



Star-Gazer

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

Volume 38, Issue 2

Second Quarter, 2001

from the editor

"You have the fun. We handle the rest."

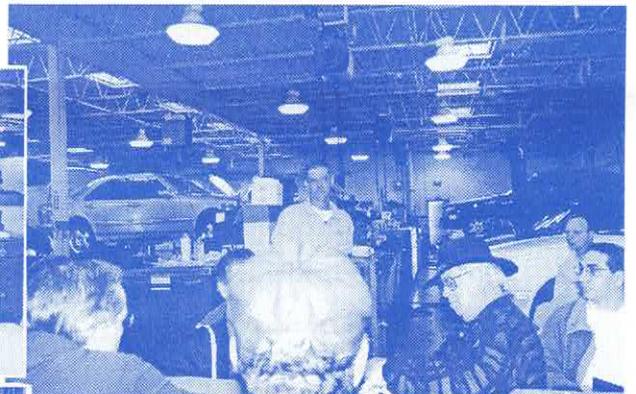
The above statement appears on the cover of a 2001 MBUSA promotional brochure. It made me think of Sea Level.

As you'll see in this issue, there are three upcoming events in the next several months. These events, which were planned at Section Board meetings and being arranged by Board members, are designed to

COMPETITION TECH TALK

Michael McMahon, Service and Parts Director, hosted the technical session on March 10th for Sea Level at Competition Imports in Smithtown. Jim Gustaw, Shop Foreman addressed numerous questions - ranging from removing wood trim from a 280SL to M-Class acceleration chatter to adjusting V12 transmissions to diesel inquires and tire air pressure preferences. Jim was very impressive with his clear and thorough answers and depth of knowledge about Mercedes-Benz vehicles. I don't believe we were able to baffle or stump him with any of our questions.

Joseph Graziadei, Competition Imports Sales Representative also provided an interesting perspective from the retail point of view providing a look at expected future trends. We all left more knowledgeable and several members left with door prizes provided by Competition.



photos courtesy of M. Cobin

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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.

Lawrence Aibel	Thomasz Jakubowski	Scott Macomber	Peter Rossi
Henry Cercone	Prescott Jennings III	Francisco Madera	Frank Saglimbeni
Kevin Dabulis	Calvin Johnson	Larry Magel	Al Sessa
Nicholas Davella	Ioannis Kanavatsas	Curtis McDowald	Naveen Shikapuri
J Scott Davis	Henry Kreinces	Tom Nevin	Steven Tamberino
Jerry Goldstein	Carl Lange	Albeta Nicholas	Frank Thompson
Guillermo Gomez	John Le Clair	Nadine Prendergast	Joanne Traylor
Robert Greenhaus	Bertil Lundquist	Paul Riley	Joseph Williams
Robert Jacobs			Brendan Wood

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President:	John Anaischik	200 Floral Parkway, Floral Park NY 11001	(516) 775-3597
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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)					

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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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appeal to the wide range of interests of Club members.

All the details and logistics are being covered. As a member, your assignment is simply to sign-up and enjoy them.

As you are aware, to control costs we no longer send reminder flyers, so it is important to return the sign-ups now before it slips your and it's too late.

"YOU HAVE THE FUN. WE HANDLE THE REST."

Come enjoy the Mercedes experience with other Club members.

John Betsch
ed.

President's Message

Dear Fellow Members:

The 2001 spring season is well on its way. It has been the impetus for taking our cars from the winter mode and enjoying our pleasure driving again.

The Tech Session in March hosted by Competition Imports was quite a success! The members asked a wide variety of questions which were answered with the most professional and technical expertise by the Competition Staff. I personally extend my sincere gratitude to Competition Imports for holding this event at their facility.

At our Board meeting in April, the Directors and I finalized the calendar of events which is printed in this current newsletter for your review.

Your input would be greatly appreciated on the new format for the Fall Rallye. A formal luncheon will be replaced with a light snack and refreshments at a reduced cost per person. We would like to know if this

arrangement should be repeated for the Spring Rallye in 2002.

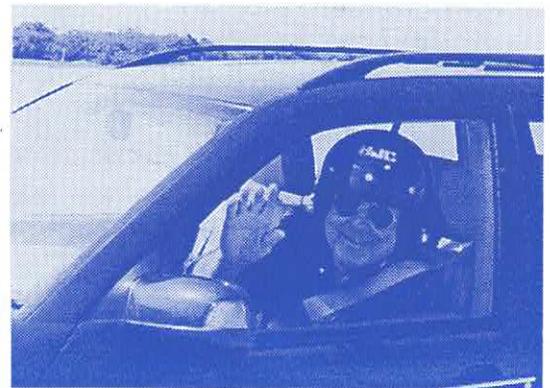
We are also considering for this fall, or the year after, an overnight venture to the Catskills. We would drive up early Saturday morning for a rallye that would begin after leaving Highway 17 or the New York State Thruway and then arrive at the resort. This excursion would include a banquet dinner on Saturday evening, overnight accommodations at the resort with full use of the resort's facilities including the Spa, Sunday morning breakfast, and a leisurely departure.

Please keep in mind that our Board Members, which has representatives from Manhattan to Sag Harbor, are here to serve you and meet the needs of our Club. Our diversity is a valuable tool for offering interesting and different activities. Your suggestions are welcomed and necessary in order to keep the Sea Level Section a vibrant Club. Please e-mail me at mbcasealevel@aol.com.

John Anaishcik

dichotomy

Several Section members attended StarFest 2001 hosted by the Tampa Bay Section. Check out the photos: Looks like a T-Bird in the background - Do we have a Ford collector among us?



And in this other photo - there is something about a Snell Driving Helmet and an E-Class Station Wagon that just doesn't seem to go together. Of course, Dick Weiss did take 3rd place in his Class in the Autocross.

Spring Rallye 2001



Winding their way through Huntington, Cold Spring Harbor, Northport, St. James, Nissequogue, Smithtown, Islandia, Bohemia and hopefully ending in Sayville, the rallyists enjoyed a well planned, scenic route with almost perfect weather.

Winners of the Spring Rallye included (l-r) 1st Place: Spencer Dworkin (Navigator), John Betsch (Driver), 2nd Place: Rich Tamberino (N), Steve Tamberino (D); 3rd Place: (tie) Karen Berberich (N), Bernd Berberich (D); and Linda Privitera (N), Al Privitera (D).

My Mercedes & the Club

I love my 1984 Mercedes 380SL and it was love at first sight. When I drove up the driveway of my Mercedes' previous owner (I was responding to a newspaper advertisement), I knew this was the car for me. There she sat, a shining silver beauty, top down, ready for the open road. A perfect package, all it needed was a ribbon, especially since she was my retirement gift. After thirty-two years at Salomon Brothers, I was now ready to relax and enjoy life and it would be with this car!

Sea Level has proven to be the 'ribbon' my beautiful Mercedes needed. It has opened the door for me and my husband to new friends and new and exciting experiences. It has shown me how to fully enjoy the many gifts my 'new beauty' possesses, and is ready to share with me.

Our friends Dolores and John (who is the editor of this newsletter), told us about this 'fun club' they belong to. I had never joined a car club (or for that matter any club) before, but decided to give it a try. A great decision!

I now have been on two rallies; I have enjoyed the good food of a fine L.I. restaurant; and best of all, I have enjoyed the experience of drinking fine wine, while sitting on a beautiful deck overlooking the vineyards of the winery that

produced the wine. (It brought back memories of a trip my husband and I had taken to Italy).

If all this was not enough, I even won 'My Favorite Car Award' for 'best in class', when I 'showed' my car at the Pindar Picnic last summer. I assume that my friends helped stuff the ballot, but winning still felt great, and the plaque is now prominently displayed in my home. [ed: award was won fair & square]

Yes, I have loved my Mercedes from the first time I saw it. And now thanks to the Club, I am finding new reasons why it's wonderful to own a Mercedes, and to share this unique experience with my new Mercedes Club friends.

Priscilla Sedita

Sea Level Shop

The Sea Level Specialty Shop offers white or blue Caps and cloth Tote Bags, all sporting our Sea Level name and the Star logo at a price of \$10.

We will be offering these items for sale at all of our events. Bring a few extra dollars and take home something useful from your favorite car club.

Berkeley, Peter Max & Mercedes - the California Car Scene

The San Francisco Bay Area Mercedes Club has an informal meeting once a month, regardless of whatever else might be on the schedule. Members meet on a Sunday morning at the Marin County Borders Books parking lot. I attended a couple of these meetings this winter, eager to find out what the car club is like in California. This group was similar in make-up to our Sea Level Section members: all types of people, enjoying Mercedes. No dot commers, just real estate agents, pharmaceutical reps, mechanics, managers, etc. Just like New York. The difference I saw with this group was that no one I met had a classic Mercedes in the garage that only came out on nice days, for a show. The group rarely has a show. Then again, with Pebble Beach two hours away, I suppose, why bother. Rather, their Mercedes' are the every-day drivers. Most are recent sedans. Sure, there's Herb, who was just getting his 190SL back from a restoration done in Michigan, so he didn't have to take his motorcycle when he went skiing in Tahoe, five hours away. Well, maybe not five hours on that bike, with that ex-Navy fighter pilot. But I would think the ski rack would slow him down a bit (yes, they grow 'em "different" in California). And, there's Larry, with his everyday driver, the magnificent V12 600S coupe. Weekends are for the Porsche 996. It's the Ferrari that waits for the special days. Hey, I would, too. But most of the members just have one car, and they drive it every day.

It's obviously different in California. In the late Seventies, on Long Island, I had a '69 Alfa sedan. I gave up trying to keep it running after nine years of ownership, five years of driving. In Berkeley this winter, in my sister's neighborhood, there are five of the same car, still running, as every-day cars !! I don't think there were ever five of those cars on all of Long Island. Berkeley, no problem. Parked on the street, 30 years old and ready to drive to work. I saw lots of old cars, still running; cars I had forgotten about years ago. When was the last time you saw a Dodge Dart? Pacers? Everyday cars. Okay, not many Packards or Hudsons, but Detroit iron from the Sixties and Seventies, all around. Morgans, Rovers, MG's, on the street. Fiats. Alfa Spiders, BMW 2002's. Common, like we see current Jeeps and Jaguars.

Of course, there were VW Bugs. And, of course, they're a little different in Berkeley. Every year there is a competition for Bugs. No, not a Concours d'Elegance, like Sea Level would do. No, California, Berkeley, would do it differently - the cars are decorated. Some are painted in the Peter Max love and flowerchild style. The more fun way is to do a montage on the car. Paint, and plastic bugs, coconuts, palm leaves, you name it; you can find it on some of these Bugs. And these cars are not decorated just for the show. These cars are on the street, every-day cars (they grow 'em "different" in California).

Volvos, everywhere. My sister reasoned that Berkeley being a college town, a hip and hippie college town, that the professors and graduate students would be drawn to the sensible selection, the unpretentious Volvo. I can understand that, but the 1959 PV 544 type? I saw at least eight of them. Come on now, those cars were ridiculous way back then. Those, a million 240's, and millions more of the current S and V70's. More than Hondas and Toyotas.

The reason I mention this, is I didn't see many Mercedes. Like I said, the Club members drive recent sedans, and I saw a few around town. Mostly the C's and E's. Very few roadsters. Sedans. But one caught my eye - A 1970 300SEL sedan. And why did it catch my eye? Yup, painted up Peter Max style, to out-do the Bugs. The grow 'em different in California. Ya gotta wonder.

Spencer Dworkin

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Gullwing Motors, Inc.
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✓ Section Concours d'Elegance - June 10th

if you own a classic Mercedes that is at least ten years old, (1886-1990) and believe it can pass the white glove test, why not enter this year's Section Concours.

Cars will be shown on the *front lawn* of Duck Walk Vineyards in Water Mill starting at 11AM. The vineyard is on Montauk Highway, 1/4 mile east of Mercedes-Benz Country Imports. (Entrance to the *front lawn* of the vineyard is at the east end of the property. Look for the two big orange cones; please watch for the sprinklers and lighting marked by stakes.)

If you don't wish to enter your auto, come and enjoy the ambiance and offerings of the Vineyard with your fellow Club members. This is always a special event!

✓✓ Mattituck Auto Museum Tour, July 15th

Enjoy a Hot & Cold Buffet Brunch at the famous **Meeting House Creek Inn** in Aquebogue with fellow Mercedes enthusiasts beginning at 11am, to be followed by a tour of the **Antique Car Museum** located at the Mattituck Airport at 1:30pm, where you can browse a splendid display of cars dating back to 1895. You can join the Club at the Meeting House Creek Inn proceeding to the Museum or join the Club at the Museum only if you wish. Please sign up with your choice on the following page.

(Meeting House Creek Inn: LIE to end (Exit 73), Old Country Rd approximately 5.5 miles, right on Edgar Avenue (public school on corner) to Meeting House Creek Rd)

(Antique Car Museum: From the restaurant- Return to Route 25. Turn right (East). Travel about six miles into Mattituck. Turn right onto New Suffolk Avenue. (Past the Hess Gas Station). Travel less than one mile to the entrance to the Airport on your right.)

✓✓✓ Winery Picnic, Tour & Popular Car Show - August 19th

A winery, a picnic, and a car show judged by members - can't be better than that! Last year's Popular Car Show was a huge success. If you missed it, come join the fun this year.

Beginning with a tour of Pindar which begins Promptly at 11am, we will then enjoy a bit of wine tasting and a hero/salad lunch on the Pavillion and vote on our choice for favorite car within a number of separate car classes (with closed engine compartments).

Pindar Vineyards: 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 which will be on your left.

✓ Concours d'Elegance - June 10th

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

Registration
 due May 25th

I will be there at this year's Concours on June 10th!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Cost is \$10 per car for our post judging get-together

Enclosed is \$ _____

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

Model: _____

✓✓ Mattituck Auto Museum Tour, July 15th

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

SIGN UP by July 9TH

Sign me up! I will be at the brunch/tour of the Auto Museum

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Enclosed is \$20 per person attending the brunch

\$ _____ payable to MBCA, Museum tour is gratis.

I will be going to the
 Brunch: (YES/NO)

✓✓✓ Winery Picnic, Tour & Car Show -August 19th

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

Register by
 August 13th

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

NAME: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Number in party _____ @ \$10 per person = _____ enclosed.

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



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Sea Level Section
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Huntington, New York 11743-2152

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SIGN-UP NOW!
Look Inside for
THREE SUMMER EVENTS

STAR-GAZER

UPCOMING EVENT SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 10th	Sea Level Concours d'Elegance Duck Walk Vineyard, Water Mill
June 16-19	National: Gemutlichkeit 2001, Michigan
Sunday, July 15th	Museum Caravan Antique Car Museum, Mattituck
July 18-21	National: StarTrack: Pennsylvania
Sunday, August 19th	Winery Picnic, Tour & Popular Car Show Pindar Vineyards, Peconic
August 4-7	National: Tri-O-Rama, Virginia
Saturday, October 6th	Sea Level Reception commemorating the Daimler-Steinway Union 113th Anniversary Steinway Hall, Manhattan
Sunday, October 21st	Fall Rallye Starting: To be announced
Sunday, December 2nd	Holiday Party Bonwit Inn, Commack