

THE CHANNEL ISLANDS STAR

January - February 2016

www.mbcachannelislands.org

2015-2016 Election of Officers

Inside This Issue

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Our yearly election of officers gives all active members the opportunity to vote for those members they feel would be best suited to perform the duties of their respective positions.

Nominating ballots were sent to all active members. Based on review of these ballots by the Nominating Committee, the Slate of Candidates nominated to serve as our Executive Directors for 2015-2016 was prepared and mailed (or e-mailed) to our members. Based on the return of your ballots our Executive Officers for the coming year are:

Peter Samaha, President
(805)-890-848 psamaha@msn.com

Jim Wiens, Vice-President:
(805)-241-4606 or (805)-402-1091
wiens48@aol.com

Robert Wilber, Treasurer
(805)-402-5983 tackelbox@outlook.com

Kathy Wilber, Secretary:
(805)-402-5539 mosaicmomma@live.com

Bob Scudder, Website Designer,
Internet/Technical Director (805)-479-1815
Lp2riv@aol.com

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DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR OUR MEMBER RECOGNITION SOCIAL (HAPPY HOUR) EVENT

Honoring Old Members

Welcoming New Members

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21 2016 4:00 PM

At

Bellini Osteria Restaurant

951 Westlake Blvd, #102

Westlake Village CA

Price per person \$30.00

(includes 1 raffle ticket)

Contact/Hostess: Tamara Samaha

Phone (805) 389-1259

(See details – Page 3)

Presidents Message

Hello Channel Islands Members,

It is hard to believe that we have said farewell to 2015 and "Hello" to 2016. Throughout 2015 we enjoyed some great activities and we are looking forward to more fun events in 2016.

We are working with the Long Beach Section in planning a co-hosted Regional Event in May. In June we will be the featured car club at the 10th Annual Camarillo Car and Food Truck Show. At our last board meeting we brought up some ideas for several new events. You will find them on Page 9. Please look over these events and let us know what sounds good and, by all means, make some suggestions too. We greatly appreciate your feedback and suggestions.

2015 was a year of many changes and successes. Many of these could not have been accomplished without the participation of our members at the events and the support of our Board Members. Thank you.

My Best Wishes For A Happy, Healthy 2016,
Peter Samaha

Welcome New Members

It is always a pleasure to welcome new members to our Club. This month I would like to extend a very special welcome to our newest members:


Ron Kubitsky Simi Valley

Richard McArthur Ojai

We are pleased you chose to become a member of our Channel Islands Section. We look forward to seeing you at one or all of the upcoming events

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

2/14 Remember Your  Valentine

02/21 SUNDAY, February 21st

Time: 4:00 – 6:00 PM

New/Old Member Social (Happy Hour) Event

Bellini Osteria Restaurant

951 Westlake Blvd, #102

Westlake Village, CA

Host/Hostess: Peter and Tamara Samaha

Phone: (805) 389-1259

RSVP NLT February 17th

MARCH



03/10 THURSDAY TIME 6:00 PM

Samaha Residence

1600 Hobart, Camarillo, CA

Phone: (805) 389-1259

03/20 SUNDAY, March 20, 2016

Time: 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Murphy Museum Tour and Lunch

2230 Statham Blvd. Oxnard, California 93033

Hostess: Verna Eason

E-mail: greneves@verizon.net

Phone: (805) 985-5989

RSVP NLT March 14th

APRIL

4/16 Deadline to make Reservation for May
Southwest Regional Weekend Event in Solvang

04/30 SATURDAY, April 30th, 2016

Time: 11:00 – 2:30 PM

Seabee Museum Tour and Lunch

1001 Addor St, Port Hueneme, CA 93041

Hostess: Verna Eason

E-mail: greneves@verizon.net

Phone: (805) 985-5989

RSVP NLT April 20th

*The Mercedes Benz Club Channel
Islands Section
Requests The Pleasure Of Your
Company
At*

*Our New Member Old Member
Social (Happy Hour) Event
Sunday February 21 2016
4:00 - 6:00 PM*

*At The
Bellini Osteria Restaurant
951 Westlake Blvd, #102
Westlake Village CA*



Any club depends upon their members to support them through continued membership, service as officers or board members, participation in events and helping with whatever needs to be done. This event is our club's way of honoring those members. It also provides the opportunity to welcome new members into our Mercedes Family. Last year, we broke the traditional luncheon format for this event and turned it into a Social Event. The response to this change was summed up by all in attendance – "We need to do this again."

We listened. We are returning to the Bellini Osteria for an encore visit. This lovely Italian Restaurant is located in Westlake Village off the 101 at the Westlake Boulevard Exit next to Cisco's Mexican Restaurant. We will dine in their lovely enclosed patio area.

Our menu is tentative and there may be variations:

Open Service Appetizers:

- Various Pizza selections Margarita Shrimp, Pepperoni, Sausage or Arugula/Prosciutto
- Cheese and olive plate

Open Service Salads and Pasta:

- Cesar Salad ;
- Mixed Green salad with Strawberries and Feta Cheese
- Meatballs, Italian Sausage or sliced chicken

Guests will have bread at their table and a choice of the following Happy Hour entrees:

- Rigatoni Bolognese (meat sauce)
- Penne Arrabiata (labeled "spicy" Marinara sauce -- more garlicky than hot spicy)
- Spaghetti or Capellini

Dessert option may include:

Ice Cream/Gelato/House Special
No Host Bar

Wine available for purchase - Special pricing

: House Red/white = \$5/glass or \$20/bottle

• Other higher end wines also available, if desired.

The price for this Italian Feast :

\$30 includes 1 Raffle ticket.

Reservation Form On Page: 11

MEMBER MILESTONES REACHED IN 2015

Membership Milestones are measured in increments of 5 years. At the end of 2015, we have 8 members attaining milestones.

5 Year Milestone:

R. Arriaga,
Barry Rudin,

Susan Hayes-Gose,
Phillip Thompson

10 Year Milestone Steven Stone

25 Year Milestone: Harvey Wilson

30 Year Milestone: Werner Modl

35 Year Milestone: Maggi Rossi

Congratulations to each of you. It is members like you that make our club the great club that it is. Your dedication and loyalty is deeply appreciated, not only by me, but all the club members.

Peter Samaha
President

**Murphy Automobile Museum
Special Studebaker And Packard Show
2230 Statham Blvd., Oxnard, CA 93033
Sunday, March 20, 2016
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**



Please join us as we cruise down memory lane.

Recently in a discussion with some friends about old car memories, I reminisced about the Studebaker that I rode in when I went to my first prom. My friend shared a few of her own memories and commented, "I wonder if there are any still out there?"

Yes, Virginia, there are still Studebakers out there and you will be able to see the best of them on the parking lot of the Murphy Automobile Museum. The museum is hosting the 31st Annual Winter Car Show of the LA Studebaker Drivers Club. Just a few of the vehicles that will be on display are a 1931 Studebaker Avanti R2, 1964 Studebaker Avanti R2 and many more.

In addition to the cars being shown on the parking lot, this tour includes entrance into the museum where we will be able to view their Packard exhibit in the Main Showroom.

You still haven't seen everything there is to see. The second display area of the museum (30,000 SF) houses 70+ vintage cars and period clothing. In addition you can view one of the largest H/O scale model train layouts between San Diego and San Francisco. There really is something for everyone to view and enjoy.

This is a self-guided tour. Admission is \$10.00 per person. Each attendee will purchase their tickets **AT THE MUSEUM**. Credit Cards Accepted.

After the tour we will proceed to Dominicks Italian Restaurant, 477 North Oxnard Boulevard. We will order from their extensive menu and pay individually - gratuity included)

This should be a fun day for everyone!

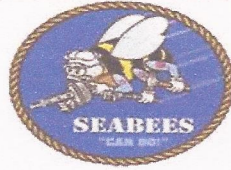
Please make your reservation for the tour and dinner **NLT March 14th, 2016** so I will know how many will be attending. **Reservation form on page 11.**

101 NORTH from Los Angeles: Exit Rose Ave; Take Rose Avenue for 3.4 Miles, Turn Right on Oxnard Blvd, Turn Left on Statham Blvd.

101 SOUTH from Santa Barbara: Exit Rose Ave., turn right, Take Rose Ave. for 3.4 miles, Turn right on Oxnard Blvd
Then left on Statham Blvd.

From Malibu: Take CA-1 N/Pacific Coast Hwy Turn left onto CA-1 N/E Pleasant Valley
Take the 1st right onto Oxnard Blvd Turn left onto Statham Blvd.

"We're the Seabees of the Navy, We can build and we can fight We'll pave the way to victory and guard it day and night And we promise that we remember The "Seventh of December".



"We're the Seabees of the Navy

Bees of the Seven Seas".

Thank you to those who have given so much to so many.

Seabee Museum Tour and Lunch
1001 Addor St, Port Hueneme, CA 93041
Saturday April 30th, 2016
11:00 – 2:30 PM

Many of you probably remember the John Wayne movie "The Fighting Seabees" which portrayed what these brave men contributed to our success in both the Atlantic and Pacific arenas of WW II.

The Seabee Museum has a variety of displays relating to wartime as well as peacetime projects. A docent led tour is available if we have 10 or more attendees. The tour lasts approximately an hour to an hour and a half. There is no charge to visit the museum. Donations are accepted.

After the tour, we will proceed to the Mosqueca Restaurant to enjoy a taste of Brazilian cuisine. We will order from their extensive lunch menu and pay individually (gratuity included).. Please make your reservation NLT April 20th,

(Reservation form on Page 10)

I look forward to having you join me. Verna Eason

A Short History of the Seabees *

In the late 1930s we were not actively involved with the war but it was felt that preparation for such an eventuality was needed. All contracts for military construction were through private contractors. These contractors would employ native civilians as well as Americans. The contractors answered to a Navy Officer in Charge of Construction as to hiring, project progress and other details. Due to the rules of international law, civilians were encouraged not to resist enemy military attacks – if they did they could be executed as guerrillas. The need for a militarized construction force in a war zone became apparent.

There were many organizational hurdles to overcome – authority to recruit personnel having specific qualifications as master journeymen in their trades – which agency should command these construction battalions and the organizational structure of a Naval Construction Regiment with three Naval Construction Battalions.

In spite of these hurdles, on January 5, 1942 Admiral Ben Morrell (Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks) gained the authority to recruit the needed skilled master craftsmen for the missions that lay ahead. There was one more hurdle to overcome -- who should command the construction battalions.

Admiral Morrell, personally, presented a proposal to the Secretary of the Navy with the recommendation that it should be commanded by officers of the Civil Engineer Corps who were trained in the skills required for performance of construction work.

On March 19, 1942 authority was granted to designate the Bureau of Yards and Docks as the appropriate command to exercise military authority over all officers and enlisted men assigned to a construction unit. This was a significant morale booster for the Civil Engineer Corps tying them intimately into combat operations.

Admiral Morell's success in overcoming the hurdles earned him the nickname "Father of the Seabees". His efforts ultimately contributed to the great success and fame of the "Can Do" Seabees.*

* Seabee History from Wikipedia Free Use



Mercedes Benz Club of America Southwest Regional Event May 20-22, 2016

Hosted by the Channel Islands & Long Beach Sections

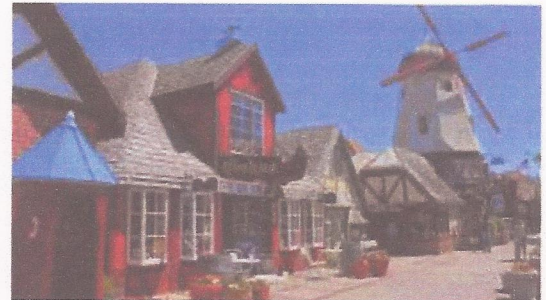
Join us in the Solvang Valley north of Santa Barbara, Ca. for a fun-filled weekend.
Bring your Mercedes Benz to enjoy the spectacular scenery this area has to offer.

Host Hotel: Anderson Inn, 51 East Highway 246, Buellton, CA 93427

Participants will meet at 9:00 am Saturday morning in the hotel lobby for a detailed itinerary.

Highlights include:

- Welcome reception Friday evening
- Rally through the picturesque wine region
- People's choice Concours D'Elegance with catered BBQ lunch at a winery
- Banquet dinner at a local restaurant
- Awards for Rally and Concours winners
- Raffle drawing with prizes
- Private tour of Mendenhall's Museum of Petroliana and Gasoline Pumps
- Commemorative wine glasses



This weekend also has free time to visit the following nearby attractions:

- 2 California missions
- Chumash Indian Casino
- Shopping in the Danish village of Solvang
- Santa Barbara Riviera

	Friday & Saturday Night Lodging	Saturday Night Only Lodging	Without Lodging
2 participants	\$495.00	\$360.00	\$225.00
1 participant	\$390.00	\$255.00	\$120.00

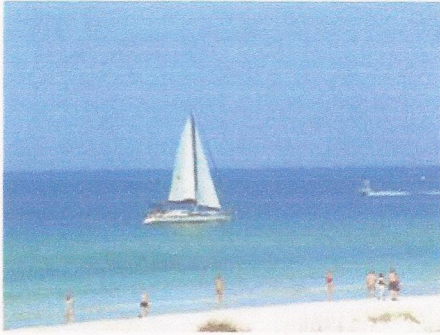
Registration and payment must arrive by April 16, 2016 (see below for Registration Form)

For any questions contact Gerhard Fehrmann at fehmannranch@msn.com or 714-425-1036

Solvang Southwest Regional Event
May 20-22, 2016

Name(s) registering: _____ Number Attending: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone Number: _____ Day/Night Email Address: _____

Make your check payable to **MBCA** and mail to:
 MBCA, P.O. Box 30132, Long Beach, CA 90853



**Sunday Brunch By The Sea
November 15th 2015**

As the day began, the sky did not look promising for our yearly pilgrimage to The Cliff House Inn's Shoals Restaurant. As we departed, a few raindrops started to threaten our enjoyment of the day. The raindrops stopped, the sun came out and our spirits rose. We were going to have another lovely day!

Although the sun was shining brightly by the time we arrived, the temperature was still quite cool and the wind had come up. Donna, of the Shoals restaurant, welcomed us warmly and had wisely made a quick adjustment to setting up the indoor dining room. Even though we were seated inside, we still had a wonderful view of the ocean waves as they broke over the large rocks then floating off into the air like myriad clusters of butterflies.

After dining on our choice of one of the many delicious brunch entrees, it was time for the raffle. Every basket was beautifully decorated (Thank You, Tamara). No one who had a winning ticket was unhappy with their basket.

As the afternoon drew to a close, it was agreed that all had enjoyed the afternoon as they relaxed and enjoyed the company of our great Mercedes friends.

Thank you to everyone for your participation

Kathy Wilber

Thank You

Dear Donna,

As in years past, you and your staff made our "Sunday Brunch by the Sea" a morning to enjoy.

Your decision to move us to an indoor location was very thoughtful and appreciated by all.

As usual the entrees were delicious and the attention to our needs by the staff was superb.

Thank you so very much for all your assistance with this event.

*All the Members of the Mercedes Benz Club
Channel Islands Section*

**A FINAL FAREWELL TO LEE BRYANT
Channel Islands Section Past President**

We were saddened to learn that Channel Islands Section past President Leon Bryant passed away in December 2015. Lee was well-known in the Navy community at Point Mugu where he served in both Naval Reserve and Navy civilian endeavors at the base. Those who knew Lee will remember his bright and positive attitude, natural leadership and of course his love and interest in the Mercedes-Benz Marque. Lee led the Channel Islands Section during two periods in the mid '80s.

Member Of The Year



Christmas Party and Gift Exchange Sunday, December 6, 2015

Every year our members look forward to the final party of the year – our Christmas Party and Gift Exchange. It seems the party gets better each year and each party has its own personality.

When members asked what they could bring, I had said the menu was going to be “simple”. With the addition of appetizers main dishes and desserts, the contributed by the members, the menu turned out to be anything but simple. There was such an abundance and variety of food the table literally groaned from the weight. It was hard to decide what to put on your plate. Let’s not even discuss the dessert selections – one word can say it all – **SCRUMPTIOUS!**

After dinner it was time to move on to the Wine Tasting Contest. Amidst much swirling, sniffing, sipping and savoring, the judgments were made and votes were tallied. The lucky winners of the contest were Bob and Char Scudder. Their prize was a wine carrier designed for traveling. They never have to be without their favorite wine on any of their numerous trips. Congratulations!

It was now time for the ever popular Gift Exchange. There were many nice gifts and as usual there was also a lot of claiming someone else’s gift. The guest of the evening (Joanne – a friend of Lonnie Estrella) had drawn the lucky ticket #1. With this ticket she could make the first gift selection. Her choice was hard to hold on to but she defended her first choice present all through the evening managing to reclaim it as hers at the end of the gift exchange. (Joanne, did the throw get used during our recent “cold” spell?)

As you know, each year we honor one of our members as “Member of the Year”. The member selected for this award is a person who can always be counted on to help in any way they can to make our club the great club it is.

It was a great pleasure for us to present the Member of the Year plaque to Bob and Kathy Wilber.



She keeps the notes –
He keeps the books \$\$\$

This year’s party was the perfect example of what a great group of people make up our Mercedes “family”.

It was our pleasure to share the evening with you!
Peter and Tamara Samaha

WE WANT YOUR INPUT.

EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR 2016

January Clean Car Show and Chili Cook Off	01/24	July-- Host Needed
Cancelled – Low Response		
February – New Member-Old Member Social	02/21	August – Typically Dark
Peter & Tamara Samaha		
March – Murphy Auto Tour (Studebaker Event)	03/20	September: Petersen Auto Museum
Host: Verna		– Host Needed
April - Seabee Museum and Lunch	04/16	October—Oktoberfest
Host: Verna		
May –SW Regional Event Weekend in Solvang	05/20	November—Cliff House Brunch
(We are Co Hosting)	05/22	
June —Car Show Camarillo		December – Christmas Party
Peter Samaha		– HOST NEEDED

IDEAS FROM BOARD MEETINGS

Petersen Auto Museum Display (Museum recently remodeled (reopened opened 12/6/15) –Wilshire Blvd LA (autos including restored antiques, race cars & vehicles from famous movies +other items

Auto Driving Museum El Segundo -Antic and muscle cars you can ride in – (Approx Distance 55-60 miles)

Live plays – TO Civic Center Conejo Valley Players Other dinner theaters in our general area

Car Auction if we have such a thing available here Drive to Poppy Fields (if we get more rain

Wine Tour Ventura Area/ group tour Napa Valley Magic Castle -

Poker Run Polo Match Not sure when these are done

Picnic in the park – Chumash Trail –(Not Casino) Group Bus Trip to the Chumash Casino

Derby Club– Simulcast races, food, wagering(?) Special events – Kentucky Derby Belmont,Preakness, Breeder Cup, Derby Club is located on the Ventura Fairgrounds

If you see something on the List of Ideas that appeals to you, let us know.. For those months with no indication of an event, **consider hosting an event** (Contact Jim Wiens or Peter Samaha). If you need help putting it together, setting up for it, food donations, clean up after remember our board members can help.

Please make any comments that you feel would be helpful to the board -- day of week/time of day, location – distance willing to travel for an event, activities that could be developed into an event, ie, golfing, bowling, , bingo party. Criticisms are also helpful.

BITS AND PIECES MAIL DELIVERY SURVEY



Or



Recently we asked our members to advise us as to how they wanted to receive the newsletters, reminder messages and special invitations. Thank you to those who responded to our first request.

Members who do not have computers or do not have their E-mail registered on National's database will continue to receive material via mail.

If you have E-mail, we need to know if you want::

_____ E-Mail Only or

_____ E-Mail AND Hardcopy

Drop me an E-Mail greneyes@verizon.net or call (805) 985-5989 to indicate your choice. The desired method will be noted in our Members Mailing Roster.

Is Your Personal Information Correct

It is critical to have your personal information up to date.

Recently we needed to contact E-mail members – several problems became apparent – some had no phone number listed and/or e-mail address did not work. This will sound like a broken record but:

Have you made any changes to your phone numbers, Email or home address? Have you added a new car? If you answered yes to any of these, this is just a friendly reminder that your updated information needs to be supplied to our National office. You may notify us of required changes and we will contact National for you.

You may contact National directly at 1-800-637-2360. or you can go into the MBCA database and make changes to your profile.

Thank you for helping us stay in touch with you..
Verna Eason, Editor, The Channel Islands Star

Nomination Of Officers

To the Nominating Committee – thank you for assisting with the officer election process.

Personal Ads

Do you have an item you wish to sell? Looking for a part you need for a restoration project? Remember you can place a free ad in the newsletter.

Business Ads

Do you have a service company (does not have to be auto services it can be any category – restaurant, a new business that you have used and were pleased with, etcetera). Suggest placing an ad in our newsletter.

Do you own a business? You might want to take advantage of the ease of applying for placement of your ad in the Channel Islands Star.

Create a shortcut or follow the link below to access our website:

www.mbcachannelislands.org

When the website opens move to the **Search Panel**. Under **ADDITIONAL PAGES** select **Advertise With Us**

You will find detailed instructions for preparing the ad as well as our pricing information.

Have a friend that might be interested in advertising with us? Share this information. We welcome new advertisers.

Still have questions? Call or Email Peter Samaha
Phone: (805) 890-8490 or
Email: psamaha@msn.com

Where Are the Photos?

Apologies to everyone who looks for the photos from past events. There were just too many items to be covered in this edition of the newsletter. I promise You will see photos in the next edition of the newsletter.

Verna

Tech Notes
So You're Considering An Electric Vehicle?

We'd all like to save the planet but tend not to think much about the basics of energy creation and conversion. And on the other hand we do dislike having to fill our tanks with fluctuating fuel prices based upon the whims of tax-loving politicians and market prices set by unfriendly OPEC countries. So yes, why not look at an electric vehicle?

As we start looking at EV details one factor shows up as paramount: **Battery Charge Driving Range.**

As with almost everything, when battery charging range ratings hit the real world there was an issue. Driving range rating systems in Europe, China, and elsewhere are different than the U.S. EPA's rating system so this **Tech Note** lists only those eleven electric cars sold on the U.S. market along with their corresponding U.S. EPA range. The ranges may surprise you so the bottom line remains as always:

Look before you leap! Listed from lowest to highest range:

11. Mitsubishi iMiEV: 62 Miles
10. Smart Electric Drive: 68 Miles
9. Ford Focus Electric: 76 Miles
8. BMW i3: 81 Miles
7. Chevy Spark EV: 82 Miles
6. VW e-Golf: 83 Miles
5. Mercedes B Class Electric: 84 Miles (tie)
4. Nissan LEAF: 84 Miles (tie)
3. Fiat 500e: 87 Miles
2. Kia Soul EV: 93 Miles
1. Tesla Model S: 240 to 286 Miles

Any surprises?

Bob Scudder+

CLIP AND MAIL RESERVATION FORM **New Member/Old Member Social (Happy Hour)**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21 2016 4:00 – 6:00 PM

Please reserve _____ places. Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ Price: \$30.00 person includes 1 free raffle ticket

Make your check payable to MBCACI Mail to Arrive **NLT February 17th 2016**

Please mail your check to: Tamara Samaha, 1600 Hobart, Camarillo, CA 93010

CLIP AND MAIL RESERVATION FORM **Murphy Automobile Museum Tour**

SUNDAY, MARCH 20th 2016 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Please reserve _____ places. Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ Price: \$10.00 per person. **Purchase your ticket at the museum.**

Respond via E-mail greneyes@verizon.net ;

Phone: (805) 985-5989 or

Mail this form to arrive **NLT MARCH 15th 2016**

Mail to: Verna Eason, 32 W Garden Green, Port Hueneme, CA 93041



Channel Islands Section
32 W Garden Green
Port Hueneme, CA 93041

SAVE THESE DATES

**February 21st Annual Recognition
of New and Old Members**

**March 20th Murphy Automobile
Tour
Special Display of Old Studebakers**

**REMINDER: Reservation for SW
Regional Event Due APRIL 16th
April 30th
Seabee Museum Tour /Lunch**

**May 20-22 SW Regional Event -
Solvang**

MERCEDES BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.
THE CHANNEL ISLANDS SECTON

**SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS 2015-2016
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Position Open

Treasurer:
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tackelbox@outlook.com

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tamshops@msn.com

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184 Valencia Dr
Camarillo, CA 93010
Lp2riv@aol.com

Southwest Regional Director:
Bud Cloninger
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scottsdale3@mac.com

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