



Star-Gazer

Sea-Level Section - Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc.

www.MBCASeaLevel.org

Front Page News

- Upcoming revisions to website database after some recent technical troubles
- Annual Member Business Journal enclosed
- Sea-Level Section President Peter Busacca is running for NYS Assembly (Suffolk County)

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Star-Gazer

Sea-Level Section
 MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA, Inc.
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Changes of Address: Requests should be forwarded to MBCA 19071 Lelaray Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80909; 1-800-637-2360; or www.mbca.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).

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).

2004 COMING EVENTS SCHEDULE

Please join us for these upcoming events:

Saturday, September 18 Fall Charity Road Rally... Call Peter Busacca
@ 516-810-3745

Saturday, November 6 ... Competition Imports Tech Session,
Smithtown... Call Peter Busacca @ 516-810-3745

Sunday, December 5... Holiday Dinner @ Bonwitt Inn Restaurant...
Call Dick Weiss @ 516-747-0679

NEWS ABOUT OUR WEBSITE (www.MBCASeaLevel.org)

The website was recently down, due to a problem with the database structure and its compatibility with the hosting company's requirements. In mid-August, the site will have yet a new functionality.

All members who can log on without difficulty will be able to retain their usernames/passwords.

All members who cannot log on will have the opportunity to register to the site, so that you may receive email updates and emailed versions of the STAR-Gazer.

If you are not sure whether you have difficulties with the website, there's a simple test... if you do not receive birthday and holiday cards, then you have difficulties with the website.

As the website editor, I personally regret any inconvenience that this may have caused our members. I am working earnestly to correct this. Call Sherry, Esther, or myself at STOS (www.stosCO.com) at 516-466-5858 if you have any questions.

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!

Car Badges

Hats & Bags

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

200 Floral Pkwy, Floral Park, NY 11001

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

Enclosed is my check payable to MBCA.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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President's Message

Dear Members:

We visited Mercedes-Benz of Southampton on Saturday, May 8th. Salesman extraordinaire (and club member) Vince Cavaliere gave an informative speech on the latest technology put into the cars we love. Stephen McHone, Service Consultant, told us all about the do's and don't's of servicing our cars. Neal Kaplan, Sales Manager, forgot to buy the bagels, so he is going to treat those of us who were there, to a breakfast sometime in November. What a jolly fellow!

Our Concours d'Elegance & Daily Driver car show were on Sunday, July 18th, at the Bethpage State Park Polo Grounds parking lot. The winners are announced elsewhere in the newsletter. We had a Board of Directors meeting directly after the car show to discuss the upcoming events.

Our Fall Road Rallye will be done in conjunction with the charity, "Alternatives for Children." They are a school for normal as well as special needs

children from ages six months to six years old. They have schools in Melville, East Setauket, Aquebogue, and Southampton. The Rallye will start at their East Setauket school on Saturday, September 18th at 9:00a.m. sharp. It is located at 14 Research Way, off the Belle Meade Rd., by way of Nesconset Highway (Rt. 347). Breakfast and lunch are included along with a t-shirt each, for the driver and navigator as well as other goodies. The finish line and luncheon is at the Marth Clara Vineyards on the North Fork. The cost is \$100 for the Driver and Navigator or \$40 per person for the luncheon. Call (631) 331-6400 ext. 220 for more information and to register by phone.

Saturday November 6th will be the date for the tech session at Competition Imports in Smithtown, and Sunday December 5th is the date for our Holiday Party. I hope to see you all at a future event.

Peter

President Peter Busacca

Editor's Note: Peter is running for NYS Assembly! Best wishes and Good Luck! Call (516) 810-3745.

Secretary's Message on the Election

Dear Members:

This is a Notice of Elections meeting report. At the end of each fiscal year, this section is required to hold an election for the members of the Board. The Board then elects the officers. This year's election will take place at the Competition Imports Tech Session in November.

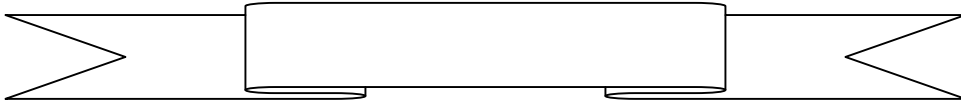
If you would like to run for a position on the Board, or if you have any ideas on running an event, please contact me:

By phone: (631) 261-5074

By email: rmuth@optonline.net.

This section is always in need of great ideas. If you would like to bring your expertise to benefit the club, please contact me.

Secretary Robert Muth



Quick Member Survey - Please Complete

Please circle the answer to each of the three questions

I garage one or more of my Mercedes-Benz vehicles	Yes	No
I use a car cover outside on one or more of my Mercedes-Benz vehicles	Yes	No
I use a car cover inside a garage for one or more of My Mercedes-Benz vehicles	Yes	No

Please tear your completed quick survey off, and send to Jimmy Baldea, 350 Northern Blvd., Suite 326, Great Neck, NY 11021

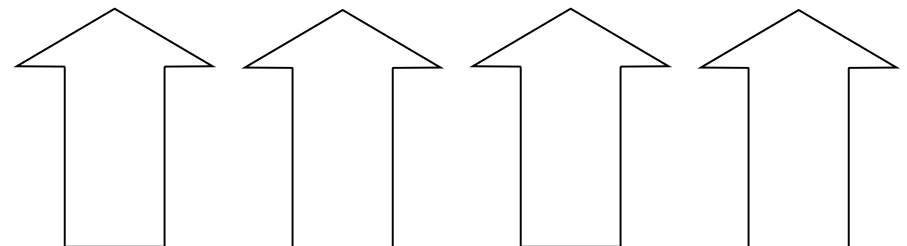
2 Invitations from our Neighbors

There will be a Love Mercedes Tour, sponsored by MBUSA, which will allow us to drive several models of Mercedes-Benz vehicles. This tour will take place at the Nassau Coliseum, on September 24th through September 26th. Please come out and test-drive the many models, and also enjoy a professionally driven 4x4 course with G Class and other vehicles.

The Love Mercedes Tour is part of the national Drive Your Future scholarship program, which will award over \$500,000 to hundreds of students across the country who demonstrate exemplary academic achievement, financial need, leadership, and participation in school/community activities. For more info, log onto www.LoveMercedesTour.com.

The Hudson-Mohawk Section has invited us to their Concours and Car Show, which will take place on Saturday, August 21, 2004, from 7am to 4:30pm, at West Point, approximately 50 miles north of NYC. There is a \$7.50 early registration fee, or a \$10 late registration fee.

I enjoyed several pleasant conversations with the show coordinator, Jeffrey Corton, and he's looking for spectators, participants, volunteers, and/or smiling faces. He can be reached by Jeffrey.Corton@usma.edu.



The Fall Rally & Charity Drive

Want to explore eastern Long Island, take a chance to win a car or \$20,000 and support special needs children across Long Island? Then the **8th Annual Alternatives for Children Classic and Sports Car Rally** is for you! **Saturday, September 18, 2004** (Start: Alternatives for Children-East Setauket; Finish: Martha Clara Vineyards) Can't rally? Take a chance to win your choice of a 2004 Mercedes-Benz C-230 Sedan, Toyota 4Runner SR5 SUV, BMW 325 Sedan or \$20,000 cash option. Tickets are \$25 each or a book of 5 for \$100 (limited to 3,500 tickets). Drive in the rally! Enter your car for \$100 (includes car registration and reception for Driver and Navigator at Martha Clara Vineyards.) Recognized as one of the leaders in early childhood education since 1988, **Alternatives for Children** is a not-for-profit school that strives to provide developmentally delayed, multiple handicapped, autistic and typically developing children, ages 6 weeks to 6 years, with the foundations needed to speak, walk, learn, grow and explore. Through home, community and center-based (East Setauket, Aquebogue, Southampton and Melville) programs across Long Island, **Alternatives for Children** has grown to serve over 600 children annually. For registration, sponsorship information or to order tickets, call (631) 331-6400, ext. 220. Special thanks to Competition Automotive Group: Mercedes-Benz Huntington, Competition BMW of Smithtown, Competition Imports of Smithtown, Competition Infiniti of Smithtown, Competition Toyota of Middle Island.

This is a great event, and will be our Fall Rally. There will be a special MBCA-only trophy segment, where our members will have the opportunity to win traditional Sea-Level prizes and trophies.

If you have any questions, above and beyond, please call Peter Busacca (our President) at 516-810-3745.

The Jimmy Baldea Report

Hello Everybody,

In addition to our already-existing great pride in the vehicles we own, drive, and love, there are many great and positive experiences that are brought about by courteous and caring sales people and dealership staff members that deserve recognition.

In this edition of The Jimmy Baldea Report, we'd like to highlight the courtesy of a super-duper salesman, named Mario Castilli, from Sovereign Motor Cars Ltd., located at 1800 Shore Parkway, Brooklyn (Exit 5 off the Belt Parkway).

I (and everybody who I have ever recommended to him) have always had positive experiences with him. Mario deserves to be highlighted in our newsletter, because he really cares about his customers. He works with you, is very reasonable, and provides great purchasing/leasing guidance and insight!

Mario has always found a way to help his clients drive the Benz they want, using the most cost-effective means possible. He helps his customers take advantage of rare/short-term specials, and factory-to-dealer incentives, which would normally go unnoticed. Mario's consideration for his customers goes a long way— I urge anyone in the market for a new Benz to give him a call @ (718) 258-5100, and to say you read about him in the MBCA's newsletter, in The Jimmy Baldea Report!

There are many fantastic people out there who help make our Mercedes-Benz experience fun, special, and unique. If you have somebody that you'd like to highlight, or say a special Thank You to, in our next issue, please contact me (using the information on the inside cover of this issue), or email me at JimmyBaldea@aol.com.

Editor Jimmy Baldea

Member Spotlight: Linda & H. Roy Jaffe

Have you ever wondered about that really beautiful 1936 540K Special Cabriolet that we always see at our car shows? It belongs to Linda and H. Roy Jaffe. This elegantly-styled showpiece is truly a one-of-a-kind car, directly from the Mercedes factory's own Sindelfingen Werk, which was custom designed and built for William A. M. Burden, great, great grandson of Cornelius Vanderbilt.

The Jaffe family obtained the car in 1963, from the vehicle's second owner, in Kew Gardens, Queens. The car was completely disheveled, but the engine was still in working condition. After pumping air into the tires, and for a \$25 rope tow, the Jaffe family brought it to Plainview.

The complete restoration project took over 23 years to complete, and there was a 100 point restoration done by a small company in Indiana, to the point of authenticity.

There must be immense satisfaction when Mr. Jaffe counts the many, many First Place trophies that are earned by the vehicle every year.

When I spoke with Mr. Jaffe, he on the high quality of the vehicle by saying that, "this is a such strong, quality car that you don't replace parts on it that go bad, but rather you rebuild the parts themselves."

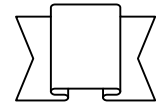
Mr. Jaffe feels that auto restoration projects inspire family togetherness, and advises fellow restorers to, "avoid short cuts; take pride and satisfaction in what you do."

The vehicle is such a pleasing view to the eye, that a toy replica of this very vehicle will be offered at www.AutoFareModelCars.com. This is a limited edition, limited to only 300 pieces, and is scaled to 1:43. For more information on purchasing, please call Phil Alderman of Auto Fare, at (718) 241-2190, or email AutoFare@aol.com.

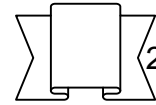
A Successful Concours & Car Show

Special thanks goes out to Mr. Creighton Phillips for a great Concours d'Elegance and Popular Car Show. His exquisite tastes led us to the Polo Fields in Bethpage State Park!

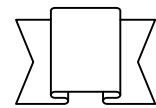
And the winners are...



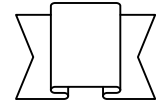
1st Place: John Betsch and his 1965 230SL



2nd Place: Jerry Shapiro and his 1987 560SL



3rd Place: Jim Lauckhardt and his 1987 560SL



4th Place: Rod Bosse and his 1977 450SL

Board of Directors Award: John Reichardt and his 1970 SE Convertible

Most Popular Classic: Richard Madison and his 1971 280SL

Best Family Car: Sal Palmeri and his 1979 320SD

Best Coupe/Sedan: Chris Fraidali and his 1992 300CE

Best Off-Road: Dick Weiss and his 2004 C320

The BIG WINNER was Ron Feldmesser and his 2000 CLK450, with FOUR awards:

- Best High Performance Car
- Best Roadster/Cabriolet
- Most Popular Modern Car
- Winner of Car You'd Like to Drive Home