



The Bluegrass Star

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

Spring 2024

MBCA Mission Statement:

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

President’s Message

We Stars have seen lots of changes since our last edition of the Newsletter – and some will be challenging.

MBCA.ORG has changed their operating system and is still undergoing growing pains, complete functionality and implementation. Each Star should have received an Invitation to join by email. To do this, members must create a new password. To navigate the new website takes time and patience. As we – the Officers, and Webmaster/Membership Chairperson, Nancy Reece, become more proficient we will hopefully be able to help make this more manageable. Something to look forward to is a full, easily accessible Schedule of Events, including all the information you’ll need to plan ahead and attend all of the Chapter (Section) events!

Other changes? We now have a full Board of Directors! We look forward to working with them this year. Their main order of business will be to recognize members who would like to serve as Officers in 2025. If you are interested, please reach out, get involved and be instrumental in a bigger, better Bluegrass Stars Chapter ’25!

We have a great remaining 2024 calendar of events that we hope will have something for everyone. Our first events of the year have been well attended, and we hope this continues throughout the rest of the year. There will be another Regional Event; the Keeneland Concours, where the Mercedes-Benz is the Marque; joint events with the Cincinnati Queen City Chapter; and of course, another wonderful Holiday Party – just to name a few to look forward to. See our Calendar of Events below to make sure you don’t miss anything.

And finally, to all of you who continue to support the Bluegrass Stars, attend our events, and participate in our Charity Component, I thank you all from the bottom of my heart!

J. Anne Gilliland
Bluegrass Stars President

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The January 2024 Event that turned into a February



The Bluegrass Stars were finally able to kick off 2024 with our rescheduled Member's' meeting and lunch at Claudia Sanders Dinner House on Saturday, February 10th.

We had a good turnout, a productive meeting, with engaged member participation, and a plentiful and delicious dinner with all the vegetables imaginable, and rolls...I have to mention the rolls again—AMAZING!

If we can iron out some recurring reservation issues, we hope to make Claudia Sanders a go to for meetings in the future.

The Real February Event

Sunday, February 25th, found the Bluegrass Stars at Martin's Bar-B-Que Joint for a movie and Trivia Contest—"BBQ & BENZ!"

Martin's provided the 20+ members who attended with great BBQ, as usual, in a private room and a movie screen to stream a movie which takes place almost entirely in a Mercedes-Benz GLS!

A trivia contest based on the movie, with the prize being a MB polo shirt, was won by Jim and Linda Keith.

We all had fun watching a movie, answering questions, and eating really great BBQ.



BRISTOL D



The Stars came out Saturday, March 2nd, to the "Who Dunit" Murder Mystery Show and dinner at the Bristol Bar & Grill in downtown, Louisville, and had a great evening!

We couldn't decide "who dunit", so none of us won the Master Detective Award, but we had lots of fun trying over a good meal and cheesecake dessert.

If you want to try your hand and figure out "Whodunit", we won't spoil the mystery, but it is one of the characters in the photos.

ts are available for individual purchase at <http://www.whodunnitky.com>. Go to bottom and click on Coming Attractions to find the March 2nd production. Then RSVP here <http://forms.gle/zwQ9ueHZsymYHQAU8> to us and plan to meet at the entrance at 6:15PM.

The Bluegrass Stars Chapter was out in force to enjoy a wonderful lunch at the Old Talbott Tavern in Bardstown, KY on Saturday, March 23rd. While the blustery winds & chilly temperatures may have kept us inside after lunch, we still enjoyed the comradery of good friends & met some new members, Dru & Cathy Martin, who joined us.

Past President & Charity Component Chair, Gary Rumrill, told the members about His Blessings Box, the 2024 charity we have chosen to support. It is a direct, one-to-one, opportunity for us all to help support those most in need in our community.

Most of us enjoyed touring the Tavern, visiting several rooms dedicated to celebrated persons from the past, & taking the 15-minute self-guided tour of this historic KY site. We were also sure not to miss the Oldest Bourbon Bar in America! Several members even stayed the night and made a weekend out of it!



Get to know your “Stars”



We are campers and motorcycle riders, and this pic was made in Spearfish Canyon in the Black Hills area of South Dakota. Betty and I have been married for 53+ years and partners longer than that. We have two daughters and six grandkids. I am a retired general dentist and dental educator for the University of Louisville School of Dentistry. I am a retired pilot from the Civil Air Patrol, USAF Auxiliary.

Currently, I am the dentist for the Louisville Zoo and have taken care of the dental needs of various animals for 46+ years.

Betty is a retired RN from Jewish Hospital (Louisville), where she had a distinguished career in nursing. Two of her former patients were the recipients of the first-ever hand transplants done world-wide. Both of us continue to serve in volunteer activities with numerous boards and other agencies.

We are not sure how long we have been members of the Bluegrass Stars (a long time!). I think we became members during the early Larry Gettleman years. We have been owners of a variety of Mercedes Automobiles over the years.

They are:

- 1980 300D (traded off with 400k miles)
- 1982 240D (owned 27 years)
- 1991 300D Turbo (100k+ miles)
- 1991 500SL (sold to a neighbor with 109k miles).

At present, we have three Mercedes:

- 1988 560SEL (215k miles, which is a favorite)
- 1999 E320 4matic (Betty's car with 220k miles, her favorite)
- 1999SL 500 (116k miles), our fun car.

I have a lift in my garage and do most of my own service on the cars. Really, I've not had many complaints about service difficulty or great expense and have found our cars to be generally reliable. Most of our problem areas have been with the newer cars and their advanced electronic systems. So far, none have been insurmountable. Our older cars have been of superior engineering and a joy to own.

Dr. Thomas J. Clark DMD FACD FICD and Betty

BLUEGRASS STARS 2024 CHARITY COMPONENT

We are pleased to announce the Bluegrass Stars Section 2025 Charity Component as ***HIS BLESSINGS BOX***. Gary Rumrill, past Bluegrass Stars Section President, has graciously agreed to serve as the Chair.

Our past charity components: the collection, refurbishment and redistribution of prescription glasses in conjunction with the Louisville Eye Center, and the participation in the REACH program for the collection of cell phones in conjunction with the Jeffersontown Police Department, were both very successful. We hope through this year's charity to help even more of our own in need in Louisville.

His Blessings Box began as a food pantry in 2019 to help those with food insecurity in our local neighborhoods. This simple concept has grown through a network of volunteers and community partners that provide food, clothing, and other services to neighbors in need. Their Mission has developed into bringing the community together to attack homelessness and hunger throughout our city.

Items most needed are clothing for men – pants, T-shirts, shirts, jackets, shoes and socks. These should be clean, gently used, and in good, wearable condition. Women's and children's clothes, and baby clothes in the same condition are also very much in need. Toys, blankets, towels and sheets are also needed.

We will be accepting these items at three of our events this year, the first being at Tony York's on Saturday, April 27th . All you have to do is bring your donations in boxes or sturdy bags, and two of their volunteers, who are also Bluegrass Stars Section members, will deliver them for you. Your donated items go straight from you to those in need.

There are also ten (10) donation site locations, and those are listed on the website. His Blessings Box is a 501(c) non-profit. 100% of the donations go to His Blessings Box 501(c)(3). For more information, see their website: blessingsbox.org.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Gary Rumrill at g.rumrill@twc.com. Or contact: J. Anne Gilliland at jannegilliland@gmail.com.

Thanks in advance for your generosity.

Gary Rumrill
Charity Component Chair



Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024, was the first 2024 His Blessings Box lunch. There was a great turnout for an Easter message and a delicious ham/green beans/potatoes meal served to 200 of our community neighbors in need. The Bluegrass Stars presented the first of what we hope to be more donations to organizers, Johnathan Gray and Melissa Brown. We also shared with them our message regarding our charity component, and how we look forward to working with them throughout this year.



Our Own EV Journey – by Nancy and Bob Rece

Mercedes-Benz of Ft. Mitchell, KY had an EV event on Saturday, May 20, 2023, the same day the Bluegrass Stars went to Frankfort to tour the old Capitol Building. Since we missed the EV event, when I took my 2021 E 450 in for service, we asked about EVs, and they suggested we take an EQS Sedan as a loaner while they worked on my E. Due to some software updates that took extra time, we had the EQS for four days. It was a DREAM! But it was a bit bigger than we thought we needed, so we took an EQE 500 4-matic 4-door Sedan for a four day loan as well. It was also a DREAM, and more to our liking. Plus the extra four days allowed us to do some much needed research on what we might be getting ourselves into with an EV.

The ride, the drive, the speed, the quickness, the quiet, the quality. What's not to love? No engine rev sound, no transmission shifting feeling, no tail pipe roar and really very little air noise rushing by as you drive. All very different! We have noticed that the heater/AC fan noise seems excessive at times because there are no other sounds!

The deal that was offered us was incredible as they had a large number of EVs on the lot. We were encouraged to lease as the future market value of an EV is such an unknown. They also threw in a Level II home charger, a \$750 value. We had the charger installed at our expense - basically an electric dryer hook-up in the garage connected to a 50 amp breaker plus the wire to get across the garage. Luckily, we had an empty spot in our breaker box to accommodate the new breaker. Also included in the deal was two years free charging at Charge Point stations for on the road.

In case you don't know, there are three levels of chargers. Level I is your typical wall outlet at home. To charge a car like that would take days, thus the nickname "trickle charge", plus buying the charger for that application. Level II is what we had installed in our garage that charges fully in 8-10 hours. Level III is the large tower type charging stations at MB dealerships, which would take about 40 minutes for a full charge.

We use the Mercedes Me app on our phones to set and track the charging status. It is recommended not to go below 20% charge (so you can get to a charging station safely) and not exceed 90% (may damage the battery over time), unless going on a long trip. There is also a Charge Point app that will do the same thing. Basically, with our Level II garage charger it takes one hour to charge the battery 10% giving you about 37 miles of range. At full charge, the car will stop charging and the app will notify you that charging is completed. We live in an all electric house, so with normal, seasonal fluctuations, we know there is a cost impact of charging the car but can't really track it. Another cost impact was a surprise greeting from the Commonwealth of Kentucky in January demanding a \$120 fee just for having an EV. This is intended to make up for the fees that are added to the cost of gasoline, which they are not getting from us!



Our Own EV Journey – by Nancy and Bob Rece (Cont'd.)

Range anxiety is a real thing because you can't quickly "fuel up" on the road without sitting and waiting for the car to charge, so you make sure it is fully charged before you head out on a trip. This takes some getting used to as you need to think ahead and actually plan those spur of the moment trips that would cause you to run low on juice. An icon below the speedometer, just like your gas gauge, keeps you aware of percent charge and range miles left. If you would need a charge there is an icon on the 10 x 10 MBUX dash screen of a charging station. If you tap it, you can see all the charging stations in a 10 mile radius (a surprising number of them actually), including total number of stations and the number that are open for use. But then you sit there for hours while your car charges!

What about maintenance? Since there is no engine and no transmission, there is none. We were told to bring the car in at two years to have the tire tread wear checked as these wear out at about 10,000 miles and are very expensive.

The interior is full of some very cool lighting effects that tickle the senses. The passenger side of the dash is full of small backlit three pointed stars that glow at night. Adjust the temperature and the light strip around the upper dash changes color for a moment. On holidays, the center screen greets us with fire-works for July 4, a Santa hat and snow on the roof of the "home" button at Christmas, confetti for New Year's Day and hearts for Valentine's day. I was disappointed there was nothing special for my Birthday!

Now for the biggest EV surprise. As you may have heard from stories in the news about Tesla charging disasters this Winter, we were shocked at the hit to the range during cold temperatures. On a 6 degree day, a 5 mile round trip used 20% of the battery. On warmer days, it would have used about 2%. The total range drops from almost 400 miles on a full charge, to just over 200 miles in the cold weather. Charging the car at home takes longer as well. The reason we are told is the massive battery contains heaters that warm the battery in cold weather to allow for proper charging and driving performance. Juice for these heaters, of course, obviously comes from the battery and would naturally reduce your overall range. We now plan for this and charge ahead of really cold days.

Overall, an EV is a pricey city car that will never totally replace a gas fueled vehicle, especially for long trips. An inner-city dweller with no garage and no designated parking spot could never stop a copper thief from stealing the charger and 25 feet of wire from the porch! But the driving experience is fantastic and oh that speed and power! Oh, did I say it is really FAST?

If you have any questions for either of us, feel free to contact us:

Nancy Rece mbca.bluegrass.membership@gmail.com

Bob Rece recester46@gmail.com

REMAINING 2024 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

April 27; Noon	Tony York's Derby Lunch (Cincy invited) Glendale, KY
May 11 (TTBD)	Spring Dust Off & Car Show(Cincy Lead) Maineville, OH with Cincy Section
June 8	Cincy Concourse and Gala (Cincy Lead)
June (DTBD)	Tech Session Todd & Margaret Ryan's Lawrenceburg, KY
June 29; 1PM ed)	Goose & Gander Restaurant (Lunch) (Cincy invit- Midway, KY
July 20	Keeneland Concours d'Elegance Lexington, KY
August 1-3	Central Regional Event French Lick, IN
September (DTBD)	Schitzelbank Restaurant Jasper, IN
October 19	Old Friends Farm (Cincy lead) Georgetown, KY
November (DTBD)	Joe Huber's Family Restaurant Starlight, IN
December (DTBD)	Holiday Party Hurstbourne Country Club (Eagles Nest) Louisville, KY
1st Saturday each month (April – November)	Coffee and Cars Fante's Coffee House; Louisville, KY
2nd Saturday each month	Cars and Coffee Captain's Quarters; Louisville, KY

RETURN TO WEST BADEN RESORT IN FRENCH LICK FOR 2024 CENTRAL REGIONAL EVENT AUGUST 1-3, 2024

With great enthusiasm, I would like to invite all Central Region Members, other MBCA members and guests to a spectacular event at one of the premier resorts in the Midwest. The newly re-stored West Baden Resort is the unofficial 8th Wonder of the World. With its domed atrium, classically styled rooms and gourmet restaurants, it is an event you won't want to miss.

While the weekend schedule is still being finalized, besides your magnificent resort, there is much for you to do in the quaint Indiana towns of French Lick and West Baden. Events under consideration include resort tours, a visit to the casino, a Branson style dinner musical show, winery visits, a historic mill, a custom gem store/workshop and of course fabulous restaurants. Plus, we just learned that there is a German Festival in Jasper, IN that weekend and is only 35 miles SW of French Lick.

Our weekend will conclude Saturday night with a premium banquet at one of the resort's gourmet restaurants; a veritable feast for \$100/person.

If this sounds like fun to you, please make your reservations now. We have a block of outside view rooms reserved for a discounted rate. Make your reservations directly through the resort at 1-844-241-6361. To get our discounted rate be sure to give the group code 0824MBC when making your reservation. Room rates and banquet costs are outlined below.

GROUP ROOM RATES: Room rates are subject to 13% total Occupancy tax (7% Indiana, 4% Occupancy, 2% Historic taxes)

Outside view :Thursday \$199	Friday and Saturday \$269
Balcony Upgrade (if available):	Thursday \$245; Friday and Saturday \$345

RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/EYmjRKHFtYfmgZ5m7>

Ken Koehler
MBCA Central Regional Director

MERCEDES-BENZ

Derby Lunch @ Tony York's on Main

201 East Main Street

Glendale, KY

April 27th @ Noon

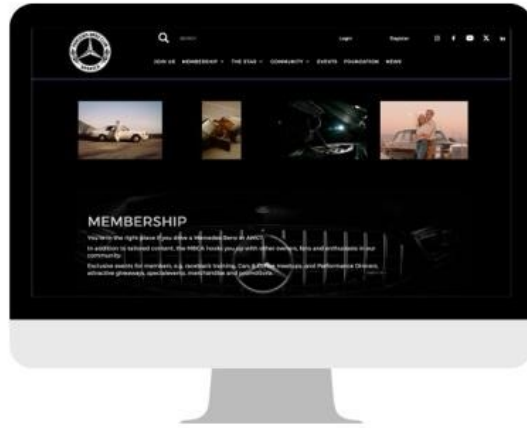
Ladies, wear your favorite Derby hat, and gentlemen, don your pastel shirts and Panama straw hat and have Derby lunch (salad, a choice of fried chicken, meat loaf, or country ham along with peach cobbler for \$25 which includes the tip) with your Bluegrass Stars and Cincinnati Sections friends at Tony York's on Main and then take a short stroll to the shops in Historic Glendale, Kentucky www.glendalekentucky.com.

RSVP here by April 24th:

<https://forms.gle/jJaxbaQdWb2KyJHBA>

For anyone who may want to ask questions or who is having issues getting registered for the new MBCA website, feel free to bring your laptop or iPad, and we will take some time at the end of lunch and help you as best we can.

MBCA WEBSITE UPDATE



by Diana Quinn, Eastern Regional Director | MBCA Technical Advisor

The new [MBCA](#) website is **HERE!** If you have not already visited and established your new MBCA member account, do it now. Every member should have received an email inviting you to establish your account and establish a new password on March 13, 2024.

What if you didn't get that email or put the email in your trash? Simply go to [mbca.org](#) and click on **Register** and proceed with your email address. If you get a message that your email address already exists, then click on **Login**, and then click on the **Forgot Password** link to set your password. Need help in logging in? Send an email to info@mbca.org or contact the National Business Office at Tues-Thurs: 9 am - 3 pm MT, phone: 719-633-6427.

Once logged into the website:

Click on your **PROFILE**, complete your profile, and tell us more about your interests and the cars in your garage.

- Click on **GO to My Glue Home** to explore *Your Chapter Community*, interact with your Chapter Community, stay informed with upcoming Events.
- EXPLORE** more in the Mercedes-Benz Club of America website. Switch organizations by clicking on the blue circle with your initials, then **Switch Organizations** to the *Mercedes-Benz Club of America*.
- Join our Communities (Mercedes-Benz Club of America).**
- Star Interest Groups** (Groups by Car Models)
- Star Marketplace** (Buy and sell cars, parts, and Mercedes-Benz related items)
- Star TECH** (Join the conversation on maintenance and technical aspects of your Mercedes-Benz)

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You drive a car because of her.
Bertha Benz: The world's first driver and mechanic.

GlobalStar



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