



STAR-GAZER

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

Volume 45, Issue 1

www.mbca.org/sealevel

First Quarter, 2008

SEA LEVEL CLUB HAPPENINGS

On Saturday, November 17th. The Sea-Level Section, in their Gourmet dining series, had an evening at The French Culinary Institute's signature restaurant L'Ecole. Page 6.

On December 2, 2007, over fifty members and guests met for our annual Holiday Party at the newly redecorated Inn of New Hyde Park. Page 7.

IN THIS ISSUE

Sea Level Club Happenings	1
President's Message	3
From the Editor	4
French Culinary Institute Gourmet Dinner	6
Sea Level Holiday Dinner	7
Mercedes-Benz Manhattan and Javits International Auto Show	9
Trivia	9
Car Show-Technical Session-Membership Renewal	10
Technical Session Gullwing Motors-Maintenance, Detailing, Dent Removal	11
StarFest 2008	12
2008 Events Schedule	12

Sea Level Officers

President:	Joseph DeFilippe	19 Chester Street, E. Northport, NY 11731 (631) 368-6934
Vice President/ Editor & Webmaster	Jerry Shapiro	67-19 215th Street, Bayside, NY 11364 (718) 423-0107
Secretary:	Dr. John Weigel	101 Thornwood Rd, Massapequa Park, NY 11762 jawmbc@gmail.com
Treasurer:	J. Andrew Monahan	76 Georgia Avenue, Long Beach, NY 11561 (516) 432-3154
Technical Advisor:	Lou Palumbo	100 Windsor Avenue, Mineola, NY 11501 (516) 742-3320

Members of the Board

John Anaischik, Bernie Berberich, Dr. Jonah Berman, Dr. Joan Levine, Peter Busacca, Joseph DeFilippe, Vincent Milo, J. Andrew Monahan, Jerry Shapiro, Oliver Seligman, Dr. John Weigel.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Director

**Werner Fehlauer tel: 856-224-17920
w.fehlauer@verizon.net**

Changes of Address:

**Requests should be forwarded to MBCA 19071 Lelaray Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80909
(800)-637-2360 or www.mbca.org**

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)



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

Hello Fellow Sea Level Section Members, Myself and the Board want to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year! We are still in the midst of winter but the Board has been busy planning our Events for the year. I would like to mention just a few of them. Coming up in March is our Annual Manhattan Mercedes-Benz Tech Session and the Auto Show at the Javits Center. This is one of our most popular events and organized by Jerry Shapiro. Usually over 100 members participate, so respond early to guarantee getting tickets. John Weigel has organized a tech session at Massapequa MB in April, and in May, Andy Monahan will be creating another wonderful rally for our Annual Spring Rally. These are coming up soon so note the date and reserve them in your calendar. The rest of our events will be highlighted in the next issue. If you have any ideas for events please contact myself or any Board member and let them know. Also, you may have noticed the wonderful reawakening of our website. This is being handled expertly by Jerry Shapiro. So if you have any comments or ideas, please pass them on to Jerry.

One final note: long time Board member Bernie Berberich is resigning from The Board. He has served in several capacities including President and for many years as Treasurer. He has created many rallyes as well as hosted other events. I, as well as all the Board members, will miss his input and presence.

***Well, we are looking for a fun-filled upcoming year and I hope to see all of you at several of the events.
Safe driving and happy trails...***

Joe DeFilippe

Sea Level President

From the Editor

If you look at our masthead, please notice that we now have our own Sea level website. Go to www.mbca.org/sealevel to get the latest information on club activities. Please be patient as I am in the process of building the website, and do not expect to have it fully functional until later this year... I have some information on future events posted. Keep checking the site for additional information. I will be your webmaster, please send me items for inclusion on our website. The website has been created by Ben D'Andrea, website designer.

Would you like to see your Benz in the "Photo Gallery" Tab on our website? Send me a nice digital photo of your "baby" and I'll put it on the site. We may also judge the pictures and the best car photo of the year will receive special recognition.

Jerry

We want you "in the loop"

Are you receiving member emails?

You may be missing member email alerts and reminders. Do we have your current email address?

Please send your updated email address to: jshapiro41@verizon.net

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:

ANGELA ANDRETTA, GEORGE &, LISA CARRERA, ADOLPHUS FRAZIER, CHIN JU LI, KARL LUECHT, DENNIS MAQUILING, ANGELO SANTORO, BILL SANTORO, LANCE WAGNER, JACOB YAHAIYAN , GREGORY YAHAIYAN, GUY CATERINA, PAMELA VOGT, WILLIAM FUHRMANN, GARY LANDAU, JOHN RANDONIS, LISA SCUDDER, JAMMY TAM, RONNIE & LYNDA ANNUNZIATA, EDWARD BLUMENFELD, WENDY GREENBLATT, CLARISSA INGRAM, RICHARD & ANITA MADISON, MOHAMMED RIAZUDEEN, RICKY MOORE, JASON RAPHAEL, ALLAN ROTLEWICZ, GLENN RUSSO, ROBERT & MERYL SANDS, OSWALD TAYLOR, RICHARD THORPE, HAROLD WEINER.

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 (sales)
1-718-631-8299 (service/parts)

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

Silver Star Motors
36-11 Northern Blvd.
Long Island City, NY 11101
1-718-361-2332 (sales)
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 (toll free)
1-212-629-1600 (sales)

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

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

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

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

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

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

French Culinary Institute Gourmet Dinner

By Jerry Shapiro

On Saturday, November 17th. The Sea-Level Section, in their Gourmet dining series, had an evening at The French Culinary Institute's signature restaurant L'Ecole. Thirty one members and their guests were served a delicious dinner, with paired wines, presented under the supervision of master chefs. Our members were impressed with the food, wine and service of the professional waiters. The meal was prepared by student chefs enrolled in the school. Upon graduation, these students go on to work in the kitchens of the finest restaurants located across the country. The FCI is one of the most prestigious culinary institutions in the world. Their commitment to excellence is respected and acknowledged by industry professionals. In 2006 The FCI was honored with the highly coveted, Award of Excellence, School of the Year by the International Association of Culinary Professionals (IACP). The respected France 2 Television channel called The FCI, "The most prestigious cooking school in the world." Additionally, its students and alumni are regularly nominated for or win top industry awards, such as the James Beard Foundation Rising Star Chef of the year.

Over the past 23 years, The French Culinary Institute has become known as the premier cooking school for aspiring chefs. This wonderful Sea Level event was planned by member Vinny Milo and we thank him for his efforts.



Sea Level members & Their Guests



Bon Appétit. Board Members & Their Guests

Sea Level Holiday Party

By Jerry Shapiro

On December 2, 2007, over fifty members and guests met for our annual Holiday Party at the newly redecorated Inn of New Hyde Park. This restaurant is located on Long Island and specializes in fine German cuisine, which was appropriate for the occasion. The Inn has just completed a grand transformation turning the old Inn to an elegant, turn of the century catering event center and gourmet restaurant. During the cocktail hour, passed Hors D'oeuvres were served as well as platters of fruits, cheeses, and meats. We all enjoyed the wonderful buffet, which included a meat carving station, pasta station, and choice of four hot entrees, desserts, coffee and cake. Club members brought unwrapped gifts that were given to our favorite charity, Toys for Tots. We had plenty of free door prize gifts and everyone who attended received one. In addition, we had a special raffle of a beautiful set of steak knives that was donated by Vinny Milo and the proceeds went to our club treasury. Congratulations to Vinny Milo for being selected as "Member of the Year" and our President, Joe DeFilippe on behalf of our club, gave him a beautiful plaque. Vinny Milo arranged for this terrific party and he received our heartfelt thanks for his efforts.



Members & Guests enjoying the Holiday Party



Vinny, Diane, & Andy Drawing Winning Raffle Tickets



Sea Level Officers and Board Members



Vinny accepts Section Member of the Year Award from Joe



Mercedes-Benz Manhattan and Javits International Auto Show

Jerry Shapiro

The Date: March 22nd, 2008

Time: 10:00 to 12 Noon at Mercedes-Benz Manhattan. Javits Auto Show is open until 11 PM

Parking: ICON Public Garage at 501 West 41st (north side of street, near corner of 10th Ave.)

Telephone: 646-473-1098

Tickets for Auto Show: 2 per club member

Contact: Jerry at jshapiro41@verizon.net, (718) 423-0107, (718) 637-7234 mobile phone

Mercedes-Benz Manhattan will provide a voucher along with the Auto Show tickets that the club member should present to the parking garage cashier when they return to pick up their cars after visiting the Auto Show. The cost to the member will be \$20.00. MBM graciously agreed to pay the difference (\$20.00.) The regular cost is \$40.00, and this is good for a twelve hour time limit. I strongly recommend using public transportation if possible, as vehicle traffic is often quite congested in this area of Manhattan.

Mercedes-Benz Manhattan will also provide pastries and coffee, a 10% discount on parts and accessories, and VIP passes for free refreshments at the Mercedes-Benz display at the Javits Center.

If you arrive at Manhattan Mercedes-Benz after 12, but no later than 4PM, please see salesman Patrick Hunter, or Holly Longstreet. They will give you the Auto Show tickets and the parking voucher.

Trivia: AMG showed a car at the Chicago Auto Show that was not Daimler Benz affiliated. This was before AMG became an exclusive Mercedes Benz tuner. What famous make was it? You don't need to give me the model or year.

Answer to Last Trivia Question: What does this turtle on the dashboard signify? Tazio Nuvolari. The wild man from Mantua, Italy. He raced cars from 1921 into the '50s. He raced hard and often pounded on the steering wheel when his car misbehaved. He won his first race at 32, crashed so many times he is said to have broken every bone in his body. For all his hard driving, the "Flying Mantuan" died in his bed at 60.



CAR SHOWING - TECHNICAL SESSION - MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

SUNDAY APRIL 27TH 2008 9:45 AM

CAR SHOWING - TECHNICAL SESSION - MEMBERSHIP Renewal

AN EVENT JOINTLY SPONSORED BY

THE MBCA SEA-LEVEL SECTION

And

MERCEDES-BENZ OF MASSAPEQUA

101 East Sunrise Highway

Amityville, NY 11701

(516) 541-4800

9:45 AM - Park your Mercedes in the Designated Car Showing Area and place the card, obtained at the registration desk, with Year and Model on your windshield. You may have a Classic, 2008 or any other year. Share your enthusiasm with other Mercedes-Benz aficionados.

Proceed to the Registration Table and help yourself to Refreshments.

Meet members of the Sea-Level Section Board of Directors and ask questions about membership benefits.

Check your membership status and the benefits of a three year term of membership

Technical Session - Hone your knowledge of cutting-edge Mercedes safety features and performance in a state-of-the-art Service Area.

You have heard about 4matic, rear view camera, auto dimming rear view mirror and side mirrors, and more. Now get to know these features and benefits up close and personal

View the vast showroom and other amenities of the dealership.

Ready to work-out? Go to the exercise room.

Photos of the world renowned Mercedes-Benz Museum in Stuttgart, designed by Dutch architect Ben van Berkel, will be on display

A midday repast will refresh us all.

DIRECTIONS:

EASTBOUND: Southern Parkway to Exit 32 South Route 110

proceed on Route 110 South AND EXIT onto Sunrise Highway East (Route 27) approximately 1/2 mile on right is Mercedes-Benz of Massapequa

WESTBOUND: Southern Parkway to Exit 32 South Route 110

proceed on Route 110 South AND EXIT onto Sunrise Highway East (Route 27) approximately 1/2 mile on right is Mercedes-Benz of Massapequa

RSVP: John Weigel jawmbc@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing you all on April 27th

Tech Session

SPRING TECH SESSION

10:00AM – 2:00PM

April 12, 2008

GULLWING MOTORS

100 Windsor Ave.

Mineola, New York 11501

Please join fellow club members for our annual Spring Tech Session. We will once again be the guests of Gullwing Motors. Not only have they been fixing Mercedes for more than thirty years, but the owner, Lou Palumbo, is also our section's Tech Advisor. Gullwing is truly a full service facility and events of the day will include:

Light Breakfast/Lunch

Question and Answer period

Routine Maintenance: Diagnostic/Safety Check

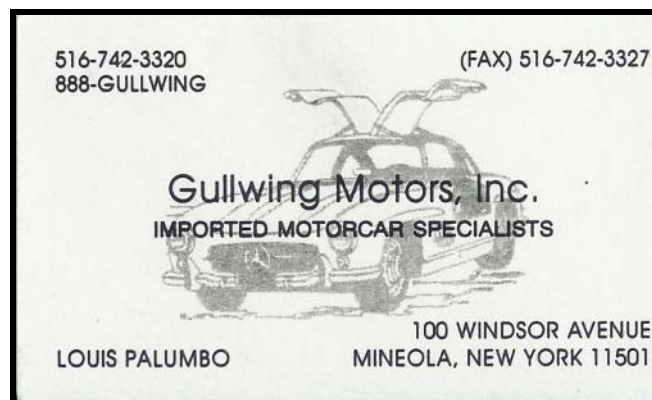
Custom Work – personalizing your car

Body Work

Paintless Dent Removal

Detailing 101 – by Andy Monahan, our section Treasurer. If interest warrants there will be a more advanced class held at Gullwing in the future.

Please RSVP to Oliver Seligman at 718-575-8277





Sea Level Section
 MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA, Inc.
 Jerry Shapiro, Editor
 67-19 215th Street
 Bayside, NY 11364-2523

PRSR STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 GREAT NECK, NY
 PERMIT No. 48

2008 EVENT SCHEDULE

<u>Saturday, March 22nd</u>	<u>Jerry 718-423-0107</u>	<u>Manhattan MB & Javits Auto Show</u>
<u>Saturday, April 12th</u>	<u>Oliver 718-575-8277</u>	<u>Tech Session at Gullwing Motors</u>
<u>Sunday, April 27th</u> John jawmbc@gmail.com		<u>Massapequa MB Tech Session Car Show</u>
<u>Sunday, May 18th</u>	<u>Joe/Andy 516-432-3154</u>	<u>Spring Rallye</u>
<u>Sunday, June 22nd</u>	<u>Oliver 718-575-8277</u>	<u>Concours/Daily Driver Car Show</u>
<u>Sunday, July 13th</u>	<u>Vinny 212-861-4027</u>	<u>2nd Annual Day at the Races</u>
<u>Sunday, Sept. 28th</u>	<u>Peter 631-473-0652</u>	<u>Fall Rallye, Alternatives for Children</u>
<u>November, TBA</u>	<u>Vinny 212-861-4027</u>	<u>Culinary Event</u>
<u>Sunday, December 7th</u>	<u>Vinny 212-861-4027</u>	<u>Annual Holiday Party</u>

StarFest 2008

Hosted by the San Francisco Bay Section with the Sacramento Section, StarFest 2008 will be held on September 26-October 1. MBCA's premier national driving event includes a Concours d'elegance on the Great Lawn at Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay with the backdrop of the city skyline; a rally/drive starting at the edge of San Francisco Bay and driving through several wine appellations, past a sleeping volcano, and into California's vast agricultural heartland to Willows, California; three days of track events (defensive driving instruction, autocross, acceleration runs, time trials) at Thunderhill Raceway Park in Willows. Other activities include a welcome reception, two banquets, women's tech session, side-trips to interesting places, Leadership Development and Membership Development Workshops, MBCA-wrapped 18-wheeler experience. Registration with complete event details opens March 1 at www.mbca.org/starfest2008. For general information, contact chairman Richard Simonds, (650) 592-7613, rsimonds@pacbell.net.