



Star-Gazer

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

www.MBCASeaLevel.org

Volume 42, Issue1

First Quarter, 2005

Front Page News

- New Star-Gazer format is coming
A bigger & better *Gazer* will go to print next issue
- Thank you from Alternatives for Children
The toys collected from our Holiday party have put smiles on many young LI, NY faces
- Defensive Driving Course Sunday, Feb 20!
Local, LI driving school can help you save \$ on car insurance & also reduce points
- Free NYC Auto Show Tickets
Mercedes Manhattan is doing it again, for the second year in a row!
- AND DON'T FORGET... there is an upcoming Seal Cruise in Long Island!

Read All About It in print or online!

www.MBCASeaLevel.org



Star-Gazer

Sea-Level Section
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Jerome Shapiro Viola Scarduzio (director emeritus)

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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 and on applicable envelopes, 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).

2004/2005 EVENTS SCHEDULE

Please join us for these upcoming events:

2/20: Insurance point reduction class; presented by member Peter B.; \$30/person; in Port Jefferson; 9am to 3pm. Call Peter B. @ 516-810-3745 for details.

3/6: Seal cruise; presented by Dr. Jonah B. and Dr. Joan L. Call 212-685-1917 for details. Call Dr. Jonah Berman @ 12:30pm to 4pm. \$20/person; \$3 off for seniors & children.

4/2: Auto Show MB NYC. Tech Session; presented by member Jerry S. 718-423-0107. 536 West 41st. Street and 11th Ave. Free to attend.

In May: James Beard dinner; presented by member Vinny M. (date to be announced) 212-279-2300.

In June: Concours and Popular Car Show (to be announced).

9/25: Hill Climb in Port Jeff; presented by Peter B. (to be announced).

In October: Fall rallye; presented by member John A. (to be announced) 516-775-3597.

In November: Greg M. tech session. (to be announced).

In December: Holiday Lights Show; Jones Beach; presented by member Jimmy B. (to be announced)

12/1: Holiday Party; starts @ Noon; Bonwitt Inn; presented by member Bernie B. 631-286-6167

Stay tuned for more updates and upcoming events in 2005!

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.

Please make check payable to MBCA, and mail this form to John Anaischik @ 200 Floral Pkwy., Floral Park, NY 11001.

GRILL BADGE MAIL REQUEST

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL. _____

(516)742-3320

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Cass.
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- Needs new canvas
top
- 105k miles

\$12,500 Jean

CORRECT NUMBER

(631) 232-0011 x505

There was a misprint in the last issue, so please call this number. Sorry, Jean, from Jimmy Baldea.

2 cars for sale

1987 190E 16V by
AMG. Very rare. Auto.
\$5,950.

&

1971 280SL Blue/ivory/
auto/air cond./both tops.
\$23,700.

Email MaxForza@aol.com
for pics, or call Michael
D. Cannillo @ 917-620-
8158 for more details.

President's Inaugural Message

Hello fellow Sea Level section members! As the new president of our section, I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year!! I also want to extend a heart felt thanks to outgoing President but still current Board member, Peter Busacca, and outgoing Board members: John Betsch, Creighton Phillips, Richard Weiss, and Bob Muth. They have given our Club many hours and years of their time and service. I especially want to single out Dick Weiss. Several years ago, as a new Mercedes Benz owner and Sea Level member, Dick recruited me for a position on the Board of Directors. Over the years he has not only been a friend but a mentor as I increased my involvement in our section. I want to thank him again for everything, wish him and his wife, Shirley, well and I will miss his guidance and input.

Our new Board members; Andy Monahan, Greg Morra, Dr. Joan Levine Berman, and Jimmy Baldea are already providing energy and great ideas to go along with our existing Board members; John Anaischik, Dr. Jonah Berman, Bernie Berberich, Vinny Milo, Peter Busacca, Jerry Shapiro, and Spencer Dworkin.

The events for the upcoming year will hopefully prove to have something of interest for every member of the Sea Level section. To start with, in March, the Bermans have put together a Seal Watch. In April, Jerry Shapiro has organized a Tech Session at MB Manhattan including complimentary Auto Show tickets. Peter Busacca is organizing an Insurance Reduction Safety Class as well as a Concours and Car Show, Vinny Milo is organizing a James Beard dining event, John Anaischik is hosting the Fall Rally and there are other tech sessions and outings in the works. As soon as they become set they will be announced in the Stargazer. As you can see, the Board has tried to put together a variety of outings that we think are of interest to our members. I am asking every member who has an idea for an event to mention it to myself or one of the Board members. This way the club can respond quickly to the interests of its members and add additional outings.

In closing, I hope to see all of you taking part in at least one event. It's YOUR club and you should enjoy it!

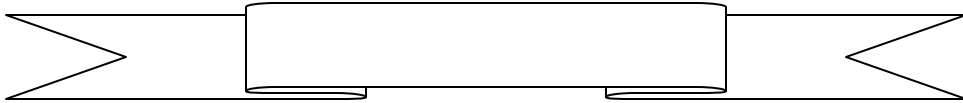
Happy Trails and Safe Driving,
Joe DeFilippe

Last Quarter's Survey Results

Almost half of all members who responded go to authorized MB dealers for their maintenance and oil changes.

Approximately 10% of all members who responded are aware of the new policy regarding 2005 (and up) oil/maintenance..

Editor's note: MBUSA wants to hear from you. **In order to enhance future MB benefits, please write to: Mercedes-Benz USA, L.L.C., 3 Paragon Drive, Montvale, NJ 07645, Att: Customer Service.**



Quick Member Survey - Please Complete

Please fill in the blank: My most favorable activity during my membership with the Sea-Level Section has been:

Please describe any experiences you have had with MB Roadside Assistance:

Please tear this page out, and send to: Jimmy Baldea, 350 Northern Blvd., Suite 326, Great Neck, NY 11021. We want to hear from you!

Don't forget the Seal Cruise March 6

Remember our Seal Cruise! It'll be a great learning, charitable, and fun member experience! It has been planned by Dr.'s Jonah Berman and Joan Levine, and the ship will set sail for this event on March 6, at 12:30pm.

The Seal Cruise is part of an effort conducted by the Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research & Preservation.

Reserve now! Space is limited!

Call Dr. Jonah Berman @ 212-685-1917. 12:30pm to 4pm. \$20/person; \$3 off for seniors & children

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FREE Jacob Javits Auto Show Tickets April 2nd

Sea-Level section will have a Club event at Manhattan Mercedes-Benz located at 536 West 41st. Street and 11th. Avenue on Saturday, April 2nd. 2005. The time is 5PM to 7PM. The newest and most exciting Mercedes models will be on display and their sales staff will be available to explain the latest features. The Mercedes-Benz Classic Center will have a representative at the meeting, have vintage models on display and give a talk on these beautiful, and unique automobiles. After the meeting, members and their guests will have the opportunity to visit the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center located just across the street for the 2005 International Automobile Show. A limited number of complimentary tickets will be available for Club members, refreshments will be served, and free protected parking will be provided courtesy of Manhattan Mercedes-Benz.

RSVP

Jerry Shapiro 718-423-0107
jshapiro41@nyc.rr.com

Log onto <http://www.AutoShowNY.com> for details.

Mercedes-Benz will be exhibiting in Booth #1515, Level 1, and in Booth # 902, Level 3. There will be refreshments in the special Mercedes-Benz USA lounge, located in one of the booth displays, in the “upstairs” lounge.

Maybach will be exhibiting in Booth # 404, Level 3.



The Jimmy Baldea Report

Hello Everybody,

I'd like to highlight some of the “Angels” we have watching over us... AKA Mercedes-Benz Roadside Assistance, which can be reached at 1 (800) FOR-MERCEDES. Recently, I had a positive run-in with a Roadside technician, Mr. Sal D'Amico. On a somewhat gloomy and recent day (we've had many of those), I was driving westbound on Northern Blvd., in Manhasset, when an ML started honking at me from behind, then drove up to my side. The ML was a Rallye Motors Service Vehicle, and the driver, Mr. D'Amico, lowered his window, politely introduced himself, then informed me that one of my taillight bulbs was no longer working. He then courteously offered to replace the burned lightbulb, if I would pull over, and if I had 5 minutes to spare! After the quick repair, Mr. D'Amico professed, “I love Mercedes-Benz vehicles; I can't stand to see one on the road that's not in tip-top working order...”

What a pleasant experience! I asked Mr. D'Amico about what else Roadside Assistance does. He proceeded to give me a tour of the full repair shop that was located in the ML that he was driving. Roadside Assistance has several batteries, several vehicle starting components, nuts, bolts, screws, and (as I found out) plenty of lightbulbs!

I feel 100% safer knowing that our driving experiences are secured by caring MB technicians, such as Mr. D'Amico and his peers. These caring people are just part of the reason why MB drivers and their passengers continue to stand above the rest, in terms of receiving customer service!

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@MBCASeaLevel.org.

Editor Jimmy Baldea

Thank you from Alternatives for Children

In the spirit of the holiday season, Peter Busacca of the Sea-Level Section of the Mercedes Benz Club of America, recently delivered new toys, donated by members of the New York & Long Island Chapter - the Sea-Level Section, to Dr. Marie Ficcano, Executive Director of Alternatives for Children, a regional school for children with special needs, ages 6 weeks to 6 years, based in East Setauket. The toys were given to the Alternatives for Children recently. Social workers distributed the toys to families in need throughout the program. A special thanks was given to everyone from the Sea-Level Section who participated! This photograph shows Peter Busacca accepting a collective Thank You, on behalf of the Sea-Level members.



Each year, the Sea-Level Section, at our holiday dinner event, has a custom to donate toys to children in need. By joining us at our next holiday dinner event, and by participating in this custom, you can play a valuable role in allowing a child in need to experience happiness during the upcoming Holiday season.

Again, many thanks to all who participated! Hope to see you at our next event!

Driver Safety Course on Feb. 20

Due to popular demand from our recent request for member ideas for Sea-Level events, a new event has been planned for our members to reduce their insurance, and also to gain safety awareness.

Who: MBCA Sea-Level members

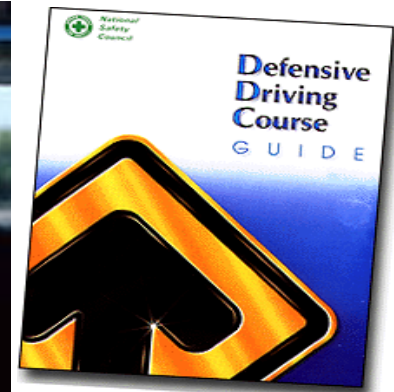
What: Defensive Driving Course
Save 10% on your car Insurance
Get four points off your license

When: Sunday Feb.20th, 2005 9:30 a.m.-3:30p.m.

Where: Bobby Hull Insurance Agency
517 Rte.112 Port Jefferson Station
between IHOP and Casimir Funeral Home

How: Call David at 631-473-6300 and tell him your
With the M.B. Club, \$30 per person
Or...

Contact Peter Busacca at (516) 810-3745.



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