



the capital STAR

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The MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB of America • Sacramento Section Sep 2018

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Saturday, December 1st

2018 Schedule

October 20
Pheasant Club
Luncheon

November 10
President's Drive
Creighton Fong

December 1
Holiday Dinner
Don & Bobbie Wiesner

No-host bar at 6:00 with hors d'oeuvres

Dinner begins at 7 with complimentary wine on the table.

Entrée selections:

___Vodka Salmon

___Holiday Filet Mignon

___Cranberry Stuffed Chicken

___Gnocchi (vegetarian)

Includes salad, rolls, dessert Coffee and Tea

Checks shall be made out to MBCASAC in the amount of
\$75.00 per person.

Make your entrée selection on check.

Please mail check to Don Wiesner, our treasurer

2022 Jordan Hill Way

Gold River, CA 95670

Checks must be received by November 26th.

President's Message Creighton Fong

To: My Fellow Members

Since the beginning of the year, there has been an absence of Section information to our members through all means of communication; our Newsletter, our Website and Emails. Additionally, our Section has had only one 2018 Event which was held in January that was reported in The Star. This is changing immediately with this issue of our Newsletter and announcement of Events scheduled for the remainder of the year.

Our Section's Newsletter should be our most important means of communication between the Board and the Section's Membership. It is anticipated that additional Section announcements and information will soon be available on our Website and communicated to members through Email.

For this Newsletter, I want to introduce the current Board.; I'm Creighton Fong and with Nancy, my wife, have been members of the Sacramento Section for the last seven years and previously members of the San Francisco Section. My past involvement with Car Clubs and Classic Cars has been as President of the Jaguar Clubs in both San Francisco and Sacramento, a docent for the Blackhawk Auto Museum and involvement in many Car related events. In past Section driving events, we have driven our ML500, SLK350 or C230. I became your President in September upon the vacancy of the President's office.

Our Section's Treasurer is Don Wiesner who has been a Member of our section since 2013. Previously an owner of a SL550, his wife, Bobbie, now has the only Mercedes in their family – a GLC350. Don joined the Board as our Treasurer at the beginning of the year.

Additionally, our Region has a new Regional Director, Lance Taylor-Warren. Lance has been a member of our Section since 2009 along with being a member of the Reno Section in the past. (Lance also served as Regional Director in 2011.) He currently resides in Reno with his wife, Lori, and their C300.

By now, each of you should have received in the mail an invitation from Lance regarding a Hosted Luncheon on October 20. If you have not received the invitation, please contact Lance (775-722-3274 or ltaylorwarren@mac.com). The Club Pheasant restaurant will have a no-host bar available. This hosted luncheon will be jointly funded by our Section's Treasury, and in part subsidized with funds from MBCA.

The luncheon will begin with an introduction of Steve Ross, VP MBCA and possibly others from the MBCA National Board, Lance will continue and make a short presentation relating to MBCA, Section Clubs – their operations and the importance of being active by participating in Club events and involved in the operations of the Club. Comments and Questions/Answers will follow as time permits before lunch being served.

After lunch, our Director of Elections, Bill Brandt, will then introduce the candidates he has received nominations for our 2019 Board positions and will then accept nominations from the floor. We do need volunteers to step up and become candidates for these four positions of leadership within our Section. Any member can nominate themselves or nominate another member, however, please confirm with that person that they accept the nomination. Thanks Bill for spearheading our election process.

The following Officers are our Section's elected Officers:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer

Following is our Election Timetable:

Up to October 19 – Nominations for our 2019 Board received by our Director of Elections

Please either email Bill (bill@wlbrandt.com) or by mail with all nominations

October 20 - Announcement of Candidates at the Luncheon. Nominations will then be accepted from the floor. (Note: By precedent over the years, a quorum is not required for an election, so voting will take place at this luncheon unless an objection from a member is made.)

Continued on page 5



Tri Star Traffic By Dan

Hello Everyone,

At times it is good practice to revisit issues that continue conversation over time. The use of cell phones by drivers is always a topic that seems to generate such conversation. In essence, here is the nuts and bolts of the law. A person may not drive a motor vehicle while holding and operating a wireless personal communication device, such as a cell phone, unless that device is configured to be hands-free. The term hands-free is what it appears to be. No phone in the driver's hands whatsoever- not holding it down in front of them, off to the side, in the same hand as the steering wheel- just because it may not be up against an ear does not constitute hands-free. The cell phone must be in a carrier, such as a GPS unit might be. Then, and only then, a driver may swipe the screen with one finger- that's it.

The term operating is a critical element as well. Case law has referred to the term operating as any attempt or completion of an attempt to acquire or submit/input information. That pretty much covers any possible action that may be done with a cell phone- music, GPS, email, texting, checking the time, as a camera- anything.

Some of the funny excuses I receive from drivers who are caught using their cell phone; I was checking the time (while they were looking at it for 20 seconds), I was stopped at a light (Still driving! Driving does not imply movement), I was changing the music, I was using it as a GPS. All of these tasks take eyeballs off the road and to the screen. A lot could happen while looking at a cell phone. As an example, looking down for two seconds at 50mph is 150 feet of travel.

As always, if you have any questions about philosophies of enforcement or California laws, please submit your requests to the club's email address.

Thank you!

Dan

VonHousen.com
Sacramento | El Dorado Hills | Rocklin

MBCA Members get a 10% discount on Parts and/or Labor when you show us your membership card.

Your Link to MBCA & Sacramento Section

Each MBCA member upon joining is advised of how to access the websites for both MBCA National and your own Sacramento Section using your first name and last name, both with first letter capitalized as your default "user name". On the website, each member has a MBCA Profile where they can update information about themselves and/or Mercedes vehicles.

With your Profile address and email information, both National MBCA and your Sacramento Section have contact information for each member that can be mailings from National that includes the Star and from your Section including the Section Newsletter. If you have forgotten how to access the websites or need to verify or change information, following is a brief summary:

National Website – www.mbcas.org

Sacramento Website – www.sacramento.mbcas.org (access can also be accomplished through a link from the National Website)

To access to your Profile:

1. "Login" with either your "user name" or your MBCA registered email along with a password. If you forgot either, you can contact the MBCA office for assistance.
2. Once on the website, you can then "Edit Your Profile" for the following information:
 - a. Password
 - b. Mailing Address
 - c. Email Address
 - d. Photo – You can upload a photo; perhaps your picture or your Mercedes
 - e. Demographic and Other Information
 - f.

Please insure that your MBCA Profile is current as our Section may begin to use our Website and Email for Section communications in the future as information can get to you faster and will also save the Section money for postage. (If you want to remain getting Section information by USPS for any reason, please contact a Board member and it will be noted in the Section's membership files.)

**First Annual President's Drive
November 10, 2018**

Meeting Time: 9:45 a.m.
 Meeting Place: Peets Coffee, (Quarry Park)
 5550 Douglas Blvd., Suite D-110, Granite Bay
 Start your Engines: 10:00 a.m.
 Lunch Time: Around Noon (Roseville/Rocklin/Lincoln area)

This drive will be the inaugural Annual President's Year End Drive that will be our Seciton's final drive each year in November. The drive will be led by the current year's President and the drive will conclude with a casual lunch at a restaurant.

This year's drive will begin at the Peets Coffee in Granite Bay. Quarry Park, a new entertainment venue in Granite Bay has a lot of parking spaces.

I currently have three or four restaurants in the Roseville/Rocklin/Lincoln area which will be our lunch destination. The choice will be made a few days prior to this drive due to weather and possible road conditions.

Please email me (sacramentombz@gmail.com) and I will send the final driving directions to you by return email a few days prior to the drive or arrive by 9:45 a.m. the day of the drive at Peets Coffee in Granite Bay.

Mark this date on your calendar – Rain or Shine for an end of the year Section Drive!

Sacramento Section of Mercedes Benz Club of America (MBCA)

Report to the Board and Membership

Statement of Cash Flow as of August 31, 2018

(Bank of America - Gold River Branch Account)

January 26, 2018 - Cash Balance received from previous Section Board	\$ 10,978.76
Additions to Cash:	
March 21 Monies from MBCA	\$ 563.75
April 18 Monies from MBCA	<u>561.00</u>
Total Additions to Cash	1,124.75
Outflow of Cash (for expenses):	
Bill Brandt Holiday Party Expenses - Sutter Club	\$ 2,993.90
2017 Board Members Misc Section Expenses	<u>704.39</u>
Total Outflow of Cash	<u>3,698.29</u>
Cash Balance August 31, 2018	\$ 8,405.22

President's Message (Continued)

In addition to the above elected offices, the following voluntary positions/committees are needed by our Section immediately:

1. Webmaster (includes Section Emails)
2. Membership (includes Welcome and Sunshine)
3. Newsletter Editor (currently process of mailing done by an outside source; and can continue)
4. Historian
5. Social
6. Others as needed

(If anyone can step up NOW and assume any of these positions for the remainder of 2018 and also 2019, please contact me as soon as possible at sacramentombz@gmail.com, you do not have to wait for the luncheon meeting!)

Our Section has accomplished and enjoyed being together as a Club since 1966 with active members sharing a common appreciation of Mercedes vehicles. Through my conversations with National, Regional and previous Board Members following are what this Section should be doing as a Club again:

1. A minimum of a Quarterly Newsletter. In the interim, additional communication will be sent via email or updated on the website relative to our Section, Mercedes and/or MBCA, once a responsible person assumes this very important position in our Club.
2. Lunches and dinners; one being a gala holiday get together and one or more during the year, perhaps a Chinese New Year Banquet, a Spring or Summer Solstice Picnic or barbeque, Oktoberfest, or other themed holiday/seasonal social gatherings. Again, please see the announcement of our Gala Holiday Party on December 1 in this Newsletter.
3. One or more scheduled driving events each calendar quarter in addition to the resumption of our First Sunday Drives. A possible driving event that may include an overnigher to a coastal location to escape the Hot August Nights in the Sacramento area. Again, please see the announcement of our next scheduled drive, The First Annual President's Drive on Saturday, November 10.
4. Possibly a joint Regional Event with San Francisco and/or Reno Sections.

Maintaining a viable volunteer based viable organization with a shared interest (Mercedes vehicles) should not have to entail the work of only ONE or A FEW, but participation of many members working together as a team. Therefore, please consider and submit your name as a candidate for one of the four Board Positions or for one of the very important voluntary positions/committees - you will enjoy the fruits of your participation and appreciation of the Club's membership!

I would like to thank Bill Brandt for being our Guest Editor for this issue of our Newsletter and securing the venue for the October Luncheon and to our Treasurer, Don Wiesner and his wife Bobbie for arranging our Holiday Dinner. We have been working very hard over the last week to insure that there will be a Sacramento Section Event for each month remaining in 2018 for our members to participate and enjoy.

In closing, please again remember to:

1. Submit your RSVP, with menu selection to Lance for the Luncheon on October 20
2. Submitting your name as a candidate for our 2019 Board
3. Plan on joining our Inaugural President's Drive on November 10
4. Join us for our Gala Holiday Party on December 1

Regards and hope to see you at one/two/or all of our upcoming events – I will be there!

Creighton

Sacramento Section Members

I apologize for the rather ad hoc look of this newsletter. I used to produce (and write much) of the Club newsletter from 2000-2015. I used Adobe PageMaker which was obsolete even in the last years I made the newsletter. The printer in Portland didn't even want the Adobe file, so I exported it to .pdf.

Now on my new computer it won't even run, so I am producing this in Word 2010, of which I am not all that familiar. But I was asked to get this out. – **Bill Brandt**

Reply to a Letter to the Editor published in the September/October issue of The Star

For those that read in the Letters to the Editor section in the latest issue of The Star, I believed that a reply was warranted and wrote the following reply immediately to any and all. I trust that this reply will be published in the next Star, but wanted to share it now with our Sacramento Section Membership.

Additionally, I contacted both National and Regional asking if the Editor even advised them receipt of this letter, and that he would publish it – The Answer was **NO!** I then asked National to place this issue on the agenda for their next meeting as to the responsibility of the Editor to give the National Board a copy of any and all complaints, whether to be published or not for review and possible action. I believe in the First Amendment, however, if you are the Editor (and paid employee?) of an Organization, you should have the substance to know that some action needs to be done by National and Sectional about the issues raised, in this case by Mr. Nissari,, while also blindsiding the Section Club. If this were done, the possibility that this negative letter would not have been published.

Dear Mr. Nissari:

My name is Creighton Fong and on behalf of the Sacramento Section of MBCA apologize to you for the problems you endured in trying to become a member of our Section. There has been a lack of communication, not only externally, but internally within our Section with communication non-existent from the previous President and other Officers. Yes, we have not had a Newsletter, nor any postings to both our Website and Facebook page, for yes, again as correctly stated in your letter - For Over a Year! In fact, not even a "Welcome to our Section" has been sent from the Board to our new members which number almost 25 in 2018.

**

Both the Treasurer and I were just informed late last week that the President over this period had left our Section earlier in August. The Section is now under my leadership, albeit only for the last five days, until we hold our elections for the 2019 Board for which I have stated my candidacy to continue in the Office of President.

**

I have discussed The State of the Section with our new Regional Director and also others back at National Office. We expect to correct all the problems we have had over the past few years in due time, with the first item on my To Do List - "Begin lines of communication between the Officers and Membership". This includes resuming our Newsletter this month, having a lunch with our Sacramento membership also this month, acknowledging our new members on a monthly basis while also communicating by email to members. However, our Section's Facebook and Website will be dormant until we find someone that is knowledgeable to assume the responsibilities to maintain our internet presence with a target date of January 2019.

**

The problems you encountered gives me mixed feelings; glad that you are enjoying your membership in the San Francisco Section, but still upset that these external problems were not addressed by anyone and your frustration leading to your Letter to the Editor, which was your prerogative. I do know that your issue, and possibly other similar or different incidents were never advised to other leaders of the Sacramento Section as no one at the Regional or National were aware of any of the updated contacts for the Sacramento Section. Now that both Regional and National have our updated Officers and Contact List, this should rectify the issue and not being repeated in the future.

**

In closing, Mr. Nissari, I just want to remind you that a member from any MBCA Section can freely attend an event, driving or social, schedule by any other MBCA Section. Lou will again be getting our Newsletter so he can advise you and others in the San Francisco Section as to the Sacramento Section Events, and I invite you to drive an hour less and join us in 2019 for at least one of these Sacramento Section Events.

**

Regards,

Creighton Fong
President - MBCA Sacramento Section"

Welcome New Members

Christopher Lacy	Sacramento
Bruce Whtie	Sutter Creek
Thomas And Jacqueline Warriner	Davis
Annie Burns	El Dorado Hills
Nancy Paddon	Newcastle
Timothy Lyons	El Dorado Hills
Robert H. Graham	Gold River
Charles Weil	Auburn
Matt Corsaut	Rancho Murieta
Andre Lundback	Granite Bay
Bobbie McCaffrey	El Dorado Hills
Kerry Ruben	Rancho Cordova
Joel Stone	Sacramento
Donald Fraulob	Sacramento
Sarah Boudjakdji	Shingle Springs
Frederick Limbocker	Rocklin
Jon Durst	Woodland
Tom Hopkins	Placerville
Mark Ham	El Dorado Hills
Rene-John Otico	Vacaville
Anthony Funaro	Roseville
Dan Moore	Placerville
Marie Mitchell	El Dorado Hills

Order your MBCA name badge for \$10-\$11 at the club store in the Star Magazine

Please Note:

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