



Mercedes-Benz Club of America Texas Hill Country Section

Proudly Serving South and West Texas

2nd Quarter
April 2023



Message from the President

John Briggs

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How I ended up living in San Antonio...

The story begins in 1979 with 2 major events. Firstly, I got married to Trish and we needed a larger house for us and the children. I interviewed with Lotus Cars for a job working in their Emission Lab and started work in May 1979 with them. The project I was employed for was the development of the DeLorean car. Lotus was located in rural Norfolk approximately 100 NE of London, with much lower house prices. During my 23 years working for Lotus Engineering, I worked on many projects with auto manufacturers from all over the world going from fitter to technician to supervisor to manager to general manager. Notable projects were Corvette LT5 engine, Chrysler Shelby 2.2-liter engine and GM ECOTEC engine.

In 1997 Lotus lost an engineering program with GM to Ricardo. We were told that as Lotus did not have a facility in North America, we could not get any work from them going forward. I was tasked with finding a company or facility to buy near Detroit. In 1999 I came across Michigan Automotive Research Company (MARCO) located in Ann Arbor. This was a unique facility in that they had grandfathered in the ability to produce emissions with no cap. The company was set up by 4 U of M professors working with EPA. I made an offer on behalf of Lotus Engineering for the company which after negotiations was accepted. After this, I was sent from the UK to run this division—

of Lotus Engineering with the title of Vice President. It was a steep learning curve in employment law and working practices. After 2.5 years I was replaced with an American and found new employment with BASF working with automotive catalyts. I retired in 2015 and was still living in Michigan and was head hunted by Hyundai and KIA. After several offers, I agreed to work with them for 2 years. I then retired in 2018 and that same month became a citizen of the USA and bought a Tiffin Phaeton 42LH motorhome. For the next 3 years we traveled to all the lower 48 states looking at 55 plus homes. We covered 37,000 miles at 8 mpg. We chose San Antonio and had -



1991 SEL560



2005 E320

President's Message Continued...

Cont'd—a house built and settled into it in February 2021.

During our time in the USA, we bought our first Mercedes Benz, [a SLK230](#) in 2003. I bought [a S430](#) in 2009. Our 3rd car was a 1988 SL560. We sold the SLK and S class in 2018 when we started our journey. In 2019 I bought a 2017 E400 coupe and then part exchanged that in 2021 for a S450.

I joined the MBCA in 2009 after I found details in an envelope in the glove box of the S Class. I joined International Stars section based in Detroit and became membership secretary, several years later took on the role of President and was elected to the national board as Great Lakes Regional Director. I stepped down from this position when we started traveling in the motorhome.

I accepted the position of President of the Texas Hill Country Section beginning in 2023. My wife Trish has accepted the position of Secretary. Along with the other board members, we look forward to the continued success of our club.

See the upcoming events section of this newsletter for our future event plans.

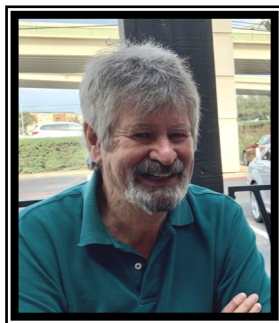
John Briggs



**John's
2021 S450**



SECTION OFFICERS



*John Briggs
President /
Board Member /*



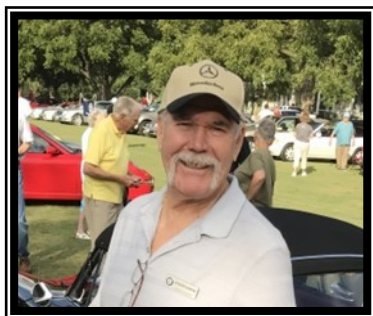
*Charles Dove
Newsletter Editor
Board Member*



*Martin Rios
Treasurer /
Webmaster /
Board Member*



*Robin Schroeder
Board Member*



*Joe Aaron
Board Member*

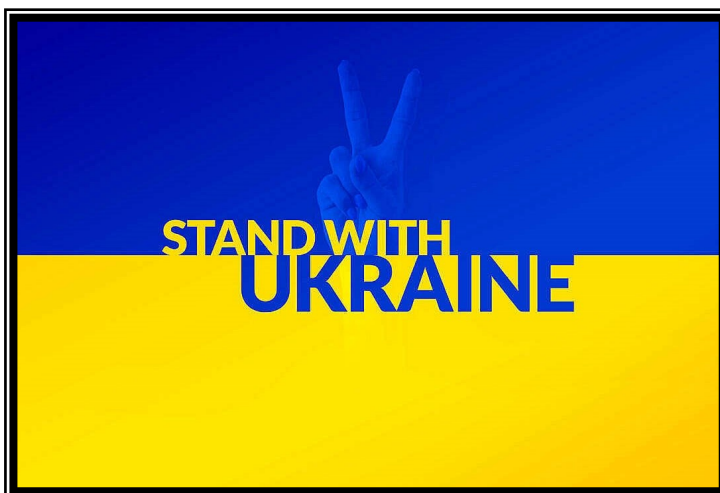


*Trish Briggs
Secretary / Board
Member*



*Don Dionisi
Board Member*

We have an open position for Vice President. If you would be interested in serving as an officer in our club, please contact any of the officers.



We stand with your brave nation and hope the terrorism will end soon. Stand Strong!!!



Upcoming Events:

March 31—April 1, 2023— The Lone Star section is putting on their annual 2023 Hill Country Run will be a two-night event again. The dates are March 31-April 1, check out on April 2. Our host hotel will be [The Bevy Hotel](#), 101 Herff Rd, Boerne, TX 78006.

Listed below are details for this event:

Event Fee - \$15.00 per person (door prizes, etc.).

Please make your check payable to MBCA Lone Star Section and mail to Arno Pitzen, 304 Legends Parkway, Kingsland, TX 78639 or Venmo @mbcalonestar

Saturday, April 1, 2023

Breakfast will be on your own (there will be breakfast options at lunch)

9:00a.m. (leave promptly at 9:30a.m.) - We will line up in the parking lot for the Hill Country Run. We will make our way to lunch (on your own) at the [Camp Verde](#), located at **285 Camp Verde Road East Camp Verde, Texas 78010**. After lunch we can enjoy the area or make your way back to Boerne for shopping, etc. Map and directions provided the day of the drive.

5:00 p.m. – Gather at the hotel bar for socializing, etc. (optional)

5:30 p.m. – Take a short drive to [Richter Tavern](#), located at 153 S. Main St., Boerne, TX 78006

6:00 p.m. – Dinner (on your own)

After dinner we will mingle at the bar and enjoy some games.

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[Click Here](#) to Register for this event.

Contact Ginny Pitzen at ginnypitzen@yahoo.com or 512-925-4481 if you have any questions.

All of our Events are subject to change following CDC guidelines. Events will be planned with social distancing with health and safety in mind. We encourage face mask protection.



Upcoming Events: Cont'd

May 6, 7, 8—2023— [Keels and Wheels](#) in Seabrook, Texas held at the Lakewood Yacht Club. This is an annual event with hundreds of classic cars and boats. We have been asked to join up with the Houston Mercedes Club for a Friday or Saturday night dinner together.

Friday, October 6, 2023

Meet in Burnet, TX or Junction, TX and caravan to Fort Stockton, TX (approximately 4 hours).

Stop for lunch and beverage in Fort Stockton (my home town) for a few hours.

Depart and head to Alpine, Texas for the evening.

Saturday, October 7, 2023

Saturday morning we would depart Alpine for a drive and lunch to Big Bend National park

Dinner at a local restaurant

Sunday, October 8, 2023

Drive and lunch to Fort Davis, Texas McDonald Observatory

Dinner at a local restaurant.

Monday, October 9, 2023

Everyone depart on their own

The host hotel would be either the [Quarter 7](#) or the Hampton Inn in Alpine, TX.

Let me know if any of you in your Section would have any interest.

Thanks,

Ginny Pitzen—Lone Star Section, Austin—ginnypitzen@yahoo.com or 512-925-4481 if you have any questions.

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**Willkommen
And
Dankeschon!**



We want to thank everyone for being a member of this Club. We appreciate your loyalty and support,

**Welcome
New Members!**

Donald Parsons
Paul Cox
Robert Veldman

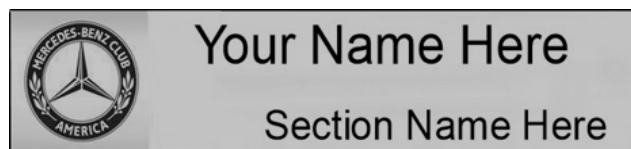
Loyal Member Renewals!

Joseph Lancaster	David Giese
Tom Enloe	Frederick Mullin
Alex White	William Rasco
Erick Laskowski	
Richard Uhlig	



Mercedes-Benz

If you would like to order a Mercedes-Benz Club name badge, click the image here:



REMINDER: If we do not have your email address, you are missing out on the majority of the communications from the Club. Please go to www.mbca.org, log in and update your info to stay updated on all that we have going on. Also, please list your spouse/partner as an associate member on the mbca website.

