



# STAR-GAZER

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

Volume 45, Issue 2

[www.mbca.org/sealevel](http://www.mbca.org/sealevel)

Second Quarter, 2008

## SEA LEVEL CLUB HAPPENINGS

*Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> 100 members attend Mercedes-Benz Manhattan Showroom Tour and International Automobile Show at the Javits Center* *Page 6*

*Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> Sea Level members become certified Judges* *Page 7*

*Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> Technical session held at Gullwing Motors* *Page 8*

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## Sea Level Officers

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<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Dr. John Weigel</b>	<b>101 Thornwood Rd, Massapequa Park, NY 11762 jawmbc@gmail.com</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>J. Andrew Monahan</b>	<b>76 Georgia Avenue, Long Beach, NY 11561 (516) 432-3154</b>
<b>Technical Advisor:</b>	<b>Lou Palumbo</b>	<b>100 Windsor Avenue, Mineola, NY 11501 (516) 742-3320</b>

## Members of the Board

**John Anaischik, Peter Busacca, Joseph DeFilippe, Vincent Milo, J. Andrew Monahan, Jerry Shapiro, Oliver Seligman, Dr. John Weigel.**

## Mid-Atlantic Regional Director

**Werner Fehlauer telephone: 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](http://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 15<sup>th</sup>. (February) April 15<sup>th</sup>. (May) July 15<sup>th</sup>. (August) October 15<sup>th</sup>. (November)**



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## President's Message

*Hello Fellow Sea Level Section Members,*

*Events are starting to take place as our section gears up to get into the "full swing of things". Our most popular event, the annual tech session at Manhattan MB and passes to the Car Show at the Javits Center, was again a huge success. Our congratulations go to Jerry Shapiro for again putting together a wonderful event and our host, MB Manhattan. Our congratulations also go to board member, Andy Monahan who has a wonderful article about the history of Lakeview MB appearing in the latest issue of the STAR magazine. I hope you all check it out.*

*At this time I, and the rest of the Board, want to thank outgoing Board members Dr. Joan Levine Berman and Dr. Jonah Berman for their tireless efforts as members of the Board. Their input and camaraderie will be missed. I wish you both continued success and happiness.*

*Don't forget to sign up for our annual spring rally taking place in May. Call Board member, Andy Monahan for the particulars. Also, I want to remind you that we will again be having our Day at The Belmont Races. This was a huge success last year and has quickly become a yearly event. Call Board member, Vinny Milo for information. Lastly, our Concours d' Elegance will be held at the Atlas Mall in Queens. This is where our member's best cars get put on display and compete. Call Board member, Oliver Seligman for all the information.*

*The above just highlights some of our Events. Look in this issue and at our website for more information and other upcoming events. One final comment. Take notice of our website. It is one of the best out there and we have Board member Jerry Shapiro to thank for that. He is our section's newsletter editor and now webmaster. So send him a line telling him what a great job he is doing.*

*Hope to see you at the Events....  
Safe driving and Happy Trails,*

*Joe DeFilippe  
Sea Level Section 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](http://www.mbca.org/sealevel) to get the latest information on club activities. 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](mailto:jshapiro41@verizon.net)**

## MBCA RAFFLE WINNER 2007

***Sea Level section member, Mary-Ann Coklo, won a \$250 gift certificate to the MBCA club store, which she has donated to our section to use at our 2008 Holiday Party. I thought that this was a most generous gesture and we will use it to buy raffle gifts for members who attend this event.***

***THANK YOU, Mary-Ann***

## 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: Christopher & Elizabeth Cabezon, George & Mary Anne Mathys, John Crowley, Andrew Nipon, John Rae, Scott Rothstein, Dana Schwartzberg, Yuta Suzuki, Gary & Pauline Bencivenga, Peter Campisi, Thomas Cestaro, Michael Clementi, J Goosby, Ross Klein, Joachim & Aimee Maliga, Joel Matthews, Mas & Laura Medine, James Schenck, Jose & Yarissa Segarra, Charlotte Sheldon**

## 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 & service)

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 (sales)

### TOP OF THE ROCK

THOSE WHO ATTENDED LAST YEAR, ALL HAD A GREAT TIME. PLACES ARE ON FIRST COME BASIS.  
RAINBOW ROOM, 49 W 49 ST, SUNDAY, 18 MAY 2008, 1830-2130h (6:30 - 9:30pm)  
EVENING OF FOOD, DANCING AND OPEN BAR WHILE ENJOYING THE VIEWS.

I HAVE ONCE AGAIN BEEN ALLOWED THE OPPORTUNITY TO RESERVE SPACES FOR THE TRADE PARTY. \$70 ALL INCLUDED  
EMAIL ME IF YOU WANT TO ATTEND, AND SEND CHECK TO: VINNY MILO, 222 E 80 STREET, NEW YORK NY 10075-0560, 212 861-4027

[vcnilo@aol.com](mailto:vcnilo@aol.com)

## Mercedes-Benz Manhattan Showroom Tour and Javits Automobile Show

On Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> one hundred members of Sea Level section were invited to view the three indoor showrooms of MB Manhattan, filled with the latest 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 as well as the 2008 product line. This year they have added a third showroom for the new Smart 4 Two for our viewing enjoyment.

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 Raffle” which included a complete detailing, Mobil 1 synthetic oil, filter change, and having all tires filled with nitrogen. The raffle was won by David Dembitzer, a new member of Sea Level 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 five new models: The 2009MY R320 Blue TEC, ML320 Blue TEC, and the GL 320 Blue TEC utilize the highly efficient AdBLUE exhaust gas treatment system, taking them below even the most stringent U.S. BIN5 limits. I also saw the extensively restyled M-Class. The designers have reworked the front and rear to introduce a fresh new appearance. The high performance ML63 AMG now cuts an even more striking figure.

A million people visited the automobile show over its one week stop in NYC. A thousand cars were on display and were represented by all the major automobile manufactures from around the world.

Special thanks to Mercedes-Benz Manhattan General Manager Blair Creed, Holly Longstreet, John Hart, and Patrick Hunter.



Jerry Shapiro, Holly Longstreet, Andy Monahan



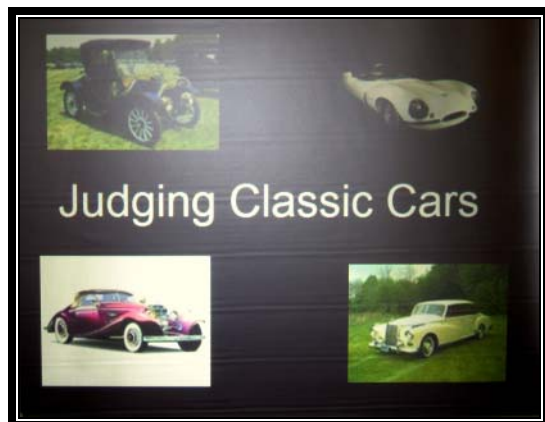
Karl Benz, Kameel Teen, Francesca & Lou Palumbo

## Concours Judging Seminar

***Pete Lesler, our National President and Head Judge has conducted a Concours judging seminar for interested club members on March 29. The Northern New Jersey Section and Globe Motor Car Corp. hosted this class at their facility in New Jersey. Regional Director, Werner Fehlauer was in attendance.***

***There was approximately three hours of classroom instruction and we practiced on cars with different styles from different years.***

***Certificates were issued to participants who completed the judging course. Sea Level Section was well represented with members Lou Palumbo, Oliver Seligman, and Jerry Shapiro who attended the class, and are now Certified Mercedes-Benz judges.***



**The Program**



**Break Time**



**Pete Lesler**



**Jerry Shapiro, Lou Palumbo, Pete Lesler,  
Oliver Seligman & Werner Fehlauer**

## Technical Session and Detailing 101 at Gullwing Motors

*Oliver Seligman*

***Once again, Gullwing Motors hosted our spring tech session. Our section's technical advisor Lou Palumbo and his son Steve focused on often forgotten maintenance items. The idea for this Tech session came straight from the Mar/Apr STAR article written by George Murphy. One of our section member's cars with 90,000 miles on the odometer was used to illustrate the wear and tear that occurs on even a well maintained Mercedes Benz.***

***Members crowded around and asked questions as Lou and Steve replaced the wheel bearings, changed the transmission fluid and filter.***

***Andy Monahan and Rick Brown gave tips to members on how to best take care of the exterior of their cars. It was a busy session. A delicious breakfast and lunch were provided by our generous hosts.***

***All went away knowing a little more about their Mercedes, and the importance of proper maintenance.***



Wheel Bearing Service



Automatic Transmission Service



# Mercedes Benz Daily Driver and Concours Show

June 22, 2008 (rain date 6/29)

10 AM to 1PM

(All cars should be parked by 11:00 AM)

**Where: Atlas Park (off Cooper Ave)**

**There will be prizes!**

**Discounts at stores and the Orange Café!**

**The \$10.00 entry fee will go to St Jude's Children's Hospital  
(Make checks payable to St Jude's)**

**Prizes will be awarded in the following categories:**

Most rare Mercedes color  
Car with the highest mileage  
Hottest Benz (AMG type)  
Best looking OEM wheels  
Newest Mercedes  
Best 4 door sedan  
Best convertible  
Best coupe  
Best 50's 60's Mercedes

Best 60's 70's Mercedes  
Best 70's 80's Mercedes  
Best 80's 90's Mercedes  
Best 90's 00's C class  
Best 90's 00's E class  
Best 90's 00's S class  
Best truck  
Best pre WWII Mercedes  
Sharpest looking interior  
Best SL

**People's choice award**

**Food and beverages will be available at Orange Cafe  
Numerous shops and restaurant are at Atlas Park**

**Shine up your Mercedes and join us for a car filled fun day!**

**Directions: LIE to Woodhaven Blvd. south, make right at Cooper Ave., 1/2 mile make left to Atlas Park.**

**Contact Oliver 718-575-8277 or e-mail at Mercedes Benz 26@gmail.com**

**Entry Form**

**Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E Mail \_\_\_\_\_**

**Model \_\_\_\_\_ Chassis \_\_\_\_\_ Daily Driver or Concours (circle one)**

**Please send this form along with your check made out to St Jude's Children's Hospital to: Oliver Seligman, 112-12 68<sup>th</sup> Ave., Forest Hills, N.Y. 11375**

## Hamptons Rally

Starting at 10 AM on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at Oakland's Restaurant & Marina, Dune Road, Hampton Bays, 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 \$25. per person and includes the Rally and lunch at Oakland's afterwards. Participants will have a choice of three entrees as well as dessert. The event promises to be memorable. Last year, two plaques were awarded to teams that had never run before, so please come out for a nice morning in the country. We will finish lunch by 2 PM, so there will be plenty of time to venture further into the Hamptons. Please contact Andy Monahan at 516-432-3154 no later than May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Directions:**

From West or East take Sunrise Highway (27) to Exit 65S (Hampton Bays). Proceed straight to the Hampton Bays Diner; make a left onto Montauk Highway (27A). Go to second traffic light; make a right onto Ponquogue Ave. Go to stop sign and make left onto Shinnecock Rd. Go to second stop sign and make a right onto Foster Ave. Follow Foster Avenue over Ponquogue Bridge to Dune Road. At the light turn left and Oakland's Restaurant & Marina is located at the end of Dune Road at the Shinnecock Inlet on the left hand side.

Spring Rally – May 18<sup>th</sup> 10 AM

Cost \$25. per person

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_

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

## DAY AT THE RACES

Such a wonderful time was had at last year's event; that members have requested a repeat. Last years outing produced fifty-five members and friends for this "sport of kings" affair.

THE DAY INCLUDES:

Discounted Preferred Parking (\$2.00)

Entrance to the Clubhouse

Program

Private seating area to dine and enjoy races

The Belmont "Classic Buffet"

Betting close by or from table machines

**\$35 PER PERSON, ALL INCLUSIVE**

SUNDAY 13 JULY '08

Arrival: 11-12:00

Lunch: 12:00

Day Ends: 4:30

Questions: Vinny Milo

212 861-4027 or Email: [vcnilo@aol.com](mailto:vcnilo@aol.com) use subject: Belmont Outing

Sends checks made out to MBCA to:

Vinny Milo  
222 E 80 Street  
New York NY 10075-0560

# Gullwing Motors Inc

100 Windsor Ave. Mineola, N.Y. 11501

516-742-3320

[www.gullwingusa.com](http://www.gullwingusa.com)



## MBCA

### Tech Session

**Special:**

**\$659**

### Often forgotten maintenance items\*:

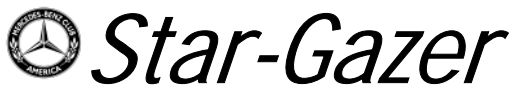
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Power steering and filter change:  | \$123 *                                   |
| 2. Automatic transmission fluid and filter change:<br>Check and adjust shift linkage, check bushings,<br>transmission cooling lines, and road test: | \$140 regular oil*<br>\$190 synthetic oil |
| 3. Manual transmission fluid change:  | \$ 55                                     |
| Differential fluid change:  | \$ 55*                                    |
| 4. Wheel bearing service, repacking bearings:   | \$240                                     |
| new bearings:   | \$459 *                                   |
| 5. Hydraulic fluid and filter change: **  | \$160                                     |

\*Regular price for all four services (includes new wheel bearings) \$777.

**Tech session special: \$659** for all four services (includes new wheel bearings)

\* see page 76-77 of the Mar/Apr 2008 **STAR**

\*\*only station wagons and some S class models



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Jerry Shapiro, Editor  
67-19 215<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bayside, NY 11364-2523

## 2008 EVENT SCHEDULE

<b><i>Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> Morning</i></b>	<b><i>Joe/Andy 516-432-3154</i></b>	<b><i>Hamptons Rally</i></b>
<b><i>Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> Evening</i></b>	<b><i>Vinny</i></b>	<b><i>Rainbow Room 30 Rock. Center NYC</i></b>
<b><i>Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup></i></b>	<b><i>Oliver 718-575-8277</i></b>	<b><i>Concours/Daily Driver Car Show</i></b>
<b><i>Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup></i></b>	<b><i>Vinny 212-861-4027</i></b>	<b><i>2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Day at the Races</i></b>
<b><i>Sunday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup></i></b>	<b><i>Peter 631-473-0652</i></b>	<b><i>Fall Rally Alternatives for Children</i></b>
<b><i>November, TBA</i></b>	<b><i>Vinny 212-861-4027</i></b>	<b><i>Culinary Event</i></b>
<b><i>Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup></i></b>	<b><i>Vinny 212-861-4027</i></b>	<b><i>Annual Holiday Party</i></b>

**STARTRIP 2008:** As previously announced in the Jan/Feb *Star*, we are offering an interesting road trip to get our East Coast, Central, and Canadian club members to California and STARFEST 2008 from September 19<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>. The most direct route would be Interstate 80, and that routing also happens to closely follow the nation's very first transcontinental highway (established in 1913) known as the Lincoln Highway, or US30. You may wish to checkout [www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org](http://www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org).

Much of the country's motoring history can be re-discovered if we had enough time to so, but in the interest of maintaining our focus of the primary goal at getting to STARFEST, we have compressed the trip into 8 days. With the heavily populated, sometimes winding roads in the East, we will follow generally US30 across Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa – then pick up the pace as we get further West along I-80. Overnight stops are planned for Gettysburg, PA; Wooster, OH; Joliet, IL; Ames, IA; North Platte, NE; Rock Springs, WY; and Winnemucca, NV.

Similar to the procedures we used on our recent MBCA Route 66, drivers are encouraged to set their own pace during the day and gather for some fellowship each evening. For those interested in joining us en-route, we say the more the merrier!

Sign-ups for this STARTRIP (prior to August 15<sup>th</sup>, please) should addressed to the mid-Atlantic Regional Director, Werner Fehlauer, address and email in the *STAR*. (And if you're joining us for this trip, start thinking of a possible special trip in 2013, when the Lincoln Highway turns 100! Any volunteers?)