



# Star-Gazer

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

Volume 37, Issue 2

Second Quarter, 2000

*from the editor*

### FOR RENT

Space in your

Section's

newsletter.

Articles, Let-

ters to the Ed-

itor, Pho-

tographs,

Poems, How-

to's, a New

Product Dis-

covery, and

contributions

of general in-

terest to the

members of

Sea Level .

All inputs are

welcome.

Articles can

be as short or

as long as

you see fit.

**On May 23, 1777.....** the English raided Long Island from across the Sound landing at Southold; in 1790, Horton's Point Lighthouse was commissioned by George Washington; and in 1899, the USS Holland was commissioned at the first submarine base in the United States.

Participants in "Spring Rallye-2000" learned a bit of history as they traveled the Farm and Wine Country of the North Fork, ending the fifty-eight mile route at the Meeting House Creek Inn in Aquebogue with Brunch and conversation.



L-R: J. Anaischik, Rallye Master,  
**1st Place:** J. DeFilippe-Driver  
 K. DeFilippe-Navigator  
**2nd Place:** J. Montgomery (D)  
 L. McGovern (N)  
**3rd Place:** S. Weiss (N)  
 E. Weiss (D) missing

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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.

Richard Albert	Frank Comi	William Imlach	Harris P Palmer
Joseph J Annicelli	Antoine R Crassa	Donald Kerr	Steven M Parker
Fred Bauer	Jonathan Dwyer	Robin Lau	Jurgen M Parlowski
Rome Bebenista	Paul Gallo	Bonita Lloydnettes	Susanne Polan
Kinchen Bizzell	Ray Golowach	Joachim Maliga	Harold Reichert
Ed Bodkin	Ronald M Green	Brian McClean	Clifford Robert
Eugene Bolder	Joseph Gulinello	Chris Molluso	Domenick Scaglione
Gilbert Celli	William Hickman	Jay M Neuschatz	Tomio Taki
Dominick Citera	Robert Hoffman	Thomas J Paladino	Stephen Wolf

### 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.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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*It's your paper and the more inputs, the better the Star-Gazer will be. Drop me a line or give me a call, or send that article or photo for inclusion in the next edition.*

*John Betsch  
ed.*

## President's Message

*Dear Fellow Members:*

*Our 2000 season got off to a great start on Sunday, April 30th. Forty-one of our members enjoyed the scenery of Long Island's North Fork, along with the challenge of a John Anaischik - Bernie Berberich planned rallye. Consensus was that the rallye was one of the best ever! Upon completion of the rallye, we enjoyed a fine brunch at the Meeting House Creek Inn in Aquebogue. At the Brunch, I was privileged to present a Newsletter Award plaque to Editor John Betsch, acknowledging Star-Gazer's second place ranking in a group of fourteen section newsletters.*

*Back in February I expressed hope that the National Board could become a harmonious working group. This has not occurred. President Peter Watson, responding to a majority vote of the Board, has initiated proceedings to expel Jay O'Brien of the*

*Sacramento Section for conduct detrimental to the welfare of the Club. The charges center around Mr. O'Brien's use of the former internet-based MBCA "Leaders' List" to attack Ex-President Nitske and Former Legal Council Beltz. Mr. O'Brien attempted to have his name added to the ballot last fall, but this was disallowed amid much controversy. Without attempting to judge the merits of the case, it seems to me that pursuit of this expulsion does nothing to advance the well-being of our Club, and serves to further divide the membership.*

*The origins of the present disagreement go back a couple of years, and concern the contract with Frank Barrett, the editor/publisher of the STAR magazine. Some feel that the cost of the STAR is too high and a new contract should not be awarded without competitive bidding. If this is*

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Star-Gazer Wins Award



Sea Level's quarterly newsletter, the Star-Gazer, was awarded Second Place in our assigned group of fourteen sections in the 1999 Newsletter Contest. Sections were divided into six groups by membership size. We fit into the 600 member-and-up grouping. (Included in this grouping were: North Texas, Orange County, Delaware Valley, Mile High, Los Angeles, Seattle, Connecticut Westchester, Minute Man, Peachtree, Northern New Jersey, Chicagoland and San Francisco Bay Area.)

Five judges scored two issues submitted from each section's newsletter editor. The awards were based on an average score point system within the assigned group.

Among the criteria used were: content information, layout, grammar, editorial comment, event calendar and event reporting, photography and artwork. The contest is a way of rewarding the efforts of those who give so much to the Club. Our Star-Gazer is the product of John Betsch, our willing and dedicated Editor and Board Member. Congratulations John for a job well done!

Richard Weiss

## President's Message

*(Continued from page 3)*

done, great care must be used, as the STAR is a premier magazine, and is responsible for the retention of most of our members.

It remains for the National Board to get the Club's finances in order. The Club's current operating results have not been disclosed. In any event, there was no money for the sections from the Car Raffle in December.

The section dues rebate schedule, the money that keeps the sections running, has been unchanged for many years. Regardless of problems on the National level, your Sea Level Section Board of Directors will continue to do our best to plan interesting and diverse meetings throughout the year 2000 and beyond. In that way we can grow and prosper!

**Richard Weiss**



## AutoMat Tech Session - June 10th

Located on Hazel Street in Hicksville (see map) AutoMat offers original interior restorations, custom interiors, partial replacements, upholstery dyeing and repairs and quality motoring accessories. If that convertible top is an eyesore, they can replace it with a new one just like the original; worn, sagging or discolored headliners can be replaced; or if your seats look worn or discolored, but you do not feel it warrants replacement, they can spot repair and dye your seats and panels. They even can make cuts, abrasions and cigarette burns in cloth, vinyl and leather virtually disappear. **Volunteer your car (with incentive pricing) for in-work display at the meeting. You can call Tim Browner at 516-938-7373 to discuss.** Bring lots of questions! Refreshments will be served. Starting Time: 9AM.

✓ Sign-Up on Page 5

## Antique Auto Hill Climb & Car Show - June 18th

The Village of Port Jefferson, the Antique Automobile Club of America (F.R. Porter Section) and the MBCA Sea Level Section will present on Sunday, June 18th at 10AM, a Historic Antique Auto Hill Climb. Port Jefferson was the site of many autobuilders in the early part of the Century. Included among these was the Maxim Tricar, the F.R.Porter (star of TV's My Mother the Car) and the O.N.L.Y. car. To prove their worth, these automobiles would race up East Broadway to the Belle Terre gates. One year, Henry Ford brought a racecar, but lost!

Cars made before and including year 1972 and Unimogs will be featured in the Hill Climb. Participants will meet in the new Harborfront Park near Danford's Chowder House on East Broadway (next to the Bridgeport/Port Jefferson Ferry dock). A few select cars will be timed up the hill and around the village coming to rest at the new park where an informal car show will take place. If you wish additional information, call Peter Busacca at (631) 473-0652 (evenings). We need a count of attendees; so if you plan on attending, please return the sign up form.

✓✓ Sign-Up on Page 5

## ✓ AutoMat Technical Session - June 10th

Return To: Richard Weiss  
86 Kingsbury Road  
Garden City NY 11530-3138

Sign me up! I will be there at the Tech Session on June 10th!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number in party \_\_\_\_\_ attending.

Registration  
due:  
June 5th

## ✓✓ Antique Hill Climb & Car Show - June 18th

Return To: Peter Busacca  
121 Norwood Avenue  
Port Jefferson Stn, NY 11776-2552

Sign me up! I want to be part of the fun at Port Jefferson!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number in party \_\_\_\_\_ attending.

SIGN UP by JUNE 10TH

## ✓✓✓ Winery Picnic, Tour & Car Show - July 23rd

Return To: Richard Weiss  
86 Kingsbury Road  
Garden City NY 11530-3138

Register by  
July 17th

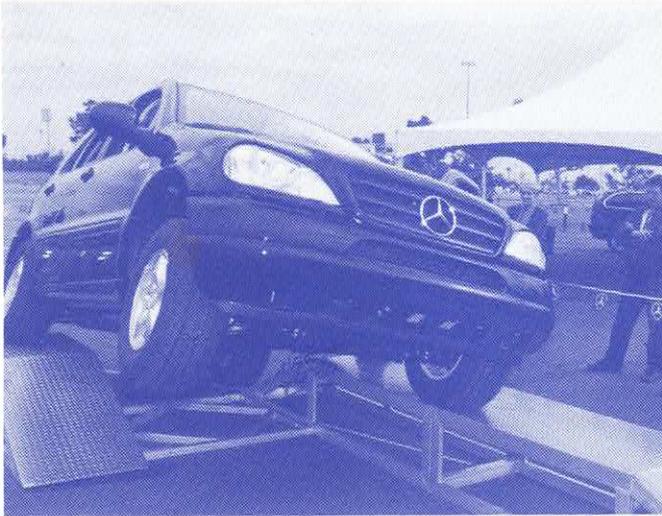
Sign me up! I want to be part of the Pindar Picnic! I am enclosing a check (payable to MBCA) for \$10. per person participating.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number in party \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10 per person =

I will be showing  
my car: (YES/NO)

## Speed of a Cheeta & the Power of a Clydesdale....

At the "M-Class Power Trip", Nassau Coliseum, May 12-14th, it's the ML55 AMG



against the Porsche Boxter in a drop down drag race; the ML320 against the Lexus RX300 in a frame twister demonstration and the ML430 versus the Toyota Land Cruiser in the 4-wheel traction mountain, the Matterhorn.

Mercedes-Benz recently purchased a majority interest in AMG, the German firm that has for over 30 years specialized in turning standard Mercedes-Benz models into high-performance machines. Will the ML55 AMG beat the Boxter?

*Outcome of this competition will be reported in the next Star-Gazer.*

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## VINEYARD PICNIC, TOUR, & CAR SHOW July 23rd

Join your fellow Sea Level friends on Sunday, July 23rd, as we return to Pindar Vineyards in Peconic, on Long Island's popular North Fork. We will have a tour of the Winery starting promptly at 11 AM. This will be followed by a wine tasting in the Tasting Room. A "Hero" lunch will follow on the pavillion.

All attendees are invited to enter the Car Show. Any Mercedes-Benz may be entered. Participants will park in a designated area opposite the pavillion, with judging by fellow members. Criteria used will be: "My Favorite". Have a fairly clean exterior - open hoods are not required!

Cost for all this will be \$10 per person. Directions: Long Island Expressway east to Exit 73. Continue east on Route 58 through the traffic circle. Route 58 becomes NY Route 25. Continue through Mattituck to Pindar Vineyards which will be on your left.

✓✓✓ **Sign-Up on Page 5**

## WANTED

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Andre (718) 634-6278

*"Sports cars are automobiles intended primarily to be driven. In this sense they differ from family cars, which are meant to be ridden in."*

John Freeman  
author of Sports Cars (1955)

## "Around the World in 80 Days..."

A U.S. Driving Team has entered the Around the World in 80 Days Motoring Challenge in a classic 1959 220S Sedan. The event kicks off May 1<sup>st</sup> at Tower Bridge, London and concludes approximately 80 days and 17,000 mile cross-world trek later back at the starting line in London.

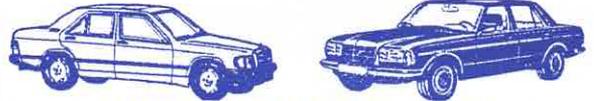


The marathon rally route stretches across central Europe through France, Germany, Italy, Greece and Turkey before entering former Soviet republics like Georgia, Turmenistan and Uzbekistan. After crossing China along the fabled Silk route to Samarkand and around the isolated Taklamakan Desert, the teams will push on to Beijing. An airlift of cars and crews will bring the event from China to Anchorage, AK for a traverse across Alaska and the Canadian Rockies, through the wild and remote terrain of the Yukon, Klondike and Northwest Territories. Entering the continental U.S. in Montana, the route follows a northerly course along the U.S.-Canadian border, before crossing New York State to arrive at another airlift, from Newark, NJ to Casablanca in Morocco. From Casablanca, a quick crossing of North Africa, Spain and France will bring the surviving cars back to the finish at London's Tower Bridge.

Weekly updates, photographs during the journey and links to the Classic Rally Association and others are available at <http://www.usmercedsteam.com>

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*Tony Cinque*  
Owner

**(516) 474-2323**

604 Bicycle Path • Port Jefferson Station, N.Y. 11776

## Membership Contest

The National Membership contest is in full swing, and has an ending date of December 31, 2000.

Each new member that you sign up must give your name and membership number when they join. Your number is printed on your membership card and also on your address label on the STAR. Multi-year memberships count as multiple members, and gift memberships count too. Membership applications are available at all Sea Level events.

Prizes donated so far by STAR Magazine advertisers include: an MBUSA Mountain Bike, a set of Nokian Tires, a set of Mille Miglia Wheels from Tire Rack, a Blanket by Europa International, various MBCA Club Store items, various items donated by the MBUSI Visitor Center, a Pirelli jacket, a Toppers oil change kit and other valuable items.



# Star-Gazer

Sea Level Section  
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Huntington, New York 11743-2152

First Class Mail  
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## STAR-GAZER

### SEA LEVEL'S 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