



Star-Gazer

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

Volume 37, Issue 4

Fourth Quarter, 2000

from the editor

If you haven't visited the MBCA website lately at www.mbc.org, give it a try. Some pages have been added to inform about the activities of the National Committees which might be of interest. There is also a new addition of a Technical Article Library.

A National email campaign is also underway to update the

.....and you thought you had a bad day

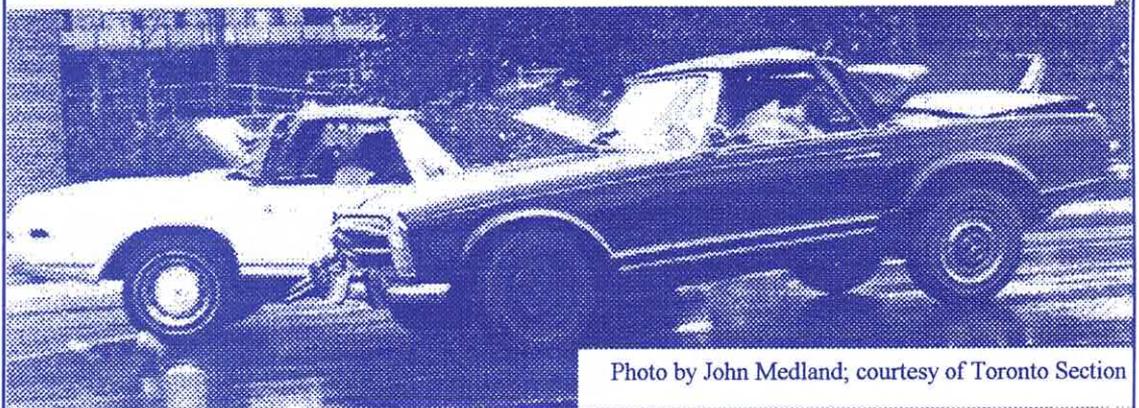


Photo by John Medland; courtesy of Toronto Section

Actually, this is a photo of a staged stunt for a movie titled "Head On" with Sally Kellerman, Stephen Lack, John Huston and Larry Dane, filmed in the Toronto area around 1980. Thought it would get your attention!

Tech Talk at Lakeview/Mid Island Collision

The 280SL's above could use the services of Mid Island Collision in Rockville Centre, where we held our recent Technical Meeting on October 14th. I would expect after seeing their state-of-the-art equipment, that if Mid Island repaired the above autos, the final product would be flawless.

Edward F. Meyer, owner of Lakeview Auto Sales, again hosted the Sea Level Section. We assembled at Lakeview and then the group walked across the avenue to Mid Island Collision where Robert Jesberger and Brian McGauvran were hosts. At Mid Island, we followed the complete damage repair procedure from start to finish, including demonstration of the Mercedes-Benz approved Celette Alignment System for chassis repair. Repair work in-progress was available for inspection, along with inspection of a new water based paint spray system. Mid Island is the exclusive body repair facility for Lakeview.

After completion of the Mid Island visit, we returned to Lakeview where we

(Continued on page 4)

IN THIS ISSUE

Lakeview Motors/Mid Island Collision Tech Session	1
President's Message	3
Transporting the Dresden Green Diamond, the M-B Guard S500	5
HOLIDAY PARTY / HOLIDAY PARTY / HOLIDAY PARTY	7



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.

Walter Adamushko	Rodney Cox	Steven Issac	Eli Oxenhorn
Rose Alter	Peter F Culhane	Arnold Jacobs	George Pereda
Tarkan Bastiyali	Dino Delvaille	Dean J Johnson	Evan J Poczik
Gregory A Beard	Alex Esquivel	John J Kavanagh	Antonio Miquel Pollan
Laurine Ben-Dov	Leonor Ferreri	Tony Kostoulas	Richard Potapchuk
Dixon J Bernier	Milfred Fierce	Triet Le	Geoffrey Schlakman
Jack Biondo	Basil G Fray	Aston Lee	Marco Schnabl
Christian M Campbell	Sidney Goldberg	Adam Macagna	Raymond Schroeck
James F Campbell	Henry E Gooss	John Marino	Priscilla Sedita
Frank Carpenter	Trudi Haberman	Louis Mitchell	Joseph J Ungs
Lawrence Chalson	James Harris	Don Morea	

Sea Level Officers & Staff

President:	John Anaischik	200 Floral Parkway, Floral Park NY 11001	(516) 775-3597
Vice-President:	Richard Weiss	86 Kingsbury Road, Garden City, NY 11530	(516) 747-0679
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:	Louis Palumbo	C/O Gullwing Motors, Inc. 100 Windsor Avenue, Mineola, NY 11501	(516) 742-3320
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	Joseph Defilippe
Spencer Dworkin	Vincent Milo	Robert Muth	Creighton Phillips	Jerome Shapiro	Richard Weiss
Viola Scarduzio (director emeritus)					

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)



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, MBUSA, 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*).

President's Message

Dear Fellow Members:

*For the past two years I have been pleased to serve as President of Sea Level. Now it is time to welcome **John Analschik** as our new President.*

*At our election meeting in October we added three members to the Board of Directors, giving us a full complement of twelve. In addition, at our Board meeting, we created the position of Director Emeritus and unanimously named **Viola Scarduzio**, a past President and member for twenty-seven years to that position. We are now able to initiate an informal succession plan for the Section officers: election to the Board, after a sufficient interval, election to Vice President, then election to President, then back to the Board for at least one term. In this way we can keep*

new people and new ideas flowing and insure an open and responsive leadership. While I have enjoyed being your President for the past two years, I regret that neither our total membership nor member participation at events has increased. However, I assure you it has not been due to lack of trying. Your Board has done its best to plan and execute a variety of events that would appeal to all interests. We are a group of volunteers doing our best to make the Section prosper and grow. I give my sincere thanks to all that have made the past two years enjoyable.

My best to John as your next President.

Looking forward to an enjoyable and successful 2001,

Richard Weiss

National database with email addresses for all members. If you are interested, you can send a notice to webmaster@mbca.org to register your electronic address.

Speaking of websites, if you have come across a site which may be of interest to Sea Level members, let me know and it can be included in the next Star-Gazer

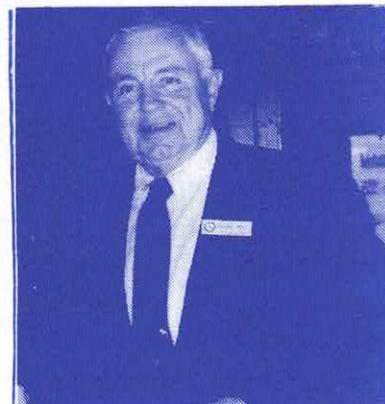
John Betsch
ed

Behind the scenes

Every ship has its captain, every army its general, and every award-winning movie its accomplished director. For the past several years, Sea Level Section has had **Richard Weiss** guiding and directing the Club over - metaphorically speaking - the paved and unpaved roads of MBCA. In his warm and gentle style, he has directed the Board, arranged and coordinated numerous events, and functioned as congenial host at our many concours, tech sessions and social gatherings.

Anyone who has ever functioned in a volunteer capacity knows that sometimes it is difficult to coordinate the many facets of an organization or planned event - often dealing with circumstances beyond your control. Most importantly but probably unnoticed, under Dick Weiss's leadership, every detail was always covered, with potential snafu's transparent to Club members, as Dick picked up the slack when something went awry. That's what leaders do!

Thanks Richard for a job well done!

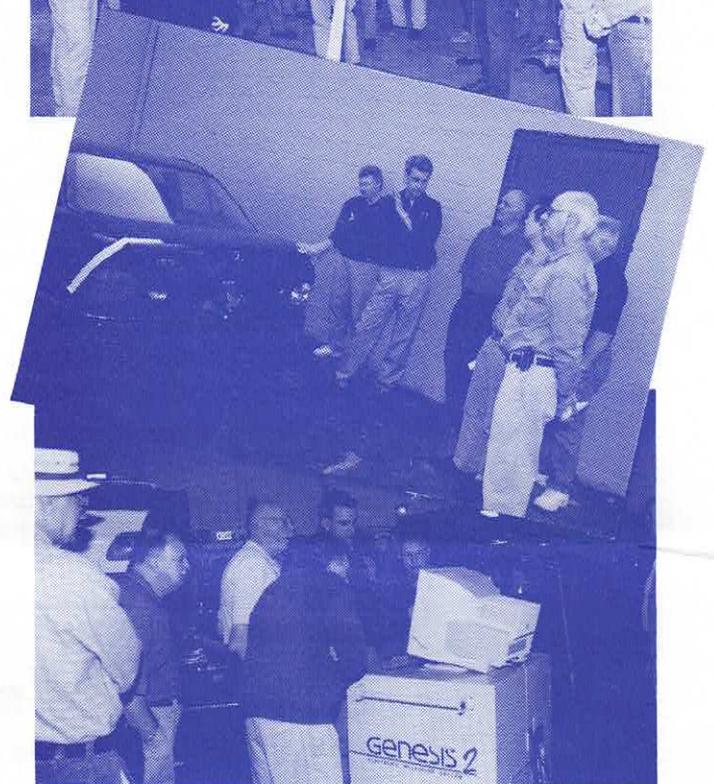


Lakeview Motors / Mid Island Collision Tech Session

enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch as guests of Lakeview. Service Manager Terry Pine and his staff were there to assist. MBUSA Technical Specialists Ernie Palmer and Dan Leary were on hand to answer questions on a variety of topics. Dan brought a new 2001 Mercedes-Benz Guard S500, a completely secure armored vehicle, for our viewing. [see article page 6]

Lakeview continues its "Mercedes-Benz Club-Friendly" policy by offering Club members a 10% discount on all parts and labor.

Sea Level appreciates the continuing support of Lakeview Auto Sales and Mercedes-Benz USA. Their support helps us to offer topics of interest to you, our members. Your support of those who support us is appreciated.



photos courtesy of M. Cobin

HOLIDAY SHOPPING?

Sea Level will be offering Caps and Tote Bags with our Section's logo for the first time at our Holiday Luncheon

* CAPS (Blue or White)
\$10.00

* TOTES (perfect for carrying car supplies/groceries)
\$10.00

Introducing the 2001 M-B Guard S500 Sedan

The 40.7-carat Dresden Green Diamond was recently transported by the new Guard S500 armored sedan on its way to join the 40.7-carat Hope Diamond.

Resistant to .44 Magnum handguns and physical violence (such as repeated blunt force impact) and certified to B4 ballistic protection level by European DIN EN standards, the Mercedes-Benz Guard S500 has fully integrated steel armoring throughout the passenger cell, composite security glass and reinforced chassis components. A well-known vulnerable point for most armored cars is where door and body seams meet. The Mercedes-Benz Guard S500 uses a unique overlapping door and body seam system called "labyrinth construction" to prevent this kind of ballistic penetration. Run-flat tires with a pressure warning system allow mobility even with multiple punctures.

In addition to most of the regular-production S-Class optional equipment (sorry, no sunroof for obvious reasons) three additional options are offered on the S500 sedans. For maximum security, the M-B Guard S500's standard rear windows do not lower. (Rear power windows are optional.) A two-way intercom enabling communication to and from the outside of the vehicle is also optional, negating the need to lower windows to communicate. Lastly, a self-sealing fuel tank can be ordered. If penetration of the tank occurs, a special lining – activated by the heat of penetration – quickly seals the fuel tank, minimizing spillage and risk of fire.

Despite steel armoring, multilayer polycarbonate security glass, and other special equipment netting roughly the weight of three passengers and their luggage, the Guard S500 delivers uncompromised driving dynamics compared to non-armored S500. A Guard S500 accelerates from rest to 60 mph in just 7.3 seconds; 1.2 seconds longer than a non-armored S500, and takes just five feet more to stop than a non-armored S500.

The M-B Guard S500 is being built in Sindelfingen, Germany. MSRP \$153,950.

New Board Members Added



Congratulations to our newly elected Board Members: l-r: Spencer Dworkin, Vinnie Milo, and Jerry Shapiro

Member Marketplace

1976 450SLC

Metallic Slate Blue, Blue Interior

93,000 miles

Show Condition

Paul (631) 234-2310

(516)742-3320



Gullwing Motors, Inc.
Imported Motorcar Specialists

LOUIS PALUMBO

100 WINDSOR AVENUE
MINEOLA, NEW YORK 11501

It's hard to win without an odometer.....

On the way to the Rambo Rallye starting point (Islandia Marriott) in **Spencer Dworkin's** 1972 250 C, we heard a thunk. Sometimes in an auto of that age, you have to expect a noise or two – as everyone has come to realize as we each get older. (We all have our squeaks and clunks.) Listening and checking carefully, it was determined that it wasn't anything ominous, so on to Rambo Rallye 2000.



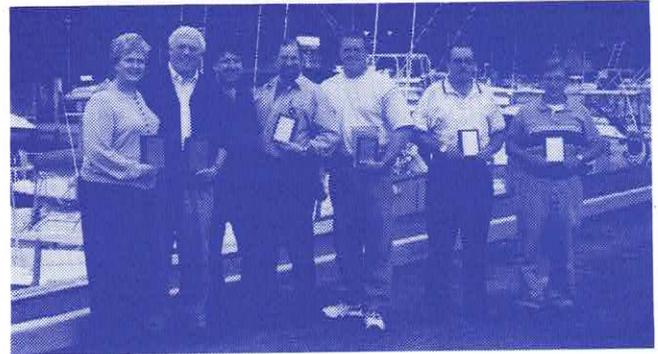
Carefully following the first instruction, off we went with visions of accepting an Award from RallyeMaster **Dave Schoenberg** at the end of the day for our performance in answering the rallye's thirty-six questions. Missing the very next turn, and therefore also the first three questions probably should have dampened our spirits, but instead we became more deliberate in pursuit of finishing in the top three.

As this was a timed & mileage measured course, we were diligent in watching speed limits, confident that if we made no unnecessary turns, our mileage "would be right on" and we would match the expected elapsed time.

It was a very enjoyable route passing through several townships and villages including a short stopover at the Flanders Duck with time to look into "her" eyes. [Q: *"What are the Duck's eyes made from?"* A: *Tail Lights from a Model T*]. A highlight of the prescribed route included driving west several miles along Dune Road to the Westhampton Beach Bridge. Simply Spectacular!

Arriving at Senix Creek Inn in Center Moriches, we are now full of confidence in our performance. Looking around... We're the first car! Our time must be right on! We've recovered from missing the first three questions! [Instructions: *"Your time accumulates until you hand in your sheet"*] Quick- tell me the

mileage...[85613.] That's our starting mileage? **Oh no, it was the odometer that went thunk!** Oh well, that's the way it goes.



Winners: Karen DeFilippe-1st(N), Joe DeFilippe-1st (D); *Dave Schoenberg-RallyeMaster*; Vinny Milo-3rd (D), Jim Stannish-3rd(N); and Jerry Shapiro-2nd(D), Jeff Steindorf-2nd(N).

..... but it's impossible to win on three wheels!

Several Sea Level members journeyed to Westminister, Massachusetts on October 20-22 to participate in the Twenty-third Annual Granite State / Minuteman Farberallye hosted this year by the Minuteman Section.

Shirley & Richard Weiss, Susan & John Anaischik and Dolores & John Betsch represented Sea Level (with John A. and John B. participating in the Farberallye while Susan and Dolores tried their hand at their own shopping rallye).

Richard Weiss had the misfortune to have a repeated flat tire, but thanks to MBUSA Roadside Assistance, it was fixed just in time to compete. [Rallye Rule 1: four wheels required]

About twenty-five cars were registered and the 120-mile course was well planned and "easy" to follow by out-of-towners. While I believe we did respectively well, we weren't able to finish in the top three, but the scenery/foliage was brilliant and Granite State and Minuteman were most cordial to us – even when we talked of Yankees and Mets.

Sea Level's Holiday Luncheon South Country Inn East Patchogue

12 Noon - 4PM

Join us for Sea Level's Annual Holiday Party at the South Country Inn. A Luncheon Buffet, with numerous choices will be offered. As is our custom, please bring an unwrapped toy to be donated to the Toys for Tots Program on Long Island.

Seating is Limited, First Come First Served

Sunday, December 3rd

South Country Inn: From Rt 112, go south to the end into Patchogue, making left onto Montauk Highway. Proceed about a mile until you come to a fork in the road. Take the right fork: South Country Road (Swan Cleaners on the corner) The South Country Inn will be on your right after a few miles. (Telephone: 631 758-1919)

Return to:
Bernie Berberich
104 North Howells Point Rd
Bellport, NY 11713



Yes, I will be attending the Sea Level Holiday Luncheon. I am enclosing a \$28 per person check (payable to MBCA).

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ No. of People in my Party _____

**RSVP with check
required by Nov 25th.**



Star-Gazer

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

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



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