



Star-Gazer

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

Volume 36, Issue 2

Second Quarter, 1999

from the editor

Spring is a time of new and renewed beginnings.

If you missed the Spring Rallye, you'll get another chance in September but before that—there's several upcoming events. As you peruse this issue, you should see some events which interest you. Give one a try. If you're new to the Club, why not attend the Tech Session on June 5th and join the fun. You'll

Queens, Nassau & Suffolk Counties

On April 18th, a contingent of adventurous members joined together for the first rallye of the year. As it was stated in the Rallye instructions: "The goal of Spring Rallye '99 was to offer an opportunity to traverse the scenic neighborhoods of Long Island while enjoying the comfort and luxury of your Mercedes automobile" and the day's participants did so in Mercedes ranging from classic 280SLs to state-of-the-art S600 models.

Designed and coordinated by Rallye-Master **John Anaischik**, the route traveled through three adjoining counties: Queens, Nassau and finishing in Western Suffolk County at the Southwood

Catering and Conference Center in Lindenhurst.

Rallye test time was 155 minutes, and on this day, best time submitted was 164 minutes. Anticipated mileage was 50 miles while answering about a question per mile on this rallye. Highest submitted mileage was 67 miles. As everyone enjoyed a relaxing luncheon and compared notes, Chief

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L-R: V. Christiano, D. Lennon, S. Landau, G. Landau, I. Fischthal, S. Fischthal, P. Gallo, J. Shapiro, V. Goodrich, H. Goodrich, R. Weiss, Sea Level Section-President & J. Anaischik, Rallye-Master

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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.

Nick Albieta
Thomas Barnosky
Paul Berk
David Bobrow
Ronald Bonifacio, Jr
Victoria Bonomo
Charles Bow
Michael Brophy
David S. Burr
Patricia E. Caggiano
Gary P. Carpenter
Joseph A. Casano
Nicholas A. Catinella
Joseph Celano
Lawrence E. Charity
Scdesh Chohan
Martin Cohen
Mitchell Cohen
Paul Cooper
Paul Cuskley

Asad Daryani
Al Delcielo
B.C. Erickson
Allen Feldman
Richard E. Filipe
Theodoro R. Fleming
Martin D. Gruss
E.C. Hamilton
Marie Harrington
M. K. Herrmann
Lynette L. Imperial
Carl Izsak
John H. Joyce
Donald P. Kennedy
Robert L. Knickman
Alan J. Konigsberg
Andrew Kourkoumelis
Barbara Krause
Mark L. Laudensack
Dominique Lee

Mickey Low
Junichi Matsumoto
Mark McCartney
Bruce L. Meyers
Peter Mictenkorte
Donald C. Miller
Steve Miller
Percis Mistry
Richard Neumann
Winston Overton
James N. Palik
Valentin Pavel
Amy Perella
Dennis Peterkin
Porfirio Pina
Kirm Purchase
James H. Range
Hale Rischert
Walter F. Rittman
Noah Schwartz

Louis Segarra
Michael Shea
Rose A. Shephard
Dmitry Sidanov
Douglas Smith
James A. Smith
Don Snyder
Mike Starito
Dimitri Stefanidis
Alice Sturzinger
Candee A. Swenson
Joseph J. Tagliaferro
Leslie Tenzer
Jean M. Vavrina
Olof J. Wadehn
Frank J. Wang
Sam Wanigasinghe
George L. West
Henry Williams
Michael Yarmarkov

Sea Level Officers & Staff

President:	Richard Weiss	86 Kingsbury Road, Garden City NY 11530	(516) 747-0679
Vice-President:	John Anaischik	200 Floral Parkway, Floral Park NY 11001	(516) 775-3597
Secretary:	Robert Muth	411 9th Avenue, East Northport, NY 11731	(516) 261-5074
Treasurer:	Bernie Berberich	104 N. Howells Point Rd., Bellport NY 11713	(516) 286-8086

Technical Advisor:	Tony Cinque	C/O Luxury Auto Repair 604 Bicycle Path, Port Jefferson Sta. NY 11776	(516) 474-2323
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Editor:	John Betsch	Three Wincester Lane, Huntington, NY 11743	(516) 549-3564
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Joseph Defilippe	Stan Janovici	Creighton Phillips	Robert Muth	Viola Scarduzio	Richard Weiss

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West Hartford, CT 06119



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see how much we all have in common. All it takes is that first step. Or if you haven't been able to attend an event lately, now is the time with so many choices - with a tech session, a relaxing Sunday on the Sound at Vanderbilt or showing off that car at the Concours. Speaking of new beginnings, if that car was garaged for the Winter, it's time to dust it off, or if it still has that Winter road salt covering those alloys, now is the time to clean. I'm a believer of

President's Message

Dear Fellow Members:

With the arrival of Spring, our thoughts turn to upcoming Section events. The first Saturday in June will be a big day for Sea Level. We will have two events on that day.

As you know by now, in the morning we have been invited to Competition Imports in Smithtown for a "technical" session. This is always an interesting event. New models can be viewed, technical questions answered, and a buffet lunch will be provided. We will be able to visit owner Joe Buzzetta's vintage Auto Museum. All this at no charge!

And in the evening, something new and very special! Forty members will be privileged to enjoy a provential French dinner, prepared by two recognized chefs, at the James Beard House in Greenwich Village. This will be an opportunity to enjoy the delights of fine dining. The all inclusive price is \$85 per person,

which includes everything except parking, which is available down the block. This is the first time for this type of event, and your Board hopes it will be a success!

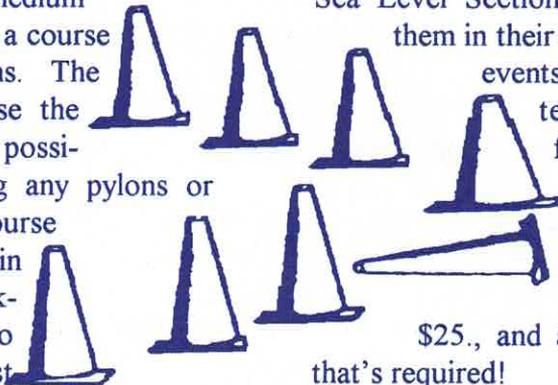
On Sunday, July 18th, we have planned a day at the Vanderbilt Mansion in Centerport for an informal car show and house tour. A flyer describing this will be in the mail soon.

In February, Shirley and I drove to Florida on a combination family visit and Club event. We participated in Star-O-Rama, co-hosted by the Tampa Bay and Suncoast Sections. The weather was sunny and mild, and we enjoyed a day of Defensive Driving Instruction, Autocrossing and Acceleration runs. National events, like local events, are always fun with an unbeatable combination of old and new friends and fine automobiles.

Richard Weiss

Autocross Anyone?

What's an Autocross? An autocross is a low to medium speed event held on a course designated by pylons. The object is to traverse the course as quickly as possible without striking any pylons or going outside the course lines. Smoothness in accelerating and braking is the key to achieving the best times.



BMW Club has invited members of the Sea Level Section to participate with them in their scheduled Autocross events. They have an event tentatively scheduled for August 21st.

What do I need? A Mercedes, a valid drivers license, a helmet, \$25., and a willing spirit is all that's required!

What about Autocross and Sea Level? The New York Chapter of the

**STAY TUNED -
MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW!**

Queens, Nassau & Suffolk (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

Scorekeeper, **Susan Anaischik** quickly reviewed the submittals to determine place winners. Scoring was very close. Of course no one is exempt from getting lost - and on



this occasion - it was our Section President, Our Leader, who completed the rallye with a DNF (which stands for I got lost). Everyone has their day!

Presented plaques by Section President Dick Weiss, winners of

Spring Rallye '99 included:

	Driver	Navigator
1 st	Howard Goodrich	Vicky Goodrich
2 nd	Icela Fischthal	Steve Fischthal
3 rd	Jerry Shapiro	Paul Gallo
4 th	Gary Landau	Sandi Landau
5 th	Doug Lennon	Valerie Christiano

An honorable mention was also noted for the team of Raymond/Karol Kohne who finished closely behind the place winners.

While some received awards, everyone was a winner, enjoying the beauty of Long Island's South Shore.



After relaxing and comparing answers, a group of Spring Rallye '99 drivers and navigators await the announcements.



Calling All Four Wheelers / SUV's

Four wheel drive vehicles are becoming more and more popular and the Club would like to know if there is interest in an event for these off-road travelers

- Do you or will you own a sport utility or four wheel drive vehicle in the next year?
- Is it or will it be a Mercedes-Benz such as an M-Class, a Geländewagen or a Unimog?
 - Is it or will it be some other make?
- Would you attend a four wheel drive event on the beach and/or on a prepared off-road course?

IF YOU'VE ANSWERED YES, PLEASE SEND YOUR NAME/ADDRESS TO PETER BUSACCA WHO IS GATHERING INTEREST INFORMATION FOR SEA LEVEL SECTION

Peter Busacca, 121 Norwood Avenue, Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776



Member Marketplace:

Sea Level members may place a no-charge ad 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)

Changes of Address:

Requests should be forwarded to
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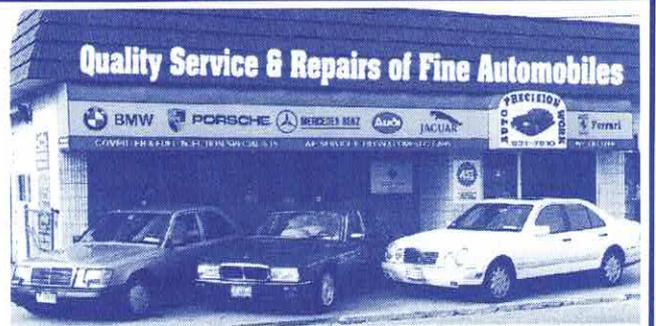
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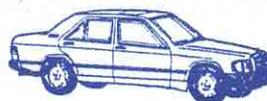
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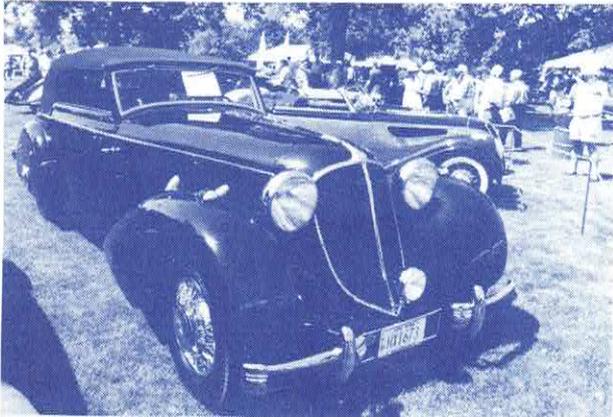
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Greenwich Concours d'Elegance



This 1936 Mercedes-Benz 540K Special Cabriolet, custom built for the great-great grandson of

Trained as Defensive Drivers

A group of Sea Level Section members gathered in Port Jefferson at Bobby Hull Insurance on March 21st for a six hour workshop in defensive driving. Completion of this New York State approved course made the attendees eligible for a motor vehicle insurance premium discount and also for a driver record point reduction. The course is designed to increase knowledge of driver safety and modify attitudes about personal driving.

Group discussions were stimulating and the videos interesting. Thanks to member *Peter Busacca* for arranging this event.

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Cornelius Vanderbilt is typical of the classic cars that will be on display at the Fourth Annual *Greenwich Concours d'Elegance*.

Christened a "*Festival of Speed and Style*", the Concours takes place on two days with Sunday, June 6th entitled the Concours Europa, featuring 125 post WWII European sports, touring, and competition cars. Many cars are one-of-a-kind, or limited-production models. In 1998, the Concours attracted cars from throughout the Country, as well as Canada, and over 12,000 spectators.

This year, I have been invited to show my European 230SL. I will do my best to represent Sea Level.

The Concours is held in Roger Sherman Baldwin Park, on the waterfront, in Greenwich Connecticut. The site is immediately off Exit 3, of I-95. Admission is \$12, which helps AmeriCares, the international relief organization. Hours of the Show are 10am to 5pm.

If you have a free day and want to see some interesting automobiles, stop by and say hello. I'm the one with the metallic red 230SL.

Conn/Westchester Concours

Date: **August 29, 1999**

Place: **Veterans Memorial Park
East Hartford, CT**

Cost: \$20. including lunch

Judging: Only those entering cars will be Judges

Time: Judging starts at 11 a.m.

For information and reservations for the Connecticut/Westchester Section Concours, contact:

Betty Heldmann
36 Gail Drive
Ellington, CT 06029
Tel: 860-871-8363

AM STEURRAD

In every advanced field of human endeavor there is a distinction made between practical application and theory. In the legal field we can see the practical application by the traffic cop and the contemplation of lofty principles by the theoretical jurist. In medicine we find the front-line practice of the primary care physician and the esoteric research of the laboratory scientist. In the arts there is a division between the hands-on craftsman and the remote aestheticist who contemplates the meaning of beauty.

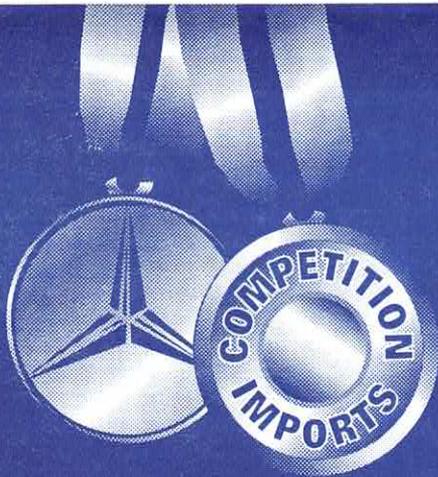
The art and science of the automobile should be no different. There must be a theoretical discipline of automotology which addresses pure theory divorced from practical mechanical and engineering applications. If there is no such discipline as yet, then I propose to create it. I admit that I am not a very good mechanic and I am certainly no engineer. Yet I am passionately devoted to the motorcar in its every iteration at a

level of abstract contemplation.

I want to know why it is emotionally satisfying to cleanly execute a downshift. I want to understand the reason why hanging your tail out in a sweeper constitutes a sensual delight. What is it in the sound of a high revving small displacement double overhead cam engine that makes my ears yearn for more. Why do I want to surreptitiously run my hands along the smoothly curving flanks of a 300 SL roadster? For what reason is it important to me to see the shining cross drilled disc brakes through the slots of an alloy wheel? How can I justify that I would rather drive down a back road with the top down than eat dinner?

In the dark of the night, on the lonely serpentine byways, under the blood red hunters moon I have these feelings. I want to run at the redline. I want my tire compound to melt at the contact patch. I want to hear the subtle bump of

(Continued on page 8)



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June 5th: Tech Session

June 5th: James Beard Dinner

July 18th: A Day at Vanderbilt

August 22nd: East End Concours

STAR-GAZER

AM STEURRAD (cont.)

(Continued from page 7)

the suspension stops and the hint of grind at the synchros. I lust to drive at the feverpitch and know the ecstasy of release at the checkered flag. The people who build the sporting machinery

that I love must share my secret passions. I know many of my fellow Club members have confessed to me that they too are subject to these compelling drives. If we are mad, there are many of us. Take heart! *(From an article appearing in Star Tracks, as written by John Kuhn Bleimaier, Mid-Atlantic Regional Director-MBCA)*



Readers Contest:

The first five Sea Level members to mail a postcard to the editor correctly identifying the model of this Mercedes will receive a token of appreciation.

the philosophy that my car runs better with a shine and a clean windshield. I have no idea how a shine is connected to the engine, but it works. Try it, it's amazing!

*John Betsch
ed.*