress.

However, in the same week that the Austin venue got the go-ahead from local bodies to being construction work on the five major buildings - including the main grandstands and pit buildings - Tilke has also made it clear he is happy with progress.

"We are working on it," he told AUTOSPORT. "There are a couple of hundred workers on the site, a lot of machines, and everything is on schedule up to now."

Tilke is excited about the potential of the layout of the Austin track, which he believes will benefit from the kind of gradients that made the new Buddh track in India such a hit.

"In Austin we have had the advantage that we have some natural elevation and some hills which we could use," he explained. "It is going to be very fast."

As well as working on the new Austin track, which is due to hold its inaugural grand prix next November, Tilke is also helping out with the New Jersey GP venue that will be added to the schedule in 2013.

Although he is limited in design scope there, because it is in a city, he believes the track will be good for F1.

"It is a pure road track, a street circuit," he said. "We will have to take what is there, but it will be really fantastic."



THE LONE STAR

Thursday, November 10, 2011:
Monthly Meeting

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Brick Oven Arboretum
10710 Research Blvd.
Austin, Texas

Saturday, November 12, 2011:
Car Show Event

Bastrop Veteran's Car Show
11:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m.
Main Street
Bastrop, TX

***Dec NO Monthly Meeting**

Saturday, December 3, 2011:
Holiday Party

7:00pm—8:00pm
Cat Mountain Clubhouse

Thursday, January 12, 2012:
Monthly Meeting

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Austin Daily Grill
Main Street Center @ The Domain
11506 Century Oaks Terrace
Austin, Texas 78758
512-836-4200

Thursday, February 9, 2012:
Monthly Meeting

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Austin Daily Grill
Main Street Center @ The Domain
11506 Century Oaks Terrace
Austin, Texas 78758
512-836-4200

Thursday, March 8, 2012:
Monthly Meeting

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Austin Daily Grill
Main Street Center @ The Domain

11506 Century Oaks Terrace
Austin, Texas 78758
512-836-4200

Thursday, April 12, 2012:
Monthly Meeting

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Austin Daily Grill
Main Street Center @ The Domain
11506 Century Oaks Terrace
Austin, Texas 78758
512-836-4200

Thursday, May 10, 2012:
Monthly Meeting

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Austin Daily Grill
Main Street Center @ The Domain
11506 Century Oaks Terrace
Austin, Texas 78758
512-836-4200

Thursday, June 14, 2012:
Monthly Meeting

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Austin Daily Grill
Main Street Center @ The Domain
11506 Century Oaks Terrace
Austin, Texas 78758
512-836-4200

Thursday, July 12, 2012:
Monthly Meeting

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Austin Daily Grill
Main Street Center @ The Domain
11506 Century Oaks Terrace
Austin, Texas 78758
512-836-4200

Thursday, August 9, 2012:
Monthly Meeting

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Austin Daily Grill
Main Street Center @ The Domain
11506 Century Oaks Terrace

Austin, Texas 78758
512-836-4200

Thursday, September 13, 2012:
Monthly Meeting

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Austin Daily Grill
Main Street Center @ The Domain
11506 Century Oaks Terrace
Austin, Texas 78758
512-836-4200

Thursday, October 6, 2012:
Banquet

Thursday, November 8, 2012:
Monthly Meeting

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Austin Daily Grill
Main Street Center @ The Domain
11506 Century Oaks Terrace
Austin, Texas 78758
512-836-4200

Thursday, December 1, 2012:
Holiday Party TBA



THE LONE STAR

Need an MBCA Lone Star Section Name Tag?

Please note...this is a new ordering method...

To order badges please call Karen Hilborn at MBCA (1-800-637-2360).
Ask for postage amount for number of badges ordered.

Send a check made payable to:

MBCA, Attn: Karen, 1907 Lelaray St. Colorado Springs, CO 80909
and have the badge mailed directly to you.

Don't forget to Include:

- Your name as it is to appear on the badge
- Our MBCA Section name (Lone Star Section)
- Choice of badge color (blue, silver, or gold)
- Type of closure (magnet, safety pin type, or tie tac type).

OR: Go to MBCA.org and order badges online.

Would you like to Advertise with us?

Classified ads FOR PERSONAL USE items are printed free for current members of Lone Star Section MBCA. Ads will run for four issues, unless stopped earlier. Ads may be extended by a request in writing to the Lone Star Section mailbox or by email. Members are limited to five (5) classified ads running at a time. The ad rate for non-member ads or member ads of a COMMERCIAL nature is \$10.00 per issue. These ads will be accepted on a monthly basis and payment must be received before ad is printed. Classified ads submitted for publication in the Lone Star are also placed on the Lone Star Section's website.

Please UPDATE your MBCA EMAIL ADDRESS

The Lone Star Section uses Constant Contact (an Email Service) to "remind" Members of upcoming Meetings and Events. We try to limit these Emails to one per week. If these Reminders are not desired, Constant Contact makes it easy to "Unsubscribe".

We are still in need of Email addresses from 5% of our Members and we encourage you to send yours (and any changes, of course) to our Newsletter Editor, Bryan Harter at bharter@austin.rr.com.

If you have concerns as to how your address and the information attached to it is safeguarded, please read the Club's Privacy Statement, found at the bottom of the Home Page of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America's National Website www.mbca.org.



THE LONE STAR

VENDOR REFERENCES

WHEEL TECHNOLOGIES

Mr. John Pina

9701 Dessau Road #203

Austin, Texas

512-339-9036

800-210-2371

www.wheeltechnologies.com

Some years ago, I hit a metal plate in a construction zone on 71 out near the Austin airport on my way to catch an early flight. I flat spotted both right side wheels...didn't damage the tires, but the wheels felt square. I drove very slowly to the parking area, caught my flight and figured I would deal with it when I got back. Upon my return, I threw on the old factory rims and continued to drive the car for the last couple of years. I finally got around to wanting to have the wheels repaired. I was uncertain they could be repaired but after speaking with Eric at Wheel TECHNOLOGIES in Dallas, he suggested I drop by their Austin location.

I stopped in one morning when I was over in the 183 / I-35 area. I was greeted by a woman named Gina Blaser who was filling in for an employee that day. As it turns out her husband Danny Blaser started this company in 1997 in Dallas. They now service all of Texas, Western Louisiana and Oklahoma with offices in Dallas, Houston, Austin and San Antonio with all the work being done in their Dallas and Houston factories. After inspecting my wheels she felt they could repair the flat spots and do a pretty good match on the paint. During the process they would check for cracks in the wheels and let me know if there was a problem. Two days later the wheels were complete and I received a call from Gina to drop by at my convenience and pick them up. The wheels looked great, they did a nice job matching the almost chrome like paint (Hyper-Silver).

Refinishing your wheels makes such a huge difference in the look of your car!

Bryan Harter, Lone Star Section Member

FALCON DETAILING

www.falcondetailing.com

After talking with Chris and Blake at the Bumpers RX tech session and remembering back to the outstanding job they did at last year's Tri-Mark, I decided to give Falcon Detailing a try and I turned them loose on my black BMW 5 series and my '79 Lincoln Mark V. They came early morning, set up and went to work; due to the long bodied Lincoln, they were there all day! There were a couple of scrapes on the BMW (due to a friend borrowing the car) and they almost got them entirely out, besides making that black paint look almost new. The real miracle came with the Mark V that I had up for sale...the car ended up looking so good, I literally raised the price on it \$1,500! The detail is truly "detailed" and these guys passion about their work made the results far better than any that I have ever gotten at any car wash. I doubt if I will ever sell a car without first having Falcon do the detailing as there is no doubt in my mind the value they raise in the car will more than offset their more than reasonable prices. I HIGHLY RECOMMEND them to anyone that wants to renew their passion about their car!

Jim Gulley, Lone Star Section Member



THE LONE STAR

GET INVOLVED:

The Lone Star Section is looking for volunteers to assist in the following roles:

Newsletter Editor: Oversee the publication of the Lone Star Section newsletter 4 times per year.

Content providers: Assist Webmaster and Newsletter Editor by providing content for publication, document events and send stories into the STAR for publication.

Webmaster: Work with the NBO to integrate changes to website, update website with content from events, schedules etc.

Secretary: Attend monthly meetings, document the minutes of the meeting

Dealership Liaison: Interface with dealer to facilitate communications, organize events, encourage advertising.

Vendor Liaison: Interface with vendors to facilitate communications, organize events, encourage advertising.



facebook

**We are now on Facebook! Follow us at
Lone Star Section** for updates, news and events.

Or find us on our website at www.mbca.org/lone_star

Or email us at MBCALoneStar@aol.com



THE LONE STAR

New Members

Because of who you are and the car you drive, full membership privileges for you and one additional person in your household await you at the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Come Join us!

Enriching the Mercedes-Benz ownership experience since 1956

There's always been something special about people who buy or lease Mercedes-Benz automobiles. Since 1956, the Mercedes-Benz Club of America has been bringing them together in an owner-support network that shares a common passion for an uncommon automobile.

Share the experience with members in over 80 North American Sections

Since our founding, tens of thousands of people have come to recognize the value of membership. From day one, you too can enjoy unique member-only privileges like these:

- Complimentary membership for one Associate Member
- A subscription to our bi-monthly magazine, the Star, winner of 12 medals for excellence
- Discount off parts, service & Accessories at participating Mercedes Benz Dealers
- Exclusive access to local, regional & national Mercedes-Benz Dealers
- Defensive driving classes, performance driving schools and technical seminars
- Accessories, gifts & apparel for our online Club Store
- Group trips to German
- Discounts off parts from the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center
- New car raffles & prize-winning contests
- Free or reduced-price admission to Mercedes-Bens worldwide
- Rental discounts from Avis & Hertz
- Discounted moving & real estate services through our Allied Moving Benefits Program
- 24/7 access to interest groups, technical advice & "first-to-know" automotive news @ mbca.org
- And so much more....

To join visit www.mbca.org or Call 800.637.2360

3 Years \$127 Best Value

2 Years \$84 Better Value

1 Year \$45 Great Value