



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

Connect to Website at: [www.sfba.mbca.org](http://www.sfba.mbca.org)

March 2016 e-mail edition

### **Why I Bought My First Brand New SL550 in 2013**



There's an old joke, about a new prisoner thrown into a dark dungeon. Barely enough light to see and mostly silence. The prisoner can see there are other prisoners in the dungeon. After a long quiet time he hears someone say "12" - followed by hilarious laughter. A few more moments and "48" - again laughter. More time passes and "24" - hilarious laughter. The prisoner's curiosity is piqued. In the darkness he sees another prisoner nearby and asks "what are they laughing at?" - the other prisoner says "oh that, well we've told the same jokes so many times that we numbered

### **Special Note: Website Revisions**

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

### **First Sunday Drive March 6, 2016**



On the first Sunday of March, enjoy a short back-road drive into beautiful Sonoma Valley. Beginning at the Starbucks on Old Redwood Hwy in northern Petaluma, the route will pass over Sonoma

the same jokes so many times that we numbered them and just say the number." Feeling bold the new prisoner says "18" - hilarious laughter.

A long winded introduction - what does this have to do with my SL550?

A joke that many people in Silicon Valley will understand. Whenever you have some part of your house remodeled, you eventually tell a friend or neighbor the good and bad and the humorous reply I call Silicon Valley joke #16....

"So why did you think your remodel was going to be done on time - just because you had a contract?" And so it was with my (months overdue and) at last complete kitchen remodel.

I had envisioned remodeling the kitchen and if the result was astonishing I would reward the contractor and remodel the bathroom. Alas, the remodel dragged on and on and was perhaps 4 months past due. "So <insert name of <contractor> the kitchen isn't done, it's got chips nicks and dings," to which the answer was invariably "we'll fix it on the punch ticket". The contractor seemed best in class on submitting an invoice on time, but not much else.

And more than once I gave my best argument "Fix it on the Punch ticket? <Mr. Contractor> When I buy a brand new Mercedes Benz, they don't bring it out and tell me "Mr. Barker, we'll line up the doors and repair the parking lot dings when your final check clears. They bring out the MBZ and it's perfect". This didn't produce the desired effect.

Fortunately!!! The contractor finished months overdue and was gone. I had all the arrangements ready to start a bathroom remodel. I had little interest in finding a new contractor and beginning another remodel. I decided to cheer myself up and visit the Mercedes dealership to see what was on the lot. My Mercedes salesman ("Franz" at Autobahn) noticed me - and I said I

Petaluma, the route will pass over Sonoma Mountain Road and through beautiful Bennett Valley. We'll stop for a brief (15-20 minute) bio-break at the fabulous Glen Ellen Village Market, before proceeding on Arnold Road to the heart of old-town Sonoma. We'll allow ~45 minutes to explore the Plaza with its unique specialty shops and historic sites. There are many alfresco lunch sites around the Plaza ... or you can join the group at Sonoma's well known Mary's Pizza Shack. From there you might want to explore a couple of the many good wineries in the immediate area! For additional information, contact the leader, Mike Grady, at 415-453-6400.

The Starbucks where we'll start is at 5306 Redwood Highway, in the Orchard Supply Hardware shopping area. (That's on the SE corner of N. Mc Dowell and Redwood Hwy.)

**Call for Mercedes-Benz  
from 1886 to 1991 for the  
60th Annual Hillsborough Concours  
d'Elegance  
Sunday, July 17, 2016**

I am on the Hillsborough Concours d'Elegance Committee with responsibility to get classic and special interest Mercedes-Benz vehicles.

I have been asked to get cars in each of these classes: MB-1, Pre-War [1886 Patent Wagen re-creation, 1936 260D, 500K/540K, 770, etc. (8-10 total from all sources)] MB-2, Post-War [ 170V, 170S, 220S/SE, 300 Series, 280SE 6.3, 450SEL 6.9, 280SE 3.5 Coupe/Cabriolet, 600 Limousine, etc. (8-10)] MB-3 SL Class [300SL Coupes/Roadsters, W121s, W113s, R/C 107s, R129s up to 1991 (8-10)]

The Hillsborough Concours d'Elegance

was looking around. Perhaps I had a glazed look of the newly remodeled kitchen owner because he pointed at a brand new SL550, and said with an Austrian accent I can't imitate - "go look at that car" and without too much effort persuaded me to take a test drive.

Now I had a new dilemma, should I remodel the bathroom or get a brand new SL550 that was in perfect condition? I thought about it overnight. Next day I called Franz and asked "is that SL I drove still on the lot?" - Franz said no. I panicked. I drove over to the dealership - I remembered there were two other new SL550's, different colors than the one I test drove. I saw Franz - and said "I'll take that grey SL550 over there." A day later after dealer prep, I had my new SL550 resting in my garage.

I like to think that I could have had a remodeled bathroom. However my MBZ SL550 is far more comfortable, climate controlled, great sound system, convertible, has a better interior and exterior and goes a lot faster...

**Chris Barker**

website is: <http://www.hillsboroughconcours.org> for a look at recent shows.

The 2016 details are not yet available.

Many thanks,

Richard Simonds

650-722-0299 (mobile)

650-592-7613 (home)

[rsimonds@pacbell.net](mailto:rsimonds@pacbell.net)

## Regional Events

### Tour Mercedes-Benz Long Beach Vehicle Preparation Center

Saturday, April 16

Click [here](#) for additional information.

### Southwest Regional Event - Solvang Valley

May 20-22, 2016

Click [here](#) for additional information



## National Events

[Starfest 2016](#), Hosted by MBCA Minuteman Section

**STARFEST 2016**



## MBCA Judging School - **DATE CHANGED**

You are invited to attend the only MBCA Judging School to be held in the SF Bay Area in 2016. This is an opportunity to refresh your judging skills before the 2016 season begins. We have TWO big Concours d'Elegance in 2016 and need many judges to meet the needs.

- July 17, 2016, Hillsborough Concours d'Elegance, 60th annual show featuring Mercedes-Benz as the featured marque.

- August 19, 2016, Legends of the Autobahn, Monterey, where we will judge 7 classes + certify Silver Star Preservation Class cars.

Judging School will be held **Saturday, March 12, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.** at a private car collection in Burlingame - The Candy Store, 1166 Howard Avenue. We will be allowed to see the collection.

The Candy Store, Burlingame

**12:30 p.m.** Check-in

**1:00 p.m.** Judging School (PowerPoint Presentation and Judges Booklet)

**2:00 p.m.** Practice Judging with experienced judges

**2:30 p.m.** Discuss practice judging and answer questions

**3:00 p.m.** Adjourn and view private collection at



## Other Events of Interest



### Biscotti and Cars

First Saturday Each Month

Sausalito

## The 2016 California Lincoln Highway Classic Car Tour

September 23-26, 2016

Click [here](#) for additional information.

The Candy Store

**3:30 p.m.** We must leave the premises

Coffee, juice, and cookies will be available all afternoon.

Cost: \$15 CASH at check-in to cover expenses.

RSVP to Richard Simonds no later than Tuesday, March 8, 2016.

Richard Simonds

650-722-0299 (mobile)

650-592-7613 (home)

[rsimonds@pacbell.net](mailto:rsimonds@pacbell.net)



## Welcome New Members

Laurie & Todd Balestrieri, Concord

John Borchelt, Belmont

David Clare, Danville

William Corea, San Ramon

David Freedman, San Mateo

Roberta Gray, Vallejo

Jacob Griffin, San Francisco

Judy Keeley, Saratoga

Brad Kellett, Los Altos

Harold Laday, Castro Valley

Mary Nielsen, San Rafael

Gerald Ostheimer, Gilroy

Nadine Prah, Oakland

Alex Reyes, Saratoga

The Center For Self Improvement, Vallejo

Richard Shireman, San Francisco

Ernest Tsui, Pleasanton

Brett Young, San Francisco

Martin Zacek, Sunnyvale

## Classified

### FOR SALE:

1988 SL500



1991 350SDL

**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](http://sfba.mbca.org)**

## **New Officers**

The updated officers for 2016 are:

President: [Lou Piccinini](#)

(650) 291-2805

Vice President: [Eric Wee](#)

(650) 406-9078

Secretary:

Treasurer: [Mauna Wagner](#)

(925) 934-7220

Membership: [Alan Ralph](#)

(510) 695-3881

Newsletter:

Webmaster: [David Sears](#)

(408) 916-8100

MBCA National Business Office

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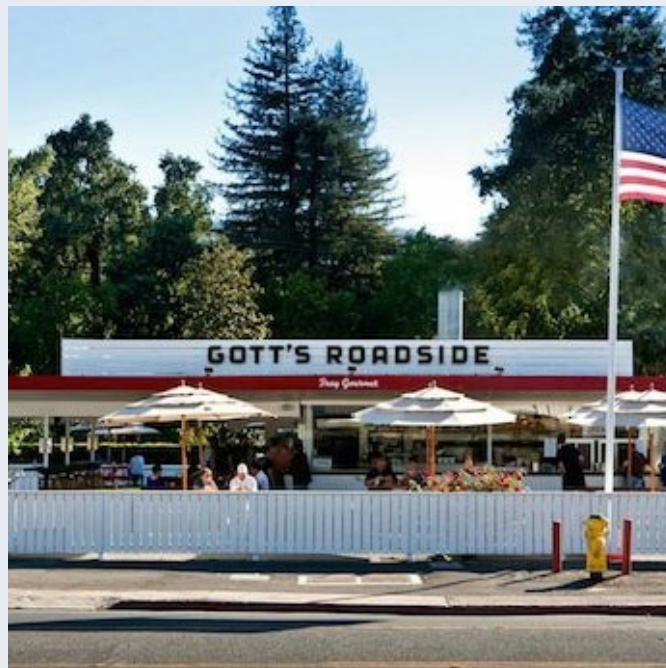




Eleven shiny Benz's and twice as many folks enjoyed wonderful sunny weather on a drive from Napa along Lake Berryessa and on to our destination, a funky but gratifying roadside burger joint in St. Helena. We were especially pleased to see our old friend Eva Schlosser and husband Bob back in the Bay Area. They're building a home in Calistoga, so we once again expect to see them more frequently.

Starting from Starbucks on Soscol Road in Napa, we traveled a short bit of the Silverado Trail before heading east on Hwy 121, thence north on Hwy 128 to the Berryessa-Knoxville Road, which wanders along the West side of the lake. The lake, although still huge, is about 40 feet below its capacity level.

Our rest-view stop at the Visitors Center was perfect, and we almost filled the parking lot. After leaving the lake, we traveled through the Chiles-Pope Valley area, over Howell Mountain through the quaint town of Angwin and dropped down once again into the Napa Valley. The sun shone on our picnic tables at Taylor's Refresher, a Napa Valley favorite since 1940. (The owners, the Gott family, also run eateries in downtown Napa, and the Ferry Building in SF.) Drive leaders Jack Weir (our FSD Coordinator) and Mauna Wagner (our section Treasurer) were happy with such a good turnout on Super Bowl Sunday, although most could get home in time for the kickoff.



## Local Shops

### San Francisco



Pete's Inc., 1745 Clay Street, San Francisco, 415.441.5896

### Mid-Peninsula, San Mateo



MB Garage, 2165 Palm Ave., San Mateo

### South Bay, Campbell



Mercedes Connexion, 155 Kennedy Ave., Campbell

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