



# the STAR

The MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB of America • Sacramento Section December 2000

## Calendar Of Events

### December 2000

Christmas Party  
National Hotel - Nevada City, CA

### January 2000

Fones & Fajitas  
Roseville, CA

## Ask Al!

I am pleased to write that our new Question & Answer article is off to a flying start! I appreciate all of your questions, and due to limited space, will only be able to answer one question per Newsletter. Please keep those questions coming, since I'm "having fun" researching your answers!

Our first Question is from Herb C., regarding his '95 SL320.

**QUESTION:** What is the correct operating temperature/engine temperature at which the auxiliary fan(s) should turn on and off? What is the proper coolant temperature as shown on the dashboard gauge in town, and at sustained highway speeds?

**ANSWER:** In response to Herb C.'s question, regarding his '95 SL320. There are two different speeds of auxiliary fans on your vehicle. The low speed is run by your air conditioning system when you run your air conditioner and it all depends on the head pressure inside the system. The high-speed fan is controlled from the engine temperature, which usually will not come on until 110 degrees Celsius. The normal operating temperature is usually around the 100-degree mark with the air conditioner on, and around the 90-degree mark when cruising on the highway, with good airflow.

In response to the proper coolant temperature, most cars will show between 90 and 100 in town. In the summer, the engine dissipates the heat more slowly, particularly with the air conditioner on. The heat at idle can approach 110 to 120 degrees. As long as it is out of the "red zone", it is ok. Usage of Red Line's Water Wetter will help dissipate the heat. At sustained highway speeds, more airflow is going through the radiator, and the temperature will reflect more towards the thermostat's rating, about 80 degrees.

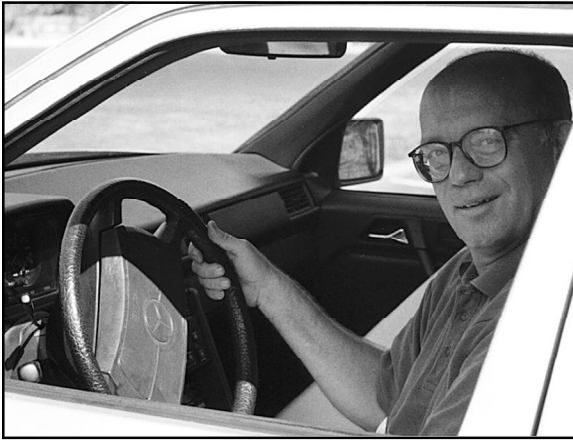
Enjoy your SL320, Herb!

-- Al

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Al Angeloni can be reached at [alrogangeloni@juno.com](mailto:alrogangeloni@juno.com).



# President's Message by: Bill Brandt

Francisco Section to the Hornet and it was a blast! Had a country and he could with a command make you or break you.

Hello for November! This issue will go out around December 1<sup>st</sup>, and with that we will be back on a normal schedule. Kevin and Gloria McKnight put on an Oktoberfest that was great! The pouring rain didn't "dampen" our spirits...Even Tom and Inga swam, er, drove all the way from Benecia.

The planning meeting is coming up – I will host an event either to the carrier Hornet or an overnight to San Simeon to see Hearst Castle. I went with the San

box lunch in the mess hall – tours of the engine room, bridge...

San Simeon has always fascinated me. At a time when many Americans were wondering where their next meal was coming from, W.R. Hearst built - tore down – and rebuilt an estate. If you were a politician, movie star or head of an industry and you got an invitation from "W.R." for the weekend, you knew you'd better show up. Hearst controlled 50 newspapers around the

One small correction about the Ironstone Vineyard trip The Taloffs and Reese's planned – Paul Taloff did a lot of planning and he wasn't given credit last issue...that was a wonderful trip!

Craig Griffith has done a lot of work on our website – at <http://www.mbca.org/sacramento> . We'll soon have a link to all of the region's sections – so you will be able to see all the activities...

*Bill*

## Contact Information for "the capitol STAR"

Submit articles to:  
Bill Brandt  
5910 Gloria Dr.  
Sacramento, CA 95822  
e-mail: wlb@lanset.com

Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month.

For changes to articles or ads:  
Chris Dudte  
(775) 673-1433  
e-mail: cdudte@ao.net

Deadline for changes to articles or ads is approximately the 26th of each month.

New article ideas:  
Bill Brandt  
5910 Gloria Dr.  
Sacramento, CA 95822  
e-mail: wlb@lanset.com

## **Sacramento Section Well Represented At Von Housen's Event**

First of all, I'd like to thank our members Ted & Elaine Bonnington, Norm & Jonni Scheel, Bob & Ginger Sanigar, and Ed Zander for generously displaying their cars. Von Housen called me and asked if some of our club members could show some "interesting" Mercedes – I assumed they didn't need my 300E!

The Bonningtons brought their beautifully restored 300SL roadster, the Sanigars brought their 280SL, the Scheel's had their 300SEL 6.3, and Ed brought both a 250SE Cabriolet and a 600 SWB. The cars were displayed in front of the dealership for the guests to admire as they went in.

Thanks to Phil Dusel for coordinating this!

I want you all to know how important I believe it is as your President to represent our Section in a dignified manner. I had on a nice blazer, gray slacks, Sulka silk tie... Have to say after about 2 hours of merriment and sampling wines someone kindly pointed out that my, ugh, fly was open. That reminds me of a time years ago when I lived in San Diego – I had a wonderful blue Italian suit, was feeling very superior as I passed all the proletariat in their jeans, and discovered a similar situation. Such experiences are probably necessary to bring back some humility....

Several women did compliment me on the suit, however....

Those of us who attended helped the Shriner's and Meals on Wheels.

--Bill



# **Von Housen Motors**

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# How To Plan A Section Event

Although there are some members who have planned far more than my 5 events I feel that I have done enough to offer some advice to those considering hosting an event for the first time.

I'll divide the types events into 4 categories – this is completely arbitrary. My categories are Restaurant, rally, competition events, and overnight trips.

- 1 Restaurant – all of my events but one have been restaurant outings. These are probably the easiest to plan. A few keys to success, based on trial and error are to (a) limit the menu choices to 3 – no more than 4 items. (b) Set one price to keep it simple, (c) Make that price the highest given the menu choices. Most restaurants will offer you a group menu – pick 3 or 4 and round up. While we occasionally make a few dollars on outings we don't want to lose money. (d) Make sure you include the tax and gratuity in the price! Most of the restaurants will state that 15% or 20% will be added to the bill. I am looking at the fax a restaurant in Grass Valley sent me – nicely organized by meal choice, base price, tax and gratuity. Most restaurants don't do this – you have to figure it out. Give your restaurant contact a count and meal selection at least a week before the event. One more thought on restaurants – be sure to post meeting times, your address and phone number. People will send their checks, made out to MBCA – Sacramento Section to you. Hold the checks and give them to the treasurer the day of the event. You will also get the inevitable stragglers who call you after your deadline wanting to know if they can come after you have made all the arrangements. This is a judgement call on your part – you set the rules so you decide. Since you usually include a restaurant with the other types of events this advice can be used for almost all types of events.
- 2 Rally – Some of my best times were rallies – A rally doesn't have to be a timed rally – it can be a “poker run” like the Kielichs just had, or a stop where you answer questions like Julie Flagg's rally last year. Whatever type of rally you plan, I would recommend giving boundary's – warnings – that if they've gotten this far you missed the stop or turnoff. There's a story circulating that one member was almost in Reno before realizing he missed the Truckee turnoff!
- 3 Competitions – How many of you have taken your car on an autocross? Think of a ski slalom with cones as gates instead of poles. You might become hooked! While planning an autocross from the ground up may seem daunting, the SCCA has brought events here through the summer. For \$25 - \$20 if you are an SCCA member, you can take your car though the course. You get the best time of 3 runs. With the SCCA you also will work as a course worker when you are not driving. On the events I have attended they have even provided safety helmets if you need one. Although you rarely go faster than 40 MPH you will be surprised at what you learn in controlling a car as you slide though the gates.
- 4 Overnight trips – You can combine anything to get an overnight trip. This can be something as simple as a trip to a hotel, or a “mystery” trip combining overnight stays, tours and anything else! One thing I learned on my Virginia City Trip – Trying to anticipate how many will come is almost impossible – and the hotel I'd planned on had 30 rooms until 2 weeks before the event – then it was sold out! My personal feeling if you want to try an overnight is to offer an “official” hotel – then offer some alternatives in various price ranges. My opinion only – but I will say with the Carson City area celebrating “Comstock Days” all I could rely on was the Ormsby House – they were nice rooms and at \$60-\$80 were in most people's budgets.

To insure a good turn out you should publicize this in our newsletter at least 2 issues before the event. You write the text for our newsletter. Don't try to please everyone – plan something that YOU want. A day trip and hike up Mt Tamalpais? A trip to Ft Churchill? Scenic drive and lunch at a Basque restaurant? An autocross? Rally? The choice is yours. As President I have been told that “I wish we had more..... events”. I believe that those who volunteer and take some of their time to make an enjoyable day – can plan what they want. So what's the pay off in all this? Most people who haven't planned an event do not realize the work that goes into it. At the Ironstone winery last week – Sandra Reese and Barbara Taloff's great event – Sandra told me they made 2 or 3 trips up there before we went. I made 2 trips to Virginia City. The only payoff you will get is seeing your members have a good time.

--Bill Brandt

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## January Event - Fones & Fajitas

Saturday, January 20, 2001, 10:00 A.M.

### Magnetos to Fiber Optics: 100 Years of Telephone History

One of the best-kept secrets in Northern California is the Roseville Telephone Company museum, considered by many to be one of the finest collections of antique telephones and telephone memorabilia in the country.

The collection offers visitors a dazzling display of telephones dating from the turn of the century through today's technology. The guided tour features a working switchboard demonstration and a hands-on step-by-step dial switching display. For the true technical buffs there is even an “outside plant” display depicting line construction equipment and a cutaway of a typical underground cable vault.

From the first telephone in 1876 to early switchboards and a generous array of wall, candlestick, and multi-colored novelty telephones, history buffs and people of all ages are treated to an entertaining, memory jogging, and educational tour through telephone history. More than 200 candlestick telephones, 100 early wall telephones, colorful antique line insulators and early telephone booths are just some of the items on display. For a special treat, try your hand at making a call on the magneto switchboard actually used by Roseville Telephone in 1914.

We will meet at 10:00 AM at the museum at 106 Vernon Street in downtown Roseville. Parking adjoins the museum. Vernon is the main street in downtown Roseville. From I80 East, take the Atlantic exit, Atlantic becomes Vernon. From I80 West, take Riverside, north over the freeway, Riverside becomes Vernon.

After the tour we will do a mini-rallye to Cabo's Mexican Restaurant in Granite Bay for their famous Fajita Buffet which includes Chicken, steak, beans, rice, guacamole, sour cream, tortillas, chips & salsa plus coffee, soda, tea & water. (Margaritas, etc., are pay as you go.) And we will do all of this for a miserly \$16.75 per person. **Questions? - 916/933-2185**

### Reservation Slip – Fones & Fajitas

January 20, 2001

Deadline in our hands: January 15<sup>th</sup>

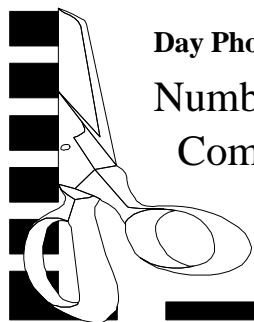
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Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of persons \_\_\_\_\_ x \$17 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed.

Complete this slip, Make a check for the total amount to “Mercedes-Benz Club – Sacramento” and mail to;

**John DuPriest, PO Box 121, Penryn, CA 95663**



## Join MBCA

To join the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, call the MBCA National Business Office at (800) 637-2360 and use your VISA or MasterCard. Membership dues are \$45 annually. The dues include six issues of "The STAR" each year, plus your local section's newsletter (like this one). To pay by mail, make your check payable to MBCA, and mail it along with your name, spouse's name, address and telephone numbers and occupations to:

**Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc.  
National Business Office  
1907 Lelaray Street  
Colorado Springs, CO 80909**

Or, ask a member for an application. You can also join by visiting MBCA on the Web:

<http://www.mbca.org>

Also, check out our local web site:

<http://www.mbca.org/sacramento>

## Welcome New Members

John Braun  
Paul Kelly  
- Reno, NV

Paula & Richard Fox  
- Sacramento, CA

Patricia & Donald Glenn  
- Incline Village, NV

William Gravert  
- Sacramento, CA

Krissy & Ken Peevers  
- Fallon, NV

**Order your MBCA name badge at the club store**

## Mercedes-Benz Club of America

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### MBCA Western Region

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## Mercedes Mart

This column is for members to buy or sell a personal car. The vehicle must be a Mercedes. Neither the club nor the editor make any representations whatsoever. This is strictly a service. Prospective purchasers are cautioned to investigate the offering thoroughly. We reserve the right to edit copy, including the right to limit ads to 30 words or less. Ads are free to members in good standing, \$10 to non-members. Send a copy of your ad, including your name and phone number to: Chris Dudte, 6375 Saginaw Ct., Sun Valley, NV 89433 or e-mail: cdudte@ao.net



1956 190SL Red/blk leather seats, black conv. top, orig. wheels. Garaged at Tahoe, dry driving only. Very good cond. I've owned the car for 12 years, and the odometer reads 41,000. \$22.5 k

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**Doug Hernandez (707)451-0668**



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*the capitol*

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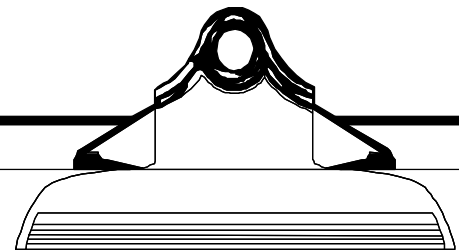


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Please send address changes directly to:

MBCA  
1907 Lelaray St.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80909-2872

Or Call: 1-800-637-2360

**We cannot make changes locally!**