



The Bluegrass Star

A Publication of the Bluegrass Stars Section
Mercedes-Benz Club of America

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Editor's Message

With the retirement of our club President Dana Ruthers and Editor Steve Loboyko after many years of great service, we are moving into a new chapter for our section. Though we had a bit of a hiatus in the interim this year promises to have great potential with several events planned and a return to a more regular newsletter publication. Taking up the positions for the club are the father and son team of Art Rupe and Chad Rupe who are the new President and Editor respectively. Assuming the position of Vice President is Jim West.



President: Art Rupe

Vice President: Jim West

Editor: Chad Rupe

Welcome

We welcome new members to the Bluegrass Stars Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America. We are happy to have you join our club. The success of our club depends on the participation of all members in our scheduled activities. Your comments on how we can improve or add more interesting events to our activity schedule are very important. Please email your comments/suggestions to any of the club officers.

Upcoming Event

This year we have many events coming up including several tech sessions at the major Kentucky Mercedes-Benz dealerships Tafel Motors, James Motor, and the new facility at Mercedes-Benz Fort Mitchell. The first tech session is also going to be where we present the Automotive Science Awards for their accomplishments at the Louisville Regional Science & Engineering Fair (March 7th at the Kentucky Science Center) and the Manual/Meyzeek Science Fair (March 14th at the UofL Swain Student Activities Center) A formal notice of the finalized dates, times, and topics of these Tech Sessions will be sent out at a later time.

Coming up fast for us this June is the Mercedes-Benz StarTech 2015 in Cincinnati June 12-14th (www.Startech2015.mbca.org)

as well as the Ault Park Concours d'Elegance on June 14th. (www.Ohioconcours.com)

We hope to have a good presence at this event seeing as it is in our back yard and are already planning for it.

Other events include the Keeneland Concours d'Elegance July 16-19, as well as possible events at the Louisville Riverbats and Louisville FC soccer matches.

If you have any more ideas or suggestions for future events, please feel free to contact any of the officers with ideas.

Intro of President

New to the President's role in our chapter of the club is Art Rupe. A longtime enthusiast of German vehicles, his passion became his profession when he began working for the Volksdoctor in the 80's. Along side his day job, he became active in the Volkswagen factory racing effort teaming up with Bob Bremm leading them to great success in the Midwest region. From there he moved on to larger things both on and off the track. After a stint as a technician at Tafel Motors he went on to help create other successful independent shops including his current business AWR Imports where he has been for several years. His racing career continued from the local circuits all the way to his current involvement with the ARCA series at tracks including the Superspeedways of Kentucky and Daytona.

He has been a Mercedes-Benz owner for 20 years now, starting with a hearty 240D and now with a collection of near too many to count. His daily car, a 300SD, is nearing 400,000 miles and he has a fondness for a 500SL that he's known since his time at Tafel Motors.

Intro of Editor

For the position of Editor, Art's son Chad has taken up the role. Though a Louisville native he spent the majority of his childhood growing up in Virginia, eventually being a part of the Central VA Mercedes-Benz Club and getting his degree at VCU for Mechanical Engineering. He has since returned to the Louisville area for a job with Raytheon. Though only at the age of 25 he has already taken ownership of three Mercedes-Benz vehicles. His first Mercedes is a 1988 190E that was gifted to him for Christmas when he was 15. Though it's been through just about everything a teenage driver could throw at it and then some it's remained a faithful partner all throughout. With the original 4 cylinder engine replaced by a big 6 cylinder it's become a bit of a monster; and with a 5 speed transmission swap in it's future along with a full body restoration he hopes to make it everything it can be.

His second Mercedes is a 1999 E320, purchased to allow the original car some time to rest and prevent it from taking on the harsh winter duty anymore. A third car, a 1995 S320, was a recent purchase and will take some time before it is returned to the car it was meant to be. With a fresh start here and a fleet of cars ripe with potential to grow he hopes he can use his skills to help the club as much as he can.

Intro of Vice President

Jim was born on August 1, 1945 in New Castle, Indiana. His parents, Ray and Dorothy West moved to Clarksville, Indiana after WWII in 1946 and Jim and his three younger brothers, Bill, David (a fellow club member) and John (Mercedes-Benz owner) were raised in Clarksville.

Jim graduated from Clarksville High School in 1963 and shortly afterward, August 26, 1963, joined the U.S. Naval Reserve. In September 1963, he enrolled at Indiana University Southeast for his freshman year. During this time, Jim's father purchased a Mercedes-Benz 220E and then later a 220SE, which was Jim's first experience with Mercedes Benz cars. Jim's parents owned Mercedes-Benzes for the rest of their lives.

Jim graduated from Indiana university Southeast in 1973, with a BS in education. He taught at the junior high level for a year and a half. He left teaching to become an adult probation officer in the Clark County Judicial System. After working there for a time, he then chose to go to law school. In 1977, he enrolled at Mississippi College School of law in Jackson, Mississippi and graduated in 1980. After twenty years of practicing law in Indiana and a twenty-seven year military career, both ended; he is now semi-retired. He has a part-time job at Fed-Ex ground, located in the Clark Maritime Center.

Jim's hobbies are military antique collecting, sail boating, membership in the Louisville German-American Club (10 years), Ohio Valley Military Society (18 years) and the MBCA Bluegrass Stars (6 years) with a 1986 420 SEL as his car of choice.

Tech Session at AWR Imports, November 2014

Pictures by Larry Gettleman



For our first meeting with the new officers, the two winners of the Automotive Science Award given out at the Louisville Regional Science & Engineering Fair by our club judges Art Rupe and Larry Gettleman were invited to give presentations alongside a winter preparedness themed tech session at AWR Imports.



Our Winter preparedness section was shown to us by our new president Art Rupe. Topics included the importance of keeping air and fuel systems checked and special notice was given to tires in the possible harsh conditions. Additional questions were answered by our guest Claude from Raben Tires.



Amanda Newcomer, a Sophomore at DuPont Manual, presented her findings on "An Algorithm to Improve Traffic Flow Based on Traffic Predicting Sensors." Her research included hands on measurement of a local roadway intersection and seeing if using sensors to predict traffic coming ahead of the lights could lessen congestion.



Amanda White, now a student at Gatton Academy in Bowling Green, KY gave her presentation on "Finding the Best Bioethanol Source" Involving looking at several different natural sources that could be converted into ethanol fuels and comparing them for which is the most efficient.

Holiday Dinner at Caroline's Alpine Haus, December 2014

Pictures by Larry Gettleman & Chad Rupe



Our first meeting at Caroline's Alpine Haus



We had a little bit of everything show up to represent the club and beautiful weather too.



Had a very good turnout for the day.



Our regional director Rick Siefert and wife Patti made the trip down from St. Louis to join us for the event.



Appetizers were served before the dinner including potato pancakes and pretzels the size of dinner plates



For dessert, a tray of sweets was brought out for us to choose from. Getting a picture before digging in was difficult.

New naming Scheme

For those of you interested in a new Mercedes-Benz, there has been a change in the way that some future cars will be named. While this does mean that certain names will no longer be used, rest assured that they are all still going to be well respected and understood within the community and their place in the lineup will be filled by an equivalent model. The new mentality is to be used to reflect the size of the vehicle in comparison to it's siblings instead of relying on now outdated abbreviation.

The sedans S class, E class, and C class will all remain the same. Reflecting the large, medium, and compact sizes of vehicles on offer. However, the top of the S class range will soon see the return of the Maybach badge but as a trim level instead of it's own independent brand.

On the sports car side of things, the SL will remain as it is to keep with it's rich heritage while the SLK will take on the SLC moniker. The new Mercedes AMG GT will have it's own place in the lineup as well along side the SL.

The SUVs will now take on names to match the sedans based on size. With the GLS replacing the GL, the GLE replacing the midsize ML, and the GLC replacing the compact GLK. The G Class and GLA will remain as they are.

Four door coupes CLS and CLA will also remain as they are as well as the A, B, R, and V class that are found in other countries.

Racing update: Formula 1, Supercar V8, AMG GT3

2014 was a great year for Mercedes-Benz in motorsports, especially at the highest levels. In Supercar V8s the young Erebus Motorsport fielding two E63 AMG took on an aggressive field of Fords, Holdens, Volvos and Nissans managing to get the team's first victory at Winton Motor Raceway earlier this year. With Ford and Volvo looking to exit the sport in the near future the chance for victory looks to improve next season.

With the announcement of the Mercedes AMG GT, there has already been plans established for a GT3 variant to allow Mercedes to continue competition in sports car racing. Following the successful program of the SLS AMG GT3 it will have big shoes to fill but look for this new sports car to pick up right where the gullwing left off.

The biggest news of the year comes from the outright domination that the factory Mercedes AMG Formula 1 team had this year over the competition.

The duo of Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg drove a near flawless season taking 16 wins between them in the 19 race season. Only Red Bull's new driver preventing them from a perfect season with his 3 wins.

By the end of the season, Mercedes AMG had already wrapped up the constructor's championship with weeks to go leaving their two drivers to duke it out in a final race showdown for overall champion. Though Rosberg had the pole going into the race, mechanical failures came up during the race, this left Lewis Hamilton all but unopposed as he takes his second world driver's championship. This gives Mercedes it's first ever constructor's title and their first driver's title since the legendary Juan Manuel Fangio in 1955. Other Mercedes powered cars did exceptionally well this season as well as Williams Mercedes bested out powerhouse Ferrari in the standing with McLaren Mercedes and Force India Mercedes immediately after. With such a successful season we can only hope for more of the same in 2015. Though with the return of McLaren to Honda power, there is potential for a tough season.

One Secret to Owning Older Mercedes-Benz

By Jim West

Of course, in reading the title of this article, you are asking yourself "Why is West using the word 'secret' instead of tips." The answer is all of us MB owners have done things in dealing with the problems of automobile ownership that have worked for us in the past, but we don't share it with others for some reason! I think I have the answer:

1. You think your problems are unique and it doesn't apply to other owners.
2. You are shy about admitting you ever had a problem about your MB and you don't seek help or advice before you to the repair shop.
3. You think of the club as only a social event and it wouldn't be right to ask repair type questions

The Answer

The purpose of the Blue Grass Stars Club is to help each other by any way we can to improve your enjoyment of your Mercedes Benz. So let's communicate about your car experience; it will be a benefit for all of us. It will make club membership richer for all of us and make non-member Mercedes Benz owners more likely candidates to join us.

continued on next page

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You can contact our club officers
by standard mail, E-Mail, or Phone

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Now For My Tip

There is a great need in replacement parts as your Benz grows older. Because of the high quality parts that go into making MB automobiles, parts from salvage yards are now a viable option to replacing with new parts. It is amazing to me how nicely those parts clean up after they are pulled from the salvage cars. Many common items can make your replacement parts look new: Hot soap and water, Simichrome polish, Armorall, and WD-40 just to name a few. I live in Indiana while the greater majority of the club membership live in Kentucky. There are great sources for used parts the Kentucky membership may not know of, they are:

River City Imports
"Dutch" Bogart (812) 288-6205
207 Eastern Boulevard
Jeffersonville, IN 47130
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Marshall's Auto Salvage
Keith Marshall (812) 945-3519
375 Emery Lane
Clarksville, IN 47129
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Kenny's Auto parts (812) 949-2880
1222 McCullough Pike
Clarksville, IN 47129
8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

In closing, I would like to add there is a great sense of rescue and reward as you to "treasure hunting" in a salvage yard. For someone who loves MB cars, to approach the fine products of Mercedes Benzs' in dilapidated and partially destroyed states, a sense of depression and disappointment comes over you. But in retrospect, you are saving a small part of these cars and improving the state of your own operational machine. There is a great satisfaction that comes from you knowing your car carries part from the "lost ones."

The Trading Post: Cars, Parts, and Accessories

If you have a Mercedes-Benz or significant M-B part that you would like to buy, sell, or trade, just submit your ad to the Editor, *The Bluegrass Star*. All ads must follow the submission rules and the suggested format as found in the back of *The Star* magazine. They will be listed at no charge to a section member; no commercial ads will be accepted without prior arrangement for payment. Your ad will appear in the next issue of *The Bluegrass Star*.

Discounted Parts

The following dealerships and shops have agreed to reduce by ten percent (10%) the total price of parts purchased by a Mercedes-Benz Club member with a current MBCA membership card. Restrictions apply; call for details.

TAFEL MOTORS	AUTOBAHN	JAMES MOTOR	AWR IMPORTS
4156 Shelbyville Road	MOTORS LLC	COMPANY	223 Adams St
Louisville, KY 40207	1403 Hugh Ave	2440 Richmond Road	Louisville, Ky 40206
(502) 896-4411	Louisville, KY 40213	Lexington, KY 40502	(502) 749-1002
	(502) 473-7858, See Don	(859) 268-1150	

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP DUES

It has been a busy year at the Mercedes-Benz Club of America (MBCA). We have been working hard to enhance your membership experience and are committed to making your membership a valuable and memorable experience.

To properly serve our members, the Board of Directors has approved a \$6 increase in annual membership dues, effective July 1, 2015. This increase reflects rising costs and the expansion of member services, particularly event support. Multi-year membership discounts will continue to be offered. We encourage all existing members to lock in the current rate NOW by renewing for one, two or three years, prior to July 1, 2015.

MBCA sponsored National and Regional events offer a variety of activities that celebrate the performance and history of our members' magnificent Mercedes-Benz automobiles. Through these events, the MBCA continues to foster community and camaraderie that long-lasting friendships are built upon. The MBCA also continues to provide additional support such as event and track insurance, operational resources like MotorsportsReg.com and marketing initiatives, all of which help advance the safety and participation of club activities.

The MBCA is a content leader in the Mercedes-Benz brand. Consider the MBCA's abundance of accessible information and knowledge, which is found in the award winning The Star® Magazine, experienced at events, and discovered online. The MBCA continues to work tirelessly to bring you the latest information on late-model and vintage Mercedes-Benz vehicles. The MBCA is also continuing to expand the network of product experts dedicated to bringing you the latest in technical innovations, updates and insights.

The MBCA provides numerous savings opportunities for its members. The MBCA continues to offer discounts on the purchase of a new Mercedes-Benz, as well as parts, service and accessories from the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center and at participating Mercedes-Benz dealers. The MBCA also offers discounts on the purchase of Airstream Interstate, Autobahn vehicles, collector car insurance, Sears®, and car rentals. The MBCA continues to partner with quality vendors, which offer members a significant way to save money on the products they already purchase.

We value your membership and are constantly striving to enhance your MBCA experience. We are committed to providing unprecedented value and we look forward to serving you for many years to come.

If you have any question specific to the membership dues increase please contact your **Regional Director, Rick Siefert at rick.siefert@att.net.**