

the Orange County Star

HAPPY NEW YEAR



From the **PRESIDENT**

We are of course all focused upon this year's holiday season. But do some of you ever think about past Christmas and New Year's holidays from years gone by?

I recently came across a black and white photograph from Christmas Eve of 1966. I sitting on the floor next to the Christmas tree, in my flannel pajamas, and holding a white candy cigarette between the fingers of my right hand just as if I were smoking it.

That Christmas of 1966, and I remember the sense of belonging that I had with my family at that time. I'd received as gifts from my parents, a metal battery operated silver 1964 DB5 Aston Martin James Bond Agent 007 model car, complete

with front bumper mounted machine guns, and a retractable rear bullet proof shield. I'd also received from them a model of silver 1954 Mercedes-Benz 300 SLR race car, a model of a silver Mercedes-Benz 300 SL, as well as a black and white photograph of Sterling Moss after having won the 1955 British Grand Prix.

I remember how awe struck I had already become about cars, and the people who were involved with them, at just 8 years of age. All 3 of those model cars, along with my photograph of Sterling Moss, had all vanished over the ensuing years.

As an adult, I've replaced all 3 of the model cars, with different ones that I've purchased in various places. I bought the model of a James Bond 1964 Aston Martin DB5 at an antique and vintage swap meet in Long Beach CA, purchased the 1954 Mercedes 300 SLR race car from a vendor at a car show event in Reno NV and the 1954 Mercedes 300 SL at a garage sale.

I now feel a sense of accomplishment, having found my precious car models from my youth.

Your OC Section is planning a full slate of events for 2019 for all of our section membership to attend and to participate.

Perhaps some of you will find that same sense of belonging that I'd known as a kid during the holidays, and maybe others of you will also regain some of what you have lost over the years through an enrichment of your experiences with Mercedes-Benz together with us as a club.

On behalf of the board of the OC Section of the MBCA, we're hoping that all of you and yours had the happiest Christmas ever, and we're wishing you the most prosperous of all New Year's.

- Daniel Schwartz

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MEMBER RECOGNITION

Welcome

MBCA OC MEMBER



DECEMBER | JANUARY

John Palazzola, Barbara Susca, Arber Kamberi, Marc Schweighofer, Michael Sj Park

Thank you to the following for Renewing Membership:

DAN BEDOLLA. ROBERT DREYLING. PHILLIP ESSER. BILL HATCH. GENE ROSEMAN. TED STROSCHER. TIMOTHY STALEY

If we've missed your name in this issue, we apologize. Please contact us and we'll be sure to get you in our next issue.

ocmbca@gmail.com

- M. Ward



MEMBER TALK

Let's be honest. Some of us have already broken our New Year's resolutions week one, hell some probably day one. But when it comes to our precious investment, our beloved Mercedes-Benz automobile, here are six resolutions worth keeping to ensure your Mercedes-Benz keeps its charm throughout this year and the next... and the next... and the next... and well, the next year after that too!

Six: Cover your asset lol, protect the paint job on your Merc by parking in the garage or car port. Don't have access to either? Visit your nearest MB Parts Boutique and invest in an OEM MB car cover to shelter your beauty from those harsh elements.

Five: Check your tires. Tires that are not properly inflated can cause excessive heat build up, thus leading to tire defects, poor handling, increase in uneven wear and rather than typing economy, we'll go with reduction of fuel efficiency.

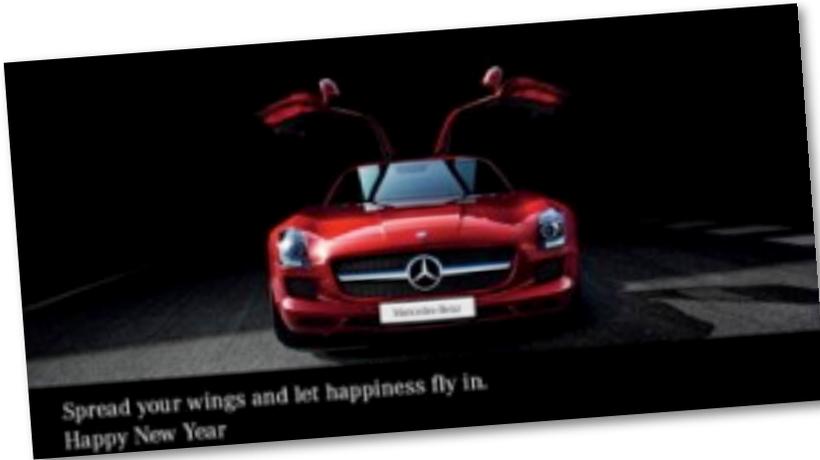
Four: Know when to replace your windshield wipers and for you MB SUV owners, don't forget your rear. Even if you can't remember the last time you used your wipers, the lack of moisture mixed with the SoCal heat can cause blades to stiffen and even crack. Replace blades every 6 months or 6,000 miles. Don't be cheap, OEM MB blades are custom sized to fit the curvature of our windshields and provide 800,000 more wiping cycles than after market brands.

Three: Keep your Benz Clean. Keep your Benz looking sharp! After all it is a Mercedes. Two: Don't neglect your service visits. When its time, get it done!

One: Enjoy your Merc! Don't forget to fill 2019 with new adventures and awesome memories in your Benz! Whether you're staying local or taking a trip somewhere away from the SoCal area, don't forget to have fun along the way. PS we'd love to hear about it too. Cheers to the New Year!



REARVIEW MIRROR



Leading through innovation!

Even more than its meticulous engineering, Mercedes-Benz is defined by its continuous innovation. Since inventing the car in 1886, they've simply never stopped reinventing it.

What begins as a break through becomes the standard for every car on the road.

Mercedes-Benz has a history of making history. Since the first car, Mercedes-Benz has set the pace for what all cars might someday become. With an ongoing stream of firsts in safety, performance and driving enjoyment, it's an ever more exciting roadmap to the future. And while there's a never ending roster of new achievements, there's only one reason the world's first automaker remains first in innovation. Carl Benz said it best: "The love of inventing never dies."



What firsts will your New Year bring?

POST. SHARE. EMAIL. COMMENT. WE'RE ALL EARS!



Meeting adjourned. Next Board Mtg, February 2, 2019 @ 12noon
- Ann-Marie Alexander



Care like no other, for a car like no other.

Keep your Mercedes-Benz looking like new inside and out with specially formulated shampoo, paint cleaner, polish, and other products from the Mercedes-Benz Car Care Product Collection. Each product is meticulously designed to clean, protect, and maintain the original Mercedes-Benz appearance that was love at first sight.



FOLLOW THE STAR
DOWN MEMORY LANE

How long has Mercedes-Benz been in the U.S.?

Believe it or not, there was a time in history when Mercedes-Benz didn't exist in the United States. It is hard to think about, but it is also fascinating to see how far this iconic automotive brand has come. Today in this New Year we're going to take a brief look at Mercedes-Benz USA and how long it has been in the United States.

How long have Mercedes-Benz vehicles been sold in the U.S.?

The presence of European automobiles on U.S. soil wouldn't be if it wasn't for one ambitious man with a knack for fine automobiles and a rather extensive dealership network: a Mr. Maximillian Edwin Hoffman. Max Hoffman is credited for single-handedly introducing European cars to the world's largest market for the automobiles at the time.

Mercedes-Benz USA was founded in 1965, but Mercedes-



Benz vehicles actually started being imported in 1952 under Max Hoffman.

He helped cement the identity of Mercedes-Benz in America with the iconic 300SL Gullwing. By 1957, Mercedes-Benz was in the perfect position to expand in the United States. They entered a distribution agreement with Studebaker-Packard Corporation. Eight years later, Mercedes-Benz USA was formed.

How many people does Mercedes-Benz employ in the U.S.?

Since then, Mercedes-Benz USA has grown into a nationwide organization now employing over 1,600 people. In addition, the company has 368 associated dealerships that employ over 22,000 people. Each year Mercedes-Benz grows with new vehicle options, technology features and concept models. We can't wait to see what the future holds for Mercedes-Benz USA.

Hoffman may be gone, but not forgotten. His legacy remains with millions of buyers still flocking to European automakers as the choice for their set of wheels. So the next time you appreciate a European automobile on U.S. soil, you can pretty much thank Mr. Hoffman for making European imports less foreign to the American buyer.



Did you know?



BERTHA BENZ, WIFE OF CARL BENZ WAS THE 1ST PERSON TO TAKE A ROAD TRIP IN A MODERN AUTOMOBILE. DETERMINED TO PROVE THE VIABILITY OF THE INVENTION SHE AND HER TWO SONS WITHOUT TELLING CARL TOOK TO THE ROAD AND DROVE THE CAR OVER 130 MILES ROUNDTRIP. BRINGING NATIONAL ATTENTION. SHE ALSO FINANCED AND MARKETED THE INVENTION.



New Year's Traditions



Many New Year traditions that we take for granted actually date back to ancient times. PAD challenges you to, ring out the old and ring in the new with a *new* New Year tradition or two!

Make Some Noise

Making a lot of noise from fireworks to gun shots to church bells seems to be a favorite pastime around the world.

In ancient Thailand, guns were fired to frighten off demons. In China, firecrackers routed the forces of darkness. In the early American colonies, the sound of pistol shots rang through the air.

Today, Italians let their church bells peal, the Swiss beat drums, and the North Americans sound sirens and party horns to bid the old year farewell.

Eat Lucky Food

Many New Year traditions surround food. Here are just a few.

The tradition of eating 12 grapes at midnight comes from Spain. Revelers stuff their mouths with 12 grapes in the final moments of the year—one grape for every chime of the clock!

In the southern US, black-eyed peas and pork foretell good fortune. In Scotland where Hogmanay is celebrated, people parade down the streets swinging balls of fire. Eating any ring-shaped treat (like a doughnut) symbolizes “coming full circle” and leads to good fortune. In Dutch homes, fritters called *olie bollen* are served.

The Irish enjoy pastries called *bannocks*. In India and Pakistan, rice promises prosperity. Apples dipped in honey are a Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) tradition.

In Swiss homes, dollops of whipped cream, symbolizing the richness of the year to come, are dropped on the floors and allowed to remain there!

Have A Drink

Although the pop of a champagne cork signals the arrival of the New Year around the world, some countries have their own beverage based traditions such as *Wassail*, a punch like drink named after the Gaelic term for “good health,” and is served in some parts of England.

Spiced “hot pint” is the Scottish version of *Wassail*. Traditionally, the Scots drank to each others’ prosperity and also offered this warm drink to neighbors along with a small gift and in Holland, toasts are made with hot, spiced wine.

Give A Gift

New Year’s Day was once the time to swap presents. Gifts of gilded nuts or coins marked the start of the new year in Rome.

Eggs, the symbol of fertility, were exchanged by the Persians, early Egyptians traded earthenware flasks and in Scotland, coal, shortbread and silverware were traditionally exchanged for good luck.

Put Your Best Foot Forward

In Scotland, the custom of first footing is an important part of the celebration of Hogmanay, or New Year’s Eve Day.

After midnight, family and friends visit each other’s home. The “first foot” to cross a threshold after midnight will predict the next year’s fortune. Although the tradition varies, those deemed especially fortunate as “first footers” are new brides, new mothers, those who are tall and dark (and handsome?) or anyone born on January 1.

Turn Over A New Leaf

The dawn of a new year is an opportune time to take stock of your life.

Jews who observe Rosh Hashanah make time for personal introspection and prayer, as well as visiting graves.

Christian churches hold “watch night” services, a custom that began in 1770 at Old St. Georges Methodist Church in Philadelphia.

The practice of making New Year’s resolutions, said to have begun with the Babylonians as early as 2600 B.C., is another way to reflect on the past and plan ahead.

New Year’s Folklore

Some customs and beliefs are simply passed down through the ages. Here are some of our favorite age-old sayings and proverbs.

- On New Year’s Eve, kiss the person you hope to keep kissing.
- If New Year’s Eve night wind blows south, It betokens warmth and growth.
- For abundance in the new year, fill your pockets and cupboards today.
- If the old year goes out like a lion, the new year will come in like a lamb.
- *Begin the new year square with every man.* [i.e., pay your debts!] –Robert B. Thomas, founder of *The Old Farmer’s Almanac*

So, whether you resolve to return borrowed farm equipment (as did the Babylonians) or drop a few pounds, you’re tapping into an ancient and powerful longing for a fresh start!





We are always looking for volunteers to chime in with ideas, planning, and coordinating events.

How To Show Your Car At Concours 01/19/19

Two-time Best of Show winner Jeff Wong and MBCA Concours Judge Anne-Marie Alexander will present a two-hour class entitled How to Show Your Car at a Concours.

We will provide a broad overview of what a concours is, the judging standards, and how awards are given.



Then we will give a timeline of preparation - long term, short term, and day before/day of. Included in this session are tools/ products/ tips that we have found helpful.

We'll go into what to expect at the show as well as the do's and don'ts. Finally, we will review a sample car from the judging point of view.

Tickets are free for members, \$10 for non-members (cash at the door). RSVP to ocmbca@gmail.com.

The event will be at the Loreley Room at the Phoenix Club in Anaheim. 1pm-3pm

Any updates or changes to the itinerary will be posted on the OC Section Website.





Dates: January 19 - How To Show Your Car At Concours 1pm - 2pm
Phoenix Club - Anaheim

Dates: February 9 - Cars & Coffee Meet Up 7am-9am
Saleen Headquarters Corona 7am-9am

Meet Up @ IHOP Parking Lot at 6:45 so we can Roll In & Park as a group.
More Details to Follow via OC Section website & email

Dates: March 16-19 Classic Car Show
More Details to follow as we finalize

Dates: CHP Distracted Driving Event
More Details to follow as we are working with CHP for location & date

Dates: May - Malamut Tour - Thousand Oaks
Finalizing Dates, etc. More Info Coming Soon!



StarDrives & Other Startivities Coming Soon! Stay Idled.

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Everything put into AMG vehicles we learned at the track. Now you can share in that too.

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You
Happy New Year



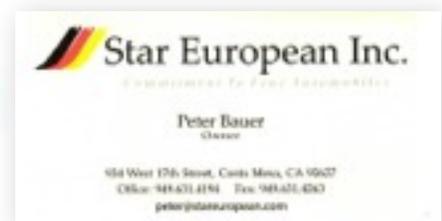
OC Support

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Dick



SETTING THE STANDARD IN COLLISION REPAIR SINCE 1967!



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a.alexander89@gmail.com

to have your ad in the next issue of the Orange County Star



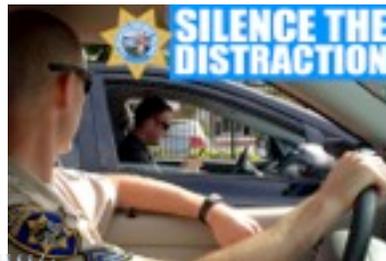
YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT



EYES ON THE ROAD AND YOUR HEAD OUT OF YOUR PPS

HAPPY NEW YEAR'S EVE:
It takes 24,637 BOLTS to put a car together, but only one NUT to spread it all over the road.
Don't Drink & Drive!



SAVE THE DATE ANNOUNCEMENTS

STAR TRADITIONS

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Ho Ho Ho, Welcome to 2019! 364 Days of Preparation 1 Day of Execution. There will be a Holiday Party this year. It's going to be tinsel! More holly jolly information coming.



Stay Tuned.

For more info contact MBCA-OC StarExperiences at ocmbca@gmail.com

December 7, 2018 - CHP Toy Drive in Riverside. Kick Off Event 2pm-9pm
DECEMBER TO REMEMBER - TOY DRIVE

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO DONATED, A LOT OF CHILDREN IN NEED WERE HELPED DURING LAST YEARS CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL CHIP'S FOR KIDS TOY DRIVE.

Thank You!

JANUARY 19, 2019 - Phoenix Club - Anaheim

HOW TO PREPARE & SHOW YOUR CAR AT A CONCOURS

Section member Jeff Wong (winner of Best in Show at Legends of the Autobahn 2017) and MBCA-OC Section Board Member, Secretary Anne-Marie Alexander (concours judge for MBCA) will be presenting a two-hour class on how to prepare and show your car at concours.

DO YOU KNOW ALL THE PERKS OF BEING A MEMBER OF MBCA-OC?

One of the many benefits that your OC section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America offers you is:

Exclusive Discounts - Head over to the Website for details



Happy New Year!