



Star-Gazer

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

Volume 40, Issue 1

First Quarter, 2003

from the editor

"X-2+2=2"

What could that mean?

Could it be New Math?

No.

Let's call it

Sea Level

Math!

With our recent elections, two officers, John Anaischik and Dick Weiss have retired from office.

That's the (-2) and two new officers Peter

Busacca and Joe DeFilippe

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With no hanging chads, your new officers are...

**President - Peter Busacca • Vice President - Joseph DeFilippe
Treasurer - Bernie Berberich • Secretary - Robert Muth**

As required by MBCA National and our Section By-Laws, elections must be held yearly with advance notification. Members were notified in the November Star-Gazer that the election would take place at our Holiday Party on December 8th.

As there were 12 candidates for the 12 Board positions with no additional nominees from the floor, the members present unanimously elected the candidates. These Board members then elected the above Section officers at the January 4th Board meeting.

R. Muth

President's Message

Dear Members:

I am honored to have been elected President of the Sea-Level (NYC-LI) Section once again. My first term of office was from 1988-1990. Those were exciting times because Mercedes-Benz had re-entered the racing world, after a hiatus of thirty-five years, to win the Twenty-four hours of LeMans. A young driver by the name of Michael Schumacher was on their racing team. He was part of their racecar driver development program. He has been so good; he has won the Formula One World Championship for the past three years in a row- unfortunately for Mercedes those wins have been in a Ferrari! Oh well. There is much excitement to be created this year for

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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.

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| David Abrahams | Dennis Damascus | Lloyd Gayle MD | Mel Lyons |
| Michael Altimari | Jonathan Daniel | Harold Geringer | Phyllis Marangelli |
| Gabrielle Aversa | Gregorio Diaz | Luis Granda | Rosette Mare |
| Glenn Bachrach | Dori Eisenstadt | Bernard Jackson | Paul McNamara |
| Allen Barrett | J. Eitan | Allen Jones | John Nickles |
| Alex Beldock | David Feng | Ariel Kaplan | James O'Shea |
| Thomas Broderick | Allen Fernez | Carl Labruna | John Panico |
| John Burke | Rita Friedman | Joe Lombardo | Turlough Pollard |
| Wang Hsia Lan Chou | Helen Gallagher | Dorothy Lozito | Jan Trevalyan |
| Armando Coimbra | | | Gary Wexler |

Sea Level Officers & Staff

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--|----------------|
| President: | Peter Busacca | 121 Norwood Ave., Port Jefferson Sta., NY 11776 | (516) 810-3745 |
| Vice-President: | Joseph deFilippe | 19 Chester Street, East Northport, NY 11731 | (631) 368-6934 |
| 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 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)



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*).

HOLIDAY PARTY - 2002

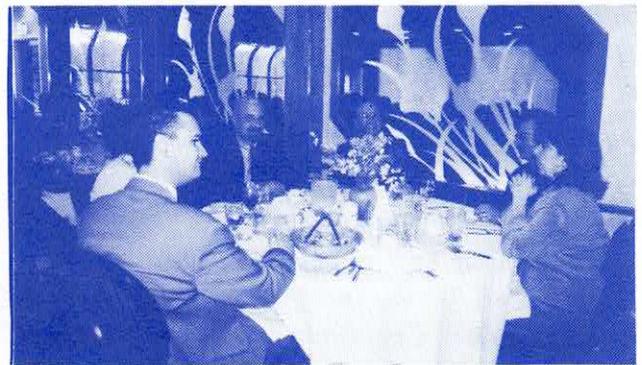
Our Annual Holiday Party was held on December 8th at the Bonwit Inn in Commack. Over fifty members enjoyed the delicious food, and most attendees went home with a door prize contributed by Member Vinny Milo. Everyone received a gift from member Louis Palumbo, the proprietor of Gullwing Motors. The Club also presented each attendee with a monogrammed drinking glass.

The annual election for the Section Board of Directors was held and all incumbent Directors were unanimously reelected.

Vinny Milo, a member of the Board of Directors and a long time member of the Club, was presented with the "Member of the Year" Award in recognition of his efforts on behalf of Sea Level during the past year. Congratulations, Vinny.

A large number of toys were collected for the "Toys for Tots" Program here on Long Island. This has been a Sea Level tradition for many years.

R. Weiss



were elected.

Obviously

that's (+2).

Then how can

X-2+2=2?

Well if you

know Dick

and John, you

understand

that "retired

from office"

will mean

nothing.

They both will

continue to

volunteer

extraordinary

time and

effort to the

Club to help

organize and

be sure that

we have

interesting

and well-run

events.

So- - -

X-2+2=2

That's Sea

Level Math.

At the next

(Continued-page 8)

To all of the Members Who Have Supported Me So Graciously:

My term as president has come to an end and now we welcome our new president who will bring his expertise to the Club. I have enjoyed my term and hope that some of my ideas are retained. It was a good experience for me. Our Board Members worked very well together, coordinating many interesting activities in the last two years. I have had the opportunity to meet so many new people, and have tried to give them the kind of events that they wanted.

I will work with Peter Busacca, the new president to help him implement his plans, and continue to make the Club activities informative and interesting to the members.

Thank you for the enjoyment I received these last two years.

Sincerely,
John Anaischik

Spring Surprise Rallye Sunday, April 27th

Rallye will start from the Lake Success Shopping Center (in front of Modell's Sporting Goods) on Union Turnpike, New Hyde Park and will end at a restaurant in Nassau County.

First Car starts at 11:00am. Arrive a little early and scout the competition!
A hint to help you do well: a map/Atlas of Long Island with Queens and Nassau Counties.
A compass could be helpful.

To the starting point- From the LIE, Exit 34 New Hyde Park Rd. south to Union Turnpike. At Union Turnpike, turn right, the Lake Success Shopping Center will be immediately on the Left. From the Northern Pkwy. Take Exit 26-New Hyde Park Road south to Union Turnpike. From the Cross Island Pkwy. Exit 28B-Union Turnpike East after Lakeville Rd. The Shopping Center will be on the right.

Cost: \$25.00 per person. Make checks payable to MBCA Sea Level.
Return your entry below to: John Anaischik

Return to

John Anaischik
200 Floral Pkwy.
Floral Park, NY.
11001-3439

John:

I plan to participate in the *Spring Surprise Rallye* on April 27th.
I am enclosing my check payable to Sea Level Section for \$_____

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ No. in Party _____

President's Message (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

the members because we have a vibrant group of Officers and Board Members. We will be creating new and exciting events for all of the members to participate in. On Saturday, March 15th, we will visit the new Huntington Mercedes-Benz dealership for a technical session. Jim Buzzetta of Competition Imports fame operates the dealership. He has been a supporter of the Club for the many years. Huntington Mercedes-Benz is currently celebrating their first anniversary. Stop by and say hello. The Spring Road Rallye will be held Sunday April 27th and will be run by our immediate Past-President John Anaischik. A combined Concours d'Elegance and daily driver car show is being developed for sometime in June or July. If the Board of Directors allows me, I would like to be the Rallyemaster for the September Road Rallye, and have the theme to be about American Revolutionary War history. Did you know that George Washington's spy ring was located right here on Long Island and that they thwarted Benedict Arnold from turning over West Point to the British! There will be another Technical session in October. December will see our usual Holiday Party.

Our Section will soon have its own website. Member Jim Baldea will be the Webmaster. I have seen the proposed website, and it is most visually appealing. It features an old Mercedes that morphs into a new one. Ah! The wonders of electronics, we all wish we could do that with our old car in real life! We will announce the domain name in the next issue of the Star-Gazer.

One of the goals of my current presidency will be to develop the future leaders of the Club. I look forward to writing about leadership in future issues of the Star-Gazer. I also plan to have some fun, so you may just see me at the New York Auto Show, Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week, or the Bridgehampton Polo Games sponsored by Mercedes-Benz.

In keeping with the spirit of the Na-

tional Organization, your Board of Directors recently passed an amendment to Section By-laws. It states "...that a Board Member must be an "active member" as defined by Sea Level By-Laws. For your edification, an "active member" is defined as a member who owns or leases a Mercedes-Benz. A "participating member" is a member who does not own a Mercedes, but has a sincere interest in the mark. An "associate member" is a spouse or dependent at least 18 years of age, who resides with an active member. The members will get to vote and have their say in this matter at the March meeting.

Sunrise Motors the newest M.B. dealer on Long Island is now celebrating their Grand Opening. Located just off Sunrise Highway on Carmans Road, on the southeast corner of the Sunrise Mall in Massapequa - the original home of Jerry Seinfeld and Alec Baldwin (both S-Class owners). Wayne Rivardo is the proprietor of Sunrise Motors. His father Ray once owned Silver Star in L.I. City.

Peter

Peter Busacca

(516)742-3320



Gullwing Motors, Inc.

Imported Motorcar Specialists

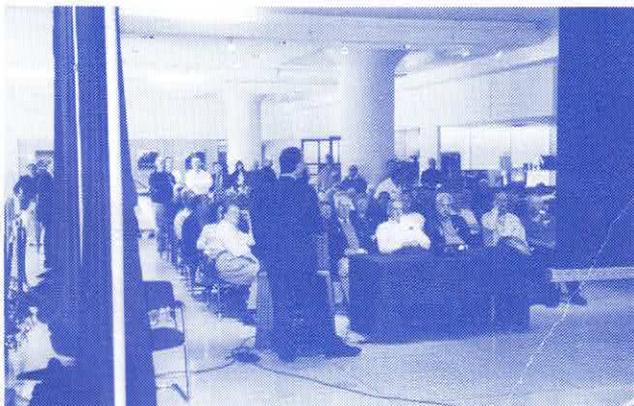
LOUIS PALUMBO

100 WINDSOR AVENUE
MINEOLA, NEW YORK 11501

Regional Event at Mercedes-Benz Manhattan



Ralph and his assistant Holly Sieburg were most cordial hosts for close to 150 MBCA members at this Tech Session and every detail was addressed. From welcoming coffee, a gourmet lunch, most informative lectures and tours, to exquisite automobiles (ranging from an 1886 Patent Motor Car to a 2003 SL55 AMG) this Tech Session was First Class. A presentation of the Classic Car Center by MBUSA's Maryalice Ritzmann was most interesting and tours of the main shop area and their newly renovated parts and accessories boutique were very enlightening.



10,000 sq ft pre-owned showroom to display up to 30 pre-owned & Starmark vehicles. (This showroom is one of the largest indoor display areas for pre-owned vehicles in the United States and sells over 600 pre-owned cars per year).

Thanks to Mercedes-Benz Manhattan for a First Class Day and their hospitality to MBCA.

Coordinated by Joan & Jonah Berman, Sea Level was host to a Regional Tech Meeting held at Mercedes-Benz Manhattan on November 10th. Members from Sea Level, Northern New Jersey, Connecticut/Westchester, Hudson-Mohawk and even an attendee from Delaware Valley Section enjoyed the hospitality of Ralph Fisher, General Manager and his staff at their West 41st Street facility (MB Manhattan also locations at 39th Street and a sales location on Park Avenue in the Frank Lloyd Wright designed showroom.)



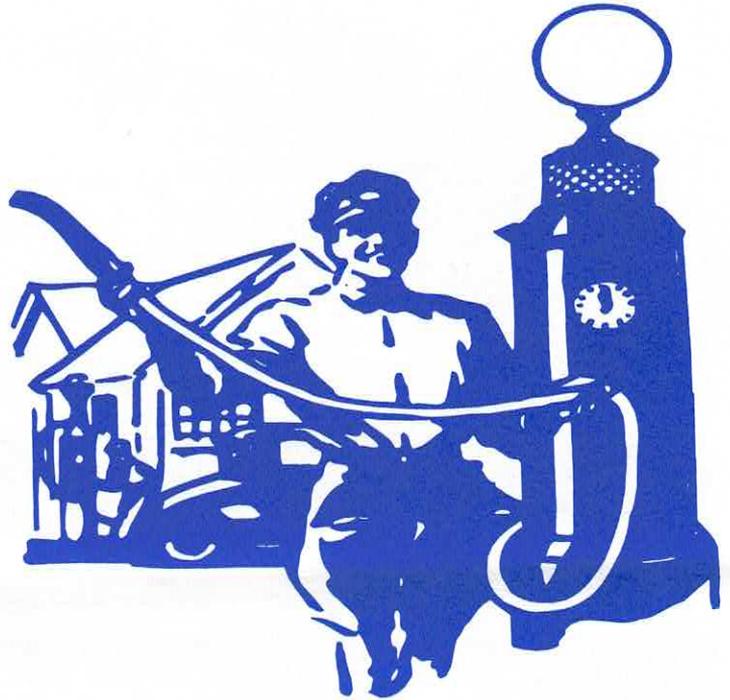
MB Manhattan began operation as a company retail-store in 1965. Since 1981, it has operated as a subsidiary of MBNA/MBUSA and today, MB Manhattan is the only dealership in the United States that belongs to Mercedes-Benz USA and is among the top 25 Mercedes-Benz dealerships in the U.S. in terms of new car sales.

The West Side New Car Showroom where the meeting was held was completed in 1992 with display spaces for over 30 vehicles on two adjoining levels as well as a

Technical Meeting

Mercedes-Benz of Huntington has invited Sea Level Section members to attend a Technical Meeting at their new 40,000 square foot State-of-the-Art facility on Saturday, March 15th at 10am.

Technical presentations will be made by several members of their staff. If you have been puzzled by terminology as four-wheel drive/all-wheel drive, Active Body Control, Parktronic, SmartKey, ESP, this will be the place to find the answers. Bring your questions! There also will be ample opportunity to meet and talk with staff members regarding design features of the newest Mercedes models from Germany and Alabama including the all new E-Class as well as questions or problems you might have regarding your own Mercedes-Benz.



10 am: March 15th
Mercedes-Benz of Huntington

Mercedes-Benz of Huntington is located at 1103 Jericho Turnpike in Huntington just west of Deer Park Road. Driving directions to the facility can be obtained via their website: www.mbhuntington.com (attendees can enter their own addresses/zip codes and detailed driving instructions are provided)

Sea Level Section
Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc.

Sign-Up Form for March 15th Technical Session

Return to:
 John Betsch
 Three Winchester Lane
 Huntington, New York 11743

John:
 I plan to attend the Tech Session at Mercedes-Benz of Huntington on
 March 15th!
 Name _____ Phone _____ No. in Party _____



Star-Gazer

Sea Level Section
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Three Wincester Lane
Huntington, New York 11743-2152

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NY

**Sign-up Now
for Upcoming Events**
FORMS INSIDE

STAR-GAZER



Preliminary EVENT SCHEDULE

event on
March 15th,
Give them a
handshake! I
am sure it
would be
appreciated
and it's most
deserved!

J. Betsch

<i>Saturday, March 15th</i>	<i>Technical Meeting (see inside) Mercedes-Benz of Huntington</i>
<i>Sunday, April 27th</i>	<i>Spring Surprise Rallye (see inside) Starting: New Hyde Park</i>
<i>June / July</i>	<i>Concours d'Elegance & Daily Driver Show</i>
<i>September</i>	<i>A "Revolutionary" Road Rallye</i>
<i>October</i>	<i>Technical Meeting</i>
<i>December</i>	<i>Holiday Party</i>

