



Bluegrass Stars Section

Central Region

Winter 2023

MBCA Mission Statement:

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

Final PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE of 2023:

What a busy year the Bluegrass Stars have shared in 2023!

I enjoyed my first year as President of the Section and look forward to a successful 2024! I hope I have fulfilled my goal of providing more and better member contact and participation, and with the great team of Officers we have, I look forward to improving even more as we work together to plan future events that all of you can enjoy, repeating some favorites while also finding new and exciting venues and activities. If I have succeeded, it is thanks to you, our members, and I hope to continue. And if I have not, I will strive to do so, increasing interest in the Section, attracting new members, and growing participation. Incidentally, we have gained 15 new members during 2023. In 2024, I will continue to reach out to you, the members, for new ideas and continue to have members meetings so that I always have your input in our Section activities.

February 2023 saw our most popular event— 41 attended the Mercedes-Benz of Louisville tour and catered dinner. The November Lights Under Louisville and lunch at Audubon Country Club was also a huge success - 30 members attended!

We have also had some bumps along the way...road closures impacted our Midway event in October. We hope to make up for that when we plan to return for a "do over!"

But I am most proud of the Stars' participation in our Charity Component. We collected close to 30 cell phones to be cleaned of personal information and then distributed to those most in need in our community- the victims of crime, the elderly, and those in need of the ability to contact emergency services. Thanks so much for the great work, Stars!

This year, at the Holiday Party, we celebrated our Member of the Year, Miller Warren, the General Manager of Mercedes-Benz of Louisville, for his support of the Stars. Thanks to him, our members enjoy a 10% discount on parts and labor at the dealership. He also hosted the Section for the tour and catered dinner in February. Thank you, Miller Warren.

And I was surprised and humbled to be recognized by Ken Koehler, the Regional Director, as the Central Region Officer of the Year for 2023.

I am looking forward to 2024 as we have so much already planned for the Stars and are working on much more. We hope you will enjoy them all with us!

Until then, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

J. Anne Gilliland
Bluegrass Stars Section President





Ken & Paige Kikuchi, Patty & Dave Morgen and David Rosenberg.



Jim and Linda Keith.



Anne & Vic Gilliland, Jim Keith, and Lauren Wallace.



Al Henley, Roger Dospil, and Mary Tripp.

The Goose & Gander

Meet Me in Midway on Saturday, October 14th, was a challenge for both the Bluegrass Stars and the Cincinnati Sections, one being the unexpected and unannounced closure of a major portion of I64 East! A couple of Stars were deterred by the closure and poor detour directions. Those that persevered were very late, but, once we arrived at the Goose and Gander Restaurant, a majority of our 44 RSVPs were there to greet us. The food and service were worth the trip! Many thanks to Rob, Macy, and Karry who provided a room for our combined Sections, as well as a delicious meal with lots of varied options to choose from.

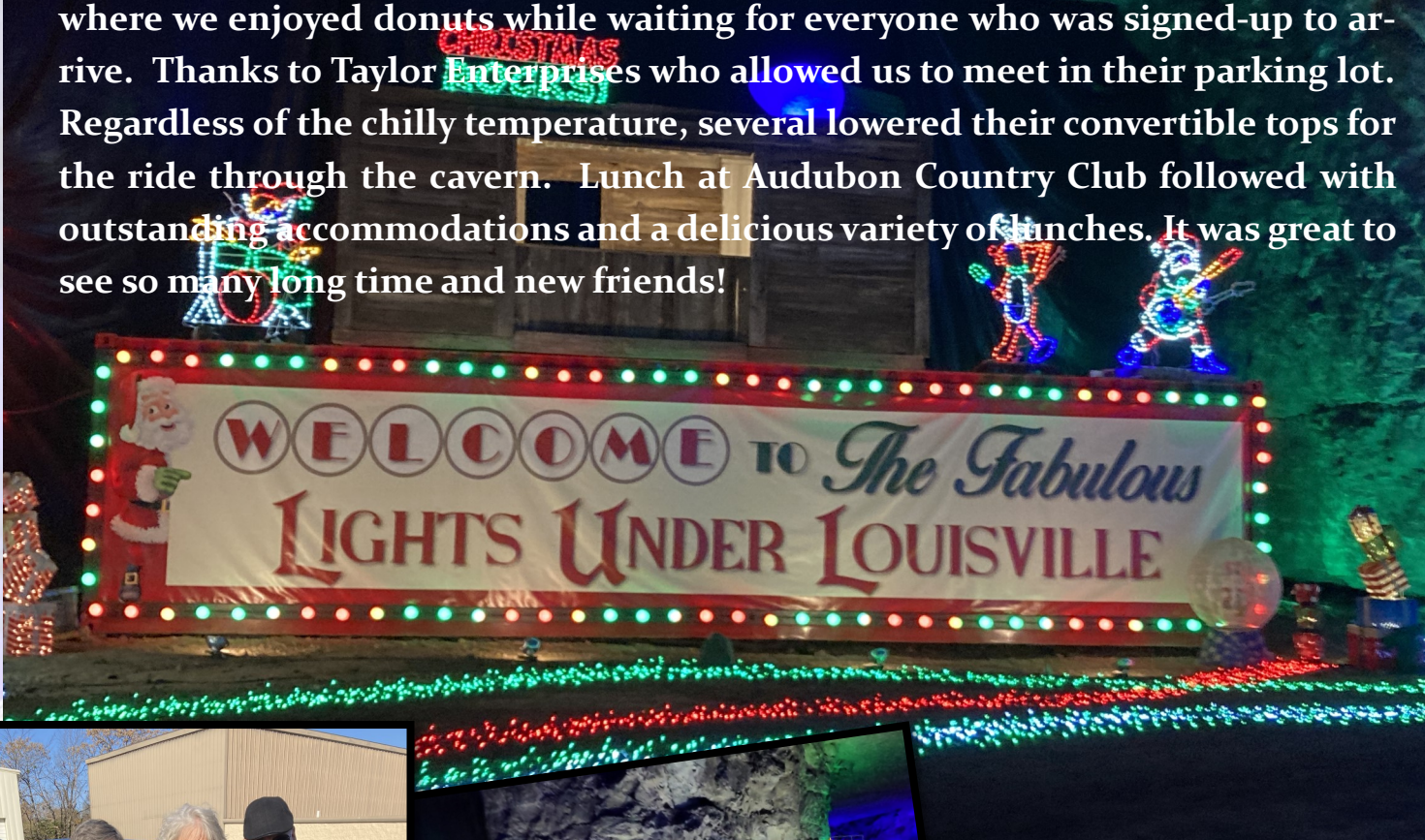
Because of the late arrival, only a few of us were able to visit, shop, and see what all Midway has to offer to visitors. We have already planned a return for 2024 but without the traffic issues! If you want to visit the Goose and Gander before then, check out their website and menu:

gooseandgandermidway.com

One additional bonus was the addition of new members, Roger and Tina Dospil, who joined the Bluegrass Stars Section at the event after reading about it on Facebook! Welcome Roger and Tina.



So many beautiful vignettes at Lights Under Louisville today with the Cincinnati section joining the Bluegrass Stars. It was stunning, and we feel like we need another trip through to fully appreciate it all! It was really cold outside where we enjoyed donuts while waiting for everyone who was signed-up to arrive. Thanks to Taylor Enterprises who allowed us to meet in their parking lot. Regardless of the chilly temperature, several lowered their convertible tops for the ride through the cavern. Lunch at Audubon Country Club followed with outstanding accommodations and a delicious variety of lunches. It was great to see so many long time and new friends!



Nancy Rece, J. Anne Gilliland, and Bob Rece.



Scott & Mary Tripp and Kathy Fisher



Paige & Ken Kikuchi, Bob & Nancy Rece, Janet & Scott Montoney and Mark Smith.



The Bluegrass Stars Section celebrated in style at our Holiday Party, December 10th, at the beautiful Hurstbourne Country Club in Louisville. Lots of Stars joined us for our last event of 2023, enjoyed a delicious dinner, impeccably served by the friendly and cheerful staff, while we enjoyed a nostalgic slideshow of our events over the past year.

We were so happy that Regional Director, Ken Koehler and his lovely wife, Sara, continued their support of our Section by joining us for the celebration. Also, Section member and General Manager of the Mercedes-Benz of Louisville dealership, Miller Warren, was there to accept the Bluegrass Stars Section Member of the Year distinction for his continued support of us this past year.

A few other notables in attendance were Treasurer, Fred Mudge, and his wife, the indispensable Ann Mudge, our Secretary and Newsletter Editor; Vice President, Jim Keith and his vivacious wife, Linda; Membership Chairperson, Nancy Reece, accompanied by her always fun and funny husband, Bob; faithful and longtime members, Al and Hannelore Henley, who were our Members of the Year last year. New members, Roger and Tina Dospil, and Adrian Lauf and Patty and Robert Brashear, who are not new, but have not joined us in a while. Also, past Section president, Gary Rumrill and his wife, Carol, the past Section Secretary, were tall there too to support the Stars as always.

Many thanks to all of our faithful members who have supported us this year, joined us at events, celebrated with us, shared laughter and have become friends!



Nancy Reece wins one of the door prizes.



Bluegrass Stars "Member of the Year", Miller Warren.



Ken Koehler, Central Region Director, presenting Anne Gilliland the Central Region Officer of the Year.



Gary Rumrill, Bluegrass Stars Past President and Bill & Sue Hall.



"Hanne" Henley

Some of you have asked about recipes for the desserts that the Elves provided for our Holiday Party, so here they are.

ENJOY!



Pumpkin Roll

Cake:

3 Eggs
1 Cup Sugar
¾ Cup Flour
½ Tsp. Nutmeg
1 Tsp. Soda
1 Tbsp. Lemon Juice
2/3 Cup Pumpkin (Canned)
½ Tsp. Cinnamon
¼ Tsp. Salt
½ Cup Chopped Pecans

Filling:

1 Cup Powdered Sugar
½ Stick Melted Butter
8 Ounce Philadelphia Crème Cheese
1 Tsp. Vanilla

Beat eggs, sugar, nutmeg, soda, lemon juice, cinnamon & salt. Fold in pumpkin & flour last. Spread batter in a greased/floured jelly roll pan. Sprinkle top with chopped pecans. Bake 20 minutes at 375°.

Turn out cake on a tea towel that has been sifted with powdered sugar. Roll-up in the towel and cool.

After cake is cooled, unroll & spread with filling. Reroll & sprinkle with powdered sugar. Cover with aluminum foil & place in refrigerator or freezer.

Whole Foods Flourless Chocolate Chewy Cookies

3 Cups Powdered Sugar
½ Cup plus 3 Tbsp. Unsweetened Cocoa Powder
¼ Tsp. Salt
2½ Cups Chocolate Chips
4 Egg Whites
1 Tbsp. Vanilla Extract

Position 2 racks in the upper & lower thirds of oven. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Line 2 large baking sheets with parchment paper. Mix sugar, cocoa & salt in a bowl. Stir in chocolate chips. Add egg whites & vanilla, beat with a fork or electric mixer on medium until batter is just moistened. Do not over-beat or it will stiffen. Drop batter by the teaspoonful onto baking sheets. Bake until tops are lightly cracked & glassy, about 15 minutes. Cool briefly, then carefully remove from parchment paper with a spatula. Cookies may be soft & fragile, so proceed carefully to lift off cookies & place them on racks to cool. Don't wait too long to remove for they will even stick to parchment paper. Store in air tight container at room temperature for up to a week. Makes about 4 dozen cookies.

AMARETTO POUND CAKE

1 Extra Moist Yellow Cake Mix	1 Large Instant Vanilla Pudding Mix	4 Eggs
1/2 Cup Canola Oil	1/2 Cup Water	1/2 Amaretta (or Rum)

Mix ingredients together for 2 minutes. Pour into a greased bunt or loaf pan. Bake at 325 degrees for 1 hour (or until a toothpick pulls clean).

Glaze: 1 Stick Butter 1 Cup Sugar 1/2 Water 1/2 Cup Amaretto

Boil butter, sugar, and water until slightly thickened. Add Amaretto and use immediately. Pierce the cake while still in the pan with a toothpick or thin paring knife. Pour glaze slowly over the cake while in the pan, allowing it to sink into the cake. Cool the cake thoroughly prior to removing from the pan.

“To David with Love”

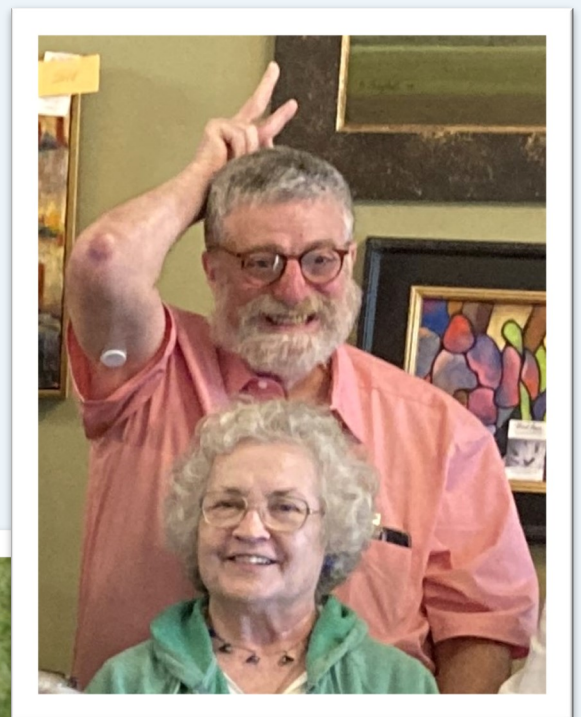


How do you thank someone who has made you laugh and cry; it isn't easy, but we will try.

If you wanted, we would write across the sky in letters that would soar a thousand feet “To David with Love”.

To read David's story, go to <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/davidrosenberg>.

All the Bluegrass Stars are here for you. All you have to do is ask.



JANUARY 2024 EVENT

Claudia Sanders Dinner House

Member's Meeting and Lunch

What better way to start off 2024 than with a return to a member favorite, Claudia Sanders Dinner House, for a Members' Meeting and lunch at 1:30PM on Saturday, January 20th!

We will once again gather in a private room for their famous chicken dinner, served family style, with all the fixings, and rolls - oh, those rolls!! See claudiasandersshelbyville.com) for the menu.

Click on this link to RSVP: <https://forms.gle/9yKKhjVMbHDk1A3F9>

FEBRUARY 2024 EVENT

Sunday, 2/25/24, 6PM

“Movie Night & Trivia”

Martin's BBQ Joint

Something new, different, & fun! Mark your calendars.

The announcement will be out soon.



MARCH 2, 2024

BRISTOL DOWNTOWN LOUISVILLE

The Shadow Messenger

Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1875 ... Several residents have died after receiving a mysterious letter, hand-delivered by someone no one could describe, hidden in the shadows. Was it murder? If so, who is behind this, and why? And can anyone figure it out in time to prevent more tragic deaths? A world premiere, introducing WhoDunnit's newest detective hero! Don't miss it!

The ticket price for dinner shows is \$57.90 per person, which includes the meal, show, tax and gratuity. There are no requirements, but we recommend business casual.

The doors open at 6:30PM. Beginning at 7PM, the mystery is presented in three or four acts, with the three courses of your meal (salad, main course, dessert) served in between the acts. While you're eating, the actors in character will mingle with the audience, allowing you to ask them questions and get extra clues. However, all of our mysteries can be solved with the clues presented in the staged portion alone.

The Bluegrass Stars will be at the Bristol Bar & Grill; 614 West Main; Louisville, KY 40202, on March 2nd for a dinner/presentation of "The Shadow Messenger".

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

SAVE-THE-DATE

Saturday, March 23, 2024

12:30PM



March will be here before we know it, and our “Old Talbott Tavern” lunch is limited to a total of only 30 members.

RSVP now!

We will have a private room with a menu of 3 selections for our group. **RSVP for lunch is a firm *March 8 deadline*. NO EXCEPTIONS as we are required to pay the full amount by one charge (No separate checks will be available).**

We will provide the menu selections and price, including tax and gratuity, to you with the announcement and invitation at which time you will be asked to prepay by check.

Rooms are available in the historic Tavern and in the Talbott Inn, but they are very limited and are already booking up fast if you want to add a special stay on the 22nd or 23rd to your Bardstown experience.

Also, you can plan to visit Museum Row, including the Civil War Museum, the Women’s Museum of the Civil War, the Old Bardstown Village, and the General Hal Moore Military Museum for \$12 for all four venues, for two consecutive days.

Don’t forget that we will also have access to a free self-guided, walking tour of the Talbott Tavern on your app store.

It all sounds like a perfect trip to the historic Bardstown, KY.

For more information: www.talbotttavern.com and/or bardstownmuseumrow.org.

DON’T WAIT, RSVP NOW!!! Click here to RSVP: <https://forms.gle/5t8TgMiAtQjiqwd6>.



2024 Calendar of Events

January 20; 1:30PM	Claudia Sanders Dinner House Member's Meeting & Lunch	
February 25; 5PM	Movie Night and Trivia Martin's BBQ Joint	
March 2; 6PM	Who Dunit Murder Mystery Bristol Bar & Grill; Louisville, KY	
March 23; 12:30PM	Lunch/Tour @Talbot's Tavern Bardstown, KY Optional Overnight	
April 27; Noon	Tony York's Derby Lunch Glendale, KY	
May (TBD)	Over the Rhine & Findlay Market Lubecker Restaurant Cincinnati, OH	Or Mainstrasse Covington, KY
June (DTBD)	Goose & Gander Restaurant Midway, KY	
July 15	Keeneland Concours d'Elegance Lexington, KY	
August (DTBD)	"Guess Who" Lunch @ Historic Broadway Hotel Madison, IN	Or Jim's Seafood (Road Sign Rally) Frankfort, KY
September (DTBD)	Halls On the River Winchester, KY	Or 1894 Lodge New Washington, IN
October (DTBD)	Schitzelbank Restaurant Jasper, IN	
November (DTBD)	Joe Huber's Family Farm & Restaurant Huber's Orchard & Winery Starlight, IN	
December 8	Holiday Party Hurstbourne Country Club Louisville, KY	
1 st Saturday each month (April – November)	Coffee and Cars Fante's Coffee House; Louisville, KY	
2 nd Saturday each month	Cars and Coffee Captain's Quarters; Louisville, KY	

“Meet Your Stars”



Hello Bluegrass Stars,

Thank you for letting Tina and me join your organization. I found your group through a Facebook search and read about the event coming up in Midway, KY. We decided to head out, meet you and hopefully join up!

I purchased my first Mercedes, Excalibur, 13 years ago. It is a 1987 560 SL Roadster. At the time, I did not know much about the model other than I felt it was and still is the sexiest model of the fleet. About 3 years ago, we had some considerable family health issues, and my car stayed covered and quiet. About 4 months ago I decided to sell her since I was not driving it and wanted a 1966 Mustang convertible. So, long story short, I knew I had to get Excalibur roadworthy to sell. After 4 days of work, I finally got her started and drove around the neighborhood. In that short ride, I knew I could not sell her, I mean a Mustang for a 560 SL, really?

Recently, I inherited my father's 1998 E320, Ruby, with only 59,000 miles, and she looks brand new. Now, we are a 2 Mercedes family and I have a passion for the brand. I am very glad to meet other like-minded people who not only enjoy their cars but enjoy fellowship!



2023 Raffle Winner



Mr. Tony Battista

Niagara Section

NOTICE

Take advantage of extending your membership at the current rates before dues *increase* to \$85 on January 1, 2024. The dues increase will provide a \$10 revenue share per membership back towards their section.

And, remember, thanks to Miller Warren at the MB Louisville dealership, the Bluegrass Stars also receive a 10% discount on parts & labor.

2024 MBCA Trips to Germany



TRAVEL DATES AND RATES FOR 2024

June 3-9
September 16-22

The rate will again be:
\$3,300 double occupancy
\$3,600 single occupancy

Reserve your trip
today by visiting:
mbca.org/travel



Take MBCA's guided trip through the Stuttgart Region and experience the rich heritage of Mercedes-Benz first-hand. Hundreds of MBCA Members and guests have traveled to Stuttgart and many have joined us multiple times. Enjoy VIP destinations, accommodations, and five-star cuisine. No worries, just "WOW!" on this command-performance excursion for Members, families, and friends.

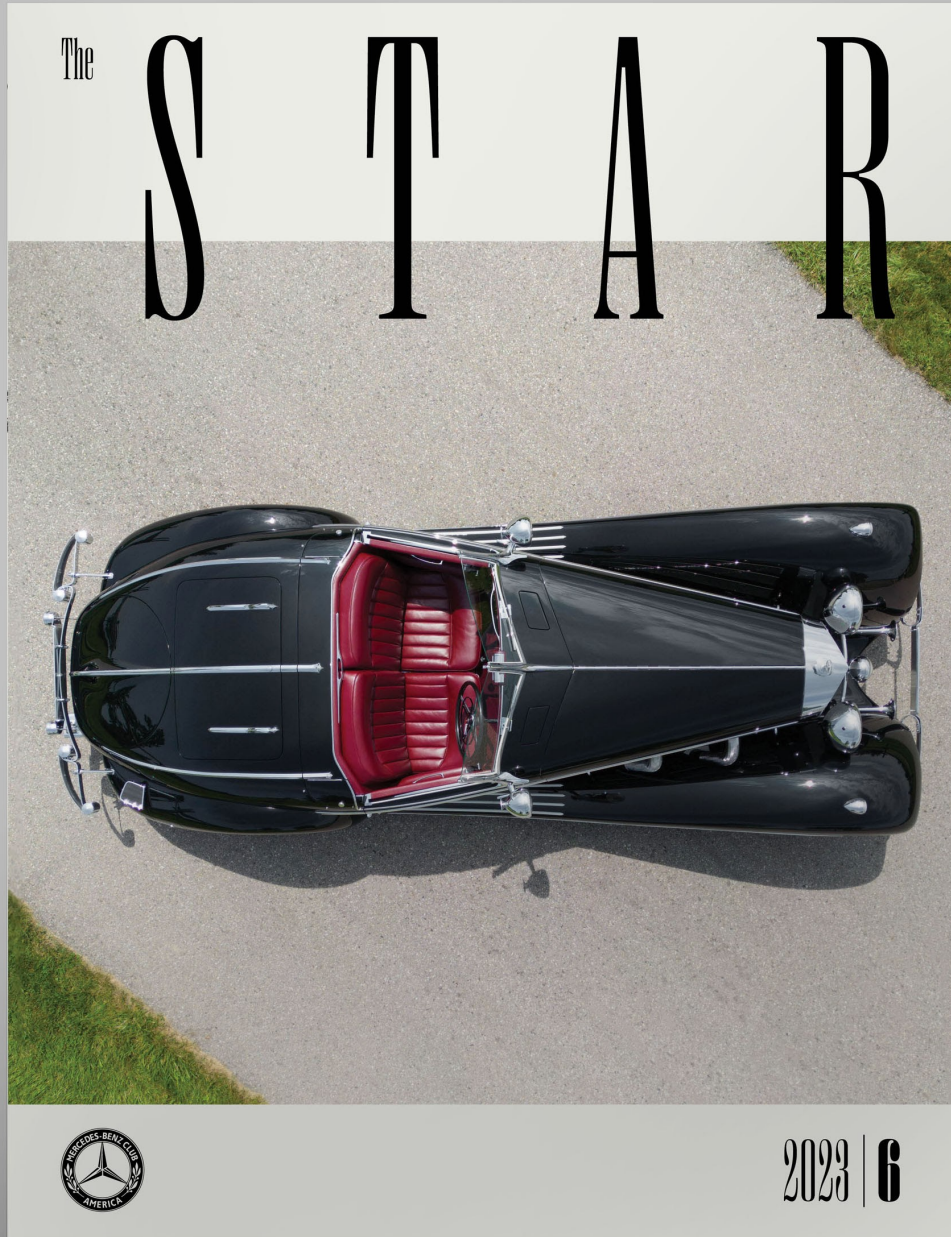
Enjoy captivating guided tours of the Carl Benz Museum in Ladenburg; the AMG facilities in Affalterbach; the Mercedes-Benz Museum and Brand Center in Unterturkheim; the Technical Museum in Sinsheim; and the Classic Center in Fellbach. We'll also be visiting the Sindelfingen assembly plant that covers more ground than the entire principality of Monaco. And that's just for starters!

See for yourself why this trip is consistently voted Nummer Eins (Number One) by discriminating travelers.

Email germantrips@mbca.org for more information or to purchase.

Archived Issue of The Star Available:

If you would like to purchase past issues of The Star, a mixed box is available for a limited time. Please log into MBCA.org prior to clicking ORDER NOW.



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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 719-633-6427.

Happy holidays, with Love.



We are on the web!

bluegrassstars.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.**