



Star-Gazer

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

Volume 39, Issue 2

Second Quarter, 2002

Combined Concours d'Elegance & People's Choice Car Show to be held at the Cradle of Aviation Museum

Long Island has long been noted as a center of technology for aviation. Opening on May 20th, the Cradle of Aviation will celebrate and recognize that aviation heritage.

On July 28th, we will have an opportunity to enjoy the Museum's exhibits, the wonders of their IMAX theatre, and to share the automotive technology of Mercedes-Benz with fellow enthusiasts at our car show.

This year, it is planned to have a combined car show with a people's choice venue with our Concours d'Elegance. *It is your choice on which to enter.* If you own a classic Mercedes that is at least ten years old, (1886-1992) and believe it can pass the white glove test, why not enter this year's Concours. Judging will be based on concours standards, including engine compartments, etc. Or, if you wish, enter the Peoples Choice venue where participants will vote on autos in various classes (engine compartments closed) which impress the voter the most. There will also be a Board of Directors Award given at this show.

After the judging, enjoy one of the IMAX movies, the Red Cafe for a snack or browse the eight exhibit galleries containing over 70 of Long Island's air and spacecraft ranging from a Wright Kite to a WWII F6F Hellcat to the Grumman Lunar Module. Visit www.cradleofaviation.org for more detailed information about the exhibits.

A map to the Cradle of Aviation and the entry mailer is on page 7. Why not bring an entry for both the Concours d'Elegance and the Peoples Choice. **SHOW STARTS AT 11AM** - This promises to be an event with something for everyone!

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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.

Bamigbola Adeyemia
Stephanie Babich-Allegra
Erik Badia
Jimmy Baldea
Jennifer Baron
Paul Best
Lorelei Birk
John Bono
Ronald Bryant
Jim Buzzetta
Suresh Chander
John Chang
David Scott Cohen

George Engel
William Englund
Vincent Gaudiello
Gene Giliotti
Henry Godfrey
Steve Goldsmith
Lourett Russell Grant
Frank Greenwood
Lucille Herring
Jean Hinson
Jijo James, MD
Joseph Jimenez, Jr
Keith Jordan

Dany Karp
Ivan Ko
Bernard LaBarbara
Frank Laffitte
Robert Mahone
Ray Maramara
Jeff Martin
Art Mbanefo
Larry McQuade
Frank Orofino
Sal Pepitone
Andrew Peykar
Martin Pohl

Michael Pratts, MD
Walter Richards
Maria Emanuel Ryan, DDS
Ahdzej Salita
Randy Sanchez
George Shafik
Jeff Shayne
Robert Steinbeck
Lawrence Sullivan
Robert Tantillo
Dorothy Walston
Andrew Wimpfheimer
Stephen Wu
Daniel Zimmon

Sea Level Officers & Staff

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

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

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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President's Message

Dear Members,

I delayed the President's message this quarter in order to publish the results of the South Fork Rallye. The scheduled day of Sunday, April 28th brought a much-needed heavy rainfall. In spite of these severe weather conditions, the Mercedes' spirit prevailed and 38 "rallyers" ventured forth along the 64 mile course and all returned within the time frame except for a determined four who wished to find **all** of the answers to the questions!

The route was well received and our participants regretted not being able to enjoy the full essence of the sights. The highpoint of the day was a delicious brunch served at the Tierra Mar Westhampton Bath and Tennis Hotel. The names of our winners are published in this newsletter. **Congratulations and thank you to all of our participants!**

This summer we have added another driving event in which we will join the BMW Club in an autocross at the Nassau Coliseum on Sunday, August 18, 2002. If participating, please call or return the intent form below. Sign-in time is at 8:00 A.M. on the morning of the event. **(rain or shine).**

An autocross is an event that involves navigating your car through a course marked with cones faster than other cars similar to yours. You are usually the only car on the course being timed or sometimes two cars are staggered by half a lap. The time spent on the course is usually under two minutes, and the course speeds usually do not exceed 45 to 50 m.p.h. Mercedes' drivers will only compete with other Mercedes' drivers. You are responsible for the condition of your car. There is an inspection on the morning of the event so there should be no loose articles in your car including the trunk (i.e. cell phones, EZ Pass). This event requires a Snell-95 helmet for the driver. Any accompanying passengers must have a helmet and also be a registered driver. The cost of the event is \$25.00 per driver.

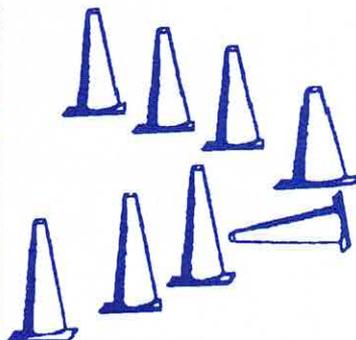
We hope this new driving event will give you another opportunity to participate in a Mercedes Benz function.

Sincerely yours,

John

John Anaischik

Autocross Anyone?



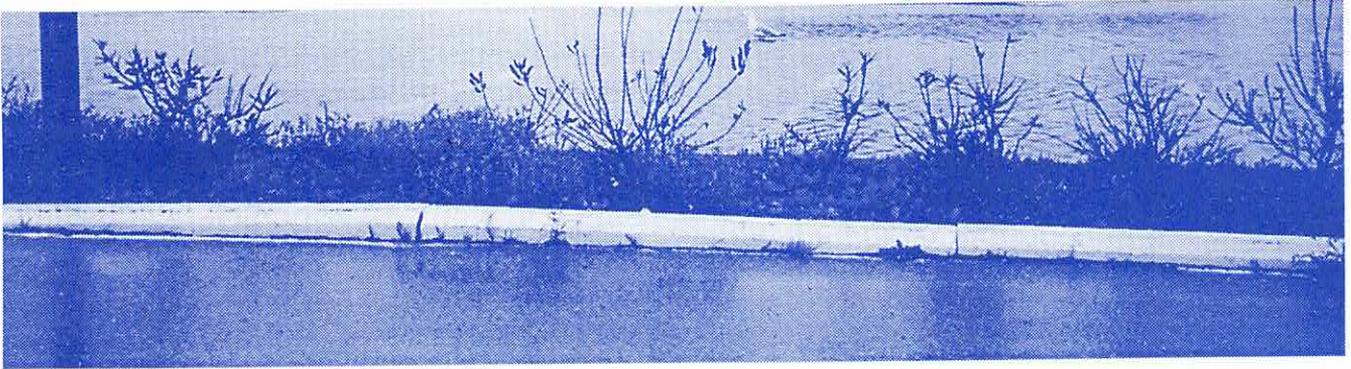
When: Sunday, August 18th

Where: Nassau Coliseum Parking Lot #2
(Enter on Earl Ovington Blvd truck entrance)

Time: 8:00 A.M.

Interested: Call John Anaischik evenings after 7pm @ 516:775-3597

Eastern Suffolk Hit Hard by Heavy Rain



ON EVERY STAR, SOME RAIN MUST FALL, AND FALL, AND FALL. This is exactly what happened on this year's Spring Rallye on April 28th. As Newsday reported: "More than 2 inches of rain poured down on parts of the Island Sunday, flooding many roadways The rain began around midnight Saturday and continued for about 14 hours" ... much to the dismay of RallyeMaster John Anaischik and the forty+ participants.

While the planned route through Sag Harbor, North Sea and much of the Hamptons would have been a wonderful trip to complete with either top down or with warm breezes streaming through open windows, it was more like monsoon season in the tropics. There were puddles that appeared could consume an unsuspecting driver. Ending at a club on Dune Road, there were



concerns that Dune Road would be open as it is notorious for water problems.

All ended well with all the starters finishing - albeit a bit soggy.

Winners were:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1st Place | Noah Caplin (Driver)
Cynthia Caplin (Navigator) |
| 2nd Place | Cathy Dickinson (D)
Carl Dickinson (N) |
| 3rd Place | Stu Selip (D)
Marian Selip (N) |
| 4th Place | Jerry Shapiro (D)
Harry Faustmann (N) |

Dear Editor:

I went on the rallye last Sunday. I didn't win anything but I had a great time - even considering the weather. Not until I did the rallye, did I realize the effort that it takes to plan an event like this. How a route, questions, landmarks, mileage and time can be coordinated must take an enormous effort. I am sure that it's done because it's enjoyed, but the rallye organizer should be thanked - and it's nice to get a thank you once in awhile for an effort - particularly considering it's all voluntary.

Thanks for a great time!

A Rallye Participant

Sea Level Shop

The Section is now offering multi-colored, chrome-plated grill badges priced at \$15 when purchased at Section events and \$20 when mailed.

Get yours before the present supply is gone!



The Sea Level Shop also offers white or blue caps and cloth tote bags, all with our Sea Level name and Star logo at a price of \$10.

These items are for sale at all of our events. Bring a few extra dollars and take home something useful from your favorite car club.

GRILL BADGE MAIL REQUEST (return to John Anaischik)

Please send me _____ badge(s) @ \$20. each.
Enclosed is my check payable to MBCA.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

HAMPTONS CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE Sunday, May 26th

Benefitting the Carol M. Baldwin Breast Cancer Reseach Fund, the Hamptons Concours d'Elegance will be held Sunday, May 26th at Sayre Park, Bridgehampton.

MBCA members have been invited to attend the Concours with priority parking for the first 15 members and a \$5.00 voucher towards lunch at the Pit Stop Cafe to all members.

In only two years, Hamptons Concours has become recognized as the foremost season-opening charity fundraiser in The Hamptons. Honorary Chairs have included Jerry Seinfeld, supermodel Christie Brinkley and this year Alec Baldwin will be the Honorary Chief Judge. Info: 631-537-1868

A Gathering of Friends- Upstate June 28th - 30th

Hosted by the Finger Lakes Section, enjoy a weekend away in Corning NY. Money Magazine ranks the Finger Lakes region as one of its ten "best places to vacation." Weekend includes Friday reception at the Rockwell Museum, Saturday at the Corning Museum of Glass and a Champagne Dinner at Pleasant Valley Winery. Info: Tom Hamilton 585:385-2338

(516)742-3320



Gullwing Motors, Inc.
Imported Motorcar Specialists

LOUIS PALUMBO

100 WINDSOR AVENUE
MINEOLA, NEW YORK 11501

Benz Three-Wheeler leads to the 2003 SL500 ...

When Carl Benz received a patent in 1886 for his “vehicle with gas engine operation” for what was described by the press as the No.1 Patent Motor Car, it also marked the beginning of Mercedes-Benz and to the eventual introduction this year of the fifth generation of the SL series.

The Patent Motor Car was driven by a water-cooled single cylinder rear-mounted engine with a displacement of 954cc. Its power output of 0.75 hp at 400 rpm catapulted this vehicle – which thanks to its lightweight steel tubular frame and delicate spoked wheels weighed only 585 lbs – to a breathtaking 10 mph.

The new SL accelerates from 0 to 60 mph in 6.1 seconds (SL55 AMG 4.5 seconds) thanks to one of the most potent five-liter V8 engines in its class, which produces 302 horsepower, and it’s 3460lbs heavier than the Patent Motor Car. (4045 lbs curb weight)

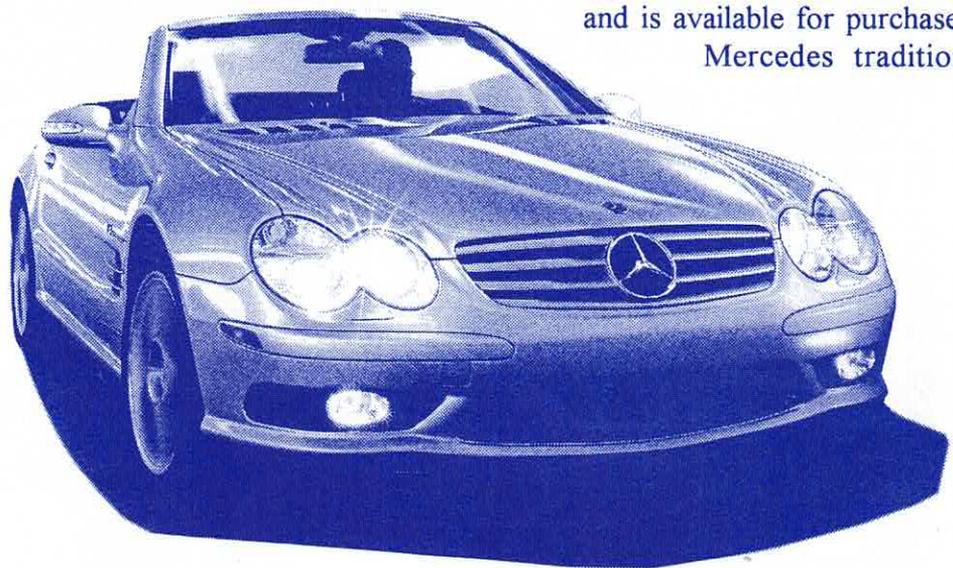
While the Patent Motor Car was a first, the 2003 SL500 coupe/roadster is a technological tour-de-force, from the world’s first electronic brake system to ABC active suspension and ESP stability control to its high-strength body structure, advanced airbag systems and automatic rollbar.

The SL500 retractable hardtop is fully opened or closed in about 16 seconds; the patent motor car had no top. The SL500 interior has a choice of three wood interior trims (burl walnut, black birdseye maple or chestnut). It appears that the three-wheeler utilized oak for the entire “passenger area.”

If interested, a Benz is being produced and “in keeping with the of ‘lifelong service,’ replacement parts for the vehicle and technical assistance are available should they be necessary.” Suggested price for the Motor Car is about \$49,500 plus shipping. The 2003 SL500 is also now in showrooms.

Suggested price for the 2003 SL500 is \$86,655 including destination charge.

replica of the Three-wheeled and is available for purchase, Mercedes tradition



Given a choice, I think I'd go for the SL.

Concours d'Elegance & Popular Car Show July 28th at the Cradle of Aviation Museum

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

Count me in!

I will be entering a _____ into the Concours d'Elegance.

I will be entering a _____ into the Peoples Choice Show.

Enclosed is \$15 per car entered. Make checks payable to MBCA

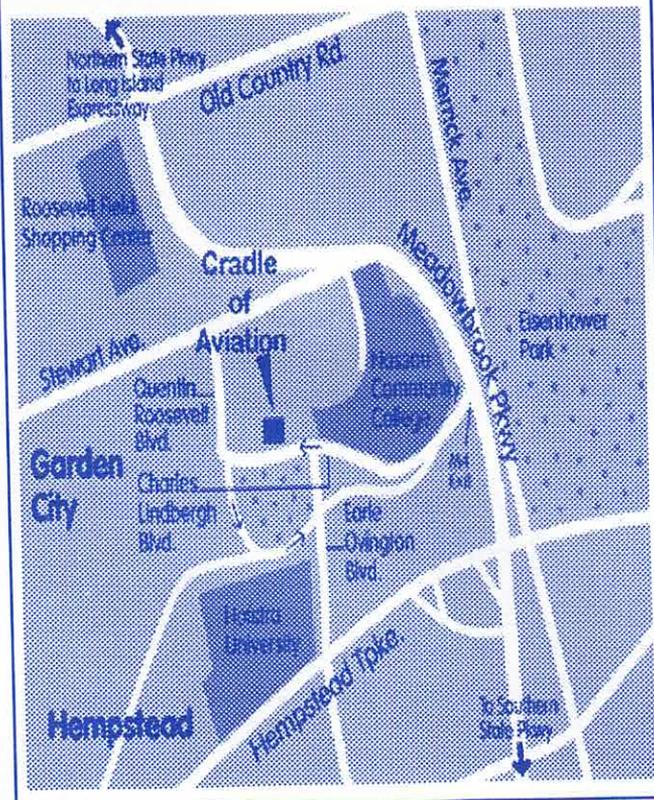
I will be there but not entering a car this year. _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ phone _____



Getting to the Cradle of Aviation



Concours Preparation Secrets

The easiest way to address concours preparation is to identify the types of things that judges look for when reviewing a car. The three areas include: Authenticity, Proper Condition and Cleanliness. Authenticity is simply that the auto is in compliance with specifications as determined by its model year and date of manufacture. Proper condition refers to the quality and accuracy of restoration and cleanliness is the meticulous detailing to remove as much signs of use as is possible.

Judging is usually divided into components starting with an overall review of the car and then concentrating into various subsets as: Paint & Finish; Coachwork and Top, Seats & Upholstery, Engine Compartment, Chrome & Plastic, Glass, Luggage Compartment, Floor Covering and Instruments & Dash. A concours can have very detailed scoring or judging by the overall subsets. It's obviously best to concentrate on larger "point getters" as Paint & Finish and Engines for starters.

Thanks to Roy O. Kuck, Regional Director for information regarding Concours d'Elegance preparation.



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**Now's the time to sign up
for upcoming events!**

STAR-GAZER

EVENT SCHEDULE

<i>Saturday, March 10th</i>	<i>Defensive Driving Course</i>
<i>Sunday, April 28th</i>	<i>South Fork Rallye</i>
<i>Saturday, May 18th</i>	<i>Acceleration Run</i> <i>LI Motor Sports Park, Westhampton</i>
<i>Sunday, July 28th</i>	<i>Concours d'Elegance & Popular Car Show</i> <i>Cradle of Aviation, Mitchell Field</i>
<i>Sunday, August 18th</i>	<i>Autocross with BMW Club</i> <i>Nassau Coliseum</i>
<i>Sunday, September 22nd</i>	<i>Rambo XI Rallye</i> <i>Starting: To be announced</i>
<i>October</i>	<i>Educational Dinner</i> <i>Italian Culinary Institute, Manhattan</i>
<i>Sunday, November 10th</i>	<i>Tech Session / Open House</i> <i>Manhattan Mercedes-Benz</i>
<i>Sunday, December 8th</i>	<i>Holiday Party</i> <i>Bonwit Inn, Commack</i>

