



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

www.sfba.mbca.org

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MB 600 Edition

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Devil in the Metal **By Derick TeeKing, San Francisco**

Through a rainy night peppered with flashes of lightning and sounds of thunder is a speeding black sedan. The devilish-looking car is marked by six lamps, piercing the darkness and blinding the audience. What kind of car is that? It was a Mercedes 600 (short wheelbase example), and as a teenager I thought it was badass! It was oddly and attractively evil. I had only seen one other example and that was in Manila at a family friend's high-end condominium. It was a dark blue example parked in a very special area. At the time, I did not know that the blue behemoth was actually one of only a handful of 600's (estimated at four) in the banana republic, all owned at one time or another by President (dictator) Ferdinand Marcos.

Quick Links



First Sunday Drive
Saratoga to Santa Cruz
May 3



Rosie The Riveter And
Liberty 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



"Witches of Eastwick" (1987)

However, it was that devilish black 600 that played a central role in "The Witches of Eastwick" (1987) which made the most significant impression on me, one that would tease me for nearly two decades. Fast forward twenty years later when, on a bet from a friend, a black 1972 600 sedan listed on eBay landed in my hands.

Many have written about the 600's many famous owners. They have ranged from presidents (including every World Bank-cheating African "WaBenzi") to potentates and pontiffs. Owners have even included all the Beatles (except McCartney), Elvis, Coco Chanel, Jamiroquai... and on and on... and in 2006, it was me. It is not a typical ride of choice for a 38 year old. The 600 is neither a heart-pumping sports car nor an adventure-inspiring SUV. It did, however compete nicely with sports cars of its day and has the ability to raise its suspension by over two inches. At 2.5 plus tons it is a behemoth laced with a network of aircraft-quality hydraulics disguised under a veil of thick Rossier leather and Brazilian rosewood (actually, an extinct variety of Palisander). My purchase, however, fulfilled my yearning desire to possess one ... damn that Daryl Von Horne. Feelings of elation and surprise soon turned to frustration and surprise (at the repair bills). Well, as the saying goes: "Be careful what you wish for".



My 1972 600 (2014)

Having owned it for nine years I have had it worked on continuously. It was, after all, referred to by Daimler engineers



San Francisco 49er Levi's Stadium Tour

June 13



Legends Of The Autobahn

August 14



Point Lobos Geologic Exploration

September TBA

Non-club event of interest:

San Luis Obispo Concours



**May 31
San Luis Obispo**

Sonoma Historic

as "their playground", translation: expensive to build, and even more expensive to maintain. Under my ownership it has gone from that famous German W100 expert in Wisconsin to local independents in Connecticut and California (one of whom believed it was his own since it was in his shop for a nearly a year). Expensive to keep? Yes. Emotionally stirring? Yes. Masculine and strong (don't ever call it pretty or cute)? Yes. Uncommonly evil? Hell, yes! I could save myself some aggravation and secure a Mercedes S-class, or a young-timer Mercedes. But either choice would be way too easy and never stir the same controversy among onlookers. The 600 has immense presence and its very name elicits endless emotions.

I love this overly complex and expensive to repair car. It represents my high maintenance and distracting dark side. In 1965, Road & Track best described the 600's impact this way:

"It is obviously strong, for example. It is immensely solid. And durable. Its stolidity is unrelieved, however, and nowhere is there anything that could be described as subtle. It is a thoroughly no-nonsense sort of car. One could hardly imagine a seduction scene played in it, for instance. Rape, maybe, but not seduction."

I leave it with that.



**Road & Track (1965)
Hotel del Coronado, Coronado Island**



Derick TeeKing 2015

Motorsport Festival, Wine and Food Festival with Car Show



May 31 Sonoma Raceway and Downtown Sonoma

Mercedes-Benz 600 Found in Portola Valley Garage



"...I have my stories, just like the rest of us. My stories involve ..

Classified

FOR SALE:

1964 228 Sb Sedan

Your suggestions for club activities are always welcome!

Click [here](#) for your [Board Of Directors](#) contact information to talk about any other club-related matter!

Visit our club website for up-to-date information on club events. sfba.mbca.org



Three Diesel Sedans
1980, 1982, 1983



Local Shops

Mid-Peninsula, San Mateo



MB Garage, 2165 Palm Ave., San Mateo

South Bay, Campbell

**MERCEDES
CONNEXION**
Service & Repair of your Mercedes-Benz

Al Bernal
(408) 394-3057

155 Kennedy Avenue
Campbell, CA 95008



Mercedes Connexion, 155 Kennedy Ave., Campbell

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