



The Bluegrass Star

A Publication of the
Bluegrass Stars Section
Mercedes-Benz Club
of America
January/February, 2010

Reminder: Saturday, March 27th: Tech Session at Autobahn Motors!

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.

Chris Foreman	Louisville, KY
Michael Lanham	Lebanon Jct., KY
Patrick D. West	New Albany, IN

Breaking News

Nathaniel Williams has stepped down as president of the Bluegrass Stars Section due to multiple medical problems that have reduced his ability to vigorously lead the section. Member-of-the-Year Dana Ruthers of Lexington has agreed to become president and is planning future events with the other officers, Larry Gettleman (treasurer and membership chair) and Steve Loboyko (editor and secretary).

Message from Nat Williams

Dear Bluegrass Star Section Members,

The Holiday Dinner at Erika's German Restaurant was our last event of the year 2009. We had the largest turnout of any other event. The food at Erika's was great, and we express thanks to Erika and her staff; the service also was great.

Our club invited members of the Cincinnati Section of MBCA and our Webmaster, **Nancy Rece**, a member of the Cincinnati Section, to join us. We had a great time as the two clubs members mingled, reminisced about past events and activities, and planned for upcoming events.

The Bluegrass Section president presented the 2009 MBCA Member of the Year Award to **Dana Ruthers** of Lexington, Kentucky, for his consistent participation in section activities. The president also handed out several great door prizes to club members. Lucky winners included the following: Jerry Krupilski, Anna Kilroy, Thomas Downey, Rick Mayes, Bob Rece (Cincinnati Section), Tom Binkley, and Larry Gettleman. Working together, we continue to make every effort to improve our

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club activities, bring in new members (now 177), and retain current members.

Remember, the reward for recruiting new members is a one month extension on your current membership for each member recruited. To receive credit, you must record your name and membership number in the sponsor's section on the membership form given to the applicant to complete, which is mailed with his/her membership remittance.

Together, we can generate many new ideas for future club activities. We want to avoid becoming stale by doing the same things year after year. Our club has several dealers and shop owners that volunteer their services by volunteering to give tech sessions in their service shops and provide instructors. Many of our door prizes are donated by them, and some of these people are also our own club members. Let's show our appreciation and support them. One day, some of you may own your own business. We would be happy to do the same for you. Join us at our scheduled events and make 2010 another FUN YEAR!

Take a look at page 90 of the January-February, *The Star* magazine. You'll see some members of the Bluegrass Stars Section as they gathered for the tech session at Tafel Motors. Enjoy other fantastic photos taken by club photographer Seth Burr, also shown in the *Bluegrass Star* newsletters.

THANKS, to everyone for making 2009 a successful year and for attending the Holiday Dinner at Erika's German Restaurant to end the year on such a wonderful note!

Peace & Happy New Year. Let's also make 2010 a prosperous and exciting year!

Upcoming Events for 2010

Saturday, March 27, 2010:

Tech Session at Autobahn Motors -1403 Hugh Ave (located just off Poplar Level Rd underneath the overpass), Louisville, KY 40213. Tel: (502) 473-7858. www.autobahnmotorsky.com
Tech Session Time: 10:00 AM – 11:45 AM.
Potluck Lunch Time: Noon – 2:00 PM.

Instructor/owner Don McCoy will give a talk on the finer details of Mercedes-Benz ownership, including the Control Area Network on newer vehicles.

During the session, the two middle or high school winners, their parents and teachers, of the Mercedes-Benz Automotive Science Award at the Louisville Regional and the duPont Manual High School Science Fairs, will be invited to attend. They will demonstrate their award-winning science projects.

Details are as follows: Club members: please bring a dessert of your choice. Guests and invited personnel need not bring anything. The club will provide the snacks which includes a salad dish, meat tray, flatware, soft drinks, cups/hot and cold, plates etc. Autobahn Motors, will furnish 20 – 30 chairs and two tables. The club banner will be placed outside his shop so that you can easily find his shop. Note: If you have any needed services to your Benz, call Don as listed above. He will put your automobile up on the lift, only on a first contacted - first served basis, due to the time limits for the tech session and lunch. **Note:** If Mr. McCoy has a DVD player in his shop, the club will present the fascinating story behind the oldest and most successful producers of cars, driven by royalty, racers and the very rich, since 1886. You'll discover how the Mercedes-Benz has consistently created designs which combine the highest levels of luxury with the newest technology to exude an opulence maintained for over a hundred years. You'll enjoy this DVD!

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. Your editor has already more than saved his first year's membership by taking advantage of these types of discounts. Restrictions apply; call for details.

TAFEL MOTORS

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



Larry displays the loot that will be raffled. The odds of winning were very favorable, thanks to MBUSA and MBCA sponsors.

Dana Ruthers receives the Member of the Year award from Nat Williams. Little did our new president know what awesome responsibilities he was about to acquire when this photo was taken!



Winners were chosen for the raffle...

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No, Tom Binkley did not pick his own ticket!

As usual, dinner was excellent.



The later starting time gave many a chance to avoid traffic and get a breather from work.

AUTOBAHN MOTORS LLC

1501 Mellwood Avenue
Louisville, KY 40206-1749
(502) 587-7827
See Don

JAMES MOTOR COMPANY

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

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.

Roadside Service

Mercedes-Benz USA offers free roadside service for the life of the vehicle. This applies to any Mercedes, new or old, first owner or fifth owner, no matter about the mileage of the car.

Call 800-FOR-MERC-367, you'll need to be with the vehicle to give location and vehicle identification number.

Roadside assistance includes:

- Flat tire change
- Jump start battery
- Vehicle battery replacement (customer pays for battery)
- Out-of-fuel service

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*.

For Sale

Four 14" Bundt alloy wheels, nearly new, \$50 each. Half-shafts for rear suspension R107, W115, W123 & others, used, \$100 each (price lowered).

Contact Larry Gittleman (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 S 500 Mercedes; \$150.

Four-piece air vent for dash of 2000 S500 Mercedes; \$225. Nat Williams (see Section Officers)

Note: These ads in the Bluegrass Star are also available on the Web on the MBCA website, with increased exposure!

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**.

Editor's Note:

My apologies for the late distribution of this newsletter. With the sudden departure of Nat Williams as president, and some personal pressures, the newsletter suddenly loomed large . I will make every effort to produce newsletters every two months, more closely spaced in our more active summer (most MBCA sections send newsletters quarterly).

Mercedes (And Other) Service

Did you know that members can get one free MB-related ad in the Bluegrass Star? For example, Art Rupe and Duane Bartlett, members, are the principals of R&B Motors in Louisville. They have 20+ years of Mercedes service experience, and, frankly, who knows how many years of experience with other, “lesser” marques. The shop is open 9~6 Monday through Friday, and is located at 233 Adams Street.



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