



# The Bluegrass Star

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

2016 Volume 2, No 2

## Upcoming Events

Saturday, July 30, 2016  
5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Join us as we share an evening with the German-American Club at their outdoor beer garden with Dinner, Drink, and live music played by the Alpen Echoes.

1840 Lincoln Ave  
Louisville KY 40213

Arrive between 5:00 PM and 5:30, parking in the rear lot under shade and enjoy dinner being served between 6 PM and 8 PM. Dinner is \$10 per person and various German beer will be available for your enjoyment. The event is open to the public so feel free to bring your friends. If there are any questions please contact

Jim West 812-725-0885

### MERCEDES-BENZ NIGHT AT THE LOUISVILLE BATS

Saturday, August 20, 2016, vs. the Indianapolis Indians

Louisville Slugger Field, 401 E. Main St., Louisville, KY 40202

Concours d'elegance at the center field entrance, Wigglesworth & Preston Streets

Gather at 5 PM, first pitch at 6:05 PM

The area under the covered patio is reserved this year. Tickets are \$15/person, including buffet style dinner with food and drink. We have invited the duPont Manual Science Fair Mercedes-Benz Automotive Award winners to join us and enjoy the day. Receive your prepaid tickets to the ballpark at the concours.

Send check for \$15/person to Larry Gettleman, 1461 S. 4th St., Louisville, KY 40208

(502) 634-1461 or 727-7244 gettleman@louisville.edu

## 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. Coming up in our next series of issues we will be experimenting with format and content to try and better represent what we want and need out of our newsletter. As well as further exploration into our digital presence. If there is any questions, comments, or ideas please send your thoughts to our editor Chad Rupe. Contact information listed on the back page.

## F1 Update

The start of this year's Formula 1 season had everyone step up their game. Even though Mercedes-AMG was coming off two season championships back to back, rivals Red Bull and Ferrari were only getting stronger and even teams like McLaren were finally hitting some stride to get back on pace. Newcomer Haas had a veteran team of drivers and immediately showed pace and the revamped Manor Marussia squad had an all new lineup including last year's DTM champion Pascal Wehrlein much to the disappointment of the lone US driver Alexander Rossi (the eventual winner of this year's 100th running of the Indianapolis 500). The qualifying sessions were to be replaced with a NASCAR style elimination set up and no one could predict the sparks that would fly at Australia's Grand Prix this year.

While Australia could be called a great success for Mercedes-AMG with a front row lockout led by Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg and a total victory taken by Rosberg, it was the vicious accident that McLaren driver Fernando Alonso was involved in that was the biggest headline of the weekend. He would ultimately have to miss the next race due to injuries but would return to the car for the majority of the season.

Bahrain would see a repeat of the last race, both in qualifying and in victor with Nico Rosberg taking the victory. Hamilton however, would fall from his pole position and find himself back in third. The most pressing voice of the weekend was the teams dissenting against the new qualifying system and it was loud and clear. This would be the last time we would see the elimination setup with the return of the traditional three stage qualifying from before.

China and Russia came up next and Rosberg continued his success by winning both of these races as well and his seventh in a row counting last season. This included a Grand Slam at Russia by leading every lap after taking pole. Hamilton again saw his fortunes not match his teammate and qualifying and mechanical troubles had him finishing seventh in China and second in Russia after a brilliant drive from a tenth starting position.

Spain however, would show the world the troubles brewing in F1's fastest team. A first lap collision between the two Mercedes-AMG drivers would prove their undoing and the newly promoted Max Verstappen from Red Bull gained his first victory in short fashion becoming the youngest F1 winner in history.

## F1 Update Continued

Monaco was next, and Red Bull's Riccardo continued where his teammate finished taking pole. If not for an unusual error from the Red Bull team completely forgetting their tires on a stop, Hamilton may not of found himself in a position for his first win of the season.

Momentum was in Hamilton's favor going into Canada. His pole position was given up quickly but thanks to an aggressive strategy the British driver once again claimed victory up north.

A return to the European Grand Prix saw a bobble in Hamilton's fortunes as electrical gremlins returned and relegated him to beyond the podium. Championship leader Rosberg was there to pick up the race win for Mercedes-AMG, but as the points grew between the teammates so did tensions.

The Austria would be the place for the next Mercedes-AMG team confrontation. While Hamilton took the pole, Rosberg had a grid penalty that forced him to start from sixth. The difference in start caused both drivers to use different strategies and on the final lap a leading but slower Rosberg decided to defend his position aggressively and the two drivers collided. Hamilton would win the day and Rosberg would take an additional penalty for avoidable contact.

The British Grand Prix had very mixed rainy conditions all weekend, a perfect fit for the home town Hamilton. The difficult conditions proved troublesome for teammate Rosberg. His pace was never able to equal Hamilton and a late race gearbox failure was the catalyst for a call for help back to the team. The team complied with instructions and the stewards felt the corresponding response fell under a new set of rules restricting driver aid. A ten second penalty was assessed and the German fell to third place in the race results.

## 24 Hours of Nurburgring

With Indy celebrating its 100th running and Le Mans getting all the coverage for its wild finish, one of the largest racing events seemingly failed to reach US shores over the last few months. The Nurburgring 24 Hours proved to be as wild a finish as any major racing event this year. Bentley, Audi, Porsche, and BMW along with dozens of other competitors all showed up for the grueling race. With fierce competition and even a hail storm in store for the day no one could have predicted the final results. In the closing minutes of the race, with a single 25 km lap remaining the brand new AMG GT3 of the #29 HTP team had a near 6 second lead over the second place #4 Black Falcon AMG GT3. At any normal track this would be an insurmountable lead without a catastrophic failure. But as the time ticked down, eventually the lead was brought to nothing and a rather brave pass gave the Black Falcon Mercedes-AMG the overall victory. Adding to the day was that the sister #9 Black Falcon AMG GT3 took the final place on the podium with the #88 Haribo Racing AMG GT3 and #75 Zakspeed AMG GT3 coming in 4th and 6th respectively. 1

## Mercedes Going Away From Old Robots

A bit of a stir was caused recently upon a headline making its way through different news outlets. "Mercedes-Benz swapping robots for people on assembly lines" was the word getting passed around. And while this sounded like a return to old, it signifies something entirely different. In truth robots in the Mercedes-Benz factory are here to stay. The speed, consistency, and accuracy that a machine can craft a part is far beyond what any team of people can do. But, the robots of old who were programmed once without flexibility are what's on their way out.

This new generation of robots will be able to work with the craftsmen in the factory to allow newer cars much more freedom to have that extra level of care that has been lost for decades. Before, the difficulty to add a slight variant made the package system very dominant in the factory. If you wanted a sport package you couldn't have a maple wood and certain color combinations were right out. To pick and choose parts was hard to justify for one car in a day of thousands going out the door. And if a part was physically different in appearance thanks to a redesign the whole line would need retooling.

There's no promise of all options open at all times, but this new freedom should make way for improvements in all the ways that Mercedes-Benz cars were known for once again. Instead of just faceless machines making the same car over and over again we have an opening for people using the best tools in the industry to make what could be the best cars in the world. 2,3

## Smallest Convertible Loses It's Biggest Engine

While the loss of a manual option was a sad but easily foreseen future, it comes as a surprise that the future of the naturally aspirated V8 that was the heart of the SLK55 is going to soon be no more with the SLC lineup. Instead of a free breathing eight cylinder, the biturbo V6 mentioned in the last newsletter takes up the helm under the guise of the SLC 43. This will bring the cost down slightly along with a small drop in power and a single tenth of a second change in time to 60.

This marks the first time since the original SLK that a V6 will be the top engine choice for the current smallest Mercedes-Benz convertible. And while the sibling C class has a V8 offering, the vehicles have not always shared their top performance specs. It was actually the SLK that started the Black Series AMG's which is now the top line in AMG skunk works. At a price that eclipsed both the SL600 and SL55 at the same year, the SLK55 Black was a short production, 400 horsepower monster that was the start of something great.

Will the V8 be gone forever from these cars? It's hard to say. With the AMG GT in the lineup and the C class cabriolet soon arriving, the Mercedes-Benz sporty coupes and cabriolets are becoming more plentiful and more powerful. However, there will always be fans of the biggest engine smallest car combination. 4,5

Articles derived from live coverage and the following sources 1:

<http://www.motorsport.com/endurance/news/nurburgring-24-h-mercedes-claims-historic-1-2-3-4-741824/>

2:

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/jimlawton/2016/02/26/mercedes-benz-isnt-really-replacing-robots-with-humans-its-pairing-humans-with-better-robots/#36a8b7e121d8>

3:

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/feb/26/mercedes-benz-robots-people-assembly-lines>

4:

<http://www.carscoops.com/2015/11/2017-mercedes-amg-slc-to-get-twin-turbo.html>

5:

<http://www.autoblog.com/2016/01/11/mercedes-slc-detroit-2016/>



# Louisville Speed Art Museum

Pictures by Chad Rupe, Larry Gittleman



This spring, our club decided to take a visit to the newly opened Louisville Speed Art Museum



Larry drove his 280SL out to the event



Much to our surprise, we arrived just in time to get the free guided tour



We ended our day with a bite to eat at the museum's cafe, the special of the day proved very popular

# St. Louis Leadership Meeting

Pictures by Chad Rupe



Our regional Mercedes-Benz Club leadership meeting took place at the St. Louis dealership



During a break in discussions, we were treated to a tour of the facility, including the underground service area



After a long day of sharing information, dinner was nearby at Bishop's Post who had a gorgeous backdrop to their outdoor patio



It was a great turnout with a representative from every club in our region



# Keeneland Concours d'Elegance

Pictures by Chad Rupe



James Motor Company once again had their hospitality tent out on a gorgeous but very warm day.



Our club had a great turnout for the day. We lined up in our usual spot at the top of the hill and everyone had their cars looking their best.



An eye-catching Kryptonite Green Metallic GLA 250 4matic was in the James Motor area, Only the GLA class vehicles have access to this exclusive color from factory.



The AMG power was in full swing in the Mercedes-Benz Club parking. From the modern classics C55 and CLK55 to the current E63S Wagon. And not to forget the combined 1000 horsepower of the C63 and SLS AMG



The Bluegrass Stars officers happened upon Nashville President Randy Bibb and his new AMG GT S which took second place in it's category behind the potent La Ferrari in a very competitive class.



## Section Officers & Board of Directors

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

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Albert Henley  
Radcliff, KY

Nat Williams  
Radcliff, KY

## The Trading Post: Cars, Parts, and Accessories

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



After years of enjoyable ownership, I am selling my 1995 E320 Cabriolet. It is a limited production car with a distinct midnight blue/ tan color scheme. 110K documented miles garage kept. All original matching blue top and headliner, all services current and performed at Tafel Motors. Original alloy rims in nice shape on matching Pirelli tires with original tools, spare, manuals, and window sticker included. \$12,500  
Call Robert Astorino: 502-718-7100



1984 380SL Champagne Metallic/Brown Leather. 72,300 miles. Soft top & hard top with storage rack. Excellent condition, rust free. Everything works, well maintained. All maintenance records. Garage kept, car cover. \$11,000.  
Call Jerry: 502-245-7806  
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**   **AUTOBAHN**  
4156 Shelbyville Road   **MOTORS LLC**  
Louisville, KY 40207   1403 Hugh Ave  
(502) 896-4411   Louisville, KY 40213  
(502) 473-7858, See Don

**JAMES MOTOR**   **AWR IMPORTS**  
**COMPANY**  
2440 Richmond Road   223 Adams St  
Lexington, KY 40502   Louisville, Ky 40206  
(859) 268-1150   (502) 749-1002  
AWRImports.com