



Star-Gazer

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

Volume 37, Issue 3

Third Quarter, 2000

*from the
editor*

FOUR DOWN & THREE TO GO!

As you can see on the back cover, the Section has held four events so far this year with three to go. If you are one of the many who attended the Rallye, Tech Session and the most recent Car Show, you know first hand how much fun Section

Stuffing the Ballot Box ...

A summer day, a sea of sunflowers, a sip or two of Pindar's offerings, a shaded pavillion to enjoy the Section's picnic lunch and twenty-five Mercedes to savor – that sums up the Picnic at Pindar on July 23rd. Richard and Shirley Weiss organized and coordinated an event that should be remembered for some time.

Oops, almost forgot the Car Show!

With popular voting of the Mercedes participating, everyone was a judge voting on "My Favorite Car." No need to have the engine compartment pass the hospital-clean test in this event - as this was a hood-closed show.

Divided up into four classes, with a color-coded ballot for each class, the

(Continued on page 4)



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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	Richard Glassberg	Lance Landau	Steven Raymond
Jean-Christophe Allaire	Linda Greenfield	Frank Lisi	Andrew Reade
Ernest Auer	Samir Hrichi	Daniel Martz	Anthony Sclafani
Thomas Durante	Henry Huang	William McCaffrey	Darius Solomon
Anthony Esposito	Mahammad Hussain	Franklin Meyer	John Stine
Joel A Feyberg	Larry S Hyman	James Oliver	Daniel Wai
Areangelo Fiore	Joseph Juliano	Rudi Oudshoorn	Jorden Weiss
Trevor Francis	Judith Kaplan	Mark A Pollaci	Penny Williams
Ronald Furnhaut	Carl Kissin	Philip Rapoport	Hans Wulff
William Garofalo			Roy Zeluck

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

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)



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events are. If
you haven't,
you only have
three more
chances this
year...

THREE TO GO

The Rallye on
September
24th is a
great event to
take that M-B
for a spin!
Got a scratch
or ding that's
been bother-
ing you, the
Tech Session
on October
14th should
help with
some useful
information
on collision
repair.
Then on De-
cember 3rd,
you can show
off that

President's Message

Dear Fellow Members:

Since my last writing, we have enjoyed three interesting and varied Section events. In June we visited AutoMat, car interior specialists in Hicksville. It was a pleasure to visit such a fine shop that has been in business for many years. The following weekend we joined a Hill Climb auto event in Port Jefferson with member Peter Busacca as our host. And in July we had a Car Show at the Pindar Vineyards with owner Dr. Dan Damianos as our host.

The next event on our schedule is a Rallye on Sunday, September 24th, designed by our long time member, Rallyemaster Dave Schoenberg. On Saturday, October 14th, we will visit Lakeview Auto/Mid-Island Collision in Rockville Centre for a look at auto damage repair. Then we will conclude this year with our annual Holiday Party on Sunday, December 3rd. Come join us. If you don't, you won't know what you are

missing!

In my last message, I expressed hope that our National Board could get the Club's finances in order. Some progress has been made. The first five months of this year show an income of \$608,000, and expenses of \$604,000. This compares with a loss of \$346,000 for all of 1999. However, this progress comes with a price. The membership dues have been raised to \$45 per year, Starfest 2000 was canceled, and the sections have not received any car raffle rebates since January of 1998. But, the good news is that along with the \$10 annual dues increase will come a \$1 per member increase in the section dues rebate schedule. There will also be a \$1 per member rebate for each successful car raffle.

Maybe we are starting to turn the financial corner. I hope so.

Richard Weiss

SEA LEVEL NEEDS YOU!

At the end of every year, Sea Level is required by its by-laws to hold an election for directors for the coming year. This year, the election will take place on September 24th after the Rambo Rallye.

There are two positions available on the Board of Directors. The Board meets about every three months to plan future events and oversee the running of the Section.

The success of any club requires the participation of its members. Sea Level has been in existence for forty years and during that time, your Board has worked very hard to come up with varying events of interest to the members. But the times and order of things change and the Section needs people who are willing to accept the challenge and bring fresh ideas into the Club. Only by your participation can Sea Level move ahead into the future.

If you are interested in filling a position on the Board of Directors, please give me a call at (631) 261-5074 or e-mail me at rmuth@optonline.net. The future of this Section is in your hands. I'll be waiting to hear from you,

Bob

Robert Muth
Secretary

Stuffing the Ballot Box...

(continued from page 1)

display field looked like a honeycomb with voting bees swarming around the nest. It was interesting to see the ballots on the vote getting car's windshields, with practically every car garnering votes. (There was one exception – a Honda that tried to get into the judging field.) Discounting what appeared to be an attempt to stuff the ballot box with color-coded napkins, the final voting outcome was:

Modern SL: **1984 380SL - Priscilla Sedita**

Modern Sedan: **1984 300TD - Hans Giest**

Early SL: **1971 280 3.5 Convertible -
Sol Magid**

Early Sedan: **1959 220S - Napoleon Jenkins**



Special thanks to Elizabeth Weiss and Dr. Dan Damianos of Pindar Vineyards for their hospitality to Sea Level Section.

Sea Level's Visit to AutoMat



For our first Tech Session of the year on June 10th, Sea Level visited AutoMat, an auto interior specialist shop. AutoMat can either restore or repair, using original materials, or customize to suit individual tastes. A shop tour featured autos undergoing restoration, customization or various types of repair. Carpet replacement, seat rebuilding, seat recovering, headliner replacement and convertible top replacement were viewed as examples of current work in progress. Included were several Mercedes, a BMW, a Cadillac, a Mercury, an MG and a one-of-a-kind Rolls Royce, among many others. Hot dogs and watermelon completed an interesting visit. AutoMat has been in business since 1956, and the high quality of their work is quite evident.

Our thanks to Tim Browner for inviting Sea Level.

photos courtesy of M. Cobin

✓ Rambo-Rides-Again Rallye - SEPT 24th

Return To: David Schoenberg, RallyeMaster
1 Longwood Drive
South Huntington, NY 11746

Sign me up! I will be part of the Rambo-Rallye on Sept 24th! I am enclosing a check (payable to MBCA) for \$18. per person participating.

NAME: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

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

Register by
Sept 15th

✓✓ Technical Session - OCTOBER 14th Lakeview Auto/Mid-Island Collision

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

Sign me up! I will be attending the Technical Session on Oct 14th!

NAME: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Number attending _____

Register by
Oct 7th

(516)742-3320



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Rambo-Rides-Again on Sunday, September 24th

Rambo rides again! Come join Rambo for the Fall Rallye!

If you have never experienced a Rambo Rallye, now is your chance. Rambo's helper, Dave Schoenberg has a challenging, but enjoyable route planned for this Fall afternoon.

Meeting at the Islandia Marriot on the North Service Road at Exit 58 of the LIE at 9:45AM, the route will pass many of the classic spots of the Island. Being an island, you can expect water, water, and water as you test your skills.

To entice you, we'll even provide a hint: You will conclude at the Senix Creek Inn in Center Moriches for a Section Brunch. So now you know the start and the finish – but now you must participate to know the middle! **Please return the sign-up form by Sept 15th.**

✓ **Sign-Up Form Page 5**

CLASSIC & SPORTS CAR RALLY Saturday, Sept. 16th

Benefiting the St. Charles Educational and Therapeutic Centers, the rally begins at Competition Imports in Smithtown at 9 AM sharp (with registration and breakfast at 8:15)

Travel via devious route through the rural farmland of the North Fork finishing with a party and silent auction at Pindar Vineyards in Peconic around 12 Noon.

Registration fee of \$100 includes breakfast and party for driver & navigator.

Prizes awarded, and all pre-1984 cars will be displayed at Pindar.

**FOR INFORMATION: (631-474-6465)
or www.stcharlesctr.org/rally**

TECH SESSION Saturday, October 14th

Lakeview Auto Sales and Service, the Mercedes-Benz retailer in Rockville Centre, and their neighbor, Mid-Island Collision, are joining forces in an unusual and interesting technical event on Saturday, October 14th at 10AM.

At Mid-Island Collision we will follow the complete damage repair procedure from start to finish, including the Mercedes-Benz approved Celette Alignment System for chassis repair and the new water-based spray painting process.

We will assemble at the Lakeview Auto Service facility at 10AM. We will walk across the street to Mid-Island Collision for the technical presentation. Then we will return to Lakeview and enjoy a light buffet lunch as their guests.

Lakeview Auto Service is located at 468 Lakeview Avenue, Rockville Centre, Exit 19 off the Southern State Parkway (Peninsula Blvd). Go South about two miles to Lakeview Avenue. Turn right for one block. Mid-Island Collision is on your left and Lakeview Auto Service is on your right. Do not confuse this location with the Lakeview Sales location on Sunrise Highway in Rockville Centre.

So that we may have an estimate of attendance, please return the sign-up form by October 7th:

✓✓ **Sign-Up Form Page 5**

Need Help?

www.cyberwrench.com
library.thinkquest.org/19199
www.caranddriver.com
www.autoanswers.com
www.hemmings.com

ML55 AMG FASTEST SUV on EARTH?

Simply an advertising slogan or could it be true? Trust me, it's true!

The ML55 is powered by an AMG modified 5.5 liter version of the new M-B 342 HP V8. Sort of an SUV Sports Car (actually it's a truck.) Now you can have your midlife crisis and keep the kids.

After donning a helmet and climbing into the passenger seat of the ML55 for a 100+ mph "hot lap" with a professional driver at the recent M-Class Power Trip event held at Nassau Coli-



seum, I am a believer. (Videocams mounted in the car showed the course view, speedometer and each passenger. We were each given the video – both the speedometer and the look on my face will verify the 100+ mph). There were no squeals, no slipping tires, it just dug in and took off and handled the straights as well as the S curves with ease. It was very impressive! Lakeview, who provided on-site service for the ML55 AMG vehicles must have been busy working on those brake pads.

I also had an opportunity to drive an "off-road" course complete with a mountain,



watch a live demo of its structural rigidity (the ML was balanced on opposing front-rear wheels and see-sawed using open doors) and finally watch the ML55 trounce a Porsche Boxster in a

standing start drag race.

Ride and drive events are held to demonstrate vehicle features to potential buyers (just technical info, no sales pitch nor salesman present). But as a new owner of an ML320, I found it very worthwhile. Having put the car through things I would never dream of attempting in my own car, I now have significant confidence in its capabilities and safety. That made participation very worthwhile.

Autocross and Sea Level An invite from BMW Car Club

The New York Chapter of the BMW Club has again invited Sea Level Section members to participate in their scheduled Autocross events. They have events scheduled for Saturday August 26th, Saturday September 30th and Sunday October 8th.

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. All you need is a Mercedes, a valid drivers license, a helmet, \$25. and a willing spirit. Partial schedule for the rest of this season includes:

Autocross VI: Saturday, August 26th
Autocross VIII: Saturday, September 30th
Autocross IX: Sunday, Oct 8th

All events are held at the Nassau Coliseum. The autocross runs rain, shine or snow. Drivers must hold a valid drivers license to participate. You need a Snell 1990 or later helmet. Registration fee is \$20 for BMW CCA members and \$25 for non BMWCCA members. Only registered drivers are allowed to ride as passengers. Registration/tech inspection: 8-9:30am. First car off: 10:15am. Further Information or questions: Call Richard Weiss at (516) 747-0679 or visit the BMW website at:

www.nybmwcca.org/autocross



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

First Class Mail
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**Sign-up Forms
for Upcoming Events
Inside !!**

STAR-GAZER

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rallye partici-
pating auto
when you
come to the
Holiday
Luncheon.*

*See you
there!*

*John Betsch
ed.*

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 Islandia Marriot
→ Saturday, October 14th	Technical Session Lakeview Auto/Mid-Island Collision Rockville Centre
Sunday, December 3rd	Holiday Party South Country Inn, East Patchogue