



San Francisco Bay Area Section, Mercedes-Benz Club of America
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July 2016 e-mail edition

Racing in the Bay Area: Part 2, Sears Point, Sonoma
by Joel Camarda
SF Bay Area Section



As enjoyable as the August Monterey venues are, there are more accessible, smaller, cheaper, and more intimate events besides those big boys. There's a very nice Concours d'Elegance in July in Hillsborough. Occasionally, someone also brings a more contemporary super-toy. Art Z brought his new \$1.3 mil, 960 HP, hybrid, La Ferrari in 2015. Purchase by invite only, but Art is well acquainted with the fratelli at Maranello. There used to be a nice concours in Marin, in the summer, but I believe the organizer passed and no one has taken the baton. At all of these these events, you will find folks that really appreciate cars, past, present, and future. We Benz owners really appreciate cars. That's why we have a Benz (or two)! I used to be an Alfisti, but that was an entirely different kind of love, the difference between being married to an Italian vs. a German. The Italian was more fun but less predictable. Oops, I'm still married to an Italian person.



As for racing, we have two historic race series only 30 miles away from SF, at Sears Point, one in April, one in May-June. The latter weekend is the larger event. Many of the cars you will also see at August Monterey. I particularly enjoy this race series. You will see me there (again) this year. The vintage race car owners and drivers are an interesting and varied bunch. Many are vintage along with their cars. Some have considerable financial backing, their own or other. Some just do it all themselves, drive it, fix it, cart it.



We have an Indy Car Grand Prix at Sears Point in August. If you have not been to an F1 (and they are not very accessible), Indy is the next best thing, or arguably just as good. You can get good seats at Sears Point for not a lot of bucks. Most of the GA seats allow you to roam all around the track, and this can be worth the hike at a road course. I also attend the Indy Grand Prix at Long Beach every year, which I have attended almost every year since it was originally an F1 race (Ragazoni and Lauda in Ferraris, showing my age again). The Sears Point Indy weekend also includes the American LeMans Series sports and prototype cars racing.





Sears Point also has a NASCAR Race in June and NHRA drag races in July, if that's your taste. These are actually the biggest events there each year. I went to NHRA a couple of times just to check it out. 3000 (yes thousand) HP, ¼ mile, 300 mph, in 3 seconds, CRAZY, and loud, REALLY loud.

By the way, if you ever get the hankering to drive on a real race track, or just drive fast (with proper instruction) and not be an idiot on the public highway, both Laguna Seca and Sears Point offer driving schools in either sports cars or small formula cars (single seat, open wheel F3 equivalent). I've attended one school at Sears and two at Laguna, both the formula cars, and lived to tell about it.

If you have not tasted the local races, do so. It's fun.

SUMMER IS HERE





I can't believe how quickly 2016 is going by and that summer is now here, but we've had some very exciting and well attended events this year and there are more to come. Remember to regularly check the website for updated information on scheduled events and First Sunday Drives.

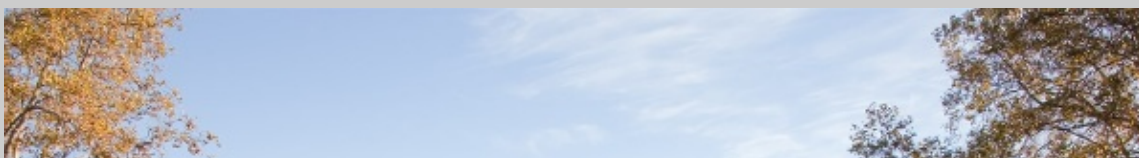
One upcoming event this summer that is very exciting and fun, and have frequently attended is the Hillsborough Concours d'Elegance. This is not a section sponsored event, but one that we want to support. This is not just any car show, but the longest consecutively run Concours in the United States; if not the world. If that isn't enticing enough, the featured European marque this year is Mercedes-Benz. Do I need to say more? As Mercedes-Benz aficionados, imagine seeing beautiful Mercedes displayed on the lush grounds of the Crystal Springs Golf Course, as well other marques. So save the date and plan to either attend or participate in the 2016 Hillsborough Concours d'Elegance on July 17, 2016.



Whether you have a Concours quality show car or a daily driver, there is nothing more fun than participating in a Concours. Mr. Rob Fisher, the Concours Chairman has been working closely with our section and is very excited to have our club members enter their cars. We are committed to having the marque well represented. Even though registration has officially closed, he has notified me that he's still looking for Concours quality cars to be entered; especially any pre-war Mercedes-Benz. I know that many our members have beautiful cars, so why not enter your car in the 2016 Hillsborough Concours. If you do have a Concours quality car (pre-war or post-war) that you would like to enter, please let me know and I can arrange the contact.

Additionally, he has also made special arrangements for our section members to enter their cars in the German Car Corral, for those that wish to display their car and enjoy all the excitement and atmosphere of a Concours, but do not want to have their car judged. He has extended registration for The Corral up to and including the day of the show. There is room for 200 cars in The Corral section.

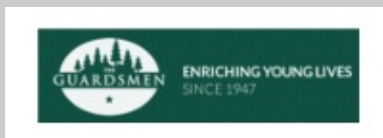
But aside from displaying your car at the Concours on Sunday, July 17th, there are additional related events that shouldn't be missed. The festivities for the Concours weekend start on Friday, July 15th, with a charity Cocktail Reception at the famed Carolands Mansion in Hillsborough featuring gourmet food, adult beverages and music in a grand setting.





The weekend festivities continue with the annual Tour Drive on Saturday, July 16, that will take you to the Keller Estate Winery and Collection for wine tasting, lunch and a private tour of outstanding Mercedes-Benz automobiles. You do not need to enter your car in the Concours to attend either of these two events. Additional information and ticket purchase is available on their website. www.hillsboroughconcours.org

Most importantly, the net proceeds from the Hillsborough Concours benefits several worthwhile causes.



Enter your car now and enjoy the day talking with other auto enthusiasts about your car and the marque. I'll be there and hope to see you as well!

Lou Piccinini

Monterey Car "Week" - August 8th - 21st



Ideas from Members for cool events have been trickling in. Among the recommendations for this year

Special Note: Website Revisions

Our website is being revised by the National Office. Please bear with us as we get things under control!

Welcome New Members

Gail Henrickson, Mill Valley, CA
 Bill Kraft, Hayward, CA
 Brad Omick, Lafayette, CA
 Sanford Pyron, Eureka, CA
 Robert Tomlinson, Orinda, CA

First Sunday Drive

are:

Monterey Pre-Reunion, August 13-14, Mazda Motorsports Speedway

Most of the cars participating in the Historic Races on the weekend will be at the track tuning-up and doing practice runs. A great opportunity to stroll through the pits and see the inner workings of these great cars. Tickets are \$30 at the gate with free parking. For more info click [here](#).

Classic Motorsports Magazine Monterey Kickoff Cruise-In, August 16, Folktale Winery, Carmel Valley: If you have a classic, drive it to this event in Carmel Valley. Wine, music, and car enthusiasts. Free. Click [here](#) for more information.

Concours on the Avenue, Tuesday, August 16, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Ocean Avenue, Carmel Classic cars on view on Ocean Street in Carmel For information click [here](#).

Pebble Beach Tour d'Elegance, August 18, 7:00 am-8:00 am, Portola Road, Pebble Beach See the Concours d'Elegance cars before the tour. You can also see the cars at the end of the tour on Ocean Avenue, Carmel later in the day. Additional information available [here](#).

If you have your own favorite event you would like to share with members, send your ideas to: David Sears, dv.sears@gmail.com.

Volunteers and Judges Needed at Legends of the Autobahn® Friday, August 19th

We are seeking volunteers and judges for Legends of the Autobahn, on Friday, August 19th at the Nicklaus Club in Monterey. Volunteer jobs include set up on Thursday afternoon, August 18th, vehicle check-in, field placement, hosting in the MBCA tent, assembling registrants' gifts bags, and clean up. If you can volunteer, contact Allen Stephens at allen.c.stephens@gmail.com or 503-708-0397.

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



First Sunday Drive Olive Oil and California History Novato to Sonoma July 3, 2016 Meet at 9:30am; Depart at 10am



The plan is to split the ride up into smaller groups all leaving at the same place and arriving hopefully about the same time for lunch.

Start in Novato at the Safeway at Novato Fair Shopping Center 900 Diablo Road, Novato, CA. (Take De Long exit from 101 and go WEST about quarter mile. Safeway will be on the left side)

We will drive to Olive Press on Arnold Drive about a 30 minute drive, We will go up 101 to Lakeville Highway, Stagecoach Gulch Road and onto Arnold Drive. Once there we will split up into 2 or 3 equal groups depending on size, going to the following places:

Vallejo Barracks First Street Sonoma
Figone Olive Press downtown Sonoma
Vallejo Residence downtown Sonoma
BR Cohn Olive and Winery on Highway 12





Celebrate Classic Performance at Legends of the Autobahn®

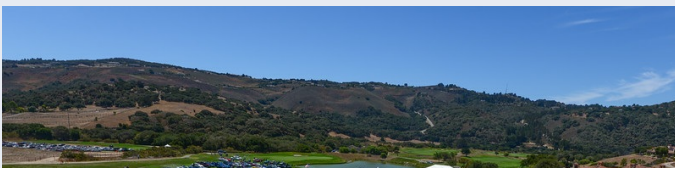


Legends of the Autobahn® returns to Monterey Car Week on Friday, August 19th at the Nicklaus Club. Be

a part of the celebration of the world's pre-eminent German vehicle brands - Mercedes-Benz, BMW and Audi.

MBCA Members are invited to enter their automobiles in the judged Concours classes, the display-only corral, or the Silver Star Preservation class.

For 2016, Mercedes-Benz at Legends of the Autobahn will feature a special performance class for cars that have been modified or tuned. This includes cars that have been modified for performance and/or appearance, such as pre-merger models from AMG, or modified Mercedes-Benz from Lorinser or Brabus. Mercedes-Benz automobiles used in racing are also invited to participate. To be eligible for this class, your Mercedes-Benz must be manufactured prior to 1997. Register your Mercedes-Benz at www.legendsoftheautobahn.org. The deadline to register is July 31st. For more information contact Allen Stephens at 503-708-0397 or allen.c.stephens@gmail.com.



Also across the street from the Olive Press is a museum with models of the California Missions if people want to see.

We will end at Pizzeria Capri Ristorante Broadway St, Sonoma approximately 1:30pm for lunch.

Total drive is about 40 miles but traffic and crowds will be extremely high, parking will also be extremely limited.



Other Events of Interest



Patrick Ottis's 1934 Alfa Romeo 8C 2300
WELCOME TO FIRST SATURDAY

BISCOTTI & CARS



Biscotti and Cars
First Saturday Each Month
Sausalito



Canepa Cars and Coffee
April to October
Second Saturday
8:00 to Noon

**The 2016 California Lincoln Highway Classic
Car Tour**

September 23-26, 2016
Click [here](#) for additional information.

National Events

Starfest 2016, Hosted by MBCA Minuteman Section



Your suggestions for club activities are always welcome! Please feel free to contact your Officers to talk about any club-related matter!

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

sfba.mbca.org

Officers

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South Bay, Campbell



Mercedes Connexion, 155 Kennedy Ave., Campbell