



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

www.sfba.mbca.org

June 2015, e-mail edition

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190SL - Happy 60th Anniversary by Laura Simonds

Quick Links



First Sunday Drive

Sausalito to Point Reyes

June 7



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



The 190SL was created through the marketing genius of Max Hoffman (the first Mercedes-Benz distributor in the U.S.). Knowing that the U.S. was becoming a burgeoning market for imported cars, he encouraged the Daimler-Benz Board of Management to create a smaller, less expensive sports touring car to accompany the 300SL Coupe (Gull Wing). It took barely five months for the engineers to design and build a prototype to show at the Motor Sports Show in New York on February 6, 1954.

There was a distinct connection between the 190SL and the 300SL. The 190SL took many styling cues from the 300SL to associate it with its much more expensive and powerful stablemate. Consequently the 190SL outsold the 300SL, but it also created a legacy of being unfavorably compared to the 300SL.

But based on the intent of the design, the 190SL succeeded by every measure: enduring styling, exceptional engineering, spirited handling (sport touring car, not a racetrack competitor), and remarkable comfort on long distance drives. And, a nice benefit for 190SL owners, this model has been recently increasing in value.

Some specifics of these successful measures included compliant suspension, good handling, cushioned seats with good support, better than usual brakes for the time, both hardtop and soft top, and styling recognized as a classic design by the Milestone Car Society.

At Legends of the Autobahn® 2015 on August 14 in Monterey, we will celebrate this icon's 60th anniversary. If you're a lucky owner of a 190SL, register it in the



San Francisco 49er Levi's Stadium Tour

June 13



Legends Of The Autobahn

August 14



Point Lobos Geologic Exploration

September 19

Classified

FOR SALE:

1979 Mercedes-Benz 6.9



show, so that spectators and other entrants can appreciate its enduring charm and beauty. Click on the event announcement in the right sidebar here, and you'll find all the event details and a registration link.

But, in the meantime before Legends of the Autobahn, here are several photos of 190SLs at last year's event to get you in the mood for this year.



WANTED AT LEGENDS OF THE AUTOBAHN®:

**YOUR CARS ON THE FIELD, VOLUNTEERS, AND
JUDGES**

1958 300d "Adenauer" (Cuban origin, now in Ottawa)



1964 228 Sb Sedan



Non-club events of interest:

Cars & Coffee



Canepa Motorsports

4900 Scotts Valley Drive
Scotts Valley

April 11 to October 10
Second Saturday Each
Month



We want to see you at Legends of the Autobahn® on Friday, August 14, at the Nicklaus Club Monterey. You can register your favorite Mercedes-Benz in a judged class, Silver Star Preservation, or corral (click on the link in the right sidebar to register). "Early bird" registration closes August 1.

We also want volunteers and judges for Legends. Volunteer jobs include set up on Thursday afternoon, vehicle check-in, field placement, hosting in the MBCA tent, assembling registrants' gifts bags, and (the ever-popular) clean up. If you can help, contact Laura Simonds at (650) 592- 7613 or simondsl@pacbell.net.

If you'd like to be a judge, contact Richard Simonds at (650) 592-7613 or rsimonds@pacbell.net.

AROUND THE WORLD IN A 1957 220S **Come meet the adventurers and their car**



San Luis Obispo Concours **May 31**



Sonoma Historic Motorsport Festival **May 30 - 31**



Biscotti and Cars **First Sunday Each Month** **Sausalito**



New Zealanders Fred and Elisabeth Smit are driving their around the world in their 1957 22S sedan, we have an opportunity to meet them and hear their stories. Their car "Abel" will also be in attendance.

When: **Friday evening July 10 at 7:00 pm**

Where: The "Country Gourmet", 1314 S Mary Ave (corner of Fremont and Mary) Sunnyvale, CA 94087.

What: Dinner with Club members (guests are welcome), a presentation, stories, and fun.

Cost: None; just your dinner.

Bring your Pontons or other interesting Mercedes

**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

Local Shops

Mid-Peninsula, San Mateo



MB Garage, 2165 Palm Ave., San Mateo

South Bay, Campbell



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