

The Enchanted Star



New Mexico Section

January/February 2018

Weekend in L.A.: Part II of III

An Auto-holic's Chronicle of the Richest Car Culture in the World
Scott Brinkley

Occupying roughly two city blocks in an otherwise unassuming industrial park in Sylmar, Los Angeles, CA, the Nethercutt Collection and companion museum was recommended to me by the editor of The Star magazine. Built by Merle Norman beauty empire magnates the Nethercutt family, one could argue that makeup (still made in the U.S., by the way) funded this entire collection. Parking by the Nethercutt Museum, another potential half-day consumer of time that is worth visiting to see its 540K Special Roadster alone, we arrived just in time for the Collection Tour line to queue (after fighting around two hours of traffic from the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center in Irvine).



My MBCA companions and I soon were ushered inside the basement. Fans of the era where American cars competed head on against top-end European market offerings will be pleased. A V12 Lincoln and Packard, a V8 Cadillac, and a 1932 Chrysler Imperial Convertible all harken back to a time when the ultra-wealthy in America

actually had American-built cars available in their price range. Save for the limited-production Ford GT I saw in Jay Leno's Garage, that is a bygone era.

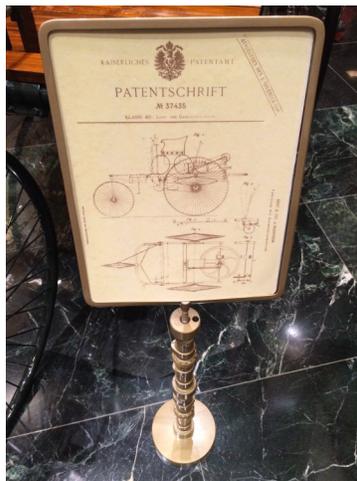
Following the Packard-fueled hors d'oeuvres for the eyes, we were escorted to the main Collection gallery, housed in an elaborately pillared room with marble floors and elaborately painted woodwork that are meant to remind one of what it was like to shop for a hand built, high-end car a century ago.

The very first thing one sees as he turns left into the main room is encouraging; this collection knows the genesis of the automobile well and isn't afraid to show it.

Further encouragement for lovers of the Tri-Pointed Star is the 1913 Mercedes (yes, Mercedes without Benz) near the winding staircase with player piano at top. From the handcrafted cabinetry forming the partition in the doublephaeton to the wooden running boards, this is a masterpiece.

There is also a Maybach of the caliber that the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center brought to the final Arizona Concours d'Elegance in January 2017. Yet for all of this Daimler-centric excitement, there is an American in the room that, by itself, would be worth all of the fuss made over selecting the marble for the floors in this expansive salon.

Duesenberg, perhaps the only American marque that can compete with Mercedes-Benz Special Roadsters at auction houses worldwide, takes the crown in this showroom.



The Nethercutt Collection's Model SJ, even with its then-astronomical MSRP of US\$20,000 adjusted for nine decades of inflation, would only be worth the price of a contemporary pre-owned Rolls Phantom. Were the family to be sweet-talked into selling, one should not expect the provenance alone to command anything less than eight figures. This spectacularly restored, one-off masterpiece of automotive history is worth the trip to L.A. to see by itself. To end the tour now would be a shame though. More automotive and mechanical merriment awaits upstairs, some of it American, a lot of it German.

Up a spiral staircase, a world-renown collection of orchestrons as well as a spectacular Wurlitzer theater organ and 97 key, self-playing



Bösendorfer await guests. I am getting ahead of myself, though, as one gets to hear violins play themselves before the large instruments speak up for the guests. If one appreciates the PSE systems installed in Mercedes that provide central locking and massaging seats, he or she will be mesmerized by the fully working Hupfeld Phonoliszt at the Nethercutt. Perhaps it is this multigenerational German fascination with pneumatics that inspired Airmatic, Air Body Control, and self-closing doors on recent Mercedes products?

Not to be undone, the large American in the room provides a mini-concert to conclude the tour of the Collection. I had an early introduction to theatre organs with the Canton Palace Theatre's Kilgen in the 1990s, but nothing of this scale, and certainly not self-playing. It was a truly spectacular end to a tour of one of the world's finest collections of automobiles.

Jo Chase Named Rocky Mountain Region Officer of the Year at 2017 NM Section Holiday Party

The 2017 New Mexico Section holiday party was held at the Albuquerque Country Club, and included two USMC Reserve members as our guests. They took away the many toys section members donated for the Toys For Tots program.

We were pleased to have Steve & Barbara Dierks join us this year. Steve gave a presentation on the 2018 National Event to be held in September ... Silver Stars & Golden Aspens, a multi-day national special event.

Albert Disch, Albuquerque Mercedes Benz/Porsche/Audi service manager, & his wife, Valerie, were special guests. Albert was presented The Star Magazine article plaque in recognition for the Albuquerque Mercedes Benz Dealership outstanding support of the New Mexico Section.

Raymond Sinwell, former NM Section Treasurer, was awarded the New Mexico Section Member of the Year, which included a \$100 gift card to Ruth's Chris Steakhouse as a thank you for his many years of service on the NM Section board.



Continued on next page ----->

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A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

*Per Lif Bob Krantz Bruce Mulligan
 Austin Heberger Randy Janke Molly Boyd*

10% DISCOUNT

Mercedes Benz of Albuquerque offers
 10% parts and labor discount with any service!
 Show your membership card for discount.

*Be sure to let MB of Albuquerque know how much
 you appreciate their support for the Club!*



Scott Brinkley, NM Section President, presented several awards. Jo Chase, NM Section Secretary/Treasurer, was awarded the Rocky Mountain Region Officer of the Year. There were several long-tenure awards given ... Paul Phipps for 50 years; Albert Deimer for 20 years; Liz Kelly for 15 years; and Jon Cottin for 5 years.

The evening concluded with a raffle with many winners. Most notably a \$100 gift card to Ruth's Chris Steakhouse won by Jo Chase; and the special edition Mercedes Benz/AMG Monopoly game won by Jack Sheppard.



Plan on attending

...our 10:00 AM "Tech Session"...

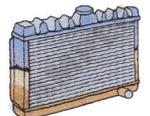
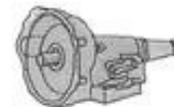
...on Saturday, April 14TH 2018

Mercedes-Benz Technicians will tell us how to keep our cars in peak condition. **Arrive around 9:30 AM for a continental breakfast.** This will be an open forum format, so ask those tough questions and this day will be most rewarding. Whether you have a late model or classic, you will pick up some interesting tips to keep it running!

Email your "I will be there" to Scott Brinkley

fsb1284@gmail.com

before Friday, March 30TH 2018



Mercedes Benz of Albuquerque

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Albuquerque, NM 87113

2018-E Wagon

8900 Pan American Freeway NE • I-25 at Alameda

505.821.4000 • www.mercedesabq.com



Mercedes-Benz
of Albuquerque



GET FREE MONTHS OF MEMBERSHIP

Current members who refer a friend to MBCA are rewarded with one **FREE** month of membership for each friend who joins the club. The more people you recruit, the more **FREE** months you receive (no limit). You can also receive **FREE** months of membership you renew: Renew for two years and get two months **FREE**; or renew for three years, get three months **FREE**.

You can pick up membership forms at the MB dealership or contact Marie Haycock at 505.286.1359

Spill the Beans!

If you have an idea for or have been keeping to yourself a favorite pleasure driving route in New Mexico, I want to know! I would like to organize at least two 1/2 day drives in 2018 with at least one meal stop at a choice New Mexico restaurant. The drive would preferably commence from Mercedes-Benz of Albuquerque, but could easily start from somewhere near Santa Fe given the world-class scenery drives in that region offer. We all enjoy our Benzes (and your President just got his hands on an A124 cabriolet he's itching to drive), so let's exercise them!

Call 330/354-5466 or email the Editor...

The Enchanted Star is published by the New Mexico Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc. It is furnished to each of our section members. Please send all materials for publication to:

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*The Newsletter for the New Mexico Section
of the Mercedes Benz Club of America*

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Editor

10524 Schenley Park DR NE
Albuquerque, NM 87123

Calendar of Upcoming Events

We want YOU to participate... Join us and have some fun!

Remember members may invite guests to any event!



UPCOMING NM SECTION EVENTS

- Dealer Appreciation Luncheon – February 2018
- Tech Session, Mercedes-Benz of Albuquerque – Saturday, April 14, 2018 10AM
- St. Clair Winery Brunch & Car Show – Saturday, May 19, 2018 10AM-Noon
- Summer 2018 Drive

Additional details will be provided in future newsletters and flyers .. so mark your calendars now.

TO ACCESS THE MBCA NM SECTION WEBSITE
newmexico.mbca.org