



The Bluegrass Star

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

Fall 2012

UPCOMING EVENT – HOLIDAY DINNER - ERIKA'S GERMAN RESTAURANT, DEC 18TH

President's Message

First I would like to thank Dick Barnett for organizing the Churchill Downs Concours for us again. It was well organized, everything went well and all in attendance had a terrific time!

Our next event is the holiday dinner on December 18th at Erika's German restaurant at 6. Please get your checks in to Larry Gettlemen our treasurer ASAP so that we can give Erika a definite number. Remember that in order to get our group discount, club subsidized price and family style food we need to have at least 25 members attend. We will be passing out the Bluegrass Stars Chapter member of the year as well as electing a new president and officers for the next year. Please make sure to attend! If you have any ideas for activities for the next year please let me know soon!

Tschuss!

Dana

Recent Event

Churchill Downs Louisville Concours, Oct. 7th

Well, we were hoping for cooler weather, and we got it! However, the wind was light (until the afternoon, anyway). Club turnout was very good; a special thanks to Dick Barnett for organizing this popular event. As usual, there was an excellent assemblage of older and modern cars at the concours, which is probably among the last "show car/car club" events of the season. Seth Burr brought one of his "other" MB's, his W126 S Class (euro), and it got more attention than he expected due to its mileage and great condition.

A special thanks from the club to Tafel Motors of Louisville who paid for ten of our entry fees, and to Seth Burr, who provided the photos, as well as Dick Barnett, who got us involved with this enjoyable outing!

Editor's Message

Due to increasing demands from my job, it has become very difficult, if not impossible, to give the newsletter and the club the attention that it deserves.

I ask that someone please volunteer to take my place as Editor during the next meeting's elections. If you have any questions, please call me at (859) 232-5173 or email 560mbsl@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Steve

Upcoming Event

Our Holiday Dinner will be Tuesday December 18th at Erika's German Restaurant, 9301 Hurstbourne Park Blvd, Louisville, KY 40220, 502-499-8822, at 6:00. Please come a little earlier if possible for club meeting. The cost will be \$20 per person. This covers food, drinks (non alcoholic) and gratuity. Please send all checks to Larry Gettleman by December 13th. Your check will serve as your RSVP.



Bluegrass Stars at the Bats + Science Fair Winners, July 2012



The Bluegrass Stars Section held Mercedes-Benz Night at the Bats AAA baseball game July 6, 2012, and hosted the Automotive Science Award winners from the Louisville science fairs: Luca Sanchez, 6th grade, St. Francis of Assisi Middle School: "Which Biodiesel? Understanding Efficiency and Testing Emissions," and Chris Miller, 11th grade, duPont Manual High School: "Thermocouples Embedded in Roadways: Sustainable Energy for the Future."

The Bluegrass Stars Section gathered at Louisville Slugger Field to attend a Louisville Bats AAA baseball game and dinner on July 6, 2012. Twenty members and guests attended on the hottest day of the year (40°C - 104°F)! Then the team went on to lose to the Toledo Mud Hens 8-0.

We also hosted the science fair winners of the Mercedes-Benz Automotive Science Awards, which were judged by Bluegrass Stars-member Art Rupe of AWR Imports. The winners, their families and science teachers were invited to the game. An MBCA certificate and checks for \$100 were also awarded for outstanding science projects to:

- > Luca Sanchez, 6th grade, St. Francis of Assisi Middle School: "Which Biodiesel? Understanding Efficiency and Testing Emissions;" and
- > Chris Miller, 11th grade, duPont Manual High School: "Thermocouples Embedded in Roadways: Sustainable Energy for the Future."

Other MBCA sections are encouraged to make special automotive science awards at their local science fairs. Information may be found at www.societyforscience.org/isef.

Larry Gettleman

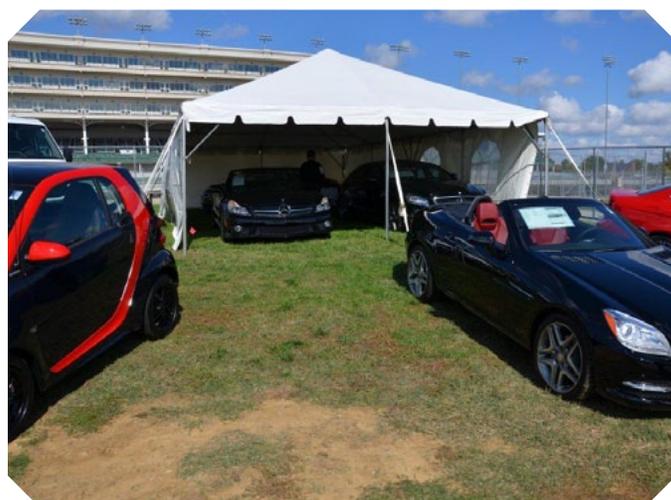


We also held a mini-concours at Louisville Slugger Field. Shown waving is member Richard Barnett after the other 28 attendees had entered the ballpark for dinner. The Louisville Bats lost to the Toledo Mud Hens 8-0. It was our luck that we chose the hottest day of the year when temperatures reached 40°C (104°F)!



Ten member-cars from the Bluegrass Stars Section were on display in the mini-concours. We hoped for no home runs over the left field wall and none occurred.

Louisville Concours D'Elegance - October 7, 2012



W107 Odometer Gear Replacement

Steve Loboyko

So, you are driving along, and you need to use the trip odometer on your 81+ W107; you push the reset button in order to count the miles to your next checkpoint or destination...

...and then, the trip odometer digits never move again from 000.0!

Although removing the instrument cluster from the W107 is not pleasant, once it is out, it is not difficult to repair common problems. One of those problems is clock failure, which along with cluster removal was detailed last month; this month, we will look at the trip odometer. Note that these instructions pertain only to the 81+ electronic speedometer; the older mechanical speedometer can also suffer a similar problem, but the repair can be more difficult if it doesn't involve the mechanical cable alone.

The gears within the trip odometer were made of a soft plastic that deteriorates with age and heat - thus, this problem is more common in the South. However, ALL W107's will succumb eventually to this problem, even "garage queens" (the gears were made of a very soft plastic to keep noise down). Here is how the gears are replaced. As stated before, use these instructions at your own risk and with an honest assessment of your mechanical skills.

You will need:

- a. A 5mm 1/4" socket and driver.
- b. "Small" and "very small" straight blade screwdrivers.
- c. A small set of wire/side cutters
- d. As mentioned below, you can't safely order new gears until you SEE the old gears, but, obviously, you will need them in order to do this, so you need about two weekends to do this. Although generally you COULD replace only the small gear (some suppliers break up sets at some savings), I would recommend replacing them all. You do not want to do this twice and subject everything to risk. CAUTION: Do not believe everything you read. Not ALL 380SL's, for example, have the same number of teeth on the gears.
- e. A tiny brush or compressed air to blow out every trace of the old gears and dirt. This is important, because the tiny motor in the odometer has little torque.
- f. A VERY TINY amount of "white grease".

Steps:

1. Remove the cluster as detailed last month.
2. Flip the cluster face down on a towel or carpet, and remove the screws as shown in Figure 1.
3. Remove the wiring assembly hold-downs and carefully

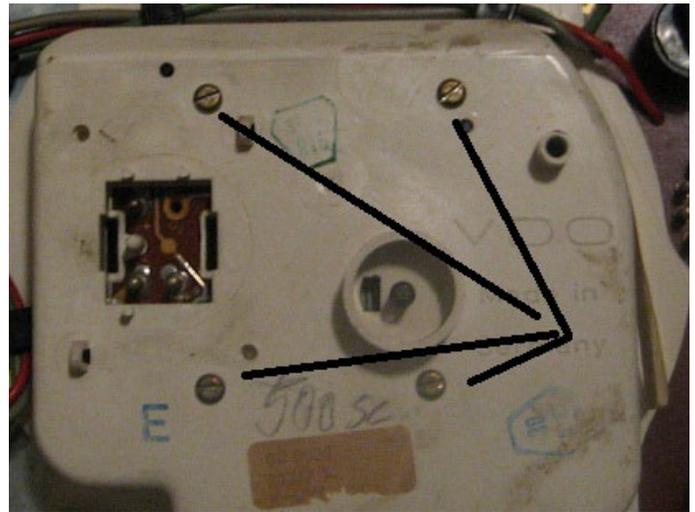


Figure 1

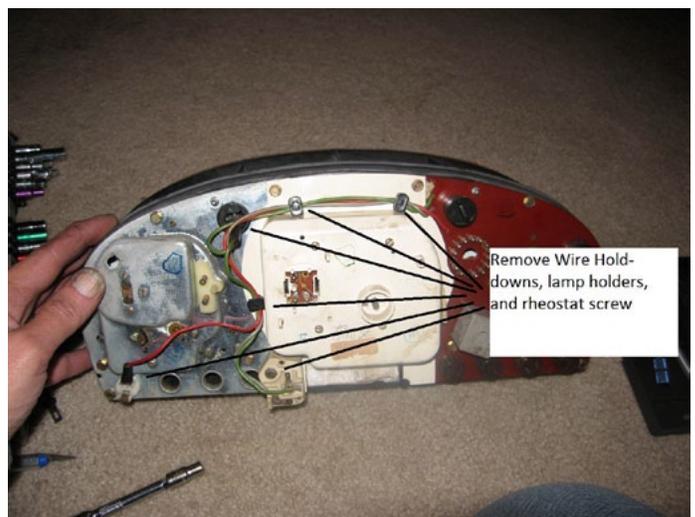


Figure 2

4. push the wiring and lighting, and rheostat aside carefully. Flex the wiring as little as possible. See Figure 2.
4. Lift the speedometer from the cluster assembly. Lay it on its side; do not EVER lay it face down.
5. Remove the four screws from the back of the speedometer and lift the white plastic cover from the speedometer. See Figure 3.
6. Lay the speedometer on its X side and observe the plastic cover over the gears. Remove the two screws from the cover and lift the plastic cover. See Figure 4.
7. You will see three gears, as shown in Figure 5, two large gears and one small gear. Observe their position and orientation, and remove them (only the "top" three). The small gear is the one that invariably turns "gummy" and dies. Now, observe the number of teeth on the larger gear underside. This is generally the number of teeth the supplier will ask for. Suppliers can be found on eBay or with Google. Generally, all replacements I've seen seem to be made of Derlin or nylon.

8. Remove the gears. The two large gears will lift off of the shafts. The tiny gear will probably disintegrate. **HOWEVER**, it will leave a small bushing behind. The new gears will not use this bushing. So, **WITHOUT** pulling/pushing on the shaft, use the side cutters to distort the bushing until it slides or breaks off. **Again, do not unduly stress the shaft.**
9. Using the suppliers instructions, count the teeth on the old gears and order new pieces.
10. With the bushing removed, brush out thoroughly and/or blow out with compressed air the gear train. **ALL** traces of dirt and/org broken/crumbling gears must be removed.
11. Replace the two large gears, and push the small gear onto the shaft until it is down below the end of the shaft and engaged with the other gear. Put a small amount of grease on the teeth of all of the new gears. I didn't do this, and I can hear a "tick-tick-tick" as I drive from the odometer.
12. Replace the clear plastic cover and screws, ensuring that the cover's shaft guides engage with the shafts. Do not overtighten into the plastic.
13. Replace the white plastic cover on the speedometer with the four screws; do not overtighten.
14. Replace the speedometer into the instrument cluster; Note that the long screw holds the rheostat on the lower left side. Do not overtighten.
15. Replace the wiring, lamps, and wiring hold-downs.
16. Reinstall the cluster (see last month's article and link).

While You Are In There...

This would be a GREAT time to replace all of the lamps. These are available at the dealer or at better car parts stores. **DO NOT** exceed the original wattage because this has been known to melt the plastic of the cluster. **EVEN IF** the bulbs are still working, look at them closely! Those tiny bulbs develop "black spots" long before they completely fail and don't put out as much light as they once did. "Preventative maintenance" will save wear and tear on the car, on you, and on your wallet.

Also, look at my link concerning general cleaning and polishing, including the polishing of the instrument cover. Here is the finished product (a spare 500SL Euro cluster), with custom bezel rings, polycarbonate instrument faces, and painted needles. They and the clear plastic cover look like new on this 148K mile cluster. Keep in mind that you look at this part of the car more than any other, and that a nice instrument cluster is the crowning touch on a nice car.

You may wonder, where the "burl wood" cluster housing came from; that's a story for the next installment... 🚗

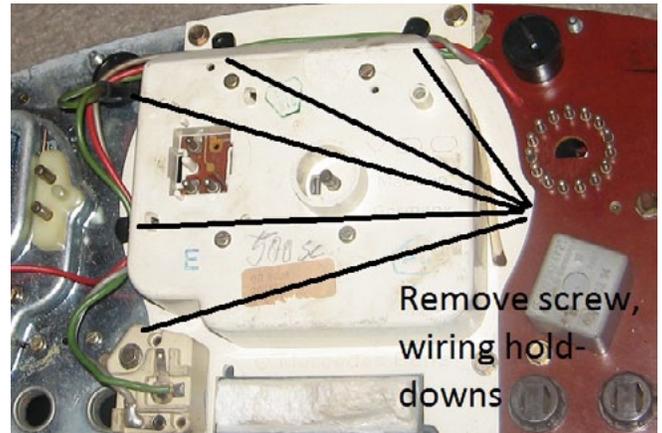


Figure 3



Figure 4

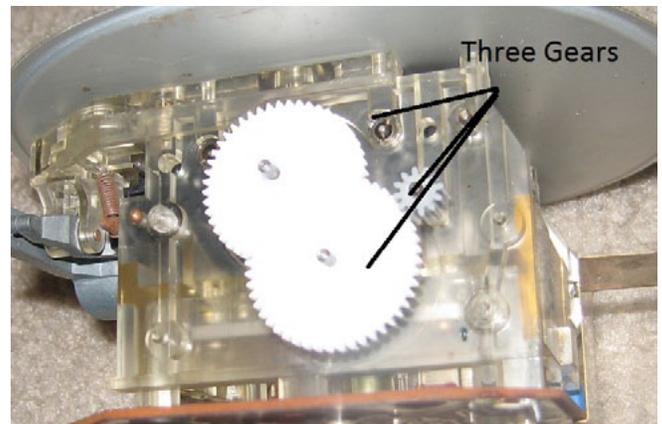


Figure 5



Figure 6

Section Officers & Board of Directors

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

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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 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, \$25 each (price lowered).
- Half-shafts for rear suspension R107, W115, W123 & others, used, \$100 each (price lowered).

Contact Larry Gettleman for details.

Discounted Parts

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

Web Site

Don't forget to check the Web site for late-breaking news:

www.mbca.org/bluegrass_stars

MBCA Membership Drive

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.