



The Bluegrass Star

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

2017 Volume 3, No 1

Upcoming Events

Carrollton Saturday April the 1st

We will go for a drive, Starting at the park across from the big 4 bridge in Jeffersonville at 9:30AM and departing at 10AM. Go north via Hanover, Madison, and over to Carrollton. There is a possible stop at Persnickety Antiques in Hanover for those interested. Lunch at Welch's Riverside Restaurant 505 Main St, Carrollton, KY 41008.

Contact Jim West for additional details (information on back page) .

Spring Poker Rallye in French Lick Indiana over April 21-23

Information and registration is on the Cincinnati section website

<http://mbcacincinnati.org/french-lick-poker-run-4.22.html>

The hotel will fill up fast as the hotel is already booked for the weekend minus our block of rooms. You need to RSVP on the website, and also pay for the dinner (subsidized by the Cincinnati Section for any MBCA member) via Square to confirm dinner reservation with our group Saturday. You may just come for the rallye, or just for the hotel.

Sunday May 14th, We will go tour the Muhammad Ali Center.

144 N. Sixth Street Louisville, KY 40202
Admission will be half covered by the club and will be 6 dollars per person.
Meet up in the lobby at Noon
Please contact Art Rupe (information on back page) for any questions and to RSVP

Ault Park Concours d'Elegance

Will be Sunday June 11, 2017 for their 40th annual show. Details to come in a future issue.

Regional Defensive Driving/ Autocross weekend June 23-25.

Frank and Mary Alice Cozza will teach the defensive driving session in the morning. We will break for lunch which will be included in the price of the class, and then we will do an autocross in the afternoon. From the autocross we will have time to freshen up before a wonderful dinner which will also be included in the price of the autocross. It will be in the \$50 a person range. Hotel will be \$139-\$149 a night, but will include both lunch, dinner and the two events on Saturday. Friday night we will have a welcome reception at Hofbrau Haus in Newport Kentucky for those of you that come in early. This event will be a Central Regional Event and we hope to have as many people as we can be there. We will have Liberty Mutual there giving certificates for possible discounts on your insurance by completing this defensive driving course. (Liberty Mutual Customers will definitely get this discount. Further information on how to RSVP and location is available at <http://www.mbcacincinnati.org/defensive-driving-6.24.html>

Keeneland Concours d' Elegance Saturday July 15th at Keeneland Race Course

4201 Versailles Road Lexington, Kentucky 40510
Use Gate 2 onto the Keeneland grounds from US 60 west of Lexington, KY
Gates open at 9 am, Tickets are 15 dollars online and 20 dollars at the gate per person.
Car club paddock parking is \$5 per car.

F1 Update

United States

The United States have been very kind to Lewis Hamilton over the years; only having lost one race in this country since joining the sport. His slip-up in Japan was not forgotten. To regain his chance at the championship he would need to put on a clinic. The pole record was smashed by his Mercedes-AMG putting down a time of 1:34.999. Championship leader, Nico Rosberg, had a chance to match his teammate's time, but a small misstep had him to start P2. The rest of the weekend played out as it had started. Hamilton took the victory with Rosberg behind in second with the gap in points between them down to 26.

Mexico

Fire relit, Hamilton would go into Mexico determined to do everything he could to get back to his winning ways. Hamilton's silver Mercedes-AMG stormed practice and qualifying, easily taking pole while teammate Rosberg was staring at a mid-pack start. The final qualifying session allowed the German driver to climb back to second in the last minute. As with the US Grand Prix, the race was led flag to flag by Lewis Hamilton with Rosberg taking second. The championship points separating the two was down to 19. The race behind the two Mercedes-AMG cars was made more eventful by tough battles across the board. Sahara Force India Mercedes driver Nico Hulkenberg had a fantastic qualifying effort just behind the Ferrari cars and would continue to fight for a solid points finish. All the while, a spat on track between Sebastian Vettel and Max Verstappen caused both to fall from potential podium finishes.

Brazil

Brazil was the second to last event on the schedule. This was the last chance for Rosberg to finish the championship early with a convincing win. In the Williams' camp, this was thought to be Felipe Massa's last home Grand Prix. Aside from the inbound weather, it was business as usual at Mercedes-AMG. Hamilton would go from pole and take his ninth win of the season. Rosberg would follow suit and settle for second. Hometown hero Felipe Massa was doing well, fighting back from a poor start but unfortunately crashed out with only a few laps to go. Force India's Sergio Perez found better luck, ending his day just outside the podium. With one race to go, the championship battle was set with 12 points between leader Rosberg and reigning champion Hamilton.

F1 Update Continued

Abu Dhabi

With Abu Dhabi being the last race, everything was at stake. Rosberg needed a podium to clinch the title and Hamilton knew he had to give it everything. The race started as many had, with Hamilton taking pole followed by Rosberg. The race that followed would be very similar in fashion until the closing laps where Hamilton slowed his pace to allow rival drivers to battle his teammate, placing his own championship hopes above orders he received from his team. Ultimately though, Hamilton took his tenth victory, and Nico Rosberg finished in second. Rosberg being granted the 2016 Driver's Championship.

Much to everyone's surprise, soon after the trophies were awarded, Nico Rosberg announced his immediate retirement from the sport. It would be over a month before the driver lineup was announced; shifting Valtteri Bottas from the Williams ride into the now vacant championship winning ride. Williams in response to this decided to rehire Felipe Massa out of his short retirement.

Rolex 24 at Daytona

With successful campaigns in Europe and the Middle East, the Mercedes-AMG GT3 made its debut on American soil with the demanding Rolex 24 at Daytona. The GT Daytona class they would be joining was the largest of the group, taking up 27 of the 55 cars running. Armed with three cars, they would have to take on established power houses of Porsche, Lamborghini, and Audi while fending off newcomers Acura and Lexus.

The fast nature of Daytona proved a difficult start for the down-force oriented AMGs. Qualifying near the back would make the 24 hour race even longer. However, rain was on the forecast, and that was promising.

Working into the night, it would take almost six hours for Mercedes-AMG car 50 to take the lead. This coincided with the IMSA rules that gave bonus points to the leader at the six hour mark. Unfortunately, a poorly machined rim saw that car back into the pits with problems. This incident left the 33 car as the lead Mercedes-AMG to fight through the night. As the rain came and went, the 33 battled back and forth with both of the Acura NSX team cars until the sun came back out and the track started to dry with only a few hours to go.

In the last hour, The 33 Mercedes-AMG was hounded by new threats from Audi and Porsche. The pack was brought together thanks to cautions from ailing cars who would not make it to the finish. The rain had dissipated and the race was going to be a shootout. Straight line speed proved to be the downfall for the leading Mercedes-AMG, with the 33 just managing to hang onto the podium in the last minutes.

Rumors around the next SL

With the additions of the AMG GT C roadster, the C-Class cabriolet, the S-Class cabriolet, and the face lifted SLC Class; the flagship SL has been seemingly left in the past. The car named for Sport Leicht has gained a heft of luxury along with polarizing style in its newer generations. Supposedly the next generation will be looking for a return to its roots with the help of AMG. With rumors surrounding a scalable platform to share with other models and a return to a proper soft top, the weight should naturally drop. To top things off, the legendary pairing of an SL with an inline six engine should be making a return along side the already potent V8 and V12 models. 1,2

C63 R

With the introduction of the AMG GT R, many hoped that the R brand would evolve into the follow up to the Black Series. With bulked up engines and capable, track ready suspensions, the Black Series cars were monstrous cars in their own right, if a bit tail happy. The R series is thought to be a more focused line, tuned to attack the Nurburgring seen on the previously mentioned AMG GT variant. Last fall, a factory backed effort was spied being tested on the Nurburgring thought to be an R variant of the C63. Details are scarce, but with any luck there will be a new addition to take on the cross town rivals of BMW and Porsche. 3,4

NVIDIA and Mercedes AI Self Driving Cars

With the newest E Class being a tour de force of technology, you would think that the cars of the near future are just going to feed off the current technology. But with the way systems have been upgrading in recent times, to sit still would be the worst thing for a car company. Because of this, at this year's Consumer Electronics Show (CES), Mercedes-Benz announced a partnership with computer systems creator Nvidia to make the next series of autonomous cars. The system being developed will allow the cars of tomorrow to do more than the current systems radar. They won't be alone in this partnership however, as Tesla, Audi, and Lincoln have been fitted with Nvidia based systems. 5

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<http://www.roadandtrack.com/new-cars/future-cars/news/a30757/mercedes-benz-sl-2018-amg/>

2
<http://www.autocar.co.uk/car-news/new-cars/2018-mercedes-benz-sl-will-be-amg-engineered>

3
<http://jalopnik.com/heres-what-looks-to-be-the-most-hardcore-mercedes-amg-c-1787592604>

4
<https://www.mercedes-benz.com/en/mercedes-benz/vehicles/passenger-cars/amg-gt/the-new-mercedes-amg-gt-r/>

5
<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/nvidia-mercedes-benz-building-ai-183106188.html>

Drive to Schnitzelbank Restaurant

Pictures by Chad Rupe



The weather couldn't of been better for that November day. Only the lead car wasn't a convertible



The front of Schnitzelbank



We made sure to get a shot of everyone with the banner before lunch finished up.



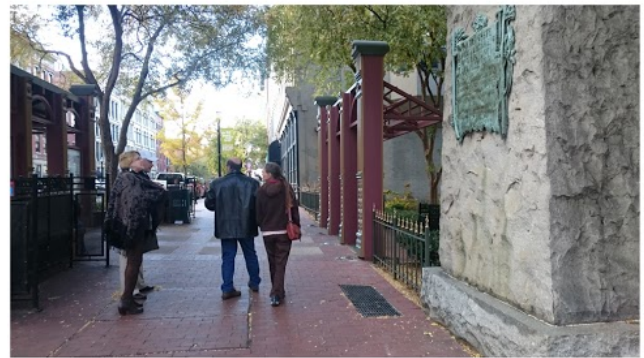
The gift shop had all manner of toys and German Goods

21C and Frazier Museum

Pictures by Chad Rupe



The lunch and service was excellent after a short walk through the 21C Gallery



Though the day was brisk, some of us chose to walk the short distance to Frazier



The entry way of the museum has changed slightly, admissions are now through the gift shop.



One of the new exhibits is the Stewart Toy Soldier Gallery, featured on CBS Sunday Morning

Holiday Party at Spring Street

Pictures by Chad Rupe



Plenty of food was on offer, no one left hungry



Club President Art Rupe was this year's member of the year recipient



Dinner being served



The Holiday Dinner is always one of our best turnouts. It's great to see everyone.

Section Officers & Board of Directors

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

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The Trading Post: Cars, Parts, and Accessories

For Sale

1977 300D
137,000 Miles, 2nd family owned
Daily driven car
Has new tires and scheduled maintenance

\$6000
Contact 502-489-2159



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.

For those interested in selling their car or parts in the Bluegrass Star, please
contact editor Chad Rupe. Ads will be run for two issues unless otherwise noted

New Treasurer needed

After several dedicated years, our Treasurer, Larry Gettleman has decided to step down from his position. Because of that, we are in need for someone new to take up the position. Duties of treasurer include depositing checks and writing checks for events and publications, submitting an annual report in January to MBCA, filing a 990 form to the IRS, as well as filling a report with the KY Sec'y. of State each year. If you or anyone you know of would like to volunteer for the position please contact the section President Art Rupe.

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

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