



San Francisco Bay Area Section, Mercedes-Benz Club of America

www.sfba.mbca.org

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Members Relish Huge Flawless Facility and Iconic Race Cars During March Tour

By Roy Spencer

MercedesHeritage.com

Any visitor to the extraordinary Canepa Company in Scotts Valley could be excused for being overwhelmed by the diversity, significance and preparation of the cars on hand. Housed within a spotless and vast two

Quick Links



First Sunday Drive
Capitola to Seascap/Aptos
April 5



Napa Valley Auto Rally & Culinary Weekend
Napa Valley
April 10-12



Rosie The Riveter And Liberty

story 70,000 square foot facility, the cars reflect owner Bruce Canepa's mantra of "doing things absolutely 100 percent right, and thorough, and safe".

MBCA members visiting for the first time, March 14th, were no doubt stunned by Bruce's operation. There was a lot to take in and it helped if you were born somewhere in the '50s - Bruce was born in 1950 - to fully connect to the collection of cars both in the Museum and on hand for restoration and service. The operation very much reflects Bruce's personal tastes in competition cars and street cars. He is a racer at heart and his Museum of "keepers" vividly reflects this.

The race cars on display include the delicate ex-Steve McQueen Cooper T56, flawlessly restored Sprint cars that Bruce hurled around Northern California dirt tracks during his younger years, epic Indy cars from the '50s and early '60s and iconic milestone NASCAR competitors from the later '60s.



**Pikes Peak Contender
With Porsche Twin Turbo Engine**

His eclectic tastes are illustrated by the turbo-Porsche powered Pikes Peak contender, a

[Ship Tour](#)

The Rosie Event promises to be a real treat. Click the link above for the full details and to see the vibrant background of our exceptional tour guide!

May 31



[San Francisco 49er Levi Stadium Tour](#)

June 13



[Legends Of The Autobahn](#)

August 14



[Point Lobos Geologic Exploration](#)

September TBA

Mercedes-Benz Racing Update

Bugeye Sprite and an original full Abarth spec Fiat 600.

Porsches are Bruce's passion, however, and his selection of Turbo competition cars includes



Porsche 917-10 Racers

the ex-Georg Loos 1,150 hp 1972 917-10 Spyder and the last 911-based 935 IMSA GT racer constructed by the Porsche factory, a car in which Bruce competed in period with success. Unique among collectors of these brutally powerful cars, is Bruce's ability to compete in them at historic racing events at an intensity that actually flatters these cars' massive abilities.

The museum was only a prelude to the shop in which a jaw-dropping selection of clients' cars are being serviced and restored. Standing on the observation area and peering down onto the shop floor allowed us to see some of the most significant sports and racing cars in existence today. Among the cars arrayed in the spotless shop were a few 300SL roadsters, numerous Shelby Cobras, a half dozen of the ultra-rare Porsche 959s, a new McLaren P1 and a lone Bugatti EB110.

The spectacular group of cars undergoing full



Everyone's Chasing Mercedes Again in F1

Classified

FOR SALE:

Three Diesel Sedans

1980, 1982, 1983



"nut and bolt" restorations included an early Lamborghini Countach, a Porsche Speedster, a Ferrari 275GTB/C, a Corvette Trans Am car, the brutal 1973 Shadow DN2 Turbo Can Am car and a 1983 Lancia LC-2 Le Mans car. For any of us who have restored a single car let alone a dozen or so concurrently, the effort and precision required to keep track of this large group of complicated restorations seems daunting to say the least.

It was a fabulous opportunity to peer into one of the top vintage automobile service and restoration operations in the country and I doubt anyone failed to be awed by viewing in person the Canepa ethos of "doing things absolutely 100 percent right". We thank Bruce, along with his Marketing Director, John Ficarra - our guide during the tour - along with Bruce's entire staff for the opportunity to visit his extraordinary facility.

Low Budget LeMon Racer Steals Hearts amidst Phenomenal Power Cars

As the Club toured the Canepa facilities, many members found their hearts were unexpectedly stolen - not only by the many unique super car examples that abounded - but by another racer that was actually towed to the shop area behind a pickup truck!

This unusual circumstance occurred even though the Canepa Collection showcases all racing levels from tiny Kart Racers to high-tech Formula classes and encompasses racing aficionados ranging from those who race for pure fun all the way up through those who are

compelled to conquer challenging mechanical frontiers.

The unexpected bandit that stole hearts from so many club members was, in this case, John Ficarra's LeMon Class racer. John's #36 LeMon Class racer - which is dubbed "Supranos," celebrates its heritage by sporting 'Jersey plates that are festooned with gold-rimmed trim. "Supranos" evoked nostalgia as the pickup truck brought it to the venue.



You have to understand the regulations that cover LeMon class racers in order to understand why so many club members were fascinated by "Supranos". The LeMon class racers risk penalties if it looks like they spent more than \$500 getting their cars ready for an event.



So it was not surprising that club members

were reminded of days long ago when they themselves worked long and hard on earlier tight budgets to coax both the best performance and the finest appearance out of limited funds. "Supranos" reminds them of those works of love.

Ah, once upon a lifetime!

**Shawn and Bob Merrill
Recognized by SF Bay Area Section
As Members of the Year**

We are especially proud that the tremendous work done all through the year by Shawn and Bob Merrill - which includes Shawn's dedication as Director of First Sunday Drives - was recognized during our Holiday Gala when they were presented with a beautiful, engraved plaque that was presented by the San Francisco Bay Area Section as Members of the Year.



These two members have devoted huge energy

and countless hours for the enjoyment of our members at large, and we all join in applause for their spirit and contributions to our successful year.

Coming In September

Club to Tour Eons of Jagged Mountains Battling Pummeling Seas at Point Lobos State Reserve

As the fog burns off on a weekend morning this coming September, the land will seemingly rise from the sea, the surf will crash upon the shore as it produces the day's quota of new sand, the tide pools will team with life, otters will surface in the kelp forests and shorebirds will hover over Bird Island Trail and the Pygmy Forest at Point Lobos State Reserve.



With the welcome guidance of Dr. H. Edward Clifton, the world's first geologic aquanaut, we will tour the last 88 million years of struggle between natural forces and enjoy the contrast of that struggle to the serenity of the forests that

today overlook the mufti-hued tones of such locations as Whaler's Cove, and we will partake of the history of early California as well as of the ancient migration of the Humpback Whales that pass offshore.



Dr. Clifton will be our private guide during this adventure and he will bring us an appreciation and understanding of the geology and the history of this most pristine of California scenic locations as can only be provided by a veteran of thirty years with the United States Geological Survey.

Our guided tour will include a mosaic of bold headlands, irregular coves, and rolling meadows. It is the result of the land rising in spite of a protesting sea trying constantly to reclaim it.

The rocks were formed 88 million years ago in a caldron of violence that spurted from volcanic magma chambers. And once the rocks had emerged, they were exposed to the sea. And while free from molten dangers, the rocks were then assaulted by wind and water into a staggering variety of forms. If you look closely during our tour, you will find prominent rocks seemingly peering out to sea looking every bit

the part of sentries in petrified hoodies.



Today's beaches and terraces are enjoyed because the waves pulverized the mountains that went down to the sea. Santa Lucia Granite - a rock available in tans, browns, grays and siennas - now makes up much of the north shore and the area called Hidden Beach. There is also the Carmelo Formation, the newcomer on the block, being sedimentary rock that is merely 55 million years old. And down in the sea, in addition to the tide pools, are the grottos and treacherous shoals. It will be up to us to contemplate how those jagged snags may have played havoc with many a whaler's boat in centuries past.



Fantastic Dining Opportunity!

It is envisioned that this Pt. Lobos event will be a fantastic outing, and we are confident that a gourmet, seaside dining plan will evolve as would be befitting this adventure.

Please begin to plan on being with us and give us your thoughts on the gourmet treats that you feel would be befitting for this day when we will tour 88 million years of California defying the sea.

Your Opinion Counts!

We'd Love Your Input!

1. What types of food do you think would deliciously go with the Pt. Lobos Outing?
2. Do you have your own tale to share of Pt.

- Lobos, or of the Monterey, Carmel and Big Sur area?
3. Are there other geologic or natural history locations you feel would make great club outings?
 4. Have you thought about other cultural, historic, industrial-wonder or great humanity sites for us to all enjoy?
 5. Your suggestions for any other club activity are always welcome!

[To Give Us Your Ideas On Any Of The 5 Items Above, You Can Just Click Here!](#)

[You Can Also Click Here For Your Board Of Directors List To Contact Them About The Items Listed Or Any Other Club-Related Matter!](#)

Other Valuable SFBay Mercedes Info -

As always you will find additional Club and Mercedes info and event details by visiting our club website. Here's the active Link to connect directly to the website:

www.sfba.mbca.org

Shops In Your Area

Mid-Peninsula, San Mateo



MB Garage, 2165 Palm Ave., San Mateo

Santa Clara



MB German Car Service, 2897 El Camino Real, Santa Clara

South Bay, Campbell



Bay Area Motorworks, 2875 So. Winchester, Campbell

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