



The Bluegrass Star

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

2016 Volume 2, No 1

Editor's Message

While this Winter's weather may not have been as harsh as the previous years, it was not without it's own challenges. Travel, health issues, and many other things have eaten into the time that would normally be allocated to kick starting the year at a faster pace. None the less, there are several events planned for the year with more to come.

The club officers had their yearly judging for the Louisville Regional Science and Engineering Fair and DuPont Manual Regional Science Fair on March 5th and 12th respectively. The winners of the Automotive Specialty awards from each event will be invited to a future club meeting.

Coming up in April there will be a Regional Leadership Meeting for the entirety of the Central Region that we are a part of. This will be a meeting of all the leadership in our region as well as guests from the Midwest Region where we can exchange thoughts and ideas to improve our club as a whole. If you have any thoughts or ideas that you would like to be brought up, please contact any one of our officers and we will make that a priority.

Finally, the latest club raffle is for a brand new Airstream Interstate and \$20,000 cash. Details and entry information can be found in the latest Star Magazine as well as a recent mailer that has gone around.

Welcome

As always, if there is anything you would like to see our club do in future events, any topic you would like to see written about in the newsletters, or anything you would like to contribute in general to helping our club, please feel free to contact any of our officers listed in the contacts. We love hearing feedback and any idea is greatly appreciated. There is opportunity for advertisement of both businesses and classified ads within the newsletter as well. Also, if you are not getting post or E-mail messages, or know of someone who should be in our section but for some reason isn't getting notice either, please let us know so we can correct it. Thank you all for your support.

Upcoming Event

Sunday, May 1st at 12:30 PM there will be a gathering at the Louisville Speed Art Museum 2035 S 3rd St, Louisville, KY 40208

Phone: (502) 634-2700

We will be parking on the top floor of the Speed Museum's parking deck and the group will meet up in front of the building before taking a casual stroll through the museum. Admission into the museum is free and the club will cover parking in the deck.

Saturday, May 28th at 10AM there will be a Tech Session meeting at AWR Imports LLC. 223 Adams St, Louisville KY 40206. . We will be hosting the Automotive Science Awards at the Louisville Regional and duPont High School science Fairs. There will be coffee and light refreshments.

Saturday, July 16th the Keeneland Concours d'Elegance will be taking place at Keeneland Racecourse in Lexington Kentucky. Entry into the event is \$15 in advance through the website or \$20 day of at the gates. Once again there is paddock parking for \$5 dollars if you would like to park your car within the show area.

Racing Update

The final rounds of the 2015 Formula 1 season went without a hitch for powerhouse Mercedes-AMG. After the one two finish of Japan, the team went into Russia with a full head of steam to clinch the constructor's championship. Another victory in the US Gran Prix gave Lewis Hamilton enough of an edge to secure the driver's championship with three races still left to run. However, due to on track issues, teammate Nico Rosberg was visibly flustered after the event and some credit this as his fuel to go on a three race winning streak at the final races of Mexico, Brazil, and Abu Dhabi. There was fear that one of the driver's would leave due to the intense rivalry between teammates, but as the 2016 season begins it is once again looking like a year for two of the fastest drivers to be in the fastest Mercedes-AMGs.

Though the DTM season was mostly a quiet affair this year, With only three Mercedes-AMG wins between two drivers across the year. It was thanks to the reliability and tenacity of the team that a quiet year turned into an overall championship with Pascal Wehrlein behind the wheel. Because of his performance, Pascal has been awarded the chance to be a starting driver for the Manor Mercedes Formula 1 team for the 2016 season.

In GT racing, the brand new AMG GT3 is set to take to the track for the new season. With an Amateur GT3 class win at the 24 Hours of Dubai race, surely greater victories await the new chassis across all the series the car will compete in.

S Class and Sprinter Owners Among Most Loyal

In the past, it was found that the C class was the car of choice to get Mercedes owner's to come back and upgrade within the brand. However, a recent survey by Experian Automotive has found that as far as coming back for the same model, two specific Mercedes have qualities that can't be found elsewhere.

Both the S Class and the Sprinter take spots in the top five models with people coming back to purchase or lease the new equivalent. Though this isn't to mean that these vehicles can sit pretty without evolving. Stiff competition from a new BMW 7 series and the new brand Genesis (A sub brand of Hyundai) hope to take on the benchmark S class. And while the Sprinter van is still a staple for many businesses, the new Mercedes-Benz Metris is sure to be attractive to some who could use a more compact vehicle.

Dropping the Sport Badge

For over two decades, the Sport trim level on a Mercedes-Benz was a designation showing that you wanted the sporting trim inside and out but maybe not the aggressive nature and running costs of a full bore AMG or Cosworth. From the leather Recaro seats found in a 190E 2.6 Sportline to the AMG Sport appearance package of more contemporary C, E, and SLK models it was a popular option to check and in the long term helped keep the value on an otherwise understated car.

Coming soon though, the Sport moniker will be absorbed into AMG. The first of these will be the C43 AMG replacing the C450 AMG 4matic and the E43 AMG which will use the same engine. While some will call this a brand dilution, AMG's offerings didn't always have to be the full bore full optioned affairs they are today. In the Mercedes-Benz Museum in Stuttgart there is a 1984 190E 2.3 AMG owned by Ringo Starr. This was simply a slightly larger engine bore and appearance package but still a very true AMG. Also, before the companies of Mercedes-Benz and AMG combined in the early 90's there was a Japan only Mitsubishi Galant AMG meant to slot under the VR4.

If that isn't telling enough, the C43 of old used a modified block of the old 430 designated cars instead of the full bore 5.4 liter engines from the 55 series and still turned into great little vehicles. And at over 360 horsepower, the new C43 will best the old one in every numbers race. For those of you still looking for the "One man, one engine" mentality, there will still be the brute force V8 and V12 offerings to reign king over the AMGs.

Tafel Motors To Acquire Cincinnati Dealers

It was announced recently that Tafel Motors owner David Peterson along with a group of investors have acquired ownership of two dealerships in the Cincinnati area. Both Mercedes-Benz of West Chester and Mercedes-Benz of Cincinnati have a great relationship with their local club chapter and hopefully we all can learn and expand with this new connection.

Tech Session at AWR Imports LLC on October 24, 2015

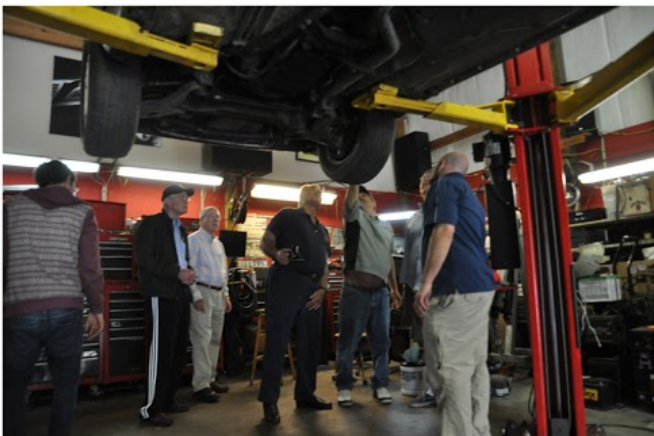
Pictures by Larry Gettleman



DuPont Manuel science fair Automotive Award winners Spencer Strelsov and Keith Robbins give their report on Heated Roads.



President Art Rupe leading the tech session featuring a used car review of a rather rough looking diesel Mercedes



Although the outside of the car showed many rough spots and the engine had a very rough running. The underside showed that the car had been taken care of for a long time and a set of glow plugs brought the car back to life.

Holiday Dinner at Gasthaus Zum Deutschen Eck, 2015

Pictures by Chad Rupe, Larry Gettleman



The weather for the day was gorgeous for the drive down to Radcliff



Enough people showed up that we couldn't fit all the cars into a single shot



The building was opened just for us today and the spread was all you can eat



Everyone looking on as announcements were being made



Rick Siefert was there to give out the Member of the Year award to Editor Chad Rupe



After the meal we all gathered outside for a group picture taken by one of the staff at the restaurant

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by standard mail, E-Mail, or Phone

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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.



1987 560SL, 92K miles. MBCA member. L.A. CA car from new until 2003, when moved to Newburgh, IN. Garage kept, new German canvas top. Only 250 miles driven in last 3 years. No rust. Very good condition. Never driven in snow. Must clear garage for new MB purchase.

\$11,500. Dan Hall (812) 449-5425 hall.dan@jobcorps.org

For Sale

- Four wheels, 8x16in, with tires; fits the 2000 S500 Mercedes; \$125each.
- Four door pull closer handles: fits the 2000 S500 Mercedes; \$50 each.
- Grille, fits the 2000 S500 Mercedes; \$225.
- W220 Tail lamp assembly, fits the 2000 S500 Mercedes; \$125.
- Cup holder, center armrest (leather), fits the 2000 S500 Mercedes; \$150.
- Four-piece air vent for dash of 2000 S500 Mercedes; \$225. Nat Williams (see Section Officers)

- Four 14" Bundt alloy wheels, nearly new, \$25 each (price lowered).
- Half-shafts for rear suspension R107, W115, W123 & others, used, \$100 each (price lowered).

Contact Larry Gettleman for details.

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

4156 Shelbyville Road
Louisville, KY 40207
(502) 896-4411

AUTOBAHN

MOTORS LLC

1403 Hugh Ave
Louisville, KY 40213
(502) 473-7858, See Don

JAMES MOTOR COMPANY

2440 Richmond Road
Lexington, KY 40502
(859) 268-1150

AWR IMPORTS

223 Adams St
Louisville, Ky 40206
(502) 749-1002
AWRImports.com