



The Bluegrass Star

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

Winter/Spring, 2011

UPCOMING EVENT – TECH SESSION AT AUTOBAHN MOTORS, MAY 21

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.

President's Message

Welcome to spring! A time when we all look forward to plants blooming, Derby Day and the festivities leading up to it, washing and waxing our Mercedes-Benzes, pumping out our garages and basements (OOPS!). As you read through our periodic newsletter let me make you aware of our tech In addition to the great tips we always get. We will also be recognizing our science fair winners that have done projects on "Building cheaper catalytic converters" and "wood gasification", two subjects that we might really benefit from in the future as gasoline climbs towards what it costs in Europe!

On a more serious note, all of you have seen on TV the devastation in the Southern US from the tornados of a few weeks ago. Even though there was no damage to the Mercedes-Benz plant that makes SUVs in Tuscaloosa



County, many of the workers lost homes and family members. I ask you to keep them in your thoughts and prayers and if you could, please donate to the Red Cross Alabama in care of your local Red Cross.

Holiday Dinner

It seems like, and in fact it was, a long time ago that we had our Holiday dinner. Turnout was nearly to capacity, and we had an excellent time although we are considering another venue for next year's dinner. Some pictures are in this newsletter, and more are on the website. Tom Binkley, who has

participated in many club events, was given the Member of the Year award. Thanks for your support of the club!

Upcoming Event – Autobahn Motors

We will be having a Tech Session on May 21st starting at 10:00 AM. Don's sessions and handouts have always been worthwhile and never disappointing. So, please attend!

Autobahn Motors is located at 1403 Hugh Ave., Louisville, KY 40213; phone: (502) 473-7858; website: www.autobahnmotorsky.com.

The Science Fair winners (see below) are also invited and will receive their awards at the meeting. We hope to have a review of their projects.

Science Fair Winners

The automotive-related MBCA Science Fair awards this year were judged by Larry Gettleman and Art Rupe, at the Louisville Regional and duPont Manual High School Regional Science Fairs on March 12th.

The winners were:

**Benjamin Meredith
& Devin Hamilton**

8th grade, St. Joseph Catholic School
Wood Gas Generator (Wood Gasification)

Teacher: Mrs. Valerie Brooks

Andy Wang & Cameron Shulak

11th grade
Developing Cheaper Catalytic Converters

Teacher: Glenn "Skip" Zwanzig

Other Upcoming Events

We have had a slow start this year but we would like to have a good showing at the Keeneland Concours in Lexington on the 16th of July. It can be hot at that time of year, but there are

indoor areas at the show also. In this time of expensive travel, you will see few gatherings of classic cars of this quality so close to home!

Brightwork and Chrome for 70's/80's Mercedes Models – Part 1

Steve Loboyko

I've done a lot of research and work in this area over the last several years. This will be a three-part article; the first part will discuss the various materials used in brightwork, the second part will discuss its maintenance, and the third part will discuss its restoration.

Chrome goes in and out of style, but seems to be back "in" these days. Virtually all "chrome" or even "brushed aluminum" on cars is actually vacuum-plated plastic. Although plastic is often derided, modern plastics with high-tech overcoatings are actually very durable and with even minimal care will last the life of the car.

Earlier 70's/80's cars used several different types of materials for the "shiny parts", namely:

1. Chromed die-cast zinc
2. Clear anodized aluminum
3. Stainless steel of various finishes
4. Early technology vacuum-deposited aluminum, both on painted metal and on plastic

The vehicle most familiar to me is the W107. I own the earlier 380 and later 560's, but I have actually installed many good used and restored 450 components. Here is a (more or less) complete assessment of the brightwork of a 70's/80's SL:

Parts that are "brightwork" (anodized aluminum):

- Window trim
- Headlight eyebrows
- The bright part of the door moulding
- The rocker moulding
- The trim above the door, and the window post brightwork (drip moulding, rubber channels)
- All hardtop and softtop trim
- All boot cover trim (except the die-cast zinc chrome receptacle for the top pin)
- The inside door armrest trim
- The LATER grille star (the front trim star and ring only), otherwise known as the "rock magnet"

Parts that are chrome-plated:

- The very small part of the door in front of the mirrors
- The hardtop/soft top front pins and rear pin "caps"
- The door handles (entirely) on earlier models except for the cylinder caps/doors
- The hard/soft top post pin hole surround at the rear
- The license plate light assembly (actually, three separate pieces)
- The trunk handle
- The trunk lock
- The mirror backs
- The older Becker radio front plate



- The chrome trim along the wood in the interior
- The chrome trim at the shifter (450/380)
- The shifter rod
- The inside door armrest trim (dull)
- The glove compartment lock
- The boot lid release handles
- The headlight rings on US cars
- Pre-560SL nameplates
- The ashtray behind the wood/vinyl panel
- The EARLY grille star (all metal, NLA)
- The grille “bars” on the side of the star
- Fog light lens hold-down/surrounds
- The trunk star (pre-560)
- Euro bumpers
- The chrome pieces along the inside of the door (visible only when door is open)

Parts that are vacuum-plated plastic:

- The inside mirror “triangles”
- The seat mechanism trim
- The taillight reflectors (BE CAREFUL - Clean only with a stream of water. Touching/rubbing will DESTROY the reflective layer)
- The third brake lamp reflector (86/87)(BE CAREFUL - Clean only with a stream of water. Touching/rubbing will DESTROY the reflective layer)
- The trunk star (560)
- 560 nameplates

Parts that are vacuum-plated metal:

- The headlight reflectors (euro only)(BE CAREFUL - Clean only with a stream of water. Touching/rubbing will DESTROY the reflective layer)
- The fog light reflectors (as above)

Parts that are stainless:

- The windshield wiper arms and blades

- (original, low-reflectivity,brushed finish)
- The cowl top (where the two top pins go above the windshield), semi-polished/brushed original finish
- The F/R bumper covers, US, may be nickel plated, highly polished finish - Beware: New OEM replacements may NOT be polished to high polish!
- The windshield washer nozzles
- The cylinder caps/doors on the locks

Discounted Parts

If you wish to purchase Mercedes-Benz parts, the dealerships and shops listed below 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

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

AUTOBAHN MOTORS LLC

1403 Hugh Ave
Louisville, KY 40213
(502) 473-7858
See Don

JAMES MOTOR COMPANY

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

Technical Manuals/EPC

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.

The Electronic Parts Catalog at www.startekinfo.com/epc is an extremely valuable resource. It’s free to US customers. It contains part numbers and exploded drawings of virtually every sellable assembly of your car (yes, YOUR car, down to your VIN – production parts do change over time). You will also earn the respect of your parts counter person when you can describe what you need more clearly to them by utilizing this tool!

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 Web site; if you are Internet-challenged, call the MBCA at 800-637-2360.

Website

Don’t forget to check the website for late-breaking news:

www.mbca.org/bluegrass_stars

Safety Notice

Steve Loboyko

I’ve always been a careful worker, using habits that my grandfather instilled in me since I was perhaps 10 years old. I’ve done quite a bit of mechanical work, a lot of it fairly “dangerous” in nature, but I’ve never skimped on safety equipment. For example, I purchased an industrial-sized fire extinguisher along with a welder that I may use for an hour per year.

The secret to success in safety equipment, is, of course, in the actual USAGE of that equipment. I recently suffered a serious lapse in this area.

After spending countless hours grinding and buffing numerous aluminum and steel parts, some for my cars and some to sell, I had learned to be careful. But between coming home and dinner one day, I thought I would spend a few minutes on a minor problem that had been bothering me. It was just a five-minute grinding job, but I wasn't wearing my safety glasses because "I just couldn't find them".

The next morning, I was in serious pain. After two days of agony and three doctor office visits, I had a tiny sliver of steel removed from a cornea. I got off lucky; there was no permanent damage. (By the way, the ophthalmologist told me that the bulk of his business these days comes from weekend "weed-whacker" usage, not industrial accidents.)

So, the four-figure lesson here (and I consider myself *lucky*), is to ALWAYS buy and USE safety equipment no matter how big or small the job. I suppose that I failed to learn my grandfather's last lesson. He had been an accident-free machinist in a very busy machine shop for 37 years and in the last few years of his career he was a consultant to other machinists. He thought that he would show a technique to others that he had learned on a piece of equipment. He broke his own rules concerning modifying settings on a powered machine and proceeded to remove the tip of his finger!

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 without prior arrangement for payment. Your ad will appear in the next issue of The Bluegrass Star.

See the club website for photos and descriptions of additional parts donated to the club by our past president, Stuart Dickstein!

For Sale

1977 450SL Celery Green/tan. 156,000 miles. Always garaged and very well maintained. Hard top with lift/storage system, alloy wheels, CD player. Excellent condition. \$10,500. Third owner, Gary Stephan at (502) 439 0568 or garywstephan@gmail.com.

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, \$50 each.

Half-shafts for rear suspension R107, W115, W123 & others, used, \$100 each (price lowered).

Additional parts are still available from former club president Stuart Dickstein's collection and business: proceeds from the Bundts and other parts will benefit the MBCA Bluegrass Stars Section. See the previous newsletters for parts listing. Contact Larry Gettleman for details.

Section Officers/Board of Directors

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

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