



The Bluegrass Star

A Publication of the
Bluegrass Stars Section
Mercedes-Benz Club
of America
July, 2007

Reminder: "Sellersburg Celebrates", Sellersburg, Indiana-Car Show/Parade, August 25th!

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 activities are very important.

Shelley Caulder Louisville, KY

Ravi Dhareshwar Louisville, KY

Sydney Mullins Louisville, KY

President's Message

Mercedes-Benz Night at the Bats

On July 1, 2007, a beautiful Sunday evening, the Bluegrass Stars and several members of the Cincinnati Section and invited guests joined to watch the Louisville Bats vs. Columbus Clippers AAA baseball game. The Bats are owned by club member Gary Ulmer (1972 280SEL 3.5). The Bluegrass Stars MBCA banner and 10 of our Mercedes-Benz were displayed on the sidewalk in front of the stadium near the Pee Wee Reece statue where we met prospective members. After dinner on the patio deck at Louisville Slugger Field, we

took our reserved seats along the first base line. The Louisville Bats won the game 6 to 2. This may become an annual event. Thanks to Bluegrass Stars membership chair and treasurer, Larry Gettleman, Bluegrass Stars member and representative of Slugger Field Gary Ulmer for coordinating and making "Mercedes-Benz Night at the Bats" a joyous night for the Mercedes Benz Club of America.

Hats off to Steve Loboyko, the Bluegrass Stars Editor. While in the process of relocating, Steve still found time to send out the newsletter and reminder cards of "Mercedes-Benz Night at the Bats" to club members.

Upcoming Events for 2007

On **Saturday, August 25th** we will participate in Sellersburg Celebrates, (www.sellersburgcelebrates.com) with its car show and parade, organized by Bluegrass Stars Club member Don Haas in Sellersburg, IN.

On **Saturday, October 20th** we will have a Fall Tech Session and Pot-Luck Lunch at Tafel Motors of Louisville.

On **Monday, December 10th**: Annual Holiday Dinner at Erika's German Restaurant.

TBA: Drive and or bus tour to Vance Alabama Mercedes-Benz Assembly Plant.



Club turnout was excellent for “Mercedes-Benz Night at the Bats”.



Your Editor asks: Uhhh...so what other kinds of cars did Mercedes make in the 70's and 80's? (There were in total more 107's on display than shown here!) ☺

Technical Manuals

MBUSA has a number of technical manuals, wiring diagrams, owner's manuals, and other technical information available for owners. CD-ROMs or technical manuals for your car (up to model year 1998) can be ordered from MBUSA at (800) 367-6372.

Discounted Parts

If you wish to purchase Mercedes-Benz parts, the dealerships and shops listed 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. Your Editor has already more than saved his first year membership by taking advantage of these types of discounts. Restrictions apply; call for details.

TAFEL MOTORS

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

AUTOBAHN MOTORS LLC

1501 Mellwood Avenue
Louisville, KY 40206-1749
(502) 587-7827

See Don, Art, or Duane

JAMES MOTOR COMPANY

2440 Richmond Road
Lexington, KY 40502-1301
(859) 268-1150

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, however, without prior arrangement for payment. Your ad will appear in the next issue of *The Bluegrass Star*, and you may request listings in two subsequent issues.

For Sale

Front & rear floor mats for W123, blue, embroidered star, used, \$30.

Four 14" alloy wheels, nearly new, \$50 each. Half-shafts for rear suspension R107, W115, W123 & others, used, \$100 each (price lowered).

Shop Manuals: W115 (220D, &c.), W123 (300D &c.). Price TBD. *Contact Larry Gettleman (see Section Officers).*

Four wheels, 8x16in with tires; fits the 2000 S500; \$125 each.

Four door pull closer handles: fits the 2000 S500 Mercedes; \$50 each.

Four-piece air vent set for dash of 2000 S500 Mercedes-Benz; \$260; *Contact Nat Williams (see Section Officers)*

NEW LISTING:

107SL accessories: Blue tonneau cover - excellent condition, \$150. Hard top stand and cover, \$50. Hoist for hard top, \$50. Maintenance CD, \$50. *Contact John Reichert, 502.241.0628 (Eastern Time).*

MBCA Membership Drive

There have never been as many Mercedes vehicles on the road as there are today, and the sales figures for new Mercedes vehicles are up according to MBUSA. This implies that there are also many new potential MBCA members. MBCA has initiated a membership drive, in which current members can get one month of membership free for every new member enlisted via their referral! Forms and information are at the mbca.org website; if you are Internet-challenged, contact the editor (see officers) and we will send you some forms, or call the MBCA at **800-637-2360**.

Powder Coating Wheels

Powder coating has become more popular and more available recently as an alternative to paint. Basically, it is a very tough, temperature-cured coating that is sprayed onto a part as a powder electrostatically and is then baked at a relatively high temperature. The powder flows and cures, forming an excellent bond with the base material; the resulting finish has a very non-porous surface. This material and process has been used industrially for some time. Powder coating can be much friendlier than paint to the environment, because of the minimal volatiles that are released. Many colors are now available; I've even found "Mercedes Silver" at one supplier. It should be noted that most quality alloy OEM wheels are now powder coated and not painted.

For preparation of a used wheel, the wheel is first stripped chemically and/or media blasted. It may then be sprayed with a primer. Then the wheel is connected to a high-voltage ground terminal lead; the other terminal (negative) of the generator is connected to a low-pressure spray gun with a very wide nozzle compared to a nozzle used for painting. The gun is filled with powder; when sprayed, the powder is attracted to the item having opposite charge, helping the powder to stick and to minimize overspray. As a bonus, those "nooks and crannies" that either elude paint or cause runs while painting are generally evenly filled with ease.

Then, the wheel is put into an oven for powder curing. This is not simply a "melting" process, it is a process that changes the properties of the powder coat material irreversibly. When the wheel is cooled down, it's ready to go - no buffing or additional time to final hardness is required. If the process is managed properly, orange peel - that roughness seen in unbuffed paint - is minimal.

Clear coating, also available in powder coat, is not required but is often done for an additional gloss.

Powder coating generally results in a finish thicker than paint and it can hide *minor* imperfections with no filling or labor. If there is any disadvantage to powder coating, it is that it doesn't lend itself to being "touched-up" easily - so, if you have powder coated wheels, then you shouldn't use them as curb feelers! No ordinary paint remover / thinner can remove or blend powder coating - it has to be media blasted and redone.

I have recently installed "new look" (OK, twenty year old) 15" wheels on my 380SL; I had them silver powder coated; I'm very pleased with the results.

-Steve Loboyko

Unsung Heroes

Many of the photographs shown in the newsletter were taken by Seth Burr, who is the club photographer. Larry and Nat have also taken many photos. Your Editor has been lax in giving credit for these photos. Obviously, we publish only a few but save the others, and hope to have them all available on the Internet, archived, on the MBCA website. Many thanks to these diligent photographers - it can be a pain to carry around a camera to an event.

E-Mail Addresses

Over the past few years, we have been able to add and/or adjust last-minute events, change in dates, etc. to our calendar of Events. The Bluegrass Section Newsletter is not necessarily the timeliest method of notifying you of something new on the schedule of a change in venue. **MBCA rules are very clear: your address will not be sold or otherwise distributed!** The National Business Office currently maintains a list of members' e-mail addresses. We certainly understand that you do not want unsolicited mail. The list is only used to send reminders of changes / addition to upcoming club activities.

Section Officers

You can contact the Section Officers by snail-mail, phone or e-mail:

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