



# Der Drei-Eck Wanderer

MBCA Central Coast Section Newsletter  
Website: <http://www.mbca.org/section/central-coast>  
And <http://centralcoast.mbca.org>

May 2016

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**MEMBERSHIP NEWS:**  
Please welcome these  
MBCA members who have  
joined us recently!

**Gordon & Marilyn Capel**  
**David & Laura Miller**  
**Bob & Marina Yeager**

	Page
<i>President's Message</i>	1
<i>2016 Calendar of Events</i>	2
<i>Coming: May 20-22, Southwest Regional Solvang Event</i>	3
<i>Coming: July 16, Picture Rally</i>	4
<i>Past: May 20-22, Southwest Regional Solvang Event</i>	
<i>Past: March 19, Caravan &amp; Justin Wine Tasting</i>	5
<i>Past: April 16, Tour of Mercedes-Benz Long Beach Vehicle Preparation Center</i>	6
<b>NATIONAL NEWS &amp; Member Recommendation</b>	7

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — Yvonne Lazear

### Greetings CC Benzers!

While we were touring the Mercedes-Benz Vehicle Preparation Center in Long Beach this month, I was especially intrigued with seeing the new Mercedes that hadn't been released yet. After all, you can see the concept cars at car shows, but how many of them will actually be released looking remotely like they are shown? These new cars at the Prep Center that are scheduled for release will look exactly like what we are seeing. While we couldn't take pictures, we could sit in the seats, play with the knobs, and pretend that we were new owners! And best of all they had that new car smell which can't be bottled. The only comparable smell is vanilla extract, of which I take a whiff every time I make cookies. I can tell you that if you buy one of these new cars, you WILL have to read the owner's manual to figure out the controls, unless they give a class like the Apple computer people do.



But what impressed me the most was how the more knowledgeable persons rattled off the class nomenclatures and engine characteristics. It was all great, until later, after I was home, my oldest son asked me about the new van that Mercedes was building. "What? You mean the Geländewagen off-road vehicle?"

"No, Mom, the one that looks like a Nissan Cargo van, you know, like my car named Ned?"

Oh, no, Twilight Zone. When the kids were little, somehow, because I had "Engineer" in my job title, they thought I could engineer their computers and game systems. Every time something broke, they would look at me with big eyes, hoping that I could hook-up/fix whatever was disconnected/broken. Because of those expectations, I ended up being the chief repair person for years! I spent hours keeping four or more computers working, and Sony PlayStations, Nintendo's, and other game systems hooked up, to more and more sophisticated television sets. Now, because I'm the President of the Mercedes club, am I expected to know about Mercedes cars? Well, I can see the logic of it, and probably knowing a little bit about them wouldn't hurt.

So, I start investigating the class nomenclature and I found that greater minds than mine are confused about the distinction of E vs S vs CLS class. I found there are rules before 1970, after 1970 and before 1994, after 1994, and the present. It looks like a lot of investigation is required to figure the ins and outs of that. So I thought, ok, we'll start slow, with logos. I like those; nice, simple, and pretty. According to Wikipedia these are the logos:

Hey, remember, I'm retired! And oh, by the way, the name of the new Mercedes van is Metris. My son looked it up himself.



1902-1909 1909-1916 1916-1926 1926-current 1980-current 1990-current

# 2016 Calendar of Events

**May 20-22 Southwest Regional Solvang Event**

**July 16, Picture Rally**

**Memo: Aug 19, Legends of the Autobahn & Aug 21 Pebble Beach Concours**

**August 27, Mullin Automotive Museum (Oxnard, CA)**

**September 24, Oktoberfest**

**October 29, Pumpkin Pursuit**

**November 12, Business and 2017 Planning Meeting**

**December 4, Holiday Party**

Dates and Events are Subject to Change

## Advertise in our Newsletter!

- Business Card Size Ad: \$25 per year for members
- Quarter Page Ad: \$50 per year for members
- Half Page Ad: \$100 per year for members
- Full Page Ad: \$200 per year for members
- Non-members are charged twice the member rate

**Contact Tracy Del Rio to arrange!  
805-801-9476**



**Enjoy**  
**EURO-DELI MARKET**  
1436 E. GRAND AVE. ARROYO GRANDE CALIFORNIA, 93420  
**805-481-1998**

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**COMING: May 20-22 Southwest Regional Solvang Event**

**Not too late!!!! Mercedes Benz Club of America  
Southwest Regional Event  
May 20-22, 2016**

Hosted by the Channel Islands & Long Beach Sections

Join us in the Solvang Valley north of Santa Barbara, Ca. for a fun-filled weekend.

Bring your Mercedes Benz to enjoy the spectacular scenery this area has to offer.

Host Hotel: Anderson Inn, 51 East Highway 246, Buellton, CA 93427

Participants will meet at 9:00 am Saturday morning in the hotel lobby for a detailed itinerary.

**Highlights include:**

- Welcome reception Friday evening
- Rally through the picturesque wine region
- People’s choice Concours D’Elegance with catered BBQ lunch at a winery
- Banquet dinner at a local restaurant
- Awards for Rally and Concours winners
- Raffle drawing with prizes
- Private tour of Mendenhall’s Museum of Petroliana and Gasoline Pumps
- Commemorative wine glasses

**This weekend also has free time to visit the following nearby attractions:**

- 2 California missions
- Chumash Indian Casino
- Shopping in the Danish village of Solvang
- Santa Barbara Riviera



	Friday & Saturday Night Lodging	Saturday Night Only Lodging	Without Lodging
2 Participants	\$495.00	\$360.00	\$225.00
1 Participant	\$390.00	\$255.00	\$120.00

**Rooms are filled, but you can still register for the event without lodging**

For any questions contact Gerhard Fehrmann at fehrmannranch@msn.com or 714-425-1036

Solvang Southwest Regional Event  
May 20-22, 2016

Name(s) registering: \_\_\_\_\_ Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Day/Night Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to **MBCA** and mail to:  
MBCA, P.O. Box 30132, Long Beach, CA 90853

**COMING: July 16, Picture Rally: **RSVP by 6/12****

**MBCA – Central Coast Section  
PICTURE RALLY AND LUNCH  
Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30AM**

We will meet in the parking area of the **Willows Restaurant in Nipomo** (From either the North or South on Route 101, take the Willow exit in Nipomo and head west. After crossing Pomeroy (stop sign), the Willows Restaurant is immediately on the right side.)

The Rally Masters, Gary Grunwald, and Connie Bellis, will go over the rally details and route to our destination: the Grunwald residence at 560 Tejas Place in Nipomo, where we will enjoy refreshments, lunch and lots of conversation.

The rally route will take us through Guadalupe, Old Orcutt, New Orcutt, part of the Santa Maria oil fields and production, Sisquoc, the agriculture side of Santa Maria, winding up in Nipomo. On the way, we will identify captions on pictures appearing on both sides of the road. The winner will receive a prize.

We have done this type of rally a number of times. It is relaxing, with no stress, to be enjoyed by everyone; especially if you bring your children, grandchildren, or guests. No one has ever gotten lost or quit the rally!

**Please fill out the Reservation Slip  
and respond by July 12<sup>th</sup>**

Reservation Slip.....Picture Rally and Lunch..... 16 July, 2016 @ 10:30AM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost per person: \$15    Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_    Total \$ Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Payable to: G.J. Grunwald

Send to: Gary Grunwald  
560 Tejas Place  
Nipomo, CA 93444

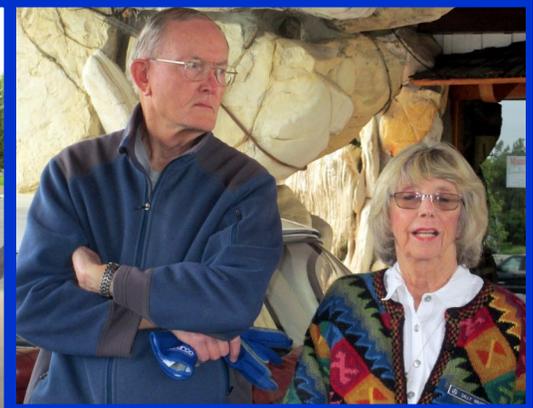
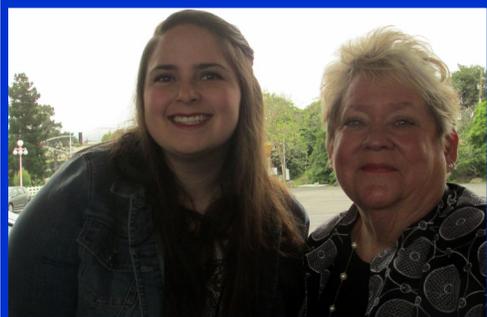
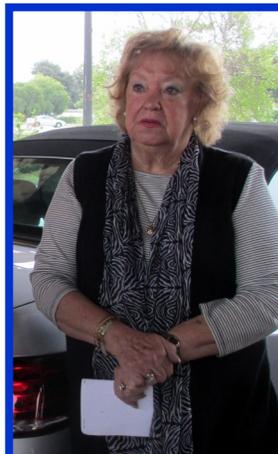
Respond by: July 12, 2006  
For Questions, call:  
805-929-2414

# Past: March 19, Caravan & Justin Wine Tasting— Rich Leamon

Our MBCA Central Coast delegation was received March 19th at the Justin Vineyards Chateau by Justin’s Sommelier, Megan Bauer who had just achieved a Level Two Sommelier Certification. Kudos, Megan. Organizers, Rich Leamon & Yvonne Lazear, led a caravan from the Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo via scenic Turri and Old Creek Road to Justin’s Vineyards. Used only for special private events, the Chateau was made available to Rich & Yvonne who are Justin Wine Society ISOSCELES Reserve members. After

meeting Megan, and touring the Chateau, we were shown to the living room to taste the wines selected for us. These included two 2009 and 2010 ISOSCELES Reserve library selections. Megan surprised us by offering a few bottles of these rare exclusive wines to us for sale. Megan’s excellent lecture, and the resulting discussion kept us enthralled until 1:30 pm. After posing our MB’s for a Chateau photo opportunity, we moved to the public tasting room building, that

houses *The Restaurant* at Justin’s, for lunch.



## Past: April 16, Tour of Mercedes-Benz Long Beach Vehicle Preparation Center

Organizers, Charlie & Audrey Alfano, hosted our private tour to the Mercedes-Benz Long Beach Vehicle Preparation Center (VPC) on April 16. We were joined by Western Region Director, Allen Wrenn, and representatives from the Long Beach, San Diego, and Phoenix Sections. Opened November 17, 2015, this impressive facility is over a million square feet on 52.2 acres adjacent to Long Beach airport, which was formerly the historic Douglas aircraft factory. Built to house the Douglas Aircraft commercial jet production operation the facility is home to the historical significant "Fly DC Jets" sign, a familiar sight near the Long Beach Airport for 56 years.

The VPC serves as the first stop from the Port of Long Beach – after U.S. customs- for new vehicles that are destined for dealerships throughout the United States. They are brought over in ships in batches of 750-1500 on each trip from Germany. First they process cars that are already sold, then handle the dealer inventory cars. The average number of cars trucked out is 300 per day.

Mercedes cars are unloaded from dock trucks and temporarily stored in outside parking lot; every car is assigned a numbered space so they know where they are located. All cars then go through an incoming inspection where cars are checked for damage, owner's manuals and first aid kits are inserted, navigation systems and special accessories are installed, and recall repairs are performed. Cars are routed to the appropriate areas of the facility for repair, if required, as they have a full body shop. When the car is in perfect condition, it goes into a holding bay at the north end of the facility for loading on a transport. The objective for processing Priority One (already sold) cars is 10 days. The VPC also prepares special event cars, and there were several in process during our tour.

Our tour guides were even more impressive than the mammoth facility. Lead by Hector



Mercedes-Benz USA West Coast Campus  
Long Beach, California



## Past: April 16, Tour Cont.

Villegas, the Center Manager, along with his three managers, led us through the stages of the preparation process with detailed explanations, resulting in an excellent tour. At the end of the tour, we viewed the following new cars: S65 Coupe; G63; GLE63 Coupe; a yet to be released S Cabriolet (which is better looking than the Bentley coupe or convertible,) and even an S600 Maybach in their lobby. Thanks goes to Charlie and Audrey for arranging for this crew to give us such an excellent tour on their own time. All in all, the Mercedes Benz dedication to quality and professionalism was very impressive.

After the tour that day, we retired to nearby five star Delius Restaurant for lunch.

Several of us took advantage of the trip to Los Angeles to tour the newly-remodeled Petersen Auto Museum and the M-B Classic Center in Irvine the next day. Rich Leamon arranged a tour of the famed Petersen "Vault" and following that, dinner at the LA County Museum of Art Restaurant. Rich reports that the Classic Center has a fully-restored 1956 300 Sc Coupe W188 for sale at \$685,000; a steal for any potential buyer.



## NATIONAL NEWS

### Spring 2016 Raffle for 2016 Airstream Interstate + \$20K Cash

Each ticket to win is \$50, Total raffle prize value: \$178,286.

Ticket sales end June 1, 2016

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



### LEGENDS OF THE AUTOBAHN

AUGUST 19 2016

### NICKLAUS CLUB-MONTEREY

<http://www.legendsoftheautobahn.org/>



### August 3-6, StarFest 2016 in New England

**National Event Hosted by Minuteman**—StarFest will take place in Connecticut's "Quiet Corner" with lush Green Valleys and picturesque Hilltop Farms. From the seashore near the host hotel, Mohegan Sun, to the lush greenery near the host track, the two linked by a short trip on I-395. **Registration is open at:** <https://starfest2016.mbca.org/registration>



**Member Recommendation:**

**Check out this four part  
history of Mercedes!!!!**

[https://www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=CJEE8JbzN8U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJEE8JbzN8U)

**Coming!! Central Coast Events**

Southwest Regional Solvang  
Event  
May 20-22



Picture Rally and Lunch  
July 16

