



Star-Gazer

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

www.MBCASeaLevel.org

Volume 40, Issue 4

Fourth Quarter, 2003

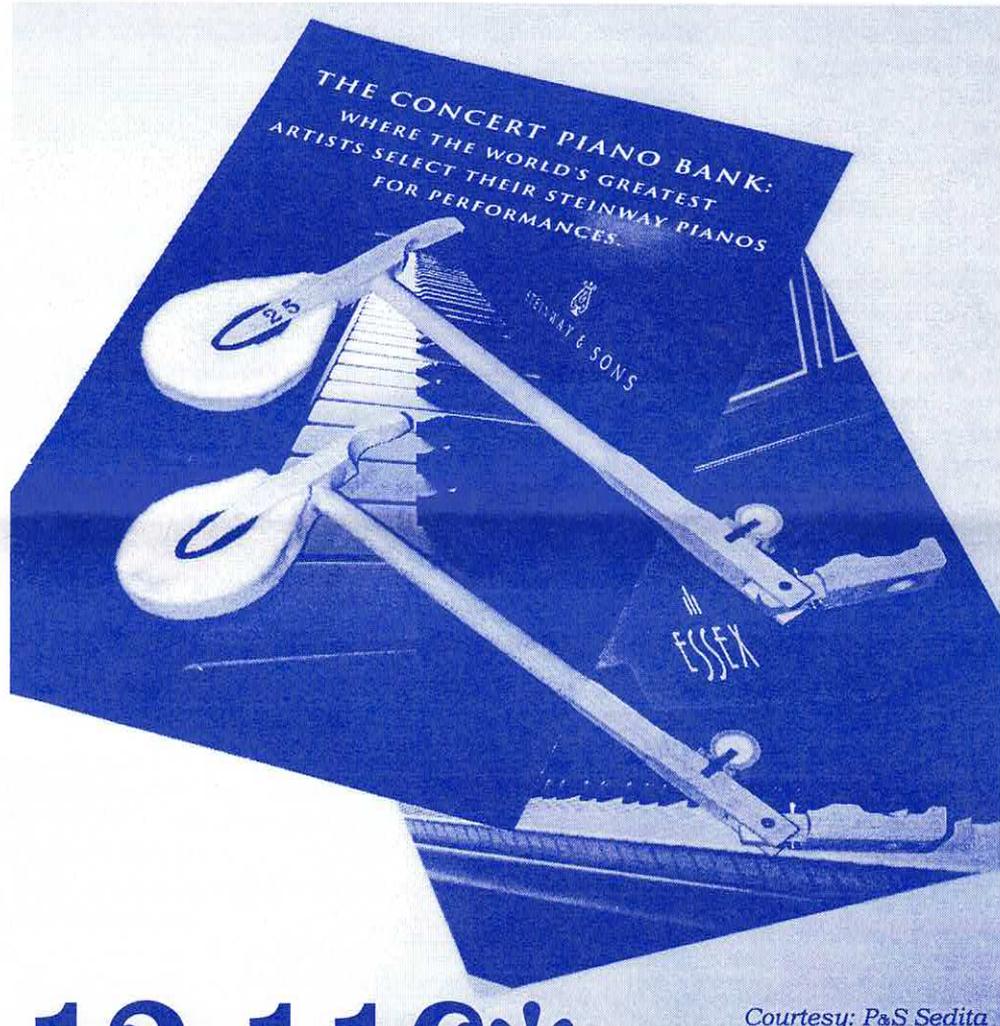
from the editor

What a sad commentary of drivers in the U.S.

A recent press release of the Federal Highway Administration noted that they were sponsoring a "National Stop on Red Week."

Why, because almost 900 people lose their lives each year in red light running and thousands

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Courtesy: P&S Sedita

12,116*

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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.

Rudy Albrecht	Larry Frankel	Chjame Jones	Patricia Rooney
Angela Altimari	Irella Galin	Brian Krell	Edward Sarisky
Vallo Benjamin	James Galtieri	Dwight Lee	Oliver Seligman
James Benton	Jon Gamby	Ronald Lissak	Ira Tane
Kevin Calabrese	Thomas Giannetti	Joseph McCambridge Jr	Ronald Taylor
Regan Cameron	Thomas Gibb	James McFarlane	Mel Ungar
Wai Hing Chan	Richard Grapes	William Melendez	Patrick Uzoefuna
Lawrence Contrucci	Jean Guy	Edwin Moore	Ja'net Valdivia
James Crawford	Frederick Hill	William Popper	Kenneth Wank
Greg Daro	Junior Hittall	Reynaldo Pulido	Bruce Watts
Joseph DiGiovanni	Todd Holden	Thomas Reilly	Anthony Yazzetti
Adam Fisher	Thomas Howell	Robert Rine	

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 Wincester 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)



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President's Message

Dear Members:

We had three great value packed events this past season. If you participated in each one you would have gone home with gifts totaling over sixty dollars in value.

First, we had the Revolutionary Road Rallye where you received the Jim Rogers book "Adventure Capitalist" for free, a twenty-seven dollar value. If you toured the Steinway Piano factory, you would have received a free pair of new safety goggles, a fifteen-dollar value. At the Rallye Motor's Auto Body Shop technical session you would have received an embroidered blanket valued at twenty dollars. Add these all up and you would have collected sixty-two dollars in goodies just by participating in our events, well worth the forty-five dollar membership fee.

Our Revolutionary Road Rallye in September toured the Port Jefferson, Setauket, and Stony Brook area. This area is deep in Revolutionary War history; George Washington's spy ring lived and operated here under the guise of ordinary people with ordinary occupations. Participants learned who some of these heroes were and how they operated. We all met back at Carnival Restaurant where Jim Rogers gave a power point presentation about his Guinness World Record trip around the world and signed his new book "Adventure Capitalist". We were also graced by the presence of his wife, Paige and baby daughter. Rudy Albrecht with his friend Stephen won the Rallye with Joe and Karen DeFilippe coming in Second and Theo and Nadine Novak placing

Third.

In early October, we visited the new Rallye Motors Auto Body Shop located at 245 Glen Cove Road in Carle Place. Ted Dinella of Centerline Distributors talked about electronic ultra sound measuring systems that are now used to restore the frame of a car that was in a collision. There are also physical measuring systems that are used, but they are more labor intensive. Ed Lumish, the Dent Specialist talked about and demonstrated how painless dent removal works. It is a cost-effective way to remove those door dings and shopping cart impressions one can get when one parks their car in a shopping center parking lot. In Germany, they would call him Der Spangler. Victor Leal of Spies-Hecker Paints talked about modern day water based factory paint jobs. We would like to thank Ken Faath Manager of the Rallye Motors Auto Body Shop who put this all together. This is the first time our Club ever visited Rallye Motors. They are now celebrating their 45th Anniversary.

Concerning our Popular Car Show, the "Most Popular Classic Car" award was won by James Nickerson with a 1958 220S. It was incorrectly announced that Napoleon Jenkins had won that award; he also owns a 1958 220S. Please accept our apologies gentlemen.

Hope to see you at the Holiday Party!

Peter

more are injured. In 2001, almost 220,000 red light running crashes occurred in intersections.

These crashes resulted in as many as 180,000 injuries and exacted a toll in excess of \$12 billion on the U.S. economy.

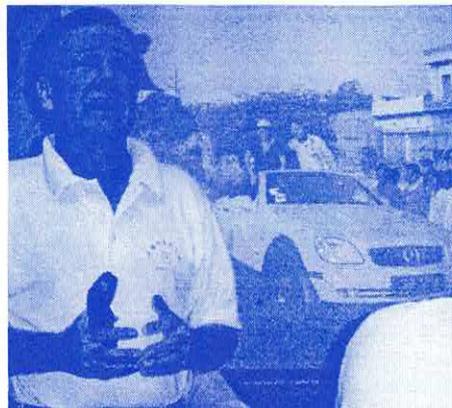
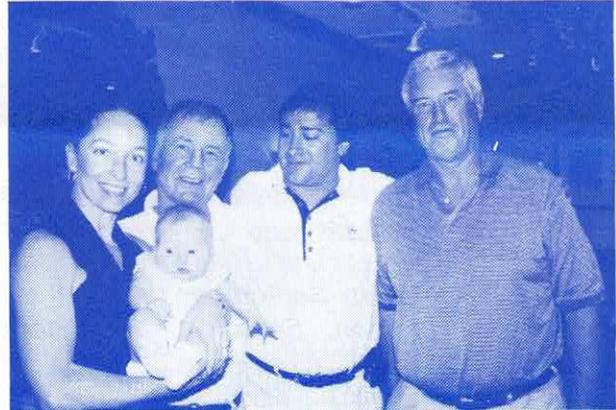
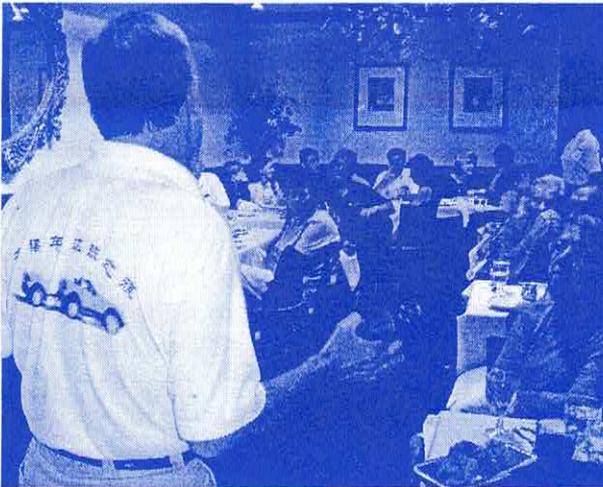
Quoting the American Trauma Society: "Running red lights is a senseless, irresponsible and potentially deadly act" but for some inane reason,

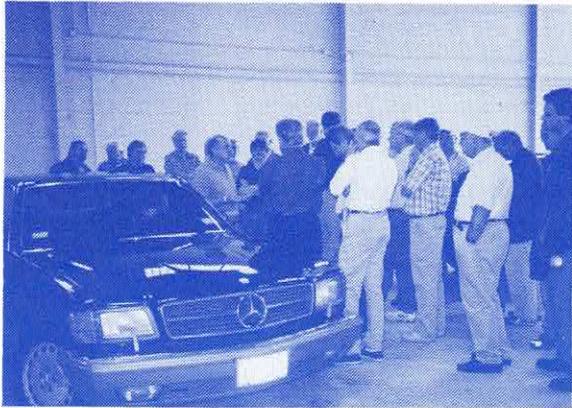
(Continued-page 8)

Adventure Capitalist & a REVOLUTIONARY RALLYE

At the conclusion of the Revolutionary Rallye, Jim Rogers, MBCA and Sea Level member, captivated us with details of his historic, three-year journey around the world (setting a Guinness World Record traveling 152,000 miles through 116 countries). For more about the adventure, go to www.jimrogers.com or www.paigeparker.com or grab a copy of his book, *Adventure Capitalist*, about the trip.

Winners of the Revolutionary Rallye are noted in the Peter Busacca's President's Message.

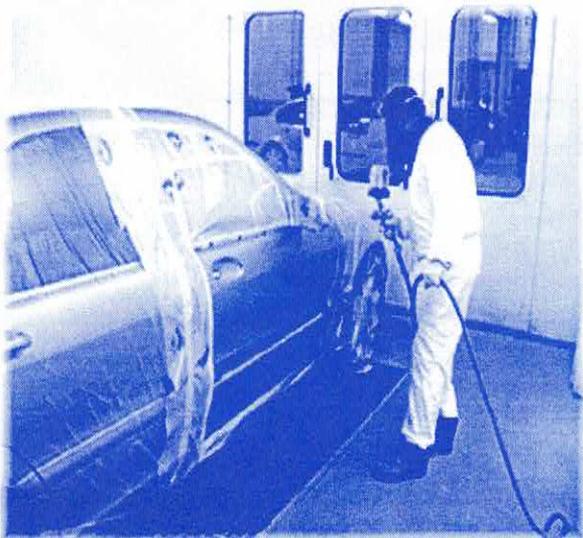




Tech Meeting Rallye Motors Auto Body



On October 11th, we visited the Rallye Motors Auto Body Shop in Carle Place, where Ken Faath, the Shop Manager explained all about paint finishes, interiors, body panel replacement and frame straightening. It was quite interesting and enlightening to see how state-of-the-art technology is changing the auto body repair business!



A Different Set of Keys... 🎵



*Peter Busacca, Section President & Michael Huseman
of Steinway & Sons Piano*

* A Steinway & Sons Piano has 12,116 parts!

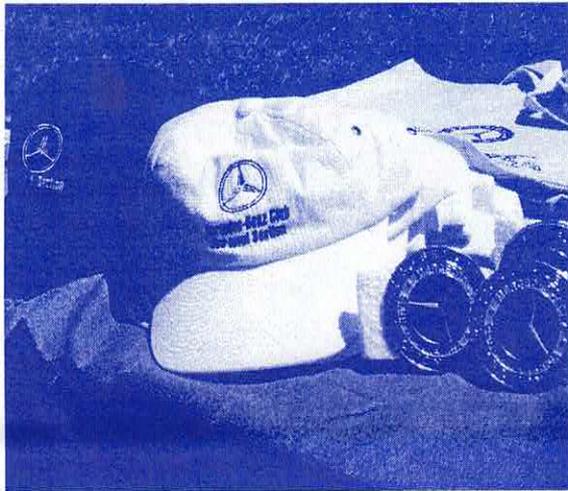
Sea level members and their guests were given an extraordinary tour of the Steinway & Sons piano factory in Astoria, Queens, New York City on Tuesday morning September 23rd. For nearly three hours we were treated to an insider's view of the processes entailed in creating a World Class musical instrument. Mr. Michael Huseman guided us through the four-story building, supplying us with background and anecdotes throughout. We were reminded of the shared history with Mercedes-Benz, specifically the 1888 agreement between Gottlieb Daimler and William Steinway to produce Daimler's products in the U.S. (Steinway produced Mercedes passenger cars, Daimler's light trucks and engines from 1904 until a fire in 1907.)

115 years later, both companies are still committed to superior craftsmanship.

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.

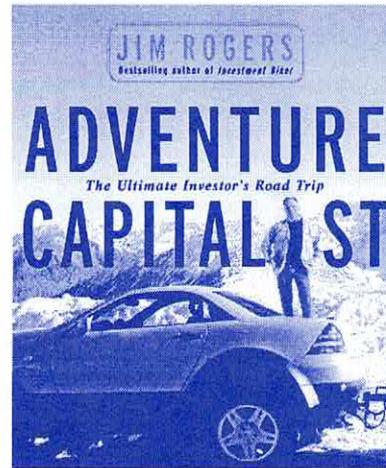
GRILL BADGE MAIL REQUEST (return to John Anaischik)

Please send me _____ badge(s) @ \$20.
each.

Enclosed is my check payable to MBCA.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____



For a copy, check out your favorite bookstore or on-line or 800-201-3550. (ed. It's very interesting and easy reading)

M-B Marketplace

Marketplace is a free service to Sea Level members. Simply mail your ad to the editor by the applicable deadline noted on page two.

FOR SALE: 1979 450SL Coupe, 2 dr. convertible hard top, champagne color, in working order, air conditioning, stereo cassette, good interior/exterior, approximately 109,000 miles. \$5500. Kirsten (631) 751-2244

FOR SALE: Owners Manual, Maintenance Booklet (covers 280SE, 280SE4.5, 280SEL4.5) and Parts Catalog B 1971 (covers 250S, 250SE, 280S, 280SE, 280SE4.5, 280SEL, 280SEL4.5) \$20-all John (631) 549-3564

(516)742-3320



Gullwing Motors, Inc.
Imported Motorcar Specialists

LOUIS PALUMBO

100 WINDSOR AVENUE
MINEOLA, NEW YORK 11501

Sea Level's Holiday Luncheon

BONWIT INN, COMMACK, NY

12-4:00PM Cost: \$25. per person

Join us for Sea Level's Annual Holiday Party at the Bonwit Inn. A Holiday Luncheon, *with a choice of three entrees*, will be served. As is our custom, please bring an unwrapped toy (not to exceed \$5 in value) to be donated to the **Toys for Tots Program**.

A GIFT FOR EVERY ATTENDEE * WIN ONE OF THE DOOR PRIZES **

Sunday, December 7th

Bonwit Inn: The Bonwit Inn is located at the intersection of Commack Road and Vanderbilt Parkway in Commack. Using the LIE, Exit 52 going east or Exit 53 going west. Go north on Commack Road. Using Northern State Parkway, Exit 43 and go south on Commack Road.

To: Richard T. Weiss
86 Kingsbury Road
Garden City NY 11530
(516:747-0679)



**RSVP with Check
Reqd. by November 22nd.**

Yes, I will be attending the Sea Level Holiday Luncheon. I am enclosing a \$25 per person check (payable to MBCA).

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ No. of People in my Party _____



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

**HOLIDAY PARTY
December 7TH
Sign-up NOW!!!**

STAR-GAZER

people
continue the
practice.

What a sad
commentary
that an
Awareness
Program is
necessary.

What am I
trying to say?
At red lights,
BE ALERT!
J. Betsch

2003 EVENT SCHEDULE

<i>Saturday, March 15th</i>	<i>Technical Meeting Mercedes-Benz of Huntington</i>
<i>Sunday, April 27th</i>	<i>Spring Surprise Rallye Starting: New Hyde Park</i>
<i>Sunday, July 13th</i>	<i>Concours d'Elegance & Daily Driver Show Planting Fields Arboretum, Oyster Bay</i>
<i>Sunday, September 14th</i>	<i>A "Revolutionary" Road Rallye Port Jefferson</i>
<i>Tuesday, September 23rd</i>	<i>Steinway Factory Tour Long Island City</i>
<i>Saturday, October 11th</i>	<i>Technical Meeting Rallye Motors Auto Body</i>
<i>Sunday, December 7th</i>	<i>Holiday Party Bonwit Inn, Commack (See Inside)</i>