



Star-Gazer

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

Volume 36, Issue 3

Third Quarter, 1999

from the editor

*Vote!
Vote!
Vote!*

Your vote in the upcoming MBCA National Office election is as important to the Sea Level Section as it is to the National level.

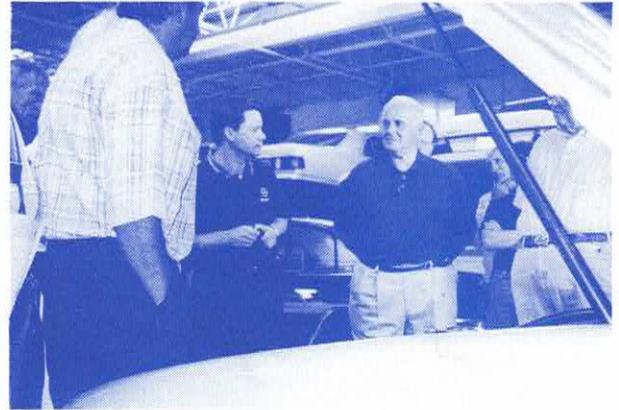
Please take some time to read the ballots and vote for the candidates that you feel will represent Sea Level Section needs and requirements.

There are nine candidates running for the four

A CL500 Once-Over at Competition Imports

The Section had a chance to give the new European CL500 a once-over at the Tech Session held on June 5th at Competition Imports in Smithtown.

Rob Allan, Product Manager of the successful Designo Program brought this marvel from Montvale and detailed the features of this new entry into the luxury market. As many would expect, the CL500 incorporates the latest in technology and materials engineering. Weight was obviously a major consideration in its design with its extensive use of alu-



Rob Allan reviews the CL500 for members

minum, magnesium and high-strength plastics. We were even invited to pound

(Continued on page 4)

Provence 3D In Manhattan

The three dimensions refer to the flavors, the aromas, and the colors of France's Provence Region. Michel Depardon of *Sette Mezze* in St. Remy-de-Provence and Robert Reynolds, expert culinarian, longtime Provence aficionado and presiding genius behind *Northwest Forum*, a Portland-based school for culinary professionals hosted forty Sea Level members to an evening of Provence at the James Beard Foun-

ation Townhouse in the heart of New York's Greenwich Village on June 5th. The James Beard Foundation is a not-for-profit organization founded by Julia Child and the late Peter Kemp to keep alive the culinary philosophy, ideals, and practices that earned James Beard his reputation as "the dean of American cooking." It is said that musicians have Carnegie Hall, painters have the Na-

(Continued on page 7)

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| CL500 Once-Over | 1 |
| Groovin' on a Sunday Afternoon | 3 |
| Greenwich Concours Scrapbook | 6 |
| Upcoming Event Calendar | 8 |



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.

John C Baker
 Alan Belsky
 Donald R Boyd
 Luis C Brea
 Frantz Bricourt
 James Cannilla
 Mitchell Carlinsky
 Guy Caterina
 Ching-Chang Chen
 Juana D Cliper
 Mark Colonomos
 Francis K Croffie
 John Crongoli
 David B Darby
 Donovan Darling
 Joel B Dean
 Domenick Di Mnago
 Joseph A DiGiacomo
 Andrew Donchin
 Jerry Durante
 Lars Ericson
 Roberto Felicianio

William S Gaden II
 Florence Gentile
 Robert Gershon
 Jim Gharda
 Sydney Goodrich
 Jesse R Gottlieb
 Robert J Gruter
 Turk Gurocak
 Eileen Hains
 Stanley Harris
 Steven Harris
 Jonathan V Henthorne
 Sandy Hwei-Ching Hsiao
 Paul Ippolito
 Charles Jack
 Mark S Jones
 Robert J Jones
 Carleen Kassl
 Raymond Kay
 William H Keenan Jr
 Norman K Keller
 Steven M Kerstein

John F Killian
 Richard Kipling
 Joel S Klaperman
 Edward Knice
 Henry Kobasky
 Cecile Komplita
 John M Kraljic
 Rudolph Kroupa
 Pericles Lavature
 Peter A Leidel
 Robert Lent II
 Michael Lombardozzi
 Tony Lombardozzi
 Loretta Martin
 Thomas Martinez
 Andrew Myers
 Scott Page
 Monica Pedone
 Blaylock A Peppard
 Joseph V Pergolizzi
 Bill Peterson
 Dianne Piro

Scott Pollak
 Ralph E Preite
 Satpal Rathour
 Joseph Ribando
 Steven Robinson Sr
 Steven H Schwartz
 Michael Scott
 Anand Rai Seeram
 Sander Shady
 Elliot D Shriftman
 Denise P Smith
 Olga Sosonkin
 Arnold J Spagna
 Richard Steck
 Sandy Straus
 Steven B Tanger
 Anthony W Trapani
 Richard Tripi
 Richard Ulrich
 Charles Viola
 Julia Walsh
 Charles G Zaroulis

Sea Level Officers & Staff

| | | | |
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| 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 |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--|----------------|

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|---|----------------|
| Editor: | John Betsch | Three Winchester Lane, Huntington, NY 11743 | (516) 549-3564 |
|----------------|--------------------|---|----------------|

Members of the Board

| | | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|
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| Joseph Defilippe | Stan Janovici | Creighton Phillips | Robert Muth | Viola Scarduzio | Richard Weiss |

Northeast Regional Vice President

Bryan F. Gunning
 1472 Boulevard
 West Hartford, CT 06119



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, MBNA, 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*).

Director at Large positions that are up for election this year.

Ballots will be mailed early in September.

To be counted, these ballots must arrive in the office of the election CPA before

October 15th.

It will only take a minute to read the ballots and select a candidate that you feel will help the Club and Section.

P.S. Sea Level has recently crossed the 1000 member threshold. If everyone votes, we will have an effect.

John Betsch
ed.

President's Message

Dear Fellow Members:

Driver skill and knowledge are very important to survive in today's fast moving traffic. As a Mercedes-Benz Club member, you have an advantage. At most National Club events, Defensive Driving courses are offered. You take your own car through a course laid out with pylons, executing maneuvers that simulate accident avoidance using quick evasive maneuvers. Autocross events are held, which offer a way to experience the handling capabilities of your car at moderate speeds. The most adventuresome event is Time Trials. Driving your car around a road track, under the watchful eye of an instructor, as quickly as you can, teaches high speed handling and cornering. But, by remaining within your own "comfort zone" you easily learn how to properly handle your car

at speed. You learn braking and cornering techniques that come into play in everyday driving.

The next National event is Tri-O-Rama, September 24 through 28, in Winchester, Virginia, about six hours from Long Island. If you enjoy driving and want to learn more about the capabilities of your Mercedes-Benz, this is an opportunity that you shouldn't let pass by.

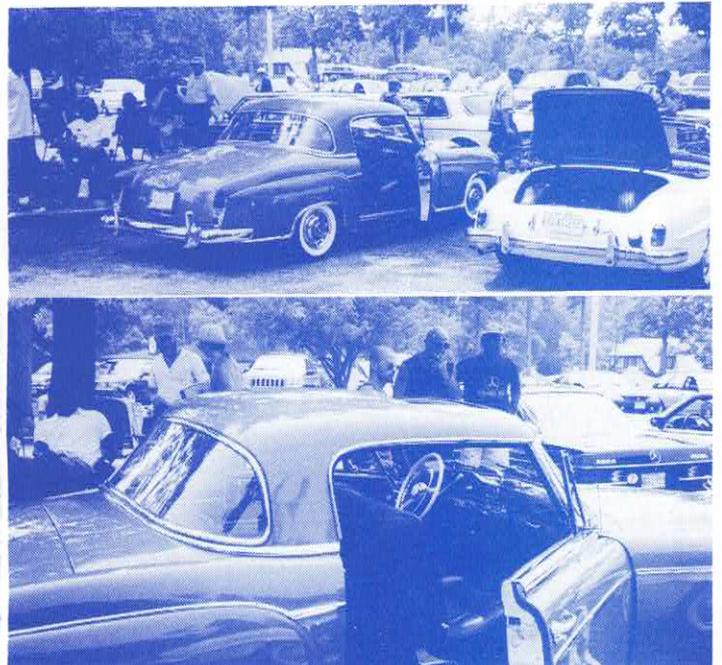
I would like to clarify our policy of returning checks to members who do not attend an event after making a reservation. If the Section is obligated to pay for a meal for a member who does not attend, the member's check will not be returned, nor the money refunded. This policy will apply to any type of event where the Club is financially obligated for a minimum number of attendees.

Richard Weiss

Groovin' on a Sunday Afternoon

Fifty members braved the heat and humidity on July 18th to display their cars to the visitors at the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Mansion in Centerport. The museum, considered the largest on the Island, was the summer cottage of William K Vanderbilt II.

Twenty-two Mercedes-Benz models were shown, ranging from a '55 190SL to a '99 C280 Sedan. Club members were admitted as guests to the grounds, picnic lunches were available, and most members toured the Mansion. A sociable time was had by all, but considering the temperature, some rain would have been a welcome visitor.



Napoleon Jenkins' "CLASSEEE" cars at Vanderbilt

A CL500 Once-Over (cont.)

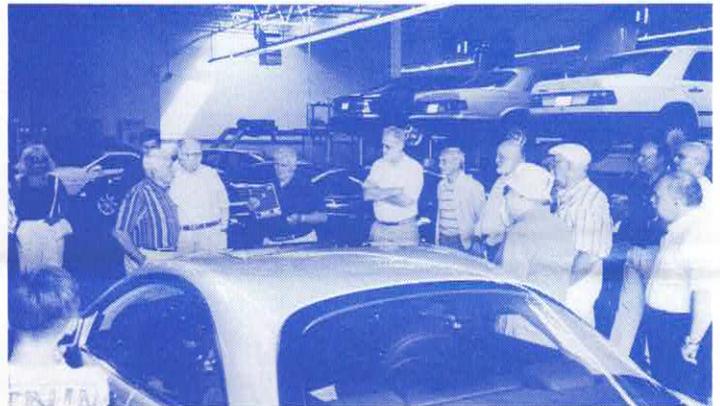
(Continued from page 1)

on the body to reassure any doubting Thomas's in the group. Consensus was that it looks even better "in person" than it does in print. For those who didn't make the session, you missed an impressive sight. [May/June STAR has an extensive article about the CL500]

While we have to be impressed with amount of technology incorporated, I was also very impressed with the little things. To me, changes like re-situating those European style side marker lights, the incorporation of the GPS and cell phone antenna under the trunk lid skin (instead of that stubby little antenna at the top of the back window on the S-Class), or the use of articulating doors demonstrates that Mercedes-Benz listens to its customer populace.

And as notable as CL500 was, we also had to be impressed with the knowledge of Rob Allan about any Mercedes-Benz automobile and his ability to answer even a minimally related question. I don't think there was a question asked that

he couldn't answer. I believe a mechanical engineer by education, Rob's most recent product planning projects include Tele-Aid, the new emergency calling and client communications system, GPS navigation as well as other systems. Regarding the Tele-Aid System, Rob noted that there are about 7000 new S-Class cars on the road and to-date, there have been four collisions severe enough to deploy the air bags. In each instance, the Mercedes Tele-Aid System was activated summoning Police, ambulance, etc to the exact incident location, obviously benefiting all parties involved.



Members listen attentively as Section President Dick Weiss explains the day's agenda.

Member Marketplace

1971 Mercedes-Benz Model 250/8 Sedan

Also, a spare engine & transmission with many extra parts. Original Owner. Best Offer!
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Call Andre Cadet (718) 634-6278; Belle Harbor

Wanted: Service or Shop Manual for 1993 300CE
Call Richard Tripi (718) 833-7571; Brooklyn

1967 Mercedes Benz Euro 250 SL Coupe original 5 Speed, 70,000 mi, Silver/Black MB-Tex, 100 % rust free & original, \$17,500 firm
Call Paul Morgan (212) 249-3806; Manhattan

Tri-O-Rama 99

September 24-28, 1999



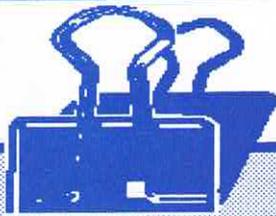
The
**Greater
Washington
Section**



invites you
to the 33rd Tri-O-Rama
in Winchester, Virginia and at Summit Point Raceway

For a Registration Packet or more information contact:

Joe Wozney
1625 Park Overlook Drive
Reston, VA 20190
Call 703-437-7866
Fax 703-481-6222
Email: JoeWozney@aol.com



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
MBCA
 19071 Lelaray Street
 Colorado Springs, CO 80909;
 1-800-637-2360; or
www.mbc.org

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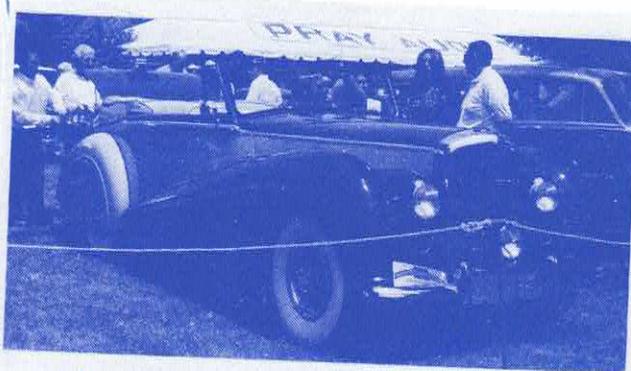
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A Greenwich Concours d'Elegance Scrapbook



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3rd Annual St. Charles Classic & Sports Car Rallye

September 18, 1999

A timed rallye beginning at St. Charles and concluding at Pindar Vineyards in Peconic.

Cost of \$100 per car includes breakfast at starting point and a reception, dinner and awards ceremony at Pindar Vineyard. Proceeds benefit the St. Charles Educational & Therapeutic Centers.

Limit of 100 automobiles

For information call: (516) 331-6569

Provence 3D In Manhattan

tional Gallery, and for chefs - there's The James Beard Foundation. "The Beard House is like having Beethoven's house as a center for musicians, because Beard is as important to food people as Beethoven is to the music world" (Julia Child).

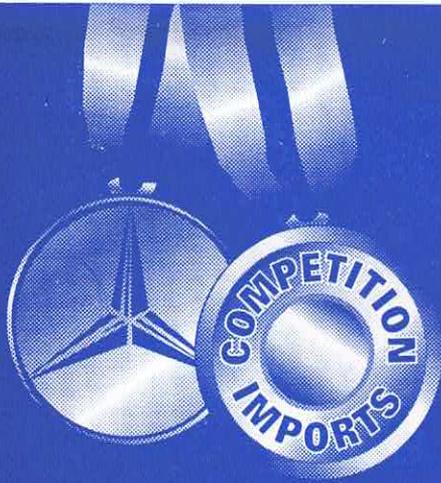
After appetizers and cocktails in the garden, there was dining from a menu that highlighted flavor, striking colors and aromatic fragrance and it was an experience not to be forgotten. The meal featured the signature dishes of these Chefs, accompanied by wines chosen to complement each course. Be



Vinny Milo and other Sea Level members enjoying the hospitality of The Beard House with appetizers and cocktails in the garden.

sure to ask someone who attended about the "Rabbit Terrine with Provencal Herbs, Meschun Salad, Tapenade Toasts, and Grilled Peppers", the "Poached Duck Breast with Violet Mustard from Brives" or my favorite, the "Traditional Cherry Cake - Made Untraditionally" It was a special evening and many attendees await a repeat visit. One missing link: a 1913 Mercedes 37/95 Touring Car (as highlighted in the May/June Star) in which to be chauffeured home.

Thanks to **Vinny Milo** for arranging this event.



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MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB of AMERICA, Inc.
Sea Level Section

fall rallye '99
Sunday, September 19th

Michael's
21 Montauk Highway
West Sayville, New York
First car off: 10 a.m.

Directions: From the Long Island Expressway: Take Exit 59 (South) Ocean Avenue, which becomes Lakeland Avenue at the fork approximately 1 mile South of the Expressway. At the fork, bear left. Cross over Veterans Highway and later Sunrise Highway. Keep heading South on Lakeland Avenue to Montauk Highway (Main Street). Turn right at the traffic light onto Montauk Highway and proceed Westerly for approximately 1/2 mile. Michael's is the white Victorian mansion on the right side (North).

Return the clip-out below along with a check for \$24 per person. Checks should be payable to M.B.C.A.
See you on September 19th at 10 a.m.

To: Bernd Berberich
104 N Howells Point Rd
Bellport NY 11713-2313

Name: _____

Address: _____

I want to be part of "fall rallye'99.

Phone: _____

Enclosed is my check (Payable to MBCA) for No. in Party _____ @ \$ 24 per person = _____



Star-Gazer

Sea Level Section
MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA, Inc.
J. F. Betsch, Editor
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Huntington, New York 11743-2152

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STAR-GAZER

Upcoming Event Schedule

- August 22nd: **East End Concours**
Duck Walk Vineyards, Southampton
- Sept. 19th: **Fall Rallye '99**
Michael's Restaurant, West Sayville
- October 9th: **Tech Session**
Lakeview Motors, Rockville Centre
- October 23rd: **BMW Autocross**
Nassau Coliseum, Uniondale
- November 7th: **Open House/Tech Session**
Mercedes-Benz, Manhattan
- December 6th: **Holiday Party**
Maine Maid Inn, Jericho

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