



# *Der Drei-Eck Wanderer*



*MBCA Central Coast Section*

*Incorporated July 14, 1982*

*April-May 2017 Edition*

<https://centralcoast.mbca.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ccmbca/>

<https://www.mbca.org/upcoming-events>

*Have a Great Spring Season!*

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## **New & Renewed Members**



*Please Welcome:* **Anthony Micale 3/20/2017**

**Susan Osborne 3/20/2017**



**Renewals:**

**Fred Beaton Gary Flanagan Phil Keys Richard Woodland**

**"Thank You for Being a Member of MBCA Central Coast Section!"**

## Concours Judging School - May 2017

by Richard Simonds,  
Concours d'Elegance Judging School Instructor

**When:** Saturday, May 20, 2014, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

**Where:** Grant Park, 1575 Holt Ave, Los Altos

**Cost:** \$25 per person for judging supplies and  
afternoon snacks

Members who appreciate the fine design and excellent engineering of an automobile are invited to attend an MBCA Judging School offered in Los Altos. This school will provide you with the latest details about how we judge our Mercedes-Benz vehicles in an MBCA car show. Whether you are a judge who has already been trained and want a refresher course or are interested in becoming a judge for the first time, this course will prepare you to judge classic (show class) and contemporary (street class) Mercedes-Benz vehicles.

A SPECIAL NOTE TO FIRST TIME JUDGES: We will coach you, support you, and assign you to work with experienced judges while you build your own skills. This will let you experience the joy of assessing the cleanliness, condition, and originality of fine Mercedes-Benz vehicles. It's not all "technical" either, as we judge interiors and exteriors in addition to the engine and chassis.



So, you can participate without being a "gearhead." In other words, women and non-technical men are very much invited to join us. We also have fun as a team working together and we help other members learn what they can do to improve their own Mercedes-Benz automobile for the next car show.

There is one big MBCA Concours d'Elegance coming up this summer: Legends of the Autobahn in Monterey (August 18, 2017). Trained judges are invited to judge at this show and any others where Mercedes-Benz is the featured marque and MBCA provides the judges.

At our judging school we first get information about judging (PowerPoint presentation and Judge's Guide), then we practice judging, and finally we gather back in the training room to discuss the experience, ask questions, and fine-tune our understandings about being a judge.

We fit snacks into that whole experience, too.

[Register Here](#)



**Morro Bay**



**Santa Ynez**



**Paso Robles**

*Just a small sampling of the beauty our Central Coast Section includes!*

## **Central Coast Section Annual Picture Rally!**



**May 13, 2017 - 10am Check-In**

**Rally will begin at Alfano Motorcars in San Luis Obispo**

**Mark the Date! RSVP to Brian & Jami Wampler by May 5th!**

**Final Destination: Paso Robles Inn - INCLUDES Lunch & Prizes!**

Cost: \$65.00 per 2-Person Team, \$30.00 per additional person.

**Minimum of two person teams! (Driver & Navigator)**

**Mail Check to: "MBCA Central Coast" 1108 Fletcher Ave, CA 93401**

### **What is a "Picture Rally"?**

About 6-7 years ago, Gary Grunwald, one of our section's cherished members, suggested a 'Picture Rally' be planned during our annual meeting and also offered to host one for the first time. Since that very first Central Coast Picture Rally, the event has grown to become arguably the most attended event each year! In recent years, we've had over 20 vehicles participate!

Picture Rally participants RSVP in-advance of the rally date and arrive before the designated check-in time at the starting location. Every participant is required to sign the standard MBCA liability waiver before receiving a rally packet (even non-drivers). Each vehicle must have *at least* a two person team; one to safely & legally operate the vehicle, the other to read, follow, and make notes in the rally packet.

The rally packet contains a sequential series of driving instructions and pictures of signs along the prescribed course. The route may travel a mixture of back roads, highways, and freeways - you just never know! Don't worry about the course getting too far "out there", as we always plan a route avoiding gravel roads and "off roading" (after all, some of us have SL's!).

The twist with this rally comes with the pictures. The images in the rally packet were taken along the route - and then modified to remove information! So, besides needing to keep your eyes open and locate the roadside feature, participants need to closely examine the picture in their rally packet in comparison to the real scene! **\*\*\* Meal Included! An entry form can be found at the bottom of page #9 \*\*\***



## President's Message

*Well, we just signed our income tax so it's ready to be sent off. We get a little back, not a lot. But it makes me think we should buy a new car. I'm right in the demographics wanting a gas-powered, Mercedes Crossover. 43% of persons are loyal to a specific car brand they previously purchased, 94% want a gasoline powertrain, 33.9% want a Crossover, and Mercedes-Benz is the best-selling premium brand so far in 2017. I know my husband will say our two old cars (7 and 20 years old) are good enough, and I guess a lot of people would agree as the average age of passenger vehicles (253 million cars and trucks) on U.S. roads is 11.4 years. But I say that new car smell is like ambrosia to me and worth every penny of the average price of a new vehicle of \$35,309 (Kelley Blue Book).*

*I started to wonder how many other people get that urge to buy a car this month so investigated the number of car registrations per month for the last eleven years and ranked the top month a one and the bottom month a twelve.*

*Just as I do, 88% use the internet as an information source for vehicle shopping in 2016 (24% use referrals.) And like 48% of buyers, I would spend 1 – 3 months before I made a final decision on what to buy. So, that potentially puts me registering my new car in May, June or July, which coincidentally seems to be right when everyone else is buying a car. I'm starting to feel very Charlie Brown. And what's up with those people buying all those cars in March? Maybe they are all from the cold regions where they suffered with their old car in the ice and snow. Or maybe their parents gave them a big IOU Christmas present? I thought from TV commercials that husbands gave their wives a new car all wrapped up in a big, red bow but it doesn't look that way. October, November, and January are very down months. And dealers give big incentives in December – (free bows?), if you buy one that month to make those year-end numbers go up.*

*So, what would convince my very thrifty husband to buy a new car? First, I'd have to make the car buying experience fun. The most painful parts of the car buying experience is reported as: negotiating with a dealer 38%; signing loan papers 13%; figuring out what is affordable 11%; and negotiating for finance 6%. Most car buyers (70%) would give up at least one of these things for a week to avoid negotiations: social media 42%; dessert 42%; coffee 38%; smartphone 18%; and would even give up bathing 8%. He might be in the majority who want their entire car-buying process online, including financing, price negotiation, back office paperwork and home delivery. But, since he's not shy, and has no problem talking to people, and loves the local car dealerships he might fall into that 17% that like the current car buying process just as it is.*

*Maybe I could appeal to his sense of patriotism. Auto manufacturing drives \$953 billion into the economy each year through the sales and servicing of autos which flows through the economy, from revenue to parts suppliers to paychecks for assembly plant workers, from income for auto-related small business to revenue for government. Automobiles represent the largest manufacturing industry in the U.S., and no other industry generates more business across so many industry sectors. Jobs related to the auto industry go far beyond designing, building, and selling vehicles. America's automakers are among the largest purchasers of aluminum, copper, iron, plastics, rubber, textiles, steel, computer chips and more. We definitely like to help the unemployed out.*

### DIRECT & INDIRECT JOBS



*Hummm, all I need to do now is decide on the color. Researchers say car colors most associated with luxury is black, family is blue, fun is red. I wonder what silver means? ~Yvonne*

## Contact Us!

**President:**

Yvonne Lazear (805) 771-8587

**Vice President:**

Gene Kruger (805) 544-2002

**Secretary:**

Sally Kruger (805) 544-2002

**Treasurer:**

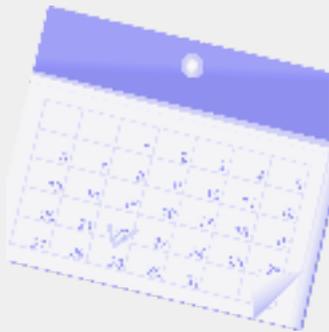
Eileen Blair (805) 489-9171

**Newsletter:**

Brian Wampler (805) 704-0950



**Save  
These  
Dates!**



**Come  
Join  
Us!**

## Upcoming Events Calendar

**\*Cancelled\***

Peterson's Auto Museum in Los Angeles

**May 13, 2017**

**Picture Rally - Central Coast Section**

Contact: [Brian & Jami Wampler](#) (805) 704-0950

***No 2017 Regional Events Listed at Publication***

***To host or suggest an event, please contact***

***Rich Leamon, our Activities Chairperson.***

***(805) 771-8587***



**The Blairs**  
**1st Place!**



**Sherry & Bob**  
**1st Event!**



**Gerhard and Isolde**  
**Most Accurate Distance!**

## **Member Appreciation Rallye and Luncheon**



### **~Event Report~**

February 11, 2017

Ten couples plus a Blair daughter met at a Starbucks in Santa Maria to execute another one of Rich Leamon's famous winding road rallyes. This time we were treated to a lovely rain-free drive through Tepusquet Canyon and back into civilization via Highway 166. The rally was challenging but fun, and the winners with 100% correct answers were the Blair Blasters! (Note: they had a third person in the car to help!) For their efforts, they bagged a bottle of Edna Valley Chardonnay. The Speed-Demon Nohr's, who completed the rally in record time (maybe they knew the bar was open???), came in second place. The Grunwald Gladiators cleared our way by crushing a sandstone boulder washed onto Tepusquet Rd by the recent rains.

The correct distance was 60.8 miles for the rallye and was most accurately measured by Gerhard & Isolde Ferhmann, who came up from the Los Angeles area specifically for this event. They also received a nice bottle of Tobin James' vino for their efforts.

We all arrived at the Sea Venture restaurant in time for a lovely 3 course lunch; Caesar salad, choice of top sirloin steak or crab cake (both with yummy mashed potatoes), and chocolate cake with raspberry sauce.

We were pleased to welcome members Bob and Shirley Budke from Nipomo to their first MB event.

They also won the 50/50 Raffle – beginner's luck!

*~Rich & Yvonne*

PS: We are still not sure what Tepusquet means? Does anyone know?

**Cass Winery Tour  
Event Pictures  
March 11, 2017**



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# Central Coast Section Business



**[NEW! MBCA Event Reporting Guidelines!](#)**

**[Release of Liability Form \(Group B\)](#)**

## ***Event Hosts!***

**Please read and print the above forms!**  
**Please contact our [Activities Chairperson](#)**  
**If you need assistance hosting an event.**

***Members,***  
***Please read and review our Annual Corporate and Planning Meeting Minutes. Contact [President Yvonne](#) if you should have any questions.***



## **[October 2016 Planning Meeting Minutes](#)**

### **Remaining 2017 Section Events**

- May 13 - Picture rally - Brian & Jami Wampler
- August - Pebble Beach Concours is Aug 13-2
- September 23 - Oktoberfest- Gary Grunwald
- October 28 - Planning meeting - Bob and Eileen Blair
- December 17th - Christmas party - Keys & Alfano

***What event would you like to plan or host for your club?***  
***All section events are made possible by our members participating!***

## WE NEED A NEW REGIONAL DIRECTOR

By Allen Wrenn - MBCA Western Region Director

How about putting your name in the running for the position of Western Regional Director? I have been Regional Director for almost six years. That means I will "term out" this year, as RDs are limited to serving three consecutive two-year terms. I hope some eager member will step up to take over the duties I have enjoyed fulfilling.

Some members have asked me what a RD does, and what are their duties. There are specific duties, but the work of the position is mostly what the incumbent wants it to be. Among the things a RD is supposed to do is visit the various Sections and take part in their activities. That has been the fun part of the job for me. I always like to participate with my home Section of Sacramento, but it has always been fun to drive to Fresno, or San Luis Obispo, or Reno, or to the San Francisco area to take part in the drives and other events those Sections have held. It is a little more difficult to get to Hawaii, but I have enjoyed visiting that Section also.

One really great thing about visiting those other Sections has been the opportunity to meet more of the MBCA members. Our club has some really interesting individuals amongst its members, some from whom I have learned a lot about our Mercedes-Benz autos.

A Regional Director does incur some expenses, but those are reimbursed by the National Club. There is a simple process of submitting a reimbursement request and a check is sent shortly after the submittal.

Regional Directors are elected by the members in their respective Regions as part of the National Election process. The first step toward becoming a candidate is to obtain a Nomination Petition and have it signed by at least five Active Members. And the candidate must also sign it as an indication they will accept the position. The Petition must be sent to the National Business Office by May 15. The NBO will take it from there, with the nominee's name being included on the ballot, with voting to begin in September.

If this has stirred your interest in serving in the RD position, and if you want more information, please contact me. My phone number and email address are included in the Section Guide portion of each issue of The Star. I will also be available to the new RD to assist in getting them up to speed in taking over their duties.

~ Allen Wrenn

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### 2017 MBCA Central Coast Section Picture Rally Entry Form

Driver \_\_\_\_\_ Navigator \_\_\_\_\_ = \$65.00  
Additional Person per Vehicle (@ \$30.00 per) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$30.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
Total RSVP Payment = \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Check Payable to: MBCA Central Coast**  
**Mail to: 1108 Fletcher Ave, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401**

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