



# The Bluegrass Star

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

Spring 2022

## MBCA Mission Statement:

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

## President’s Message

Finally, spring is here, my favorite time of the year! The cold, wet brown grass is turning green, the Bradford Pears are in bloom, the Dogwoods are budding, and I even like those pretty yellow dandelion flowers. I definitely encourage you to enjoy the weather and motor on Kentucky’s scenic country roads and count horses instead of billboards!

Along with our own planned events for the year, there are others around town that may be of interest.

On April 9, 9:00-11:00AM, Cars & Coffee at Captain’s Quarters in Prospect will be available for anyone to attend. It is a charitable event, a casual car show, held on the second Saturday every month in the restaurant’s large parking lot, and it is open to any and all interesting cars. The \$5 charge benefits the Mount Sinai Movement Disorders Center of Excellence. Visit [www.mountsinai.org](http://www.mountsinai.org). It is a great event for meeting and greeting interesting people and looking over cars you don’t see every day. You can see more details at [www.cgriverside.com/cars-coffee](http://www.cgriverside.com/cars-coffee).

Fante’s Coffee also has monthly Cars and Coffee events on the first Saturday of the month, April-November. These are free to exhibit and free to attend. Learn more at [www.fantescoffee.com](http://www.fantescoffee.com).

On April 20 the Stars will have dinner at Fante’s Coffee in Louisville. We had dinner there in April 2019 and wanted a repeat in August 2021, but COVID got in the way. This one should be extra special.

We had already planned on lunch on May 21 at Tony York’s on Main in Glendale, KY but just learned that Glendale is having their SpringFest that day from 9AM-5PM. We are hearing from a couple of sources that parking could be an issue because of the amount of people expected on that day. We are reconsidering the date for this, so, stay tuned.

Rick Siefert, our Central Region Director ‘termed out’ and is now the President of the St Louis Section. Ken Koehler has taken his place after serving as the Indianapolis Section President for a number of years. Ken will visit us at the Keeneland Concours in July. See Ken’s “hello” letter on Page 5.

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## March Event at Jim's Seafood "Road Sign Rally"

On Saturday, March 26, the Bluegrass Stars had our second event of 2022. Other than the weather being a little colder and very windy, it was quite a success!

We started off with a "Road Sign Rally" from Louisville to our lunch destination in Frankfort. Several Stars participated, but Betty and Tom Clark won by spotting 33 of the 37 signs along the beautiful back roads, ending at Jim's Seafood. Congratulations to all who participated in our first rally of the year!

Jim's served us a special lunch menu that everyone enjoyed, and the private dining room provided great views of the river and spillway just outside the windows!

We had a very successful 50/50 drawing with Todd Ryan winning half the pot. His wife, Francis, won the 2nd prize which was a spring gift basket. Francis had very graciously set aside five of her tickets for our very busy and efficient server, Whitney, who was gifted with the basket. Thanks, Francis, for being such a generous Star!

We look forward to seeing you all next month at Fante's Coffee Shop for dinner on Wednesday, April 20th.



950 Wilkinson Blvd Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 223-7448



Tony and Whitney

*2022 Event*



*Calendar*

After much deliberation, suggestions, and experiences, below is the event calendar that we have come up with for 2022. The last two years have really been wonky, but we are confident that we can actually commit to an annual event calendar. Times will be announced as we get closer to the actual event, so here you go.

April 20, Wednesday: Fante's Coffee Shop (Dinner)

May TBD, Saturday: Tony York's (Drive, Lunch, & Shopping in Glendale)

June, Weekday: General Butler State Park (Drive & Lunch)

July 16, Saturday: Keeneland Concours (All day)

August 20, Saturday: Madison's Historic Broadway Hotel (Drive and lunch with Jaguar Club)

September 7, Weekday or Saturday: Octoberfest at German American Club

October TBD: Toyota Plant Tour in Georgetown

November TBD: Weekday or Saturday: Bluegrass Aviation Airport in Lexington

December TBD: The Corner Café (Christmas Party Dinner)



*Linda Price is introducing herself as a new member. Michael Morris, facing Linda, is also a new member.*

### *February Event at Martin's BBQ Joint*

**W**e finally got 2022 started with our first event of the year, a lunch at Martin's Bar-B-Que Joint which is located in the former Indian Springs Golf Clubhouse. We had rescheduled this event when our January date was called off on account of inclement weather.

There was a good turnout, and the barbeque was delicious. Martin's graciously provided the private room for us, so in the event you couldn't join us this time, please visit them in the future. You can check out their menu on the website [martinsbbquoint.com](http://martinsbbquoint.com).

We had two new members join us: Linda Price and Michael Morris. Welcome Linda and Mike!

Winners of our 50/50 drawings were Marty Rosenberg and Steve Loboyko.



We had a great turnout for our March event at Jim's Seafood in Frankfort, KY

Louisville, KY, was the first Martin's Bar-B-Que Joint we opened outside of our native Nashville. We've always loved Louisville, and it's a dream for our team to be able to serve this community. Here you'll find all the kitsch and charm and, most importantly, Martin's beloved family recipes. Louisville is open 6 days a week (closed Tuesdays). Come by and say hi soon!

## Christmas Party at Claudia Sanders

The Bluegrass Stars finished 2021 in style with the Section Christmas party at Claudia Sanders Dinner House on December 2, 2021.

We had an excellent turnout, including Susan Ward, a guest of Marty and David Rosenberg. We hope Susan will choose to join our Section soon.

Dinner was, as always, plentiful and filling. We had door prizes for everyone. Thanks again this year to Membership Chairman, David Rosenberg, with help from Vice President, Anne Gilliland.

To keep the fun going, we also had a very profitable 50/50 drawing. The cash winner was Steve Loboyko, who also won the third place prize of a beautiful diecast Mercedes-Benz model. The second place prize, a German and Mercedes-Benz gift

basket, was taken home by the Morgens. Many thanks to Ken Hayes who compiled a wonderful slideshow presentation from the Mercedes Freude on Hilton Head Island in November. And, finally, David Rosenberg was recognized as the Mercedes Benz Club of America Bluegrass Stars Section Member of the Year. Congratulations David!



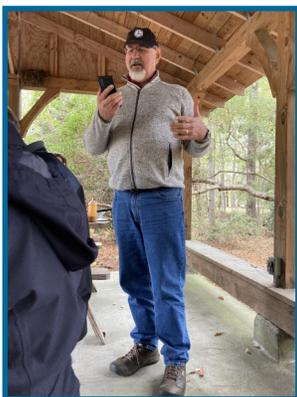
David Rosenberg is presented the 2021 MBCA, Bluegrass Stars Section



The Morgens took home the German/ Mercedes Benz gift basket.



Ann & Fred Mudge; Anne & Vic Gilliland; Ann & Ken Hayes



Jim Fekete,  
TSD Master

## The Mercedes Freude, The Joy of Everything Mercedes

In November, six of our members attended the “new and improved national event,” the Mercedes Freude, The Joy of Everything Mercedes, November 2-5, at the Omni Hilton Oceanfront Resort on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.

The event was the kickoff for Legends of the Autobahn, East Coast, which was held on the Port Royal Golf Course, followed by the Hilton Head Island Concours d’ Elegance, also held at Port Royal.

There were numerous tech sessions available for the attendees and many other official events including a trip to Savannah, a tour of the Butterfield Plantation, a TSD (Time, Speed, Distance) road rally as well as the casual evening get-togethers to meet and exchange section news with our counterparts from all over the country.

Rick Siefert, MBCA’s National Events Chair, and his team did an outstanding job with this national event, in spite of the unfortunate arrival of unseasonably cold, wet weather that hampered the Saturday and Sunday events. It was an outstanding event that I wish we could all have attended.

## NICE BENZ!

This is such an easy way to invite a Benz owner to join Mercedes-Benz Club of America. This two-sided invitation can be placed on the windshield of a Benz you see parked anywhere. It even includes a hyperlink to the Mercedes-Benz Club of America: <https://www.mbca.org>. Just hold the camera on your iPhone over the bar code until you see mbca.org in yellow and tap on it. The website comes up, and you tap on Join, and voila, everything you need to know is right there in order to join.

Our club has these available, and we have ordered more. You can pick some up at our next event or contact Gary Rumrill at [g.rumrill@twc.com](mailto:g.rumrill@twc.com).



*"Do you know that we have a Facebook page and a website? Check these out for updates, event information, photos, and lots more!"*

*Log on to Facebook; go to the search icon, and type in Mercedes-Benz Club of America-Bluegrass Stars, and you will find our page.*

*Our website is also on our Facebook page: <https://www.bluegrassstars.mbca.org/>*

## "Hello" from the new Central Regional Director

I just wanted to take a moment to introduce myself to all the members in the Central Region of MBCA. My name is Ken Koehler and the first of November 2021 I took over for Rick Siefert as Regional Director (RD) of this region. Rick had been RD for 7 years before deciding to become president of the St Louis Gateway Section again.



*Ken & Sara Koehler and Rick & Patty Siebert*

My wife, Sara, and I live in Noblesville, IN, and are members of the 500 Section in Indianapolis where I was president for the last 5 years. We are looking forward to visiting many of the eight sections in the region during my 2 year term. I am reviewing your event schedules to find a good time and event to meet as many of you as possible. In the meantime I will be in touch with your sections' presidents to keep them and you informed of what is going on at the national level of MBCA.

Ken Koehler  
Central Regional Director

Many thanks go out to Steve Lobyko, who has been our publisher for several years and has done an outstanding job. He is stepping back for a while to attend to other matters.



Ann Mudge has stepped up and committed to make sure we meet our MBCA commitment of four issues per year.

Ann is a long time member, so you have probably seen her at past events. She is always more than willing to help out in any way that she can, from raffle ticket sales to taking photos for our Facebook page and website.

We are always looking for material/content, so please let us know if you would like to suggest a topic.

Anne Gilliland  
VP, Bluegrass Stars

## Treasurer's Report

The Bluegrass Stars' financial status has been somewhat diminished, but not materially changed over the past several months, or, for that matter, over the past year since the National Office placed a HOLD on their usual stipends to the local clubs.

The only check book activity has been minor outflows to cover such things as postage expense, Christmas Party favors, and annual filing fees. These expenses have been covered to some degree by the revenue from our 50/50 raffles.

We have no indebtedness nor do we have any anticipated future extraordinary expenses.

We continue to be solvent and financially capable of continuing the normal activities of the Bluegrass Stars.

Fred Mudge  
Treasurer, Bluegrass Stars Section

## Bluegrass Stars Officers

**President—Gary Rumrill;**

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**Central Regional Director—Ken Koehler;**

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## Stars' Web Master Profile

Hi! I'm Nancy Rece. I worked in Information Technology at Procter & Gamble, taking early retirement in 2001. My husband, Bob, and I have been MBCA members since May, 2003. To say we love Mercedes-Benz could be an understatement. Since buying my first Benz in 2001, we have owned 19 of them!

Our primary section is Cincinnati since we live in Northern Kentucky, but we are also members of the Bluegrass Stars. I have held many roles for MBCA. For Bluegrass Stars, I have been web master for at least 12 years, being awarded Member of the Year in 2011. For the Cincinnati Section, I have been Web Master, Membership Chair, President and again, Membership Chair. In 2005 and 2009, I was Cincinnati Section Member of the Year, and in 2010, Central Region Officer of the Year.

The Cincinnati Section covers an area north of Dayton, OH south to Nicholasville, KY. It currently has 197 members, 24 from KY.

## SPRING GREETINGS, STARS!

Since I became the club's Membership Chairperson, I have greatly enjoyed the position. We now have a total close to the highest membership I've ever seen. Mercedes Benz Club retention rates are as follows:

National retention rate is 79%; our region's retention is 83%. **Our section's retention is 92%**

With my healthy concern/respect for the Covid virus and its variants, I have been able to do very little in the way of recruitment. I suspect/hope that will change in the very near future.

So, why are our numbers so favorable? Thanks for asking! The answer is actually quite simple. It's the character and personalities of our members, and I can't stress that enough. Additionally, we were, until Covid, enjoying a whirlwind of fun activities I sometimes call "field trips".

Please remember that I'm available at any time for questions, comments or suggestions about the club at:

Email: [mbca.bs.membership@gmail.com](mailto:mbca.bs.membership@gmail.com) Text/phone: 502.548.8960

Happy Motoring,

David Rosenberg  
Membership Chairperson  
Mercedes Benz Club of America  
Bluegrass Section



## The MB Market

Online Auction Website  
Exclusively for Mercedes-Benz

[TheMBmarket.com](http://TheMBmarket.com)

A Modern Platform For the Classic Enthusiast

# F

or each newsletter, we ask for **TECH TIPS** from our members, and Steve Loboiko has hundreds of articles that he has written and is willing to share with us. Below is one of the recent ones that he has submitted. Thank you Steve for sharing.

### **Wheel Curbing and Damage Repair** by Steve Loboiko

My “new to me” 2013 E350 was in very good condition (not surprising for the low number of miles), but the previous owner had been using the wheels as curb feelers, which is definitely not recommended. Every wheel had at least some damage to the edges, some more than others; one had a serious gash. I also had a bad thump at higher speeds that I traced down to a wheel that was very slightly bent on the inside of the rim. Ironically, it was the least “curbed” of all of the rims.

### **Why This Problem Is Getting Worse**

Modern rims are getting larger in diameter and the rubber sidewall is getting smaller! (Curbs, however, seem to be remaining at the same height). Fundamentally, there is less rubber between the wheel and the road these days to cushion a large pothole or other defect. And the quality (or lack thereof) of modern roads (potholes, etc.) is not helping the situation at all. Manufacturers are cutting out every speck of weight from cars, and the wheels are “just barely strong enough” to do the job. Something beyond “normal roads” will wind up bending a rim.

On top of the above, newer wheels have a “diamond cut” bare anodized finish on some or all of the rim and/or spokes. This type of finish is extremely difficult to cosmetically repair and is probably beyond the DIY'er to fix.

The things you can do to prevent wheel damage are:

1. Keep the tires inflated to recommended pressures. It is important to have an accurate gauge and to only measure and adjust the pressure on a tire that is stone cold (that hasn't been driven at beyond neighborhood speeds for anything but a very short distance). Note that the definition of “a cold tire” changes radically between summer and winter temperatures. In either case, check your tires in the morning! Do not rely on your TPMS system to tell you when the tires are low. It was not designed for this purpose.
2. Drive (and park) Carefully! Duh!
3. There is a new product on the market, “rim protectors” ([www.rimbladesusa.com](http://www.rimbladesusa.com)). Gary Rumrill has these. These are sacrificial plastic overlay around the edge of the rim and won't stop a severe curb hit, but at their cost, they are probably a bargain compared to a repair, particularly, if you have anodized aluminum/“diamond finish” wheels.

### **Repairs/Replacements**

Mercedes may or may not have replacements for your rim. My rims are apparently no longer available. New (the car is only 9 years old, and not exactly a low-volume model, either!) and MB refurbished rims are at least \$550 each.

Many, but not all, Mercedes rims have aftermarket “look-alikes”. These can be of varying quality. Where they came from is not necessarily an indication of their quality. Some Asian rims are JIS/TUV certified with the paperwork to prove it. Some are not although they are designed to meet or exceed those standards (testing/certification is quite expensive), and some just aren't tested, sometimes for good reason!

## My Repairs

For my bent rim, I took the wheel to Wheel Doctors in Cincinnati. This is a full-service shop. Many shops that claim to “fix your rims” subcontract to places like Wheel Doctors and take a cut. In many cases, Wheel Doctor can also repair cracks! My wheel took less than a day and cost about \$100 to straighten out. In testimony to the quality of the repair, the tire, when installed, took only a tiny number of weights to get balanced. The thump was gone!

For the curb rash, three of the four rims were repaired with sanding and some paint. I used emory cloth and various wet-or-dry sandpaper of 220/400 grit. Very little of the aluminum had to be touched, but there was a good amount of bare aluminum. Most paint does not like to stick to bare metal, so a primer is needed. For primer, I used Harbor Freight “ironman” Primer/surfacer, a “high-build” primer. A great suggestion that I found on the Internet for matching this era of “Mercedes Wheel Silver” is Caliper paint, usually used by “tuner kids” to make their brakes look nice through their incredibly large rims. I found this paint to be very good, self-leveling, reasonably quick drying, and fairly glossy. For the clear coat, I used High Temp clear, used on wheels and car parts. Note that neither of these paints are truly “automotive base coat/clear coat”, but they aren’t as immediately toxic to work with or expensive, either! My experience has been that paints like these will last for a good number of years. The color match without the clear was good, and got better (darker) with the clear coat. It may be slightly off, lacking a bit of blue, but it isn’t noticeable particularly if you are just doing touch-up. How to mask while painting, you ask. Firstly, I would take the wheel off of the car; and secondly, an old deck of playing cards tucked between the tire and rim does an amazingly good job for masking overspray.

One of the wheels had more serious rash, including a rather serious gouge on the edge. A professional shop might have stripped the rim and TIG welded this (\$\$\$), but a functional alternative is the use of Bondo “plastic” (NOT ordinary Bondo, this metal/plastic type comes in a tube) which is much harder than usual polyester filler. I filled with this and sanded the divot, and then repainted. This will never be as strong as filled-in weld, but most of the time tire shops don’t put much strain on the front of rims anyway.

As you can see in the photos, you can't tell from color which rim here was original and which was refinished. I can, because upon close inspection, the repainted one is not quite as shiny as the other, but I'm calling this "good enough"!



# Concours d'Elegance

## ROLLING MASTERPIECES

It's an exciting year for the Hilton Head Island Concours d'Elegance & Motoring Festival! 2022 marks the 20th celebration of the fine art of the automobile, the passion that drives us to collect and curate these beautiful works of craftsmanship and construction, and the spectacular Lowcountry backdrop that draws thousands of spectators to the island each November. Visit <https://www.hhiconcours.com/>.

In homage to our rich history and 20-year tradition, the 2022 Hilton Head Island Concours d'Elegance & Motoring Festival has elevated every aspect of this unique Lowcountry lifestyle event into an art form.



The 2021 Concours d'Elegance & Motoring Festival was one for the books. The weather did not cooperate as we all would have hoped, but the sun ended up coming out just in time to crown our Best of Show! While we cannot control weather, given the circumstances, we will be offering anyone who purchased a Saturday or Two-Day general admission ticket, an exclusive discount for tickets to the 2022 show. We'd like to extend 50% off for any of these general admission tickets.

As soon as our tickets go on sale online for the 2022 show, we will let you know and give you the promo code to acquire the discount and the date the code will expire. This will be a limited time discount offer.

We appreciate your support this past weekend and look forward to celebrating 20 years of the Hilton Head Island Concours d'Elegance with you next fall on the "Top Island in the U.S."

LINDSEY HARRELL,  
President

Hilton Head Island Concours d'Elegance & Motoring Festival

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