



STAR-GAZER

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

Volume 44, Issue 2

Second Quarter, 2007

SEA LEVEL CLUB HAPPENINGS

The Club had three great events over the past several months. On Saturday March 24th we visited the Gliptone wax factory where we learned the fine points of car detailing with a demonstration on Peter Busacca’s black 560SEC. The left front fender was brought back to a brilliant luster by Rocco Caporaso President & CEO of the company. I think that Peter has some work to complete. Lunch was served after the demonstration. Thanks Peter.

Saturday April 14th one hundred club members and their guests visited Mercedes-Benz Manhattan. After a tour of their two indoor showrooms, we were treated to breakfast and free passes to the International Automobile Show across the Street at the Javits Convention Center.

Gullwing Motors hosted a Technical Session. Lou Palumbo, who is the Club’s Technical Advisor and his son Steve were happy to answer any questions or address any problems that members might have with their cars. Lou also arranged for a dent and ding expert to demonstrate his technique on our cars and the results were outstanding. It was a long session but Gullwing Motors generously provided Sea Level Club members with Breakfast and Lunch. Thanks to Oliver Seligman, newly elected to The B.O.D. and eager to arrange fresh new events.

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Member Marketplace:

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



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President's Message

Hello Fellow Sea Level Section Members,

Spring is in the air, which brings to mind several of the upcoming Events hosted by our Section. In June we have our Daily Car Driver and in July we will have our Annual Spring Car Rally (check within the newsletter for further details). The Rally is a yearly event that is very popular with members. The Daily Car Driver event this year has some new twists to it that we, the Board, hope you will enjoy. Our more traditional Car Show will be held in September and our Concours d'Elegance will be held in November. The Club's Calendar of Events has been modified and you should make sure you retain the latest version.

Over the past several months, the Club has had a tech session at Gullwing Motors hosted by Lou Palumbo, club tech advisor and Oliver Seligman, board member; a tour and information session at Gliptone Wax Factory hosted by Peter Busacca, board member; and our annual and very popular Auto Car Show sponsored by Manhattan Mercedes-Benz hosted by Jerry Shapiro, board member. Stories and summaries of these events are elsewhere in this issue. The members of the Board are enthusiastic and have given many hours of their time to host these and the other events to come throughout the year.

There have been some changes with some of the tasks performed by members of the Board. Jerry Shapiro has become the full-time newsletter editor as well as continues to be the Vice-President and John Weigel is the new Secretary. Jim Baldea has resigned from the Board in order to pursue his new career and business. The Board thanks him for his efforts and wishes him well.

We are currently looking for a member interested in maintaining our website and in essence being the webmaster. Please call me if you are interested. Also, Jerry Shapiro, our newsletter editor, is always looking for stories or articles from members. Call or send him anything that you may find interesting. Finally, the Board is always looking for ideas from members for possible future events. Call any of us with your ideas. Hope you have a wonderful spring and enjoy any and all of the upcoming events!

Happy Trails...

Joe DeFilippe
Sea Level President

“IN THE FUTURE, EVERYONE WILL BE FAMOUS FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES”

By John Betsch

It appears that Andy Warhol was somewhat right when he said that in 1968, as I had my chance for that fame or at least my 230SL did (but I'm taking the credit) recently.

Let me tell you how:

The day began with my baby loaded onto a flatbed trailer early in the morning for the trip into Long Island City. As I sat in the truck, I had no idea what the remainder of the day would bring.

Upon arrival, my car was carefully unloaded and then pushed (with actual white gloves of course to insure no damage) into the sound stage as they did not want the engine to be run inside the building. A Sound Stage - just like in the movies! With directors, producers, grips, gaffs, electricians and of course the actors/models scurrying around, I felt very out of place, being simply the caretaker of one of these actors - my '65 230SL. Quickly my classic drew much attention with the customary questions of how long have you owned her? How fast does she go? and the ever asked question - what is your car worth? (Priceless to me).

With wires, wires, everywhere, lights from all angles and the famous "green screen" (actually all the walls and floor and a concept which I did not fully grasp until I saw the final commercial) - the work began.

As my car and I sat dutifully waiting to be called for our scene, I indulged in the offerings at the craft table, rivaling the all-you-can-eat brunches advertised weekly in our local paper.

I learned that Casio USA was about to introduce their new Exilim Digital camera and was developing a five minute in-store video to be used to extol the features of this newly designed camera. My 230SL, which is red, (Rot. Met. DB571 in Mercedes-Benz terminology) was close in color to one of their camera's color offerings and was to be part of this video. I also learned that apparently Mercedes-Benz has restrictions or mandated significant royalties for use of their logo, so my car's marque was camouflaged or covered wherever possible. A bit ignominious but my Pagoda was going to be in the movies!

After numerous takes and shots from various angles, my day was done. Carefully she was re-loaded onto the flatbed for the trip home. To top off the day and to add to her perceived notoriety, the driver kept all his safety and spotlights on and aimed at my Pagoda for the trip home on the LIE. It was dark by then but I could still see the many passing cars staring at this new video star. A fun day, but unfortunately my car has now developed a new Diva attitude. Oh, the price of fame!

How did this all happen? Here is your chance for your fifteen minutes of fame. Auto Film Club of America (www.autofilmclub.com) maintains a registry of cars available for use in print advertising, modeling, and the film industry. Their registry has all types/condition cars listed in their database. You can register your car at Autofilm2@aol.com. Maybe fifteen minutes of fame awaits you? As the Lotto commercial says- You never know?



***** SPRING RALLY*****

Starting at 10 AM on Sunday, July 29th at Fred's Restaurant, 1801 East Jericho Turnpike, Huntington, please join fellow members for our annual Spring Rally. For those who have never participated, a Rally is an event where members drive through a well planned course of streets/landmarks, looking for answers to a series of questions. The criteria for winning includes time (too fast is actually penalized as well as too slow), mileage, and of course answers to the provided questions. Plaques will be awarded to the top four drivers and navigators. NOTE: this event requires both a driver and a navigator. If needed, we will pair solo members. Also, a street map of Suffolk County is required. Cost of participation is \$20 per person and includes the Rally and lunch at Fred's afterwards. Fred's specializes in German cuisine and will offer a choice of five entrees, soup, salad, coffee and desert. The event promises to be memorable. Please contact Andy Monahan at 516-432-3154 no later than July 25th

Directions from the West:

Northern State Pkwy to Exit 42N. Get off the exit ramp and get into the left lane. At the fork bear left. Drive for two miles to Jericho Tpke. At Jericho Tpke., there will be a Jeep dealer on your right, a Wendy's on your left. Make a right on to Jericho Tpke., and drive one and a half miles. Fred's will be on the left hand side across from the Dix Hills Diner.

Directions from the East:

Northern State Pkwy to Exit 42N. At the traffic light continue straight for two miles to Jericho Tpke., At Jericho Tpke., there will be a Jeep dealer on your right, a Wendy's on your left. Make a right at Jericho Take., and drive one and a half miles. Fred's will be on the left hand side across from the Dix Hills Diner.

Spring Rally – July 29th 10 AM

Cost \$20 per person

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Tel _____

Mail to: J. Andrew Monahan, 76 Georgia Ave., Long Beach, New York 11561

Gliptone Wax Factory tour

By Peter Busacca

On Saturday March 24th we visited the Gliptone wax factory. They have been making wax and other car care products since 1947.

Now that the nice weather is here it is time to remove the winter grunge from your car's surface. If there is a lot of dirt on the surface of your car and you want to remove last years wax also, then use laundry detergent in your bucket of water when washing your car.

If you want to leave the old wax on then use a pH neutral wash such as the Gliptone Wash N' Glo. To thoroughly deep clean the surface you may want to try Gliptone's three-step process. With the car still wet, rub Gliptone's Clay Body Bar back and forth while spraying the wax containing Body Gloss sparingly. It is amazing the amount of micro dirt that the clay bar picks up.

Once the Body Bar process is complete, the paint is clean, smooth, and ready for the non-scouring Clear coat Compound which will remove light to moderate surface blemishes such as fine scratching, water spot marks, oxidation, bird dropping and tree sap stains.

It is recommended that you use a micro fiber towel to buff away excess product residue. Next is the Clear coat Polish with sealant. With gloss enhancers and curable polymers this step seals the clear coat with a durable coating. The final coat of wax is the finishing step. If you want a brilliant car show shine go with the natural Carnauba wax. If you want a longer lasting finish because your car travels through an adverse environment I would recommend the synthetic Platinum wax with DuPont Zonyl.

They have Leather Cleaner, and Leather Conditioner. The conditioner smells like new leather. Gliptone is offering a 15% discount on their products to our members. Call (631)-737-1130. I hope you experience the joy one gets when you keep your car with a clean, clear, deep, and durable finish. I hope to see you, and your car at one of our car shows later this year.

The Rainbow Room at Rockefeller Center

By Vinny Milo

A WONDERFUL EVENING WAS EXPERIENCED BY THE SEA LEVEL CLUB ON SUNDAY 20 MAY AT THE FABLED **RAINBOW ROOM** SIXTY-FIVE FLOORS ABOVE *ROCKEFELLER CENTER*.

MEMBERS ARRIVED TO FABULOUS VIEWS OF MANHATTAN, AND DEPARTED TO THE LIGHTS OF ALL NEW YORK.

MEMBERS SHOWED THAT THEY NOT ONLY KNOW THEIR WAY AROUND PREMIUM CARS, BUT ALSO THE DANCE FLOOR.

FOOD, SERVICE, MUSIC MADE FOR AN EVENING TO REMEMBER.

Mercedes-Benz Manhattan Showroom Tour and Javits Automobile Show

By Jerry Shapiro

On Saturday April 14th one hundred members of Sea Level section were invited to view the two indoor showrooms filled with the latest new models that are being offered for sale or lease. Beautiful factory certified used Mercedes were located in the first showroom. The second showroom had an awesome display of the newest AMG editions.

Breakfast was served; the MB Manhattan staff was present to answer any questions that members asked about the product line. We were given the opportunity to purchase items, parts, and accessories from the Parts department at a very nice discounted price. A special raffle, courtesy of the dealership was offered to all who attended. This prize was called "The Spa Package" which included a complete detailing, lube and filter change and having all tires filled with nitrogen. The raffle was won by Bob Lieberman who attended as a guest and is an active member of the Minutemen Section.

As a generous parting gesture, all members and guests were given free tickets and VIP passes to visit the Javits Convention Center which was hosting the International Automobile Show. The show was a wonderful experience to attend. Manufacturers had on display all the new models available as well as exotics, customs, and concept cars.

My first stop at the show was the Mercedes-Benz display where I saw two new models to die for. The first one was the new CL65 AMG 40th anniversary edition, limited production of - you guessed it- 40 vehicles. Power is derived by a V12 twin turbo producing 604hp, torque: 738 lb-ft, 0-62 mph in 4.4 sec. electronically limited to 155mph. The second one was my favorite: the CLK63 AMG Black Series. Although this rare beauty was actually shown in a brilliant racing silver color and not black, it has awesome power: 500hp, torque: 465 lb-ft, 0-60mph 4.1 sec. Top speed 186mph.

Special thanks to Mercedes-Benz Manhattan General Manager Ralph Fisher, Holly Longstreet, and John Hart, Customer Relations Liaison.

Monthly Trivia Question

What does the Mercedes-Benz Badge-the Silver Star Signify?

The First member to email me with the correct answer wins a prize to be awarded at the next club event.

jshapiro41@verizon.net

["When speed gets in the blood, one must drive to live."](#)

[Rudolf Caracciola \(1901-1959\) German race car driver](#)

Daily Driver Car Show, June 24, 2007

Metropolitan Avenue @ the Metro Café

10207 Metropolitan Avenue
Forest Hills, NY 11375
(718) 793-0820

Categories:

Most rare Mercedes color
Car with the highest mileage showing on the odometer
Car, most in need of restoration
Hottest Benz (AMG type)
Car, most in need of a set of tires
Best looking OEM wheels
Newest Mercedes
Best 4 door sedan
Best convertible
Best coupe
Best 50's-60's Mercedes
Best 70's-80's Mercedes
Best 90's- Present Mercedes S class
Best 90's- Present Mercedes E class
Best 90's- Present Mercedes C class
Best 90's- Present other Mercedes
Best pre WWII Mercedes
Sharpest looking interior
Cleanest trunk
Best SL

Food and beverages will be available at the Metro Café

Contact Oliver 718-575-8277 or e-mail Mogs05@aol.com

Entrants should notify Oliver by 6/17/07

Bring your family and friends and enjoy the Mercedes Car Show.

You do not have to enter to enjoy the great food at the Metro Café or to visit any of the other fine stores in the neighborhood.

There will also be a hat contest. The categories include:

Best hat, Biggest hat, Smallest hat, Funniest hat, Ugliest hat, Most original hat, Most colorful hat,
Best hat to wear while riding in a convertible. A Mercedes of course!

DAY AT THE RACES

By **VINNY MILO**

BELMONT RACETRACK OUTING

SUNDAY 15 JULY '07

A WONDERFUL AFTERNOON HAS BEEN PLANNED FOR MEMBERS OF *THE MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB*, THEIR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

THE DAY INCLUDES

BUFFET LUNCH

PERFERED PARKING

PROGRAM

ENJOYING THE RACES FROM YOUR TABLE

PRIVATE BETTING BOOTHS

ARRIVAL: 11-11:30

LUNCH: 12:00

DAY ENDS: 4:30

ALL THIS FOR **\$35** PER PRSON, ALL INCLUSIVE.

ANY QUESTIONS:

VINNY MILO

Phone 212 861-4027

Email rsaisa@aol.com Subject: Belmont Outing

SEND CHECKS MADE OUT TO **MBCA** TO:

V C MILO

222 E 80 ST

NEW YORK NY 10021-0558

COME JOIN US, A WONDERFUL WAY TO SPEND A SUMMER AFTERNOON!

SEA-LEVEL AREA MERCEDES-BENZ DEALERSHIP LOCATIONS

Helms Bros., Inc.
208-24 Northern Blvd.
Bayside, NY 11361
40-01 168th St. Flushing, NY 11358
(service/parts)
1-718-631-8181
1-718-631-8299 (service/parts)

Sovereign Motor Cars Ltd.
1810 Shore Pkwy.
Brooklyn, NY 11214
1-718-258-5100
1-718-253-8880 (service)

Silver Star Motors
36-11 Northern Blvd.
Long Island City, NY 11101
1-718-361-2332
1-718-392-1551 (service)
1-718-361-2966 (parts)

Mercedes-Benz Manhattan, Inc.
536 West 41st. St.
New York City, NY 10036
1-800-626-9191
1-212-629-1600

Mercedes-Benz of Massapequa
101 East Sunrise Hwy.
Amityville, NY 11701
1-631-789-1600

Mercedes-Benz of Huntington
1103 East Jericho Turnpike
Huntington, NY 11743
1-631-549-2369

Lakeview Auto Sales and Service, Inc.
650 Sunrise Hwy.
Rockville Centre, NY 11570
468 Lakeview Ave. (service/parts)
1-516-766-6900
1-516-766-2585 (service)

Rallye Motors, LLC.
1600 Northern Blvd.
Roslyn, NY 11576
1-516-625-1600
1-516-625-1000 (service)

Mercedes-Benz of Smithtown
630 Middle Country Rd.
St. James, NY 11780
1-631-265-2204
1-631-265-7139 (service)

Mercedes-Benz of Southampton
35 Montauk Hwy.
Southampton, NY 11968
1-631-283-0888

Welcome New Members

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.

Carey Benson, Ronald Bayer, Kenneth Bialkin, Dean Dick, Vincent & Barbara Gargiulo, Alexandra Garrett, Jon Kirwin, Louis Morrone, Herbert Paultre, Frances Savage-Marconi, Jason Wong, Harvey Gregory, Edmond & Sabrina Debler, Vincent Gerbino, Craig German, Rolf Giest, Sonny & Lisa Grosfeld, Winardo Lomboy, William Mehrkens, Lillian Padilla, Barry Strauss MD, Jerry Tate, John Thierfelder, Armando Viera.

Technical Session at Gullwing Motors



Steve Palumbo answers a question



A CLK 430 gets a state inspection



Nancy and Francesca Palumbo



Lou and Francesca Palumbo



STAR-GAZER



516-742-3320
888-GULLWING

(FAX) 516-742-3327



LOUIS PALUMBO

100 WINDSOR AVENUE
MINEOLA, NEW YORK 11501



Star-Gazer

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Bayside, NY 11364-2523

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2007 EVENT SCHEDULE

<i>Sunday, June 24th</i>	<i>Daily Driver Car Show</i>	<i>Oliver 718-575-8277</i>
<i>Sunday, July 15th</i>	<i>A Day at the Races</i>	<i>Vinny 212-861-4027</i>
<i>Sunday, July 29th</i>	<i>Spring Rally</i>	<i>Andy 516-432-3154</i>
<i>September</i>	<i>Traditional Sea Level Car Show</i>	
<i>September</i>	<i>Alternatives for Children Road Rallye Fundraiser</i>	
<i>October 13th Saturday</i>	<i>Lakeview MB 2008 C-Class Debut</i>	
<i>November</i>	<i>James Beard Annual Dinner Party</i>	
<i>December</i>	<i>Sea Level Holiday Party</i>	