



Star-Gazer

SEA-LEVEL SECTION - MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB of AMERICA, Inc.

www.MBCASeaLevel.org

Volume 41, Issue 2

Second Quarter, 2004

from the new editor

I am looking forward to my new appointment as editor of the Sea-Level's Star-Gazer newsletter. I am interested in hearing about what you, the readers, would like featured in future issues of our newsletter. I am working to completely unify the content of our printed newsletter with that of our Sea-Level Section website. Please read and enjoy!

Jimmy Baldea
 (516) 466-5858

Front Page News

- A **Tech-Session** in the Hamptons, at the South Hampton Mercedes-Benz dealership
- A black-tie charity dinner event at the **United Nations**
- A Concours d'Elegance and Peoples' Choice Car Show at the site of Bethpage, Long Island's **Polo events**

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message	3
United Nations Dinner Information	4
Jacob Javits / MB-Manhattan Highlights	5
Concours d'Elegance and Peoples' Choice Car Show Event	7



The following individuals have recently joined MBCA and more specifically are now members of the Sea Level Section. Please introduce yourself to these fellow Mercedes enthusiasts at our next event.

Henry Diamond
 Ronald Fox
 Fitzroy & Betsy Green
 Herbert Jaffe

Kimberly Kaelin
 Kenneth Merhige
 David & Marci Mosbach
 Mary Odusina

Jules Perel
 Stanley Pimble
 S Sabry
 Drita Kadoku

James Shanahan
 Florin Staicu
 Hank Vitan
 Nectarios Zervoudis

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Members of the Board

John Anaischik	Bernie Berberich	Dr. Jonah Berman	John Betsch	Peter Busacca	Joseph DeFilippe
Spencer Dworkin	Vincent Milo	Robert Muth	Creighton Phillips	Jerome Shapiro	Richard Weiss
Viola Scarduzio (director emeritus)					

Northeast Regional Director

Roy O. Kuck
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 Angola, NY 14006-1243

Changes of Address: Requests should be forwarded to MBCA 19071 Lelaray Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80909; 1-800-637-2360; or www.mbc.org

Member Marketplace: Sea-Level members may place a no-charge story in the *Star-Gazer* for an M-B or related item by mailing necessary information to the Editor. Advertisement Deadlines: January 15th (February Edition) April 15th (May Edition) July 15th (August Edition) October 15th (November Edition)

Special Note About The Sea-Level Website: There will be a new website logic implemented whereby it will be easier to obtain user rights. The Sea-Level Section is actively seeking to enhance our website, and also to increase member-viewing of our site. Within the next several months, members will start to be contacted in order for our site masters to load the email addresses of all members into the www.MBCASeaLevel.org website. Please be patient... we have almost 800 members!



The *Star-Gazer* is published quarterly by the Sea-Level Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc. for the sole benefit of its members. Information and opinions expressed therein, including advertisements, should not be construed as an endorsement of the editor, MBCA, MBUSA, or DBAG. Permission to reproduce material originating in this newsletter is freely given, provided acknowledgement of the source is given (i.e. from the MBCA Sea-Level Section Newsletter: *Star-Gazer*).

President's Message

Dear Members:

The Sea-Level Section is doing its part to help the local economy by creating a Business Networking Journal. If you have a business that you would like other members of our prestigious club to know about, all you have to do is mail Jimmy Baldea (our new newsletter editor) your business card or letterhead with a check for \$20. Write the check out to the publisher (S.T.O.S.). Mail it to: STOS 350 Northern Blvd. Suite 326 Great Neck, N.Y. 11021. If you have any questions call Jimmy at (516)466-5858. You should receive the Journal in 2 months.

March has been a busy month for me. On March 2nd Juliana Terian the owner of Rallye Motors had an unveiling of her new Mercedes-McLaren SLR. This particular car is THE Prototype car, which she bought at a Christie's auction for \$2.1 million dollars. The money went to a good cause, the Laureus Foundation, which helps handicapped athletes. A work of art, this car is surreal, they let me sit in it and start it up! Its great being the Pres. Unfortunately, as a work of art, NO ONE is allowed to drive it. I'm sure the ledger will show this as a tax deduction. You can see it for yourself at the Rallye Motors show room in Roslyn.

On March 20th we visited the Long Island Freightliner dealership on Lakeland Ave. in Bohemia. The main lecture was on the Sprinter Van made by Mercedes in Germany, but sold in this country with the Freightliner nametag. Various configurations of the Sprinter were displayed and discussed from a bare-bones cargo mover to a luxurious camper. Test drives were available and I must say that it is the best handling van that I have ever driven. A brand new UNIMOG was available for rides. You sit so high in it that you can see a mile away, or what is over the mound of dirt that you are about to go over. It truly is the original Monster truck. A UNIMOG sized thank you to Peter Nettesheim for hosting a fun filled morning at his dealership.

Manhattan Mercedes unveiled the production version of the SLR-McLaren with a special party on March 29th at their Park Ave. showroom. Cyndi Lauper and her band performed a few of her hits. Donald Trump was there without his Apprentice candidates. Pop-Star Anne Regina and her producer John "the Cat" Gatto (a former

Pres. of our Club, and former lead guitarist of the Good Rats) were there. A Maybach sized thank you to Harrison Shriftman for bringing the movers and shakers together.

Some of you may have gotten an invitation from M-B to test drive a C-class at their carnival like atmosphere C-SPOT test drive. Held at both the Meadowlands and Rye Playland parking lots this year, it was great fun! Perhaps they can shoe-horn that 5.5 liter AMG engine into the C-Coupe, and make it a convertible also.

On Saturday April 10th Manhattan Mercedes hosted a special presentation for us at their 41st St. Showroom. Mary Alice Ritzmann, Brand Manager of MBUSA spoke about the history of the American Mercedes made in Long Island City by Steinway. Joe Horneman, Maybach Relationship Manager spoke about the new Maybach. Ralph Fisher Director of MB Manhattan spoke about the dealership, supplied us with gastronomic delights and gave us free tickets to the N.Y. Auto Show. Members of the Mercedes-Benz Club of France visiting New York City were our special guests. Afterwards, many of the Sea-Level Section members went across the street to the Javits Center to visit the International Auto Show.

Peter

NOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS:

The Berberich family skillfully earned both first and second place at our recent Road Rally. Our treasurer, Bernie Berberich, along with his daughter, Karen, won first place; Erika and Donna Berberich won second place. Joe and Karen DeFilippe were our third place winners. And we'd like to extend an honorable mention to newcomers Andy Monahan and Thomas Fucignas, for a valiant first try!

June 5th Black-Tie United Nations Dinner Event in NYC

On Saturday night, June 5th, there will be a humanitarian Black-Tie dinner event hosted at the UN by the World Council of Peoples for the United Nations, where members of the Sea-Level Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America are being invited to participate in the fundraiser dinner event, in order to honor the humanitarian contributions of Mercedes-Benz, and the humanitarian contributions of several New Yorkers whose histories span as far back as the 1930's.

Participants and beneficiaries of this event include: United Cancer Charities, Congress for Understanding Racial Equality (CURE), and Young Artists for Peace.

There are a limited number of available seats that are reserved for Sea-Level members. The contribution for Sea-Level members has been set at a reduced rate of \$250/person, which is tax-deductible under the IRS 501 (c) (3) codes. The event will include cocktail hour, full three-course meal, live entertainment, and more. There will also be optional UN tours available.

The reason that the Sea-Level Section is being asked to get involved is because this is an opportunity to both support and applaud the efforts of those who work effortlessly to combat medical threats, to cultivate racial harmony, and to promote the positive message of peace.

Especially affecting the Sea-Level members is the honoring of the many humanitarian efforts of Mercedes-Benz. The cars we drive all come from a company that cares... There are so many examples of how Mercedes-Benz supports education, community revival, and medical advancements. As a global leader in humanitarian contributions, Mercedes-Benz has positively impacted the lives of many. On the evening of June 5th, the World Council of Peoples for the United Nations will honor the manufacturer of the very cars that bring us together as a club of enthusiasts. Please extend the efforts, if possible, to join us at this event, and applaud the honorable works of Mercedes-Benz.

Please contact Jimmy Baldea (the editor) if you have any questions, at 516-466-5858, or via email at Jimmy.Baldea@stosCO.com.



Jacob Javits Car Show & MB-Manhattan Event Highlights

On Saturday, April 10, 2004, Mercedes-Benz Manhattan was host to about seventy Sea-Level Section members and their guests who were treated to an early evening of presentations on Classic Cars by MBUSA's Maryalice Ritzmann and Joseph Horneman, *Maybach* Relationship Manager at M-B Manhattan, along with hors d'oeuvres and beverages.

We were fortunate to be joined by about two dozen special guests, members of Club Mercedes-Benz France who were visiting New York to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the *Gullwing*.

The event was topped off when all attendees were given free admittance passes to the New York Auto Show at the Javits Center right across the street. The Show was spectacular, with the Mercedes-Benz exhibit was particularly impressive! Our sincere thanks to M-B Manhattan General Manager Ralph Fisher and his energetic assistant Holly Sieburg for their gracious hospitality.

-Article submitted by Dr. Jonah Berman



Member Richard M. writes in about West Point event on May 23, 2004:

Hi, I'm a member of the MBCA Sea-Level chapter... A car group I'm associated with is dedicated to the Mercedes Pagoda roadsters from the 1960's. The group is having a special event at West Point in May 2004. Perhaps some of the Sea-Level members might want to participate or come up to West Point to see the cars. For more info about this event, please look at www.SL113.org/westpoint.asp

What a day is promised for W113 Pagodas: a judged car show in a private reserved area on the grounds of the US Military Academy at West Point NY...then a great get-together lunch in the beautiful Hotel Thayer...finally (can you top this?) a Parade of Pagodas tooling along the Hudson Valley to the picturesque Village of Cold Spring... All Pagoda Fans: mark the date, Sunday 23 May 2004...it will be a Red Letter Day (maybe Signal Red?) in the annals of Pagoda History.

Sponsored by the W113 Pagoda SL Group, the SL Roadsters will be out in force. These elegant, fuel injected beauties from 1963-1971 have never lost their looks or their power...

Sea-Level Shop

The Section is now offering multi-colored, chrome-plated grill badges priced at \$15 when purchased at Section events and \$20 when mailed.

Get yours before the present supply is gone!



The Sea-Level Shop also offers white or blue caps and cloth tote bags, all with our Sea Level name and Star logo at a price of \$10.

These items are for sale at all of our events. Bring a few extra dollars and take home something useful from your favorite car club.

GRILL BADGE MAIL REQUEST (return to John Anaischik)

Please send me _____ badge(s) @ \$20.
each.

Enclosed is my check payable to MBCA.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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Joseph DeFilippe

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631-897-9382 or 631-368-6934
Email: jkdefilipp@aol.com

M-B Marketplace

Marketplace is a free service to Sea Level members. Simply mail your ad to the editor by the applicable deadline noted on page two.

FOR SALE: 1979 450SL Coupe, 2 dr. convertible hard top, champagne color, in working order, air conditioning, stereo cassette, good interior/exterior, approximately 109,000 miles. \$5500. Kirsten (631) 751-2244

FOR SALE: Owners Manual, Maintenance Booklet (covers 280SE, 280SE4.5, 280SEL4.5) and Parts Catalog B 1971 (covers 250S, 250SE, 280S, 280SE, 280SE4.5, 280SEL, 280SEL4.5) \$20-all John (631) 549-3564

(516)742-3320



Gullwing Motors, Inc.
Imported Motorcar Specialists

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100 WINDSOR AVENUE
MINEOLA, NEW YORK 11501

CONCOURS d'ELEGANCE & PEOPLES' CHOICE CAR SHOW

Sunday July 17th, 11am to 3pm

Bethpage State Park
Polo Field Parking Lot

It does not make any difference if you have a classic Benz or an everyday driver, polish it up and come join the Sea-Level Section annual car show. Meet your fellow club members and enjoy an afternoon of great cars and if you desire, a polo match or two. The show will have a variety of categories in both Concours d'Elegance and Peoples Choice Show. We will have beverages and snack food, however feel free to bring a box lunch. A park entry fee of \$6.00 per car will be charged at the park gate.

Concours judging will include: Engine Compartment, Paint & Finish, Coachwork, Plastic, Glass & Lights, Seats & Upholstery, Floor Covering, Instruments & Dash, and Luggage Compartment for a total of 100 points.

Peoples Choice Car Show will be judged by the participants in the show and the engine & trunk compartment will not be judged.

Directions: Take 135 (from north or south) to exit 8 Powell Ave. East to Park entrance, follow signs to Polo Field parking.

Sign-up Form for Concours d'Elegance & Peoples Choice Car Show

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Concours_____ Peoples Choice_____

Model_____, Year_____

Enclosed is \$10 per car entered. (Make checks payable to MBCA)

Return to:
Creighton Phillips
6 Todd Drive
Glen Head, NY 11545

516-759-2356
e-mail:creighton_p@yahoo.com



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STAR-GAZER

2004 COMING EVENTS SCHEDULE

Please join us for these upcoming events:

May 8... HAMPTONS TECH SESSION... Call Peter Busacca @ 516-810-3745

June 5... UNITED NATIONS DINNER... Call Jimmy Baldea @ 516-466-5858

July 17... CONCOURS d'ELEGANCE & Car Show... Call Creighton Phillips
@ 516-759-2356

Stay tuned for more fun and events throughout the year!