



Der Drei-Eck Wanderer



June 2018 Newsletter

MBCA Central Coast Section

Incorporated July 14, 1982

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

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

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New & Renewed Members

*Please Welcome: **Dave @ Quantum Digital,
William Owen***

*Renewals: **Marshall Granger, Scott Grundfor,
Doug Klapstein, Marcia Stanger***

2018 Events

- June 30** Tour of Gary Grundfor's restoration shop and lunch at Kynsi Winery
- Aug. 11** The Great American Melodrama & Vaudeville In Oceano
- Aug. 20-Sep. 6** Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance (not a club event)
- Sept. 29** Oktoberfest hosted by the Pescadores
- Oct. 27** Annual Meeting and Planning Meeting
- Dec. 2 or 9** Christmas Party

Order your MBCA Name Badge



\$10 each

LOG IN FIRST, THEN
www.mbca.org/product/name-badge or call the MBCA office at
(800) 637-2360

Volunteer Needed

We need an Advertising Chairperson to solicit advertising for this newsletter.

A Message from the Editor

Please contact me if you have any input or corrections for the newsletter. The next newsletter will be September, 2018.

Change of Address

Please send change of email and/or mailing addresses or telephone number to the editor.

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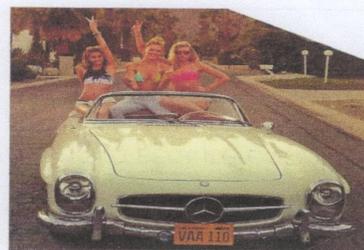


MBCA Central Coast Section
Tour of Scott Grundfor's Restoration Facility
& Picnic Lunch at Kynsi Winery
June 30, 2018 – 10:30 am

The Day will start at 10:30 am at Scott Grundfor's Restoration Facility located at 2265 Cattle Run Lane, Arroyo Grande. Scott's roots go back to the 1970's when he owned his first, much larger restoration facility in Los Angeles with dozens of employees. Scott's restoration efforts set very high standards with many significant cars in his portfolio. Many of his cars have appeared at Pebble Beach Concours d' Elegance where Scott has served as a judge since 1989. Scott now lords over a smaller, much more focused operation. He has 6 total employees with Mike Inase as the Service Manager.

Although Scott has restored many vehicles, the idea of there being value and hence interest in unrestored vehicles seemed to take foothold about 15 years ago among collectors and enthusiasts. The advent of "Preservation" classes at Pebble Beach and other concours events has reinforced this thought and created a growing interest in original unrestored vehicles. Virtually any vehicle can be restored, but it can be original only once.

Scott also often acts as a consultant to enthusiasts wanting to acquire or sell a classic Mercedes-Benz. He is known as one of the foremost authorities of the Marque and specifically the 300 SL Gullwings and Roadsters.



Over the years having bought and sold many Mercedes-Benzes, Scott has assembled a vast database that shows exactly what constitutes a Pebble Beach level restoration or top tier preservation effort. So, get your questions ready, this is something you don't want to miss.

After the visit to Scott's Restoration Facility we'll drive to Kynsi Winery for a picnic lunch. Bring your own fixings and something to share if you like. Some wine is included in the reservation amount.

Directions to Scott's Facility

From the South on 101, exit *Grand Avenue and 227 in Arroyo Grande*. Turn right and follow 227. At the Stop sign 227 goes left. At *Corbett Canyon Road* (about ½ mile) turn right. Then right on *Verdi Canyon Road* (about 3 miles) at the big blue barn on the right. The road is not paved, so drive slowly. Turn right on *Cattle Run Lane* (about ½ mile) and continue to 2265 Cattle Run Lane (about ½ mile) to Scott's Restoration Facility on the right.

From the North on 101 get off in SLO and proceed toward 227 heading *toward Arroyo Grande*. Turn left on *Corbett Canyon Road*. Turn left on *Verdi Canyon Road* (about 3 miles) at the big blue barn on the left. Then right on *Cattle Run Lane* (about ½ mile) and continue to 2265 Cattle Run Lane (about ½ mile) to Scott's Restoration Facility on the right.

We will send out detailed directions about a week before the tour.

Directions to Kynsi Winery

Leaving Scott's Facility turn right on *Corbett Canyon Road* (about 1 mile). Then turn right into **Kynsi Winery** at 2212 *Corbett Canyon Road* (about 2 miles). Park in the rear and proceed to our picnic area.

Please detach below and mail with payment.

Reservation Slip

Send:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

To:

**G. J. Grunwald
560 Tejas Place
Nipomo CA 93444
805-929-2414**

Number of participants: _____

**Cost \$3.00 p/p
Amount Included: \$** _____

Checks, payable to G. J. Grunwald

**Reservations Close
Monday June 25, 2018**

The Great American Melodrama & Vaudeville In Oceano

www.americanmelodrama.com

Sat August 11 3:00 Matinee

6:00 Dinner at AJ Spur's in Grover Beach (order off the menu)

GOLD FEVER at the Rough and Ready

A western spoof of an 1840's mining camp filled with love, betrayal, deceit and villainy. Come boo the villain and cheer the hero. Doors open 30 minutes before show and lasts 2 1/2 hours

I've reserved 6 tables (4 seats per table) 6, 7, 12, 14, 15 and 20

\$22 per person

I need your money by Friday July 6 made out to Marcia Stanger. I have to make 1 payment for the seats July 11th and if any remain they are released at that time. No refunds after this date. Please let me know if you would like to sit with someone or near them and I'll try to accommodate you. I'll email directions for both activities.

Marcia Stanger (805) 929-2901 email mbstanger@att.net
641 Shelter Ridge Pl Nipomo 93444

----- cut here -----

By **July 6** mail to: Marcia Stanger 641 Shelter Ridge Pl Nipomo, CA 93444

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ email: _____

Melodrama: Yes No Number in party: _____

Seat with: _____

AJ Spurs: Yes No Number in party: _____



By Alfred Abken

This time last year, in *The Star*, was an announcement for Starfest 2018. Seeing that it was being held in Alabama, I was not too interested in going, but then I noticed that one of the planned activities was driving your car around the Talladega Super-speedway(!)

A brief historical note: I had been to the Talladega Motorsports Hall of Fame in 2003. For a couple extra dollars, they take you around the track in a van. Unfortunately, the day I was there, Harley-Davidson had rented the track, and there was someone out on the track doing continuous laps on a motorcycle. We got to drive around the upper ring of the track, and at one point, stopped above one of the curves to look down the 33 degree banking. Yes, it is steep...

So, here was the opportunity to do something I had never imagined I would be doing. I registered for Starfest. Fast forward 11 months, and I am leaving home, driving to Alabama. (It took three full days of driving, plus about an additional half day to get to Birmingham.) I did not stop at any roadside attractions along the way, and believe me, there are plenty, if you have the time. Well, I did stop at a certain corner in Winslow, Arizona, to take a couple photos.

I arrived in Birmingham on May 15. On Wednesday, the 16th I went on a tour of the MBUSI (Mercedes-Benz U S International) factory in Vance, Alabama. Before the tour there was time to

wander around their museum, and then the group boarded a bus for a short drive to the factory. We got to see assembly of C class cars. They also build G class cars there. And, this year MBUSI is celebrating 20 years of assembling cars in Alabama.

Thursday was a busy day. In the morning I took a bus tour to what was listed as a "Southern Heritage



Tour". First we went to the last antebellum home still standing in the Birmingham area. This was mentioned as an opportunity to sit on a veranda, sipping mint juleps... Okay, the mint juleps were non-alcoholic, but it was a wonderful way to spend a morning. A 3 course lunch was also served there, and Jessica Procter, the then current Miss Alabama sang. Her reign was due to end in three weeks. Her plans are to return to the University of Alabama to finish her education. I do not know if

she plans on a professional recording career, but remember that name. If she ever gets into recording, I can highly recommend buying anything she records.

That afternoon we were taken to the Birmingham Museum of Art. Two hours is nowhere near enough time to spend at this museum. If you are ever in Birmingham, and have some spare time, I can highly recommend a stop here. They have some fabulous collections! Later that evening, the opening reception was held at the Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum, in Leeds, Alabama. A buffet dinner was served, and a presentation was made on how the site in Alabama was selected for the



Mercedes-Benz factory.

During the days, there were technical seminars presented by various people, and there were various rally routes offered. I never seemed to have the time to partake in any of the technical seminars, and I was really not up to doing more driving for any of the rallies. Friday evening, Mercedes-



Benz of Birmingham – Irondale, opened up their dealership for a reception.

Saturday morning, a Concours was held in the parking lot of the MBUSI Museum. The rain held off until the end of the day when people were packing up and leaving. It didn't rain very hard, nor did



it last very long. Then it was back to the host hotel (Hilton Perimeter South) for the Concours banquet.

Sunday finally arrived, and it was time to do what I had driven almost all the way across the continent for! Autobahn laps around Talladega Superspeedway! This was a truly remarkable experience. I have had the good fortune to drive around the track



in Fontana, and the banking there does not prepare you for the banking at Talladega. You just barely have to turn into the first and third turns, then I found myself counter steering to the right to maintain a line around the corners. Remarkable! (Yes, it was worth the drive to Alabama!) Following the Autobahn laps around the track, acceleration runs were held along the pit lane, then an auto-cross was held inside of the back straight. That



evening, another reception was held at the host

hotel.

Monday morning, it was back to the Barber Motorsports track for Performance Driving. I went along to take a few photos, and then I went back to their museum. The previous evening there was just not enough time to see everything there. I don't have an awful lot of interest in motorcycles, but there is something compelling about seeing several hundred of them at one time in one place.

Monday evening, the final reception was held, and I was surprised to learn that I was the first person to register for the event, and was awarded the "Early Bird" award. What an unexpected surprise that was!

Tuesday morning a farewell breakfast was held at the host hotel, but by the time that started, I was already on my way west, and south. I made a side trip to Slidell, Louisiana for lunch on my way home. But that is a completely different story...



May 5th Piedras Blancas Lighthouse Tour and Lunch at Sebastian's

On a cold and windy day in May, the Central Coast Mercedes Benz club met to tour the Piedras Blancas Lighthouse. Managed by the Bureau of Land Management, it has the charter to restore the light station to its period of greatest historical significance. To date, several light station buildings have been restored or replicated, and the tower and some supporting structures are on the National Register of Historic Places. The light station is part of the federally designated Piedras Blancas Light Station Outstanding Natural Area, and in my opinion certainly qualifies for this distinction.

We met and waited for all the arrivals at the "Bates Motel" aka the old Piedras Blancas Motel some two miles north of the light station where there were portable toilets (scarce around that region,) and then made a convoy of vehicles in through the normally locked gate to a car park directly in front of the light station. There we were divided up into 2 groups. Our very articulate and charming tour leader was Jim Majors, who was assigned to our group because he loved cars, and especially Mercedes! The lighthouse grounds are an impressive site and are continually undergoing



restoration. We learned all about lighthouses: their construction, how they work, and their importance to California ships (until the 1970s). We toured the oil storage site (fuel for operating equipment), and then saw the building that created the various lighthouse horns, including the familiar deep toned BAAAAA--BOHHHH. One of the restored buildings was even turned into a nice, little gift shop.



Perhaps the best part of the experience was touring the coast through oceanfront native plants. There was a plaque for the volunteers who helped pull up invasive ice plants for seven years before it was completely removed. Along the way, we saw Elephant and California Seals, sea otters, wildlife, and then learned how the location is used for education, and about the local wildlife and plants in this part of the central coast.

We departed after two hours with a vivid picture about what it was like to live there taking care of the lighthouse, and feeling exhilarated by the beautiful scenery we had witnessed. I had even worked up an appetite, so it was onward to Sebastian's for lunch.

Sebastian's is the "go to" place for a bite to eat if you're going to visit Hearst Castle or just a regular in the area. Built in 1852, it used to be a general store that provided goods & services to whalers, fishermen, miners, and neighboring ranches. Nowadays it's a cafe serving up great food, and combined with the Hearst Ranch winery, you can wine taste here as well. Our Mercedes group ordered lunch, and as it was nice and sunny by then, we decided to sit outdoors on their patio/picnic table area. Overall, we had great food, great conversation, and beautiful scenery. Can't go wrong with that.



If you wanted to go to the lighthouse but couldn't make it, note that there are some special events in the future in addition to the Saturday \$10 tours:

Fourth Wednesdays of the month in summer- Free Walk in Wednesdays from 10 am - 2 pm.

Saturday, September 22- Pacific Coast Wine Trail event. Details coming soon.

October- Hops for the Top. Enjoy beer, chili and a sunset at the light station. Details coming soon.

See <http://www.piedrasblancas.org/special-events.html> for details.

