



The Bluegrass Star

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

Fall 2023

MBCA Mission Statement:

"To elevate the Mercedes-Benz experience through knowledge, camaraderie, and exceptional events."

President's Message

Hello Stars!

We have had a busy and successful year so far, and I hope you all have enjoyed it as much as I have. If you have, or if you have suggestions for next year, we'd love to hear them. Please click here <https://forms.gle/KZMJJaKpwzzeV4QY77> to respond to a request for feedback. And, even more great news for our Section – we have FOUR new members this quarter; two from Lexington, one from Frankfort, and one from Prospect, making a total of TEN new members this year! WELCOME TO YOU ALL and we hope to see you at our upcoming events!

We have been especially busy since our last newsletter; our Charity Component and lunch at Martin's Bar-B-Que Joint and a very successful dinner in Jasper, IN, at the Schnitzelbank German Restaurant (The hour drive was worth the trip and a definite return in 2024.). Finally, we ended the fall with the Mercedes-Benz National Grande Event in Indianapolis, IN in September.

But, of all we have done together, I'm most pleased and appreciative of this year's charity component. Last year, we collected unused prescription glasses to be repurposed and given to recipients in our area. This year, you were even more generous in our collection of unneeded cell phones and cell phone accessories which we donated to the Jeffersontown Police Department's REACH Program. The phones you provided, more than 25 in total, plus boxes of accessories, could literally save the life of a victim, a witness, or an elderly person in need of the ability to reach 911 or medical assistance. I can't thank you all enough.

The remainder of 2023 will have lots for us to look forward to in our countdown to 2024. Our October event, "Meet Me in Midway", on October 14th, will take advantage of the spectacular fall foliage of the Bluegrass as we gather at the Goose & Gander for a Members Meeting and lunch. We have planned to share our November event with the Cincinnati Section which is sure to be a pre-holiday treat for us all. A drive through "Lights Under Louisville" followed by lunch at the Audubon County Club on Saturday, November 18th! And, of course, we will ring out 2023 at our Holiday Party on Sunday, December 10th at the Hurstbourne Country Club. Look for the Announcements, Invitations, and Save-the-Date emails to be sent out soon.

I hope to see you all there!

J. Anne Gilliland
President, Bluegrass Stars

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CARS AND COFFEE

Captain's Quarters

Saturday, July 8th, several Bluegrass Stars visited the Cars and Coffee event at Captain's Quarters. The \$5.00 entry fee goes to the Mount Sinai Movement Disorders Center of Excellence. Last year, they were able to raise \$5,000.00 to fund a cure. While we were outnumbered by some beautiful Porches and 'Vettes, we were by no means outshined.



We took the opportunity to place one of the MB "NICE BENZ" bookmarks on a MB owner's front seat. See Page 14.

“Coffee and Cars”

Fante’s Coffee House



Saturday, September 2nd, was a beautiful morning to visit Coffee and Cars at Fante’s Coffee House. The music was Jimmy Buffet, in tribute, and the Porches and muscle cars were there to be loud and proud! Only one MB was inside the ropes - a cool AMG CLA, whose owner we invited to join MBCA. We hope to see him at our event in October. Until then, happy motoring, Stars!



Keeneland Concours d'Elegance

Saturday's Keeneland Concours brought lots of rain, but that didn't dampen the spirits of the many loyal Mercedes-Benz owners who weathered the storms to meet up with old friends and to meet new ones. All of the Bluegrass Stars Officers were on hand, as was the Regional Director, Ken Koehler and his wife, Sara, who had both attended the 20th Emerald Anniversary Celebration Party the night before.

Also joining us were Stars, Tina and Tom Weisman, Margaret and Todd Ryan, and our Membership Chairperson, Nancy Reece and her husband, Bob, in their new EQ Mercedes! In spite of the rain, we had more beautiful Benz on hand this year than in years past, which drew lots of potential members to peer and take lots of pictures! We hope soon that they decide to avail themselves of the many advantages of joining mbca.org and the Bluegrass Stars Section!

We have been informed that Mercedes will be the feature for the 2024 Keeneland Concours d'Elegance.



Libby and Tom Abell's GT63



Margaret and Todd Ryan's exchange guest with their 1966 230SL "Sophie" & Michael Morris's 1980 Euro model 500SEL.



Nancy and Bob Reece with their new EQ Mercedes



The Stars new feather flag was flown for the first time.



Ken Koehler, Central Region Director, and wife Sara



August Event at Schnitzelbank German Restaurant

Saturday, August 12th, turned out to be a beautiful evening for a drive to the Schnitzelbank German Restaurant in Jasper, IN. The very large restaurant was packed with folks like us looking for some authentic German food. Sixteen members of our Bluegrass Stars Section showed up and were not disappointed. The service was outstanding as well. We discussed our remaining event calendar for 2023, especially the annual national Mercedes Grande which was September 7-10 in Indianapolis, IN.

More cell phones and accessories were also donated that will go to the Jeffersontown Police Department for their REACH Program which is our Charity Component for 2023.

We had a drawing for the Mercedes Grande VIP Ticket that was won by Vic Gilliland.



Charity Component of Bluegrass Stars

A big "thank you" to our membership for participating in our 2nd Charity Component. We met at Martin's Bar-B-Que Joint and had a great turn out to eat delicious BBQ and to assist the Jeffersontown Police Department's (JPD) REACH Program by donating unused cell phones, tablets and accessories. We were joined by Amanda Chapman, the Community Resource Supervisor, and Community Resource Officer, Steve Fisher, who were on hand to tell us about their program and their partnership with the 911 Cell Phone Bank to provide 100% free cell phones to those in need of reaching 911 or otherwise in a high risk population. We were able to collect nearly 20 cell phones and even more cell phone accessories to donate to REACH.

Data security software is used by 911 Cell Phone Bank to guarantee data erasure in accordance with DOD NIST 800-88 Rev. 1 guidelines. The phones are then returned to JPD, on request as needed, or to another police department within their program, with a sim card and charger. The phones must be activated by JPD before they are distributed.

These phones are literally a lifeline for those in need of an emergency communication device, are at an elevated risk of needing to reach 911, need to be able to reach supportive services for treatment, are part of an ongoing investigation, or otherwise in a high risk population.

If you have more unused cell phones at home, you can bring them to any of our future events, or you can take them directly to the Jeffersontown Police Department.

By the way, anyone can participate in this essential community service by contacting the Jeffersontown Police Department's REACH Program directly, or Bluegrass Stars Section President, J. Anne Gilliland for more information.



Vance Smith, Amanda Chapman, Community Resource Supervisor, & J. Anne Gilliland, Stars President



Linda & Jim Keith and Dave & Patti Morgen enjoy Martin's Barbeque Joint



Vic Gilliland and Community Resource Officer, Steve Fisher

The 2023 Mercedes Grande, in Indianapolis, Indiana, ran from Thursday, September 7th through Sunday, the 10th. It offered a little something for every Mercedes-Benz enthusiast - from the Penske PC - 23, "the Beast," to a 1970s Hullabaloo!

There was an MBCA Fashion Show, Car Show, and Luncheon, at the beautiful Columbia Club on Monument Circle, featuring lovely clothes modeled by our own Ladies of Mercedes and an amazing assortment of fabulous Benz, just outside for all to admire.

There were Tech Talks throughout the event; one featuring none other than "Mr. Two Time" Indy 500 Champion, and International Race of Champions winner, Al Unser, Jr.! And, in Downtown Carmel, Indiana Arts District, The Mercedes Monumental at Artomobilia. The Grand Celebration Dinner on Saturday evening was the crescendo of the four day event; it was indeed "a celebration of all things Mercedes-Benz." It was a busy four day event of "Mercedes-Benz Culture, Causes, People, Lifestyle, Technology, and Cars", but your four Bluegrass Stars Section officers in attendance were still able to catch up with friends and acquaintances from other Sections. There were members from the Lone Star Section we hadn't seen since the last National event, and Cincinnati Section past president, Austin McAnanly and his father, Jim, as well as Kathy and Mike Underwood, from the Crossroads Section we haven't seen since the Regional event. And, of course, Regional Director, Ken Koehler and his Fashion show model wife, Sara, were there to keep us all in line - most of the time!

Thanks to the host city of Indianapolis, and the Crossroads Section president, Roger Brummett and his wife, Rachelle, for this truly Grande Event.



Penske PC - 23, "the Beast"



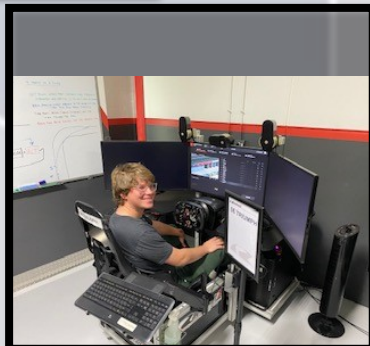
J.Anne Gilliland, BGS President; Jim Keith, BGS VP & Vic Gilliland at the Columbia Club



Indiana State Museum



Roger Brummett, Mercedes Grande Organizer, addresses guests at the Grand Celebration



Our adopted Cincinnati Section President, Austin McAnanly on the Racing Simulator.



Hullabaloo at the Crane Bay Events Center; Fred Mudge with a 220 Cabriolet; Sara & Ken Koehler, Central Region Director.





October 14 - 12:30PM
Meet Me in Midway
Goose & Gander
Member Meeting & Lunch
RSVP here:
<https://forms.gle/Xq6h3U8Xhoqno3Et5>

November 18 - 10:30AM
"Lights Under Louisville"
Mega Caverns
Must buy tickets on-line beginning 10/1:
[Lights Under Louisville](#)
Noon
Lunch at Audubon Country Club
Must RSVP:
<https://forms.gle/GJHQLTbzBdjPuKpX6>

December 10 - 6PM
Holiday Party
Hurstbourne Country Club
Save-the-Date and RSVP here:
<https://forms.gle/QYrpQeCtdkJquz5X6>

Reminder:
Please click here <https://forms.gle/KZMJJaKpwzzeV4QY77> to complete an anonymous membership survey.

“Save-the-Date”



Let's mix and mingle among the “Stars”.

The Bluegrass Stars Section has saved the best of 2023 for last, and hopefully it is already on your calendar!

We are pleased and excited to announce the Stars' Holiday Party, in the beautiful, newly renovated Peacock Lounge, at the Hurstbourne Country Club. The buffet dinner, chosen especially for us, starts at 6PM on Sunday, December 10th. The dress is business or holiday casual.

The buffet cost is \$38.48 which includes the service charge and tax. A salad, 2 entrees, 2 sides, rolls, and coffee/tea/water are included. A dessert will be donated by Santa's elves. Individual pay with debit/credit card at conclusion of night.

Alcohol is separate.

Deadline for RSVP is 12/1/23. Please RSVP here:

<https://forms.gle/QYrpQeCtdkJquz5X6>

In order to get this cost for the meal with a private dining room, we must guarantee an attendance of 25; therefore, your RSVP must be honored.

“Get to Know Your Stars”

I have been a member of the Bluegrass Stars since 1987 after purchasing my first Mercedes, a 300 Turbo Deisel. It is still my all-time favorite of several other Benz over the years.

I attended meetings at the Nashville Section while employed in Russellville, KY, and the Bluegrass Section on return to Louisville in 1997. After that, other than the holiday party each year, my wife, Ann, and I were not active until 2018 which is about the time I became Treasurer for the Stars Section. A couple of years later, Ann volunteered to be the Secretary and Editor for the Quarterly Bluegrass Stars Newsletter. We are enjoying the recent selection of venues for our club meetings, particularly those involving mini road trips.

A significant highlight of our ownership of Benz was the European Delivery Program when we picked up our 2006 E320 CDI in Stuttgart, Germany. Afterwards, we spent ten days driving 1,000 miles in Southern Germany and Austria before we dropped it off in Frankfurt to be put on a ship for the United States. I also have to mention that Germany was our first experience tasting spargal soup which remains one of our favorite German dishes.

We are currently driving and enjoying a 2019 E450 and a 2009 SL550 which is shown below.



Ann and Fred at the recent Mercedes Grande Event in Indianapolis, IN.



Mercedes-Benz 540 K Special Roadster is “Best of Show” at Pebble Beach



A Mercedes-Benz 540 K Special Roadster (W 29) won the prestigious "Best of Show" title at the 2023 Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance on Sunday, August 20, 2023. The sporty luxury car prevailed over a top-class field of exclusive classic cars in the jury vote at the final event of Pebble Beach Automotive Week (August 17-20, 2023). This victory is the tenth "Best of Show" title for a Mercedes-Benz vehicle since the start of the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance in 1950. This means that Mercedes-Benz is now the most successful brand in the history of this crowning event in the classic car calendar.

The 540 K Special Roadster was originally ordered in May 1937 for Mohammed Zahir Shah, King of Afghanistan, and delivered in September of the same year. The King opted for a particularly fascinating product from Mercedes-Benz: the Special Roadster with a Sindelfingen body is a highly elegant sculpture exuding performance and speed. It is characterized by the high side line of the doors, curved body contours with a recessed radiator and a flowing rear end with concealed spare wheel. After only five changes of ownership in seven decades, the current owner is Jim Patterson who purchased the vehicle at auction during the Pebble Beach Automotive Week in 2022 .

"The 540 K Special Roadster winning the 'Best of Show' title at the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance crowns the immense commitment of RM Auto Restoration and Mercedes-Benz Heritage to the restoration of this outstanding vehicle. We are proud to have contributed to this success story with the unique expertise of our Classic Center and the archives. The intensive and good cooperation with RM Auto Restoration during the past months has made this success possible."

Marcus Breitschwerdt, Head of Mercedes-Benz Heritage

BLUEGRASS STAR MEMBER TRAVELS

Hi Stars:

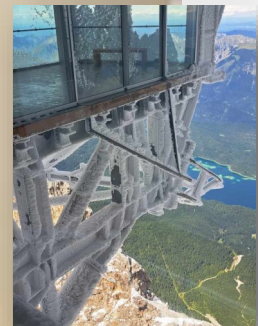
While spending time in Germany this August, Al and Hanni Henley visited the Mercedes facility in Stuttgart. They learned and want Bluegrass Star members to know that you only need to present your Mercedes Club Membership card to receive free tickets to enter the Museum; also, any purchase in the gift shop over 10Euros gets you a discount for being a Mercedes Club Member.



Swarovski Factory in Wallen, Austria



Highest mountain in Germany



10 Used Mercedes-Benz Cars With The Lowest Maintenance Costs

This interesting list was compiled by Hotcars and posted online May 17, 2023. We thought we'd share some of these for your consideration, Stars.

"Generally, Mercedes-Benz models are not synonymous with cheap maintenance," says the author, Adithya Gopal. As reported in the article, the average annual repair cost of a Mercedes is \$908.00. However, not all Mercedes are heavy on maintenance, per Repair Pal, and some have surprised car enthusiasts with lower than annual maintenance costs. Today, we are sharing the top four.

The 2007 to 2015 Mercedes-Benz C350 – (\$724.00) tops the list.

The W204 generation C350 sedan has the lowest reported cost for annual maintenance, and therefore, is considered a safe bet if you are looking to buy used. All reported repair costs are in the low range, but, the engine mount and sunroof replacement can reach the \$1,000.00 mark.

Coming in second is the 2013 to 2019 Mercedes-Benz CLA250 (\$736.00) .

The CLA is Mercedes most affordable sedan, and with an annual average repair cost below \$750.00 it is a sound choice for anyone looking for an affordable, and classy luxury sedan. According to the article in Hotcars, there have not been many reported problems, although there are 24 known recalls. And out of some reported costs to repair is the head gasket at \$2024.00.

Third on the list is the 1982 to 1993 Mercedes 190E (\$774.00).

This is another classic MB, much loved by owners, and also known as the "Baby Benz." This was seen as the brand's attempt at an affordable sedan to take on the E30 3 series. "It is a brilliant sedan that is over-engineered, like many other Mercedes-Benz from the 'golden era'." One of the reasons for the lower maintenance cost is because this is an older sedan with more mechanical parts than electrical, and thus it is cheaper to fix these days.

And, forth is the 2010 to 2015 Mercedes-Benz GLK350 (\$776.000) .

"Although short-lived, the GLK is one of the most highly rated cars from the Mercedes-Benz portfolio in terms of reliability." The relatively low repair costs is excellent for a luxury SUV like the GLK. It has a reliability rating of 3.5 out of 5.0 and is rated 5th out of 11 compact SUVs. However, it does have two potential repair problems – related to power steering and oil seepage in the cylinders. But, other than those issues, it is a well sorted SUV with good ratings.

Another great article worth checking out, written by Michael DeKock, "10 Awesome Used Mercedes-Benz Under \$30,000," published in Hotcars on May 27, 2023, is also available.

If you are interested in any of the models mentioned above, please do your own research, as many other factors go into the purchase of a used vehicle, even a luxury driving machine like the Mercedes-Benz. Maintenance and repair costs are only some of the factors to consider.

Thanks to Adithya Gopal, Hotcars, hotcars.com, and Repair Pal, repairpal.com, for the material provided in this article.

“Other Events of Interest”

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 14TH
2023
10:00AM – 5:00PM

EURO FEST
CLASSIC EUROPEAN
AUTO AND MOTORCYCLE SHOW

RENAISSANCE
AT COLONY PARK
RIDGELAND, MS

1000 HIGHLAND
COLONY PKWY
RIDGELAND
MS 39157

WWW.EURO-FEST.NET
FREE TO PARTICIPANTS & THE PUBLIC.
VIEW OVER 200+ CLASSIC EUROPEAN AUTOS & MOTORCYCLES OF VARIOUS MARQUES.

ENTRIES WILL ENJOY A FRIDAY DRIVE AND RECEPTION ON OCTOBER 13TH.
SATURDAY WILL INCLUDE A HOSPITALITY AREA FOR PARTICIPANTS, PRESS, & SPONSORS.
THE JUDGED CONCOURS IS OPEN TO ALL EUROPEAN AUTO AND MOTORCYCLE MARQUES BUILT IN 1968 OR EARLIER
AND SOME NEWER ENTRIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST FOR CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE
MULTIPLE AWARDS FOR BEST IN CLASS, OUTSTANDING IN CLASS, SPONSORS CHOICE, BEST OF SHOW, AND MORE!
ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH OUR WEBSITE FOR ACCEPTANCE BEFORE OCTOBER 8TH, 2023.







BACK AGAIN IS THE NON-JUDGED DISPLAY ONLY SHOWING OPEN FOR ALL
YEAR EUROPEAN MARQUES IN THE LEGENDS OF THE INTERSTATES AREA.
TASTEFULLY MODIFIED CARS ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED!


of Jackson



The Mercedes International M-100 group ([20+](#)) [The International M-100 Group | Facebook](#) will gather in Cincinnati, OH on October 25-29th for their annual convention to kick off a few days of scenic drives and cultural and technical exchanges. Enjoy an Ohio River boat cruise, take in the exceptional paintings at the Taft Museum of Art, get tech'd in Frankfort KY and enjoy the serene gardens of the Krohn Conservatory along with a visit to the famous Cincinnati Art Museum. The group represents the Mercedes Grosser 600 from the 1960s, the Mercedes 300SEL 6.3s, and the Mercedes 450SEL 6.9 cars which all share the legendary M100 engine well known as the start of the AMG brand with their “Red Pig”.

If interested, you can register at
[LodeFest 2023 - Events - The International M-100 Group](#) .



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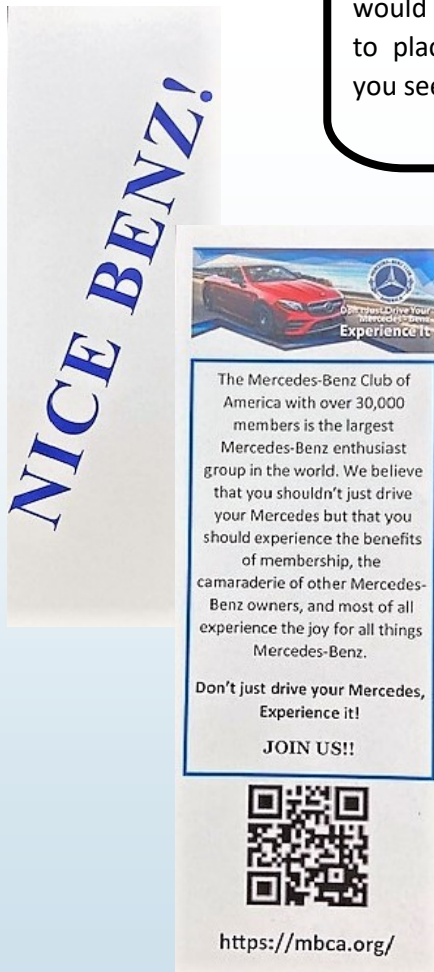
skkoehler@att.net

Purchase your MBCA Name Badge!

Name badges start at \$14 and come in navy, silver, or gold. Backings include magnet and safety pin. Each name badge will contain your name and your section. A third line will cost +\$1. Shipping within the U.S. is included.

Log-in to your mbca.org profile through the MBCA Event Store or call the National Business Office to order over the phone at 1-800-637-2360.

We have an ample supply of the "Nice Benz" bookmarks if you would like to have some on hand to place on Mercedes-Benz that you see around town.




NICE BENZ!

The Mercedes-Benz Club of America with over 30,000 members is the largest Mercedes-Benz enthusiast group in the world. We believe that you shouldn't just drive your Mercedes but that you should experience the benefits of membership, the camaraderie of other Mercedes-Benz owners, and most of all experience the joy for all things Mercedes-Benz.

Don't just drive your Mercedes, Experience it!

JOIN US!!



<https://mbca.org/>

We are on the web!

<https://www.bluegrasstars.mbca.org/>

And on Facebook!

Go to search icon and type in Mercedes-Benz Club of America-Bluegrass Stars, and you will find our page.