

The Enchanted Star



New Mexico Section

March/April 2018

Weekend in L.A.: Part III of III

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

The attraction that had initially drawn me to L.A., Wilshire Boulevard's Petersen Museum, was the terminus of my car-nut extravaganza. Almost as amazing as the collection in the Nethercutt being financed by cosmetics was the fact that magazines had financed the founding of this tremendous facility (though decades of admission fees and donations have kept it operational).



For auto enthusiasts such as myself who began their addiction to cars with publications such as *MotorTrend*, the Golden Calipers within the museum he founded are a welcome sight.

Perhaps more encouraging to Mercedes-Benz lovers-and similar to the Nethercutt-is what greets visitors before they even enter the museum from its parking garage: a W100.

Once inside and checked-in, I was advised to begin my tour on the top floor and work my way down. Stepping off the elevator and turning left, I was greeted by perhaps the last truly beautiful and world-class car General Motors ever produced, the 1957 Eldorado Biarritz Convertible. Outstyled in America by only the Packards and Duesenbergs of a quarter-century prior, this late Harley Earl design studio car represents the pinnacle of American high-end automotive prowess.

Post-war Daimler had to work extremely hard retooling to exceed this design standard, and the heckflosse series of the 1960s borrowed (and kept for some time, though muted in W111 form) the wonderfully finned rear.



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Don't miss...

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

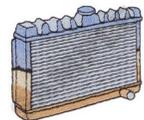
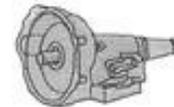
...on Saturday, April 14TH 2018

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



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A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Richard Harris
Bruce Reitz

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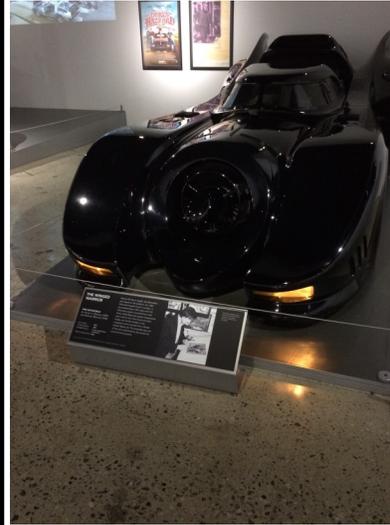
Newsletter Editor: **Scott Brinkley**

Webmaster: **Jo Chase**



Several NM Section Board Members gathered on Valentine's Day to treat hardworking Mercedes-Benz of Albuquerque employees to a well-deserved lunch. The Section does this annually to give back to its gracious host.

Also to be seen on the top floor are the film and television cars-many from my childhood-millions grew up watching in the U.S. From the *Magnum, P.I.* Ferrari, to Steve McQueen's Jaguar XKSS, to the Tim Burton-era *Batman* Batmobile, all of the



mechanical stars as big as their human counterparts are there.

Down one level, one is immersed in the automotive industry. The Art Center College of Design has a space. An exhibit takes one through the, "design to line" process of one famous Italian manufacturer's product. American motorcycle lovers will be enthralled by the Harley vs-Indian exhibit.

The ground floor was my favorite. The mouthwatering Bugatti exhibit was worth the price of admission alone. Like the Benz 540K Specials, these cars are worth all of the fuss that typically adorns them at concours events; nothing like them will ever be created again in my lifetime-if ever. The Petersens' Type 57C could stop time. It looks almost contemporary, although it is nearly an octogenarian.

One can quickly get lost in the spectacular two-tone paint jobs of the other Bugatti examples on display. Once the visual feast has concluded, lurking just around the corner is an extravaganza of hand-painted wonder, the world of custom lowriders that is so closely intertwined with L.A. car culture. Safe at home in the garage, my hydro-pneumatic-suspended W220 saloon was squatting in salute.

Before concluding my visit with a vault tour (highly recommended for first-time visitors), I took lunch at Drago Ristorante on the ground floor. My pasta dish was delightful, and I will attest to the quality of their espresso.

Just as I will return to view the Nethercutt Museum (having spent most of my time at the Collection tour), I will certainly be back to the Petersen. They are national treasures on the west coast in the vein of the Smithsonian institutions on the east. Visit them ASAP!



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

September 2018 is coming! Have you made your reservations?

Silver Stars & Golden Aspens MBCA Special National Event | <https://www.mbc.org/silverstars>



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*

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Editor

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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: Albuquerque to Silver City, NM via Gila National Forest

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