



# Star-Gazer

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

Volume 37, Issue 1

First Quarter, 2000

from the editor

## FATAL ERROR

These are not words that someone putting a newsletter together wants to see. This is especially true for your Star-Gazer editor. You see I am only a computer user - I know the keyboard and mouse - and that's it. Well, as I was putting this issue together, those malacious words appeared across

## 2000 Event Schedule in Place!

Section event scheduling is shaping up with events for all interests!

Beginning with a Rallye on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> to enjoy springtime on the east end, RallyeMaster **John Anaischik** has developed a route beginning and ending at the Meeting House Creek Inn in Aquebogue. See the sign up

form for "*Spring Rallye-2000*" in this issue. Mail it now to hold your place! Rallyes fill up quickly.

In June, there will be two interesting events. On Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, we will hold a Technical Session at AutoMat's new facility on Hazel Street in

*(Continued on page 4)*



### MBCA - SEA LEVEL SECTION 2000 EVENT SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 30th	"Spring Rallye-2000" Meeting House Creek Inn, Aquebogue
Saturday, June 10th	Technical Session AutoMat Auto Interiors, Hicksville
Sunday, June 18th	Hill Climb Festival and Car Show Port Jefferson
Sunday, July 23rd	Winery Picnic, Tour and Car Show Pindar Vineyards, Peconic
Sunday, September 24th	"Rambo-Rides-Again" Rallye Starting point to be announced
Saturday, October 14th	Technical Session Lakeview Auto/Mid-Island Collision Rockville Centre
Sunday, December 3rd	Holiday Party South Country Inn, East Patchogue



Cut & Save

#### IN THIS ISSUE

2000 Event Schedule	1
President's Message	3
"Spring Rallye-2000"	5
Vison SLA Concept Car	7



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.

Cristina R Bariso	Bob Hanley	Jay Margulies	Louis Sparacino, Jr
Maggie Bernberg	Idelle Howitt	Nichola V. Marinelli	Martin Staff
James T. Byrnes	Douglas Jiminez	Varery Moksini	Mark R. Thomas
Hume L. Campbell	Joel Kahn	Frank Pfeiffer	Steven Trimboli
Walter D. Chapadeau	Jeremy Kottkamp	Antoine Pierre-Pierre	Allen J. Wagenhein
Theodore Chin	Joe Kovach-Anta	Jeff Riccio	Steven Yaskin
Kevin J. Dabulis	Alexander Kowalski	Laurence Roberts	Michael Yoder
Peter Gouras	Paul Lumia	Kip Russell	Paul Zminkowski
Daniel Gross	James Mahir	Jeff Schur	

### 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	(631) 261-5074
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Bernie Berberich</b>	104 N. Howells Point Rd., Bellport NY 11713	(631) 286-8086
<b>Technical Advisor:</b>	<b>Tony Cinque</b>	C/O Luxury Auto Repair 604 Bicycle Path, Port Jefferson Sta. NY 11776	(631) 474-2323
<b>Editor:</b>	<b>John Betsch</b>	Three Winchester Lane, Huntington, NY 11743	(631) 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

Roy O. Kuck  
67 Terrylynn Drive  
Angola, NY 14006-1243

**Changes of Address:** Requests should be forwarded to MBCA 19071 Lelaray Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80909; 1-800-637-2360, 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 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)



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*).

my screen. Now I knew that floppy discs can have problems, but thought (obviously erroneously) that Hard Drives are safe. Luckily, some talented technicians were able to retrieve my data. I now feel like someone who has just survived a serious illness. "I promise to back up my data, I promise to always back-up my data." I'm not alone. See the article about the mailing labels on page 6. MBCA too had problems. John Betsch ed.

## President's Message

*Dear Fellow Members:*

*During the last few weeks, your Sea Level Board of Directors has been hammering together a schedule of events for the upcoming year. To conserve funds, we will reduce the use of event-specific mailings and use our quarterly Star-Gazer as the only method of notification. We are nailing down dates and events now, so members can plan accordingly - well in advance. Our 2000 event schedule is detailed on page one of this Star-Gazer. We hope it will not be - "out of sight, out of mind" with the reduced mailing schedule. So, mark your calendars and date books right now - so you won't miss an*

*opportunity to meet and greet the finest Mercedes owners in the world - your fellow Mercedes-Benz Club members!*

*On the National level, the newly elected National President, H. Peter Watson, has canceled the Club's National Convention, Starfest 2000, for reasons that have not been entirely explained. While the National Board struggles to achieve a harmonious working group, Sea Level Section will continue to "do our thing", planning interesting and diverse meetings for your enjoyment.*

*We hope to see many new faces in 2000!*

**Richard Weiss**

## Holiday Party - 1999

Fifty members and guests attended our Annual Holiday Party on December 5th at the festively decorated Maine Maid Inn in Jericho. All attendees enjoyed the fine food, and a few lucky ones went home with door prizes contributed



by Sea Level and by members **Joan and Jonah Berman**.

A huge number of toys was collected for delivery to the "Toys for Tots Program" here on Long Island, a Sea Level tradition for many years.

**John Betsch**, editor of the Star-Gazer was presented with the "Member of the Year" Award in recognition of his efforts on behalf of Sea Level during the past year.

## 2000 Event Schedule in Place!

*(Continued from page 1)*

Hicksville. AutoMat Auto Interiors specializes in classic and exotic interiors, seat upholstery-both repair and rebuild, headliner replacement, convertible top repair and replacement, original import and classic carpeting and supplies, and even RECARO seats for that racing machine. We will tour their facility and examine work in progress. Bring your questions and your car for work estimates and special incentives. **WANTED:** If anyone is thinking of having interior work done on their car this year, AutoMat will provide incentive pricing if it will be in their shop at the time of our tech session. They can be called at 938-7373 to discuss your needs. On Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, we will be participating in the Port Jefferson Hill Climb and Car Show as part of the Village Wide Festival. This should be quite an event. **Peter Busacca** will be coordinating the details for the Section. Specific information will appear in next quarter's Star-Gazer.

In July, we have a box lunch picnic, winery tour and car show scheduled for Sunday, the 23rd at Pindar Vineyards in Peconic. July is a great

time to spend a day out east. Plan on it now.

On Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, Rambo does it again with one of his famous rallyes. Look for details regarding the "Rambo-Rides-Again" Rallye to be designed by **Dave Schoenberg** and his faithful companion, Rambo.

Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> is the date for our second Technical Session to be held at Lakeview Auto/Mid-Island Collision in Rockville Centre. While our first technical session concentrated on interiors, this session will address exteriors. Learn the secrets of a concours shine or how to maintain that new car look as well as understanding the mechanics of collision repair.

The Holiday Party will be held on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the South Country Inn located in East Patchogue. This event, this year is being chaired by **Bernie Berberich**, is always a sell-out.

*Please remember that this year, we will be utilizing only the Star-Gazer to communicate event schedules. There will be no event specific flyers, so mark your planning calendars now. Each issue will have sign-up forms contained within.*

## Autocross Aficionados

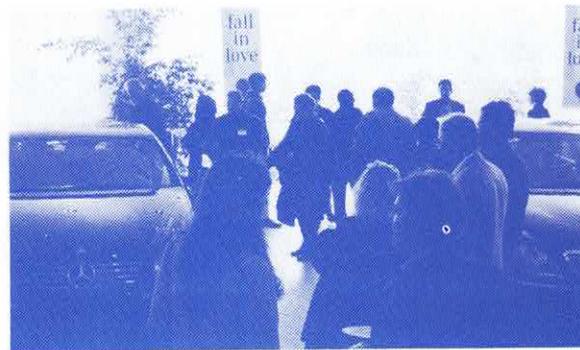
Timed to the thousandth of a second, members tested their autocross skills recently in the BMW Club Autocross



L-R: **Bob Webster, Elizabeth Weiss, Dick Weiss, Steve Fischtal and Noah Schwartz**, Sea Level participants in the autocross. Missing from photo: **Creighton Phillips & John Anaischik** (photographer)

## Manhattan Open House

Members learned what's new for model year 2000 and as the banner said "fall in love."



Hiding somewhere in the shadows are the day's raffle winners: **Ed Ozerly and Barbara Gordan**, winners of the watches and **Eric Jansen**, winner of the Pen/knife set.

# Spring Rallye - 2000

**Sunday, April 30, 2000 - 10 a.m.**  
**Meeting House Creek Inn**  
**Aquebogue, NY**

Enjoy the sights of the North Fork as part of "*Spring Rallye - 2000*". The rallye starts from the parking lot of the Meeting House Creek Inn which is located in Aquebogue, two miles east of Riverhead.

**Directions:** Take the Long Island Expressway east to the end, (Exit 73) Old Country Road - Country Road 58. Continue east to the Riverhead traffic circle and exit the circle staying on Route 58 East. At East Main Street, Route 58 becomes State Road 25. Continue east for approximately one mile. Turn right at Edgar Avenue (public school on corner). After crossing the railroad tracks turn left - this now becomes Meeting House Creek Road. Continue to the parking lot of the Meeting House Creek Inn. (722-4220)

**Return To: John Anaischik, RallyeMaster**  
**200 Floral Parkway**  
**Floral Park, NY 11001-3439**

**Sign me up! I want to be part of "*Spring Rallye - 2000*."**  
**I am enclosing a check (payable to MBCA) for \$18. per person participating.**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number in party** \_\_\_\_\_ **@\$18 per person =** \_\_\_\_\_ **enclosed.**

# Spring Rallye - 2000

**Sunday, April 30, 2000 - 10 a.m.**  
**Meeting House Creek Inn**  
**Aquebogue, NY**

Enjoy the sights of the North Fork as part of "*Spring Rallye - 2000*". The rallye starts from the parking lot of the Meeting House Creek Inn which is located in Aquebogue, two miles east of Riverhead.

**Directions:** Take the Long Island Expressway east to the end, (Exit 73) Old Country Road - Country Road 58. Continue east to the Riverhead traffic circle and exit the circle staying on Route 58 East. At East Main Street, Route 58 becomes State Road 25. Continue east for approximately one mile. Turn right at Edgar Avenue (public school on corner). After crossing the railroad tracks turn left - this now becomes Meeting House Creek Road. Continue to the parking lot of the Meeting House Creek Inn. (722-4220)

**Return To: John Anaischik, RallyeMaster**  
**200 Floral Parkway**  
**Floral Park, NY 11001-3439**

**Sign me up! I want to be part of "*Spring Rallye - 2000*."**  
**I am enclosing a check (payable to MBCA) for \$18. per person participating.**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number in party** \_\_\_\_\_ **@\$18 per person =** \_\_\_\_\_ **enclosed.**

## Vision SLA Sports Car Concept Unveiled!

Making its world premiere at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, the Vision SLA concept roadster is based on the A-Class, an innovative small car that's a sales success in Europe but is currently not available in the U.S.

Even more compact than the popular SLK, (about a foot shorter than the production SLK230) the SLA concept bears a family resemblance to the Formula-1 inspired styling of the SLR super sports car (planned for production around 2003). An arrow-shaped aluminum front hood and eye-catching front fenders give the SLA concept a futuristic look - not to mention an aerodynamic drag rating of 0.36 - while its flat windshield, large doors and gently sloping rear styling are reminiscent of the legendary M-B Silver Arrow racers of the 1950's.

The A-Class's top-of-the-line 1.9 liter,



125 horsepower engine pulls the SLA from 0 to 60 mph in a spirited 7.8 seconds. The SLA weighs only 2090 pounds and uses a sport version of the A-Class fully independent coil spring suspension, along with vented disc brakes and electrically driven power steering. Its 92.5-inch wheelbase is shod with 225/35 tires mounted on 19-inch alloy wheels.

Another example of the innovative technology of Mercedes-Benz.

## 2000 Mercedes-Benz Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Prices

MODEL	2000 MSRP	% Change from '99	equipment-adjusted % Change
-------	-----------	-------------------	-----------------------------

C Class Sedans			
C230 Kompressor	\$31,750	1.8	-6.2
C280	\$35,950	1.0	-6.5
C43 AMG	\$53,000	0.0	-4.4

E-Class Sedans and Wagon			
E320 Sedan	\$47,100	1.9	-6.7
E320 Wagon	\$47,950	1.6	-7.9
E430 Sedan	\$52,450	2.2	-4.7
E55 AMG	\$69,800	1.0	-4.1

M-Class Sport Utility			
ML320	\$35,300	1.0	-7.4
ML430	\$43,750	0.0	-8.3
ML55 AMG	\$64,900	new	new

CLK-Class			
CLK320 Coupe	\$41,600	2.5	-5.5
CLK320 Cabriolet	\$48,100	1.9	-4.9
CLK430 Coupe	\$49,100	2.5	-3.3
CLK 430 Cabriolet	\$55,600	new	new

SLK Roadster			
SLK230 Kompressor	\$41,000	2.5	0.4

CL-Class Coupes			
CL500	TBD	-	-

SL Coupe/Roadsters			
SL500	\$82,600	1.8	-0.4
SL600	\$128,950	1.6	0.1

S-Class Sedans			
S430	\$69,700	new	new
S500	\$77,850	new	new



# Star-Gazer

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

First Class Mail  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
E. Northport, NY  
Permit #76

**EVENT  
SCHEDULE  
INSIDE !!!**

STAR-GAZER

## LOOKING FOR A NEW CAR?



story on page 7