



Star-Gazer

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

Volume 40, Issue 2

Second Quarter, 2003

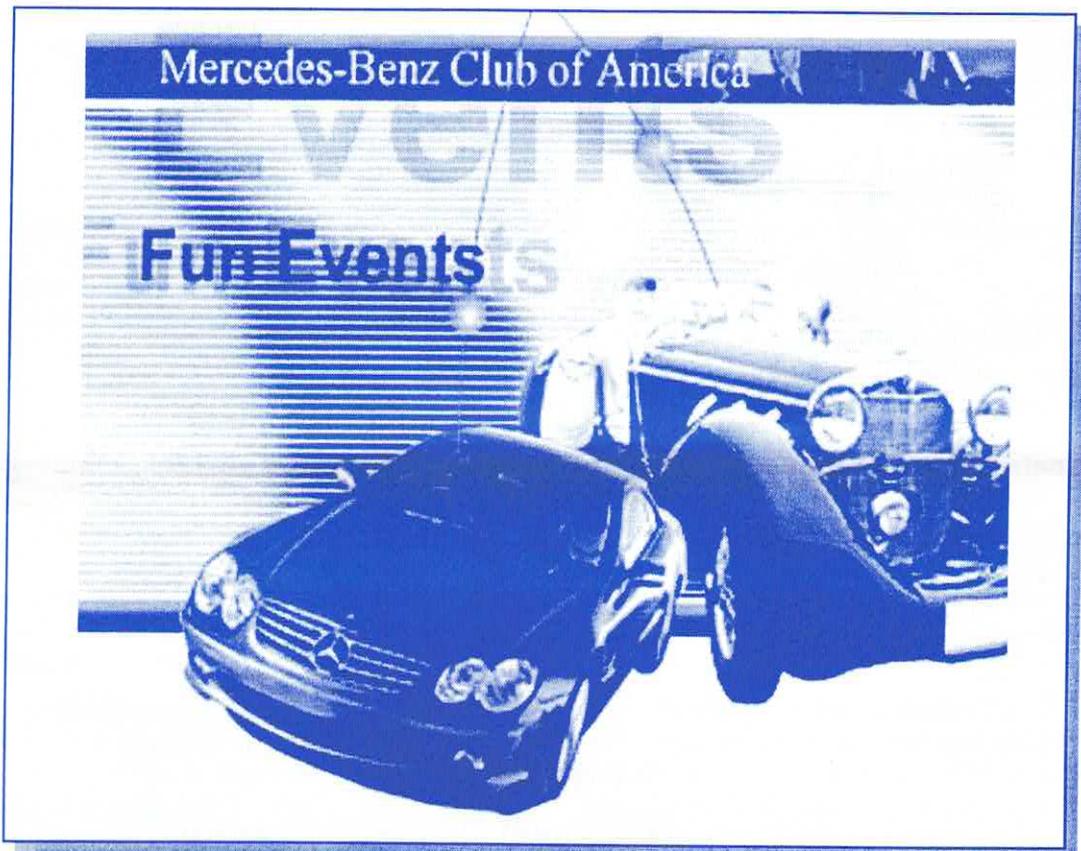
from the editor

Polish, Polish & Shine

As you prepare for our Concours & Popular Car Show on July 13th (see page 7), there are three noteworthy Concours events, benefiting various charities, at which you can see some magnificent automobiles, and pick up some hints as

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Check Out Our New Website:



www.MBCASeaLevel.org

Sea Level is proud to announce the launch of our new animated website: www.MBCASeaLevel.org. Within the coming month, each member of the Section will be contacted, and will be given a unique username and password, in order to

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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.

Christopher Aloï	Christofer Damianos	Stephen Jacoby	John Rubin
Chaz Anatra	Andy Falsetta	Steven Kind	K.M. Schumar
Bob Biller	Anton Freund	Norman Lane	Timothy Spencer
Robert Calenda	Lloyd Gayle, MD	Julian Mertz	Mark Styczen
William Catacosinos	Anthony Gero	Juan Nunez	Harvey Tabin
Kenneth Cohen	Louis Geyer	John Ochmanowicz	Nyema Tubman
Smarth Constant	Frank Gray	Geraldine Poveromo	Joseph Wenk
			Elizabeth Wiggins

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
Webmaster:	Jim Baldea	350 Northern Blvd., Suite 326, Great Neck NY 11021	(516) 466-5858

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*).

President's Message

Dear Members:

Have you seen our new website www.MBCASealevel.org ? It is quite exciting! There is music, and a lot of things moving around, even an old car turning into a new one, just as I promised. Jim Baldea our Webmaster will call you shortly to tell you your password so that you can access member only information in the site, a place for security reasons where only members are allowed. Perhaps in a year or two most of us will receive our Star-Gazer by way of our website. I don't know about you but I will enjoy that. I have sometimes received my Star-Gazer torn, crumpled, dirty and even with a schemer of pizza sauce on it! I don't know about you but I like mine clean and neatly folded, thank you.

I somehow knew that if I brought up Michael Schumacher's name (the Ferrari Formula One Champion driver who was once a Mercedes racer) in the last issue that he would start losing, and that the McLaren-Mercedes team would start winning. Well that is exactly what happened. The McLaren-Mercedes team won the first three Formula One races this year with drivers Kimi Raikkonen and David Coulthard! It asks one to beg the question, "Why is it that whenever Peter Busacca is President of our Club (Sea-Level section) that Mercedes-Benz wins big in auto racing after a dry spell? Is it magic? Are the planets aligned? I don't know, but I do know that I work hard so that our members win, and that, is what really matters to us

Our March event, a visit to Huntington Mercedes-Benz was well received by the members. We took a tour of the new facility given by Vice President and General Manager Jim Buzzetta. A technical session fol-

lowed where Jim Gustaw, Service Manager talked about the intricacies of keeping our cars in top order. Daniel Leary, Regional Service Representative added his expertise. Sales Manager Bill Dodge spoke about the new models. A raffle where many prizes were handed out topped off the day. A delicious lunch was served, thanks to the dealership. We applaud the efforts of Jim Buzzetta and his crew at Huntington Mercedes-Benz. At my urging, they now offer a 10% discount on parts to Club members.

Steinway and Sons, the piano makers, are about to celebrate the 150th anniversary of their company in June. They built the American Mercedes from 1904-1907 at 961 Steinway Avenue in Astoria, Queens. In the fall, we will tour their piano factory in celebration of the alliance between Mercedes and Steinway. Visit Steinway150.com to find out more information about events surrounding this landmark anniversary.

Sea-Level member Jim Rogers has a new book out on May 13th called "Adventure Capitalist". It is an account of his travel around the world monitoring and analyzing the socio-political and economic interdependence of 116 countries on six continents. He drove a bright yellow GLK, which is a SLK body, mounted on a G-Wagon chassis. You can order the new book at your favorite bookstore or through his web site www.jimrogers.com. You can also see him on FOX News: Cavuto on Business report while watching weekend television. He has promised to be at a future event with the GLK and will be signing copies of his new book.

When is a Mercedes not a Mercedes? When it is re-badged as a

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you get your
M-B ready.
The first is the
"Greenwich
Concours
d'Elegance"
held on May
31 and June
1st. Info can
be found at
([www.
greenwichcon
coours.com](http://www.greenwichconcoours.com))
The second is
the
"Hampton's
Concours
d'Elegance"
on June 8th in
Bridgehampton
([www.
hamptonconc
oursdeleganc
e.com](http://www.hamptonconcoursdelegance.com))
and finally
the "Concours
d'Elegance of
the Eastern
United
States" at

(Continued-page 8)

President's Message (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

Dodge or Freightliner. One was able to see the new (to this country) Sprinter van at the NY Auto Show at the Dodge display area. It is made in Germany by M-B but sold in this country through Freightliner and now Dodge dealers. It has a M-B five-cylinder turbo-charged continuous direct injection diesel engine. At the Chrysler display area the new Crossfire is half Mercedes and half Chrysler. It has the engine, drive train, and suspension of an SLK, with the two door curved hatch coupe body of a Chrysler designer's dream. The Maybach was on display near other ultra-luxury makes Ferrari, and Bentley (now VW owned). M-B Manhattan, Sovereign, Lakeview, and Rallye Motors are the Mercedes dealers that will be carrying the Maybach later this spring. The Maybach is an Uber S-Class with more room, luxury, and power. New for Mercedes is PRE-SAFE. It is a system that recognizes certain dynamic indications of a potential collision before it happens. This is not clairvoyance but applied physics and engineering put to good use. If it determines that stability and braking are not enough for proper control, it snugs up the

front seat belts, and positions the front passenger seat for possible airbag deployment. If the system senses skidding beyond a pre-set threshold, PRE-SAFE will close the sun-roof to protect the driver and passengers from falling out of the vehicle.

I hope to see you all at our Concours d'Elegance and Daily Driver Car Show at the Planting Fields Arboretum in Oyster Bay on Sunday July 13th. To be judged in the Concours d'Elegance Class your engine compartment must be clean or else you will be put into the Daily Driver Classification.

Peter

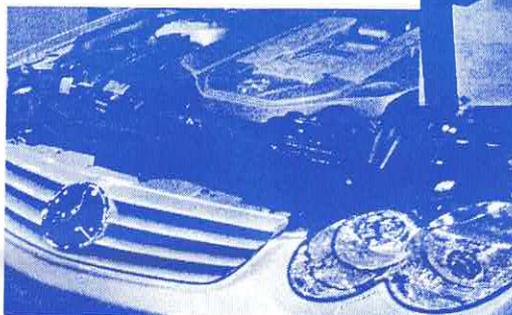
Sea Level Section By-Law Change

An amendment to Article 3, Section C of the by-laws of the Sea Level Section was voted upon by the members present at the March 15th Technical Session held at Huntington Mercedes. The vote was unanimous in favor of the change. The article now reads "All board members must be Mercedes owners or leasers as defined by MBCA as active members." R. Muth, Secy.

Spring Surprise Rallye



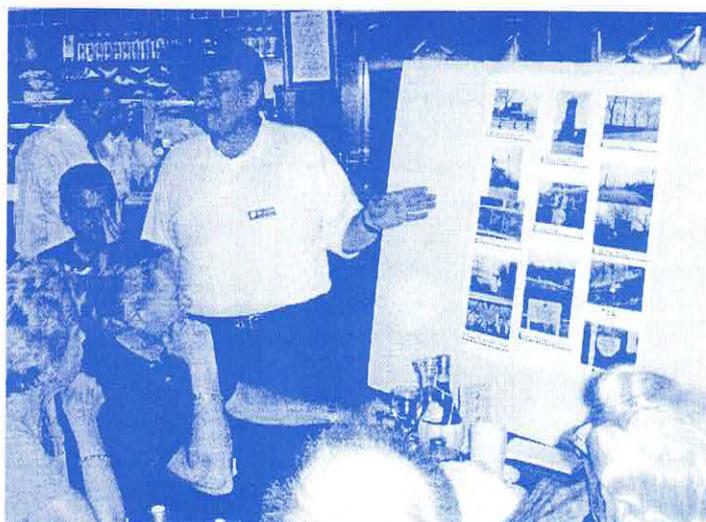
March 15th Tech Session at *Huntington Mercedes-Benz*



Why does the navigation system send me the way it does? Does adding oil alter my flex schedule? Is *Formatic* really that good? - Just a few of the many questions answered by Steve Young, Huntington's Shop Foreman and Jim Gustaw, Service Manager at the Tech Session on March 15th cordially hosted by Jim Buzzetta. Thanks Jim for a great

Tech Session as well as our gourmet lunch and many raffle prizes!

..... on April 27th.



John Anaischik, *Rallymaster* explaining the intricacies and scenic sites of the route at the conclusion of the rallye.



... AND THE WINNERS WERE:

- 1st Place** Stuart Selip, Driver
Marian Selip, Navigator
- 2nd Place** Bernie Berberich, (D)
Karen Berberich, (N)
- 3rd Place** Joseph DeFilippe, (D)
Karen DeFilippe, (N)
- 4th Place** David Denkers, (D)
Mary Ann Coklo, (N)

www.MBCASeaLevel.org

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access certain parts of our new website which are deemed: "For Members Only". We are excited to say that our new website now enables Sea Level to have Internet exposure and broadband recognition. We look forward to being able to provide to all of our members an enjoyable online experience!

Our new website has several key features. It conveys the friendly atmosphere that the Sea Level promotes. It allows members to have instant, password-protected access to upcoming events and to Sea Level merchandise. It will also allow members to download archived *STAR-GAZER* newsletters. In addition, our website will soon have the ability to email birthday and holiday cards to Sea Level members.

Special thanks for the planning, the custom programming, the multimedia development, and launch of our website goes out to Sea-Level member, Jim Baldea, President of global software engineering / medical practice management development firm, www.stosCO.com. With the recommendation of John Anaischik, Jim Baldea, and members of his development team, worked closely with a committee of several Sea Level Board members, including Vinnie Milo, Spencer Dworkin, and Joe DeFilippe, in order to conduct the necessary analysis for the planning and development of our exciting and beautiful website. Bernie Berberich's helpful input ensured that the classic image of Mercedes-Benz was accounted for on our website. John Betsch's input has guaranteed that newsletters are properly archived on



L-R: John Anaischik, Vinnie Milo and Jim Baldea discussing Sea Level Website Options (Jerry Shapiro is demonstrating the principle of being camera-ready)

our website for later reference. Peter Busacca has continued to encourage the Sea Level's move forward into the Internet world. At a recent Tech Session held at Mercedes-Benz of Huntington, a Sea Level member, Perry Molina, suggested that a photo gallery section be added to our website, and John Gatto encouraged continual relationship-building with local Mercedes-Benz dealers.

We're all excited and are interested in knowing what you'd like to add. Jim Baldea continues to implement helpful suggestions from Sea Level members and from local Mercedes-Benz dealers and other sponsors, in order to continually improve and maintain our site. If you have any comments, suggestions, or questions, please kindly call Jim Baldea at (516) 466-5858, or email him:

JimBaldea@stosCONSULTING.com. We all look forward to Jim Baldea's and www.stosCO.com's maintenance of, and updates to, our new website!

(516)742-3320



Gullwing Motors, Inc.
Imported Motorcar Specialists

LOUIS PALUMBO

100 WINDSOR AVENUE
MINEOLA, NEW YORK 11501

Sea Level Concours d'Elegance & Popular Car Show

Sunday, July 13th
10:30 am - 2 pm

Planting Fields Arboretum
Oyster Bay



Planting Fields Arboretum is one of the outstanding public gardens in the United States, a quiet oasis for rest and contemplation as well as a site for many cultural and horticultural activities. The arboretum is a nature sanctuary, a living outdoor horticultural class room, and the site of this year's Concours. Come join us. We will have beverages and snack food, however feel free to bring a box lunch. Awards will be presented in a variety of categories in both the Concours d' Elegance and Peoples Choice Show. A park entry fee of \$6.00 per car will be charged at the gate. Site directions will be provided

JUDGING: Engine Compartment; Paint & Finish; Coachwork; Chrome, Plastic, Glass & Lights; Seats & Upholstery; Floor Covering; Instruments & Dash; Luggage Compartment; Extras (cables, belts, towlines, first aid kits); Age & Mileage. Engine Compartment will not be judged in Daily Driver Category. Potential Total: 100 points.

Directions: from the LIE: Exit 41-N, Travel north on Rt. 107-108, fork to right and remain on 106 north (Oyster Bay). Turn left on 25A (Northern Blvd) and at next light turn right on Mill River Rd. Turn left on Glen Cove Rd. and again left on Planting Fields Rd. Entrance is on left. (516-922-9200; www.plantingfields.com)

Sign-Up Form for the July 13th Concours d'Elegance & Popular Car Show

Return to:

Creighton Phillips
6 Todd Drive
Glen Head, NY 11545

Creighton:

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

I will be entering a _____ into the Popular Car Show

Enclosed is \$10 per car entered. (Make Checks payable to MBCA)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____



Star-Gazer

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



Car Show: July 13th
Sign-up Form Inside

11743+2152 41



STAR-GAZER

Lehigh
University
Allentown/
Bethlehem,
Pa. On June
14th. (www.concourseast.org)

If you get to
Allentown,
look for the
230SL and
say hello.

J. Betsch

Preliminary EVENT SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 15th	Technical Meeting Mercedes-Benz of Huntington
Sunday, April 27th	Spring Surprise Rallye Starting: New Hyde Park
Sunday, July 13th	Concours d'Elegance & Daily Driver Show Planting Fields Arboretum, Oyster Bay
September	A "Revolutionary" Road Rallye
October	Technical Meeting
Sunday, December 7th	Holiday Party Bonwit Inn, Commack

