



The Bluegrass Star
A Publication of the
Bluegrass Stars Section
Mercedes-Benz Club
of America
November/December, 2008

NOTE DATE FOR DINNER AT ERIKA'S RESTAURANT: Tuesday, December 9th!!!

Welcome!

We welcome new members to the Bluegrass Stars Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America. We are happy that you have joined our section. The success of our club depends on all members participating in our club scheduled activities. Please bring a friend and family members with you to all events you attend. Your comments are very important on how the club can be improved or by volunteering to organize an event. We are looking forward to seeing each of you at our upcoming events. We now have 168 members, an all-time high. Thank you for joining or renewing your memberships.

James Warren Davis	Louisville, KY
Anne Korbar	Louisville, KY
Ninamary Burba Maginnis	Louisville, KY
Raphael Potts, Jr.	Louisville, KY
Chris Bartholomew	Louisville, KY
Frank Cogswell	Louisville, KY
Mark England	Louisville, KY
Richard Franklin Keys	Louisville KY
Bill Vanover	Somerset, KY
Robert H. King	Hurricane WV
Dan Stewart	Lexington, KY

Thanks to our dealers and shops for sponsoring new members to MBCA.

President's Message

On Saturday, October 11th 2008, the Bluegrass Stars Section members held a Tech Session and Pot

Luck Lunch behind the service area at Tafel Motors of Louisville. This tech session

was different from the last one because the service area at Tafel is now open for business on Saturday mornings. This was good for recruiting new members. Everyone in the service area was invited to share our pot luck feast, scheduled to start at noon. We also had plenty of MBCA application forms and hand-outs. Door prizes and tickets were given to each person attending the tech session. Thanks to our dealer, Tafel Motors of Louisville, for the use of their facilities, furnishing door prizes, and providing service personnel. Several top technicians were available in the shop to answer questions. Buddy Freeman, replaced Billy (BJ) Smith, who was on a cruise with his family. James (J) Harley volunteered his time again to work with our Bluegrass Section. The Club recognizes Mary Jo Patterson, the parts department manager at Tafel. In the absence of the service manager, Mary Jo made sure that there were enough door prizes for every one attending the tech session. The club president, Nat Williams, presented Mary Jo Patterson a desk organizer from MBCA, for her services to the club. Mercedes-Certified sales assistant Angat M. Patel volunteered to take interested club members for a test ride in the lightning-fast C64 AMG Mercedes. All were impressed, but some were glad to exit the vehicle. The pot luck lunch was great, thanks to the excellent cuisine of side dishes and desserts the members brought to be added to Rosie's great tasting chili. Dana Ruthers was the first, as usual, to contact the president to inform him that his

Mercedes needs to go up on the lift to be checked out.

Thanks to our photographer, Seth Burr, for taking such great, memorable photos of the tech session and pot luck lunch at Tafel. These pictures will soon be on the new website!

Important Technical Note:

From Don Mc Coy at Autobahn Motors, Louisville:

“I would like to bring to the attention of the club members a technical note - on all 210 chassis the area behind the auxiliary fans is accumulating road debris and over time rubbing a hole into the air conditioner condenser this is a very expensive repair that can be avoided by having your repair shop inspect for and clean any trapped debris between the back of the fan housing and air conditioning condenser. This summer we had three cases of this failure and I anticipate more as the cars age. Also the debris is blocking the cooling ports for the auxiliary fans which will lead to premature fan failure as well”.

Updated Calendar of Planned Events

Holiday Party 2008

We will have our annual holiday dinner and end-of-year meeting on Tuesday, December 9th 2008 at 5:00PM, at:

Erika's German Restaurant
9301 Hurstbourne Park Blvd.
Louisville, Kentucky
(502) 499-8822

Members, friends and guests of the Bluegrass Stars Section should plan to attend. Come early and help us plan new and exciting events for 2009! Please mail your payments of only (\$15 per person in your group) prior to December 6th, 2008. The Section subsidizes the cost (the actual price is \$26 per person), but alcoholic drinks are extra. Your RSVP for your entire group will be your check payable to the Bluegrass Stars Section of MBCA. Please mail your check to the club treasurer, Larry Gettleman (see page 4 for Larry's telephone/address/email).

This is definitely a yearly event not to miss.

Drivers and their navigators should note that Hurstbourne Park Blvd. is the short street just off Hurstbourne Parkway can be a bit difficult to find. If you are coming from the west on I-64, take care to take the local access ramp at the Hurstbourne exit, No 15, not the main ramp for southbound Hurstbourne Parkway, or you'll miss Erika's. Turn right at the foot of this ramp and watch for the turn into Erika's before you reach the traffic light. If you come from the east on I-64, turn left to head south on Hurstbourne Parkway. Coming from the south, go past I-64 and make a U-turn to come back, because there's no access from the northbound lanes of Hurstbourne Parkway. Look for Rosie's new black GL 550 Mercedes parked in front.

The annual holiday dinner at Erika's, in the past has provided us with a great opportunity to get together for a fun-filled night of camaraderie with fellow members, recruiting new members, and awards.

Erika's typical menu includes the following:

Jungschweinebraten (tender pork roasted with garlic and spices)
Jagerschnitzel (tender breaded pork loin in a creamy mushroom sauce)
Wiener schnitzel (pork loin breaded with fresh lemon)
Bratwurst plate (three German bratwurst with potato salad and sauerkraut)

Side dishes: Spätzel, German potato salad, sauerkraut with dinner salad, and German bread.

Dessert: Chocolate mousse cake.

Drinks: Coffee, tea and soft drink

Cash bar will be available

Please plan to attend. Send your RSVPs (for your entire group) in to the treasurer. Erika needs this information in order to prepare enough food for everyone.

Note:

There will be a members' meeting prior to serving time. Come early and help us plan new and exciting events for 2009!

W107 Seat Skin Replacement

Certainly, there's nothing more detracting from your 107's interior than tattered seats. To my eye, any external "cover", even if installed preventatively, begs the question, "what's underneath"?

It might be worth investigating repair by upholstery professional if only one spot is bad on your seats. A notorious problem with 560SL seats is the bolster on the driver's side, which is rubbed on each entry and exit. One new member of our club showed me the amazing results of a repair. This may have the additional benefit of keeping the car as original as possible, if this is important to you.

There are products on the market that can actually "restore" as opposed to "cover up" or "shine" old leather. These are generally sold as systems of cleaning, softening, preparation (possibly involving filling holes and cracks), and dyeing (actually, painting), and these products are not inexpensive. I have no personal experience with them but the general consensus on the Mercedes boards is that if the instructions are followed, in the summer, with seat removal and partial disassembly, amazing results can be had. However, this is a lot of work, and the seats can't be too far-gone. There remains some concern about the dye rubbing off on clothing if not thoroughly dried in the summer sun, and/or a layer of clear dye applied.

New seat skins can be obtained from many suppliers, in "MB-TEX" (or so they say) or in leather. Cloth/velour seats, generally found on "gray market" cars, is much more difficult to acquire. Be aware that most of the time, the "MB-TEX" will be plain old vinyl, and the leather is unlikely to match the original grain or weight of the original material, which is no longer available from the original supplier. Expect to pay \$350-\$450/pair for vinyl and \$700/pair and up for leather. Generally, headrests and the armrests are included in a set, but the seat backs are not. Seat covers are sold in pairs because the odds of matching your perfectly good passenger seat to your worn driver's seat approaches zero.

Unlike modern cars, with their heaters, built-in speakers, power units and switches, wiring harnesses, and so on, it is not that difficult to remove the 107's seats, and to recover them. Expect to pay \$350-\$450 for vinyl and \$700 and up for leather. Generally, headrests and the armrests are included in a set, but the seat backs are not. I've done this job twice having never done this work in a car before armed only with the MB shop manual and what I've read on MB boards. Only a few "tricky" tools are needed, but a must is a very high quality #4 Philips

socket and a breaker bar, because there are high-strength screws in the side frames that have been locked in and even with the best tools I'm only 50% successful in removing them without drilling. Genuine MB replacement screws are a must because of the safety functions of these screws. When restoring or replacing the covering on your seating, be aware that even perfectly executed original colors won't absolutely match the rest of your interior, because of fading over time. Some higher-end seat cover suppliers can actually work from a sample of your interior taken from a discreet location and account for this in color-matching.

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.

Discounts are available at:

TAFEL MOTORS

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

AUTOBAHN MOTORS LLC

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

www.autobahnmotorsky.com

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.

For Sale

Front & rear floor mats for W123, blue, embroidered star, used, \$30.
Four 14" Bundt 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 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. *Contact Nat Williams (see Section Officers)*

Four original 14" rims and hub caps for 77 450 SL, Wheel P/N 1084000802, w/celery green hub caps in mint condition, \$150 for set.
Five MB 14" wire wheels, Zenith, true knock-offs, with tires. Need re-chrome. Fits 73-85 SL. \$200 for set.

Contact Gary Stephan, garystephan@bellsouth.net

1988 420SEL, with rebuilt engine performed by Autobahn. Garage kept, owned for 10 years, must sell, \$2500.
1999 E320, 133K mi, regularly maintained at Autobahn since new. Must sell.

16" Mercedes sports rims with new tires. ~1000 miles.

Contact Jane at gjhancock@aol.com for more information.

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**.

Section Officers

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

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