



# Star-Gazer

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

Volume 36, Issue 4

Fourth Quarter, 1999

## from the editor

### Got an idea?

This was a very successful year for Sea Level with many varied and interesting events offered for each of us to participate in.

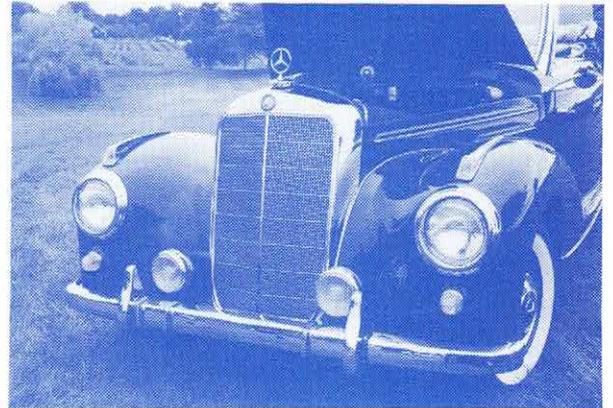
One more event to go with the Holiday Party on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

See the enclosed flyer and sign up quickly. The Holiday Party is always a fun, well-attended event.

Shortly,

## No Rain on our Parade!

The summer of '99 generally had good weather every weekend, so when it rained on both the Friday and Saturday before our East End Concours - I wondered if there would be a cloud over our heads on Sunday (August 22<sup>nd</sup>). There was - but luckily only clouds. Once the rain came close enough that everyone scrambled to get those tops up, but luckily only a few sprinkles appeared. All ended well, as by the end of the Concours, the sun was shining and once again it appeared that Sea Level had planned the date well. I am sure there were many



Best of Show, Werner Buchner's 1952 220 Cab A

cars being shown that probably haven't been in rain for a long, long time. I, for

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Expert Advice at Lakeview Auto Sales



Lakeview photos courtesy of M. Cobin

Edward F. Meyer, owner of Lakeview Auto Sales in Rockville Centre was a most cordial host opening his Service Facility on Saturday October 9<sup>th</sup> to the Sea Level Section. Technical topics were addressed, a generous hot buffet lunch was provided by Lakeview, and some lucky members left with a door prize donated by Sea Level.

MBUSA, in the person of  
*(Continued on page 6)*

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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.

Bruce Abdenour  
Lamont Bailey  
Albert Bellenchia  
Alphonso Brooks  
Takey Chiu  
Marie Cochran  
Michael Comiskey  
F. Curran  
Gary Deane  
Marc Estrada  
Gloria Gabriel

Robert Gardner  
Gus Giannopoulos  
James Gillespie  
James Giordano  
Thomas Higgins  
Mark Hoffman  
Edward Hommel  
Richard Imrie  
Michael John  
John Klamar  
Richard Klein

Lindo Lapitan  
Yiping Lee  
Ting Lee  
Luke Lisotta  
Michael Logiudice  
Rhyder McClure  
Bernard McSorley  
David Murphy  
Walter Nielsen  
Bruce Payne  
J. Pierson

Holly Price  
Christopher Ragucci  
Toni Rand  
George Reeves Jr  
Adam Rosenfeld  
Stephen Storms  
Michael Sugden  
Ken Wallace  
Dean Willard  
Andrew Yu

### Sea Level Officers & Staff

<b>President:</b>	<b>Richard Weiss</b>	86 Kingsbury Road, Garden City NY 11530	(516) 747-0679
<b>Vice-President:</b>	<b>John Anaischik</b>	200 Floral Parkway, Floral Park NY 11001	(516) 775-3597
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Robert Muth</b>	411 9th Avenue, East Northport, NY 11731	(516) 261-5074
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Bernie Berberich</b>	104 N. Howells Point Rd., Bellport NY 11713	(516) 286-8086
<b>Technical Advisor:</b>	<b>Tony Cinque</b>	C/O Luxury Auto Repair 604 Bicycle Path, Port Jefferson Sta. NY 11776	(516) 474-2323
<b>Editor:</b>	<b>John Betsch</b>	Three Winchester Lane, Huntington, NY 11743	(516) 549-3564

### Members of the Board

John Anaischik   Bernie Berberich   Dr. Jonah Berman   John Betsch   Peter Busacca   Tony Cinque  
Joseph Defilippe   Creighton Phillips   Robert Muth   Viola Scarduzio   Richard Weiss

### Northeast Regional Vice President

Bryan F. Gunning  
1472 Boulevard  
West Hartford, CT 06119

**Changes of Address:** Requests should be forwarded to MBCA 19071 Lelaray Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80909; 1-800-637-2360; or [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org)

**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 15<sup>th</sup> (February Edition) April 15<sup>th</sup> (May Edition) July 15<sup>th</sup> (August Edition) October 15<sup>th</sup> (November Edition)



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the Officers and Board Members will be meeting to discuss ideas for next year's event schedule. If you have a suggestion for the millennium year, why not call or drop a line to one of the Board Members or Officers with your thoughts. All ideas are welcomed. (Telephone numbers and addresses are listed on page two of the Star-Gazer). Along with that, ideas concerning the Star-Gazer are always appreciated.

John Betsch  
ed.

## President's Message

Dear Fellow Members:

As we close our 38th year, I thank all of our members for a very successful year. Special thanks to those of you who found time to join in our events. My appreciation goes to the Board of Directors, without whom nothing would happen. We had eleven events this year, including a gala Manhattan Dinner thanks to the efforts of Vinnie Milo, and an Autocross Event, thanks to the hospitality of the BMW Club. We also enjoyed two traditional rallies, thanks to Rallyemasters Bernd Berberich and John Anaischik, and a fine Concours de-Elegance ably handled by Peter Busacca. We had two "tech sessions", thanks to Lakeview Auto

Sales and Competition Imports. Joan and Jonah Berman arranged for our annual visit to Mercedes-Benz Manhattan, and we had a very warm July picnic at the Vanderbilt Mansion. A defensive driving seminar was arraigned by Peter Busacca. And of course, our traditional December Holiday Luncheon. A special thanks goes to John Betsch for his outstanding job in editing and assembling our Star-Gazer.

We will continue in year 2000 with more interesting events. I hope that more of you will find time to attend an event and meet some of your fellow Sea Level members. It's fun, and I hope to see you.

Richard Weiss

## "So don't fight with your driver or navigator!"

"Remember, these events are to be fun, so don't fight with your driver or navigator"- stated the Fall Rallye '99 instructions.

And so on September 19<sup>th</sup>, with the completion of ninety-nine steps, entrants completed the circuit designed by Rallye Master **Bernie Berberich** making their way back to the starting line at Michael's Restaurant in West Sayville - and potentially completing the route in the planned 61 miles and with 53 correct answers.

All entrants did find their way and there was no public announcement of any "discussions between driver and navigator" by any of the participants. A successful rallye!

While enjoying some of Michael's Restaurant brunch offerings, the following winners were announced

with special notation that new members **Doreen and Bill Vones**, in their first event participation, finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place. Ask them about it at the next event.

1<sup>st</sup> Driver: Joseph DeFilippe '95 C280  
Navigator: Karen DeFilippe

2<sup>nd</sup> Driver: Paulette Mandarino '98 E320  
Navigator: Frank Mandarino

3<sup>rd</sup> Driver: Jim Montgomery '89 380SL  
Navigator: Lillian McGovern

4<sup>th</sup> Driver: Bill Vones '86 560SL  
Navigator: Doreen Vones

"What does Ed do?" Only the participants of 'Fall Rallye '99' can answer that question. If you don't know, why not consider trying the next rallye?

## No Rain on our Parade (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

one, would probably have needed my owner's manual to operate my wipers.

Visitors to Duck Walk Vineyards were treated to some fine examples of Mercedes-Benz, from roadsters to cabriolets to sedans (who says a diesel can't be pretty); tops up, tops down; from polar white to signal red, from chocolate brown to the ever-popular black; all with glistening, vibrant chrome to accentuate.



The cars provided a common ground for both "old" (in membership years only, of course) and many new members to discuss and compare,

to admire and envy. Everyone leaves a Sea Level Concours a winner, as you can be sure that you will end the day with a little more knowledge or a hint or two about keeping that M-B in tip-top condition. I even learned **Sol Magid's** secret to an impossible shine on his black 280SE.

After judging, the Vineyard patio overlooking the growing grapes provided a nice setting to present the awards to the place winners. As the attendees enjoyed a glass [or two] of the vineyards offering and some accompanying cheeses, **Dick Weiss** announced the winner of the raffled Basket of Cheer generously donated by Pindar Vineyards in Peconic. It was noted that Pindar is a sister vineyard to Duckwalk. **Bernie Berberich** was the lucky basket winner.



**Peter Busacca**, Chairman of this year's Concours then announced the day's winners:

### SEDAN CLASS

- |                 |                  |          |
|-----------------|------------------|----------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Napoleon Jenkins | '59 220S |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Paul Berk        | '70 250C |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Bernie Berberich | '81 300D |

### 111 BODY STYLE

- |                 |              |               |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Sol Magid    | '71 280SE 3.5 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Lester Ayers | '69 280SE     |

### 107 BODY STYLE

- |                 |                |           |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Jerry Shapiro  | '87 560SL |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | John Anaischik | '80 450SL |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Steven Cutler  | '86 560SL |

(cont.)

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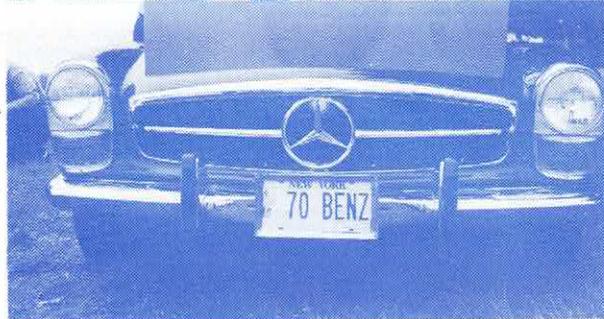
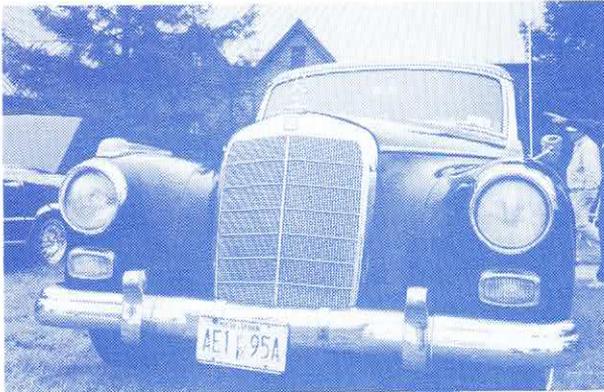
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## No Rain on our Parade (cont.)



### 113 BODY STYLE

- 1<sup>st</sup> John Betsch '65 230SL
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Gerald Kapalko '70 280SL
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tom Grilli '67 230SL

### 190SL CLASS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Napoleon Jenkins '55 190SL
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Damian Krause '61 190SL

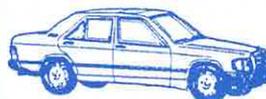
### BEST OF SHOW

Werner Buchner '52 220 CAB A

Werner's Best of Show winner is on page one of this issue. A sampling of the Concours participants appears above.

## Luxury

### Auto Repair



### MERCEDES SPECIALISTS

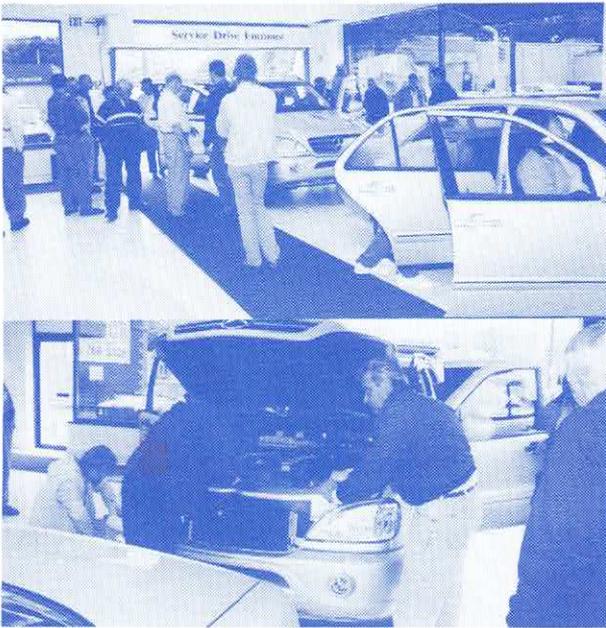
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*Tony Cinque*  
Owner

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## Expert Advice at Lakeview Auto Sales (cont.)



*Looking over the 2000 Model Year Offerings*

MBUSA, in the person of Todd Grieco, Service and Parts Operation Manager for the New York Region, supplied a ML55 AMG for our careful inspection. Todd outlined the new features of this latest entry into the SUV market, and described his trip from Montvale, New Jersey, as "driving in a luxurious rocket". (Tech Sheet states 6.4 seconds for 0-60 time.)

The technical aspect of the meeting focused on new all wheel technology. Paul Gagliardi, also a MBUSA Service and Parts Operations Manager, provided a thorough and detailed explanation of all wheel drive while standing beneath the ML55 AMG and a new E320 all wheel

drive model while the vehicles were raised on shop hoists. Ernie Palmer, MBUSA Technical Specialist



*Learning about All Wheel technology*

for the New York Region, was available to provide detailed answers to any and all questions on any topic relating to Mercedes-Benz engineering, design and maintenance.

Terry Pine, Lakeview Service Manager, and Paul Wilson, Lakeview Assistant Service Manager were on hand to assist owner Ed Meyer in welcoming Club members. Lakeview Auto announced a "Mercedes-Benz Club Friendly" policy. All Club members will receive a 10% discount on all labor charges, and on all parts, either installed by Lake-



*Enjoying the hospitality of Lakeview Auto Sales.*

view or purchased over the counter for do-it-yourself installation.

Sea Level appreciates the support of Mercedes-Benz retailers like Lakeview, celebrating their 46th anniversary this year, and the support of Section events by MBUSA.

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## Star-Gazing on the Left Coast (cont.)

(Continued from page 8)

and high-tech gadgetry. Although not a feature on the model driven, the talk of "seat coolers" featuring 10 fans within the front seats captured the attention of every Southern Californian in attendance. Responding to a member's inquiry of what model Mercedes Benz is the best all-around performer prior to the 2000 S-Class, Hermann replied without hesitation that the 126 model held that title.

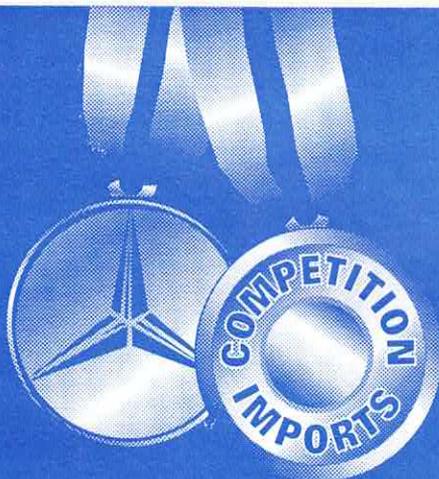
As space is limited, let's get down to the nitty-gritty and satisfy your appetite for my secret knowledge...

- A new SL will appear in 2002 or 2003 featuring a new body style, retractable hardtop and rack & pinion steering.
- The A-Class will finally stand up tall and appear in showrooms.
- An entry device similar in fashion to a credit card that opens and starts the car within close proximity, currently offered in Germany, may appear on our shores shortly.

- 8 airbags standard feature in both S and E classes. Full-length headliner airbag standard in S-Class to protect in event of rollover.
- Tele-Aid System operating through GPS and cellphone automatically notifies & alerts emergency service upon airbag deployment. (Available on most 2000 vehicles).
- Mercedes-Benz free maintenance program as long as vehicle is under warranty.
- Unfortunately, no 2000 diesel models due to strict US emission standards and the economic implications on importers as Mercedes-Benz.

The list continues, but I urge those that desire to learn more about both classic and recent Mercedes-Benz models to attend section events as I have attended. Although I am presently a Volvo driver, I have found that MBCA members are always willing to share their knowledge, advice and maybe even a Bratwurst with me. Regards,

*Mike*



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# Sea Level Section Holiday Luncheon

*Maid Maine Inn, Jericho, NY*

*12 Noon - 3PM*

*Cost: \$25. per person*

Join us for Sea Level's Annual Holiday Party at the Maine Maid Inn. A Holiday Luncheon, *with a choice of three entrees*, will be served. As is our custom, please bring an unwrapped toy (not to exceed \$5 in value) to be donated to the Toys for Tots Program on Long Island.

## **Sunday, December 5th**

**Maid Maine Inn:** Take Northern State Parkway to Exit 35 north or L.I.E. to Exit 41 north to Routes 106/107 north-bound. Bear right onto Route 106. Go 1/4 mile to first right turn. This road leads to the Main Maid Inn parking lot. (Telephone: 516: 935-6400)

To: Richard T. Weiss  
86 Kingsbury Road  
Garden City NY 11530  
(516:747-0679)

**Yes, I will be attending the Sea Level Holiday Luncheon. I am enclosing a \$25 per person check (payable to MBCA).**

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ No. of People in my Party \_\_\_\_\_

**RSVP with check  
required by December 1st.**



# Star-Gazer

Sea Level Section  
MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA, Inc.  
J. F. Betsch, Editor  
Three Winchester Lane  
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## STAR-GAZER

### *Star-Gazing on the Left Coast*

Sea Level members may recognize my name from the many rallyes that I have co-piloted with my father, John Betsch. Over those years I have come to appreciate the elegance, design and excitement that Mercedes-Benz automobiles provide their caretakers. If I had a penny for every coat of Meguiar's on my father's 230SL alone, I would be... able to buy my own.

Well, my rallye competitors may rejoice (and now Place) as I have relocated to Los Angeles for an indefinite period. Fortunately, my enthusiasm for Mercedes-Benz will continue to be fostered by the gracious members of the Long Beach, CA Section. I first met this Section's members as I attended their summer Concours at Olde Worlde German Village in Huntington Beach. M-B's lined the narrow streets to the delight of spectators and members and all enjoyed authentic German fare at the Einbecker Inn. Greeted with open arms as an East Coast correspondent, I happily accepted their invitation to attend their next event featuring MBUSA's Hermann Stehling.

Hermann Stehling may as well have been Santa Claus as he provided a 2000 S430 for members to test drive and revealed details of MB's new line and future innovations. The S-Class dazzled all with its gentle ride, modern yet graceful styling

*(Continued on page 7)*