



The Bluegrass Star  
A Publication of the  
Bluegrass Stars Section  
Mercedes-Benz Club  
of America  
January/February, 2009

**NOTE: February 28<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, 2009 – Meeting/Tech Session at Autobahn Motors, 11AM-1PM!**

**Welcome!**

We welcome new members to the Bluegrass Stars Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America. Thank you **for joining or renewing** your membership. The success of any club depends on all members participating in the club's scheduled activities. Please make plans to attend as many events as possible. Your comments are important on how the club can improve in upcoming events.

Patrick Becka	Prospect, KY
William Castetter	Cordon, IN
April Gentile	Louisville, KY
Ricky L. Jones	Louisville, KY

**President's Message**

Bluegrass Stars Section members journeyed to the club's **Annual Holiday Dinner Party** at Erika's German Restaurant on Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> 2008. The End of the Year meeting started at 5:00 PM due to the early darkness and the difficulty for out-of-town MBCA members and guests locating Erika's in the darkness. To add to the problem, it was still raining and had been raining all day. Special instructions were placed in the newsletter to assist everyone how to get to Erika's Restaurant to avoid delays. Yes folks! It was a hit for our Club! We had 42 members and guests. The weather was not perfect. It was warm (in the 40s) for this time of the year. We had a great time, thanks to Erika's hospitality! We had several members of the Cincinnati Club visiting our club. **Nancy Rece** of the Cincinnati was our **guest speaker**. She

explained the Web site our two clubs are sharing. Nancy Rece is also our Webmaster.

In the Q&A, Tom Binkley asked if the models of members' current or collector Mercedes vehicles could be listed on our Web site for other members to find unique parts or to check proper assembly when needed. Nat mentioned defensive driver training, combined with the 500 and Cincinnati Sections, on June 9, 2009. Not many at the dinner expressed much interest in attending this event.

Nat then presented a surprised Thomas K. Binkley with the **Member of the Year 2008 Award** for dedicated service to our club and MBCA. Congratulations Tom... you deserve it!

We had a special door prize drawing for all the club members in attendance, to show our appreciation for a wonderful year. Our dealers, shop owners and members have done a great job in recruiting new members (total of 168 at the end of 2008). Our challenge now is to keep those members in 2009. The officers were presented with a 256-page book by Dennis Adler on the development and history of the Mercedes-Benz. We also gave some away as a door prize and holiday gift. This book shows the Mercedes-Benz from its earliest days to present, through concise and engaging text and lavish photos of all the greatest Mercedes-Benz models, including the very first Benz Patent Motorwagen and many more, right up to the Mercedes-Benz McLaren SLR German-Anglo sports car. This book is a feast for any Mercedes-Benz fan, luxury car enthusiast, or automobile history buff. See attached photos of the holiday dinner.

## The Bluegrass Star, January/February, 2009

Thanks to Erika, owner of Erika's German Restaurant and her staff for another wonderful holiday dinner in 2008. Thanks to all club members and guests for coming to the dinner and making it a big success!

### **TO GET YOUR BLUEGRASS STAR AND REMINDERS ONLINE, SEND US YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS**

To get your Bluegrass Star Section newsletter to you in a timelier manner, we are asking Section members to send their e-mail address to our editor. **Don't worry** - MBCA rules are very clear: your address will not be sold or otherwise distributed to any outside party. We respect your right to privacy. The list is used only for MBCA and MBCA-related events and announcements. If you want to receive information on-line, please send your e-mail address to the club newsletter editor, **Steve J. Loboyko**, at his address as listed in the Section Officers section of the newsletter.

Also, take a look at the new website by Nancy Rece for up-to-date news:

[http://www.mbca.org/bluegrass\\_stars](http://www.mbca.org/bluegrass_stars)

### **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

**Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, 2009** – Meeting/Tech Session at Autobahn Motors, 1403 Hugh Avenue, Louisville, from 11AM-1PM. This is under the Poplar Level Road Overpass. Snacks and coffee will be provided. The phone number is 502 473 7858 but if you need directions contact one of the Section Officers.

**March 14, 2009** – Bluegrass Section's Larry Gittleman will judge the Automotive Science Award winners at the Louisville Regional Science Fairs and the duPont Manual High School Regional Science Fairs. Assistant judges are welcome. Contact Larry.

**April 11, 2009** – A drive in the country to Mt. Vernon, Indiana, to visit John Gerton at Gerton Auto Sales, an independent automobile dealer and Mercedes-Benz aficionado.  
[www.gertonautosales.com](http://www.gertonautosales.com)

There will be tech sessions on detailing, repair & maintenance, interior trim & soft tops, and BBQ. For reservations, contact John Gerton at [g5group@insightbb.com](mailto:g5group@insightbb.com) or (812) 838-2248. Details will follow.

**Star Tech 2009** will be hosted by the Indianapolis 500 Section MBCA. [www.startech2009.org](http://www.startech2009.org)  
April 29-30 – National Board Committee Meeting  
April 30 – President's Meeting  
May 1 – National Board Meeting  
May 2-3 – Star Tech 2009

**July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009** – Mercedes-Benz Night at the Louisville Bats vs. Indianapolis Indians – We will rent a suite for the event this year. The MBCA Cincinnati and Indianapolis Sections will be invited.

**July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009** – Keeneland Concours d'Elegance, Lexington, Kentucky. The featured car this year will be the Morgan. [www.keenelandconcours.com](http://www.keenelandconcours.com)

**August 15<sup>th</sup>**, 11:00AM – 1PM Lunch – Mercedes-Benz Club tours Huber's orchard and distillery. The cost is \$10 per person, for wine tasting and tour.

### **Show Winner!**

Dick Barnett has been a member of the Bluegrass Stars section for more than 25 years. He joined the club after purchasing a used 1974 gas-powered 280 Mercedes 4-door sedan. Dick enjoyed the car for several years but when the odometer rolled over 100,000 miles he sold it.

For decades Dick did not own or drive a Benz and says he may have set a record for maintaining a membership and staying active without more appropriate wheels. However, two years ago he became a little more "legitimate" when he purchased his dream car, a 1988 560SL from the original owner in Bonita Springs, Florida. The car had only 39,000 miles on it and was in pristine



Thomas Binkley, receiving the 2008 Member of the Year Award from Bluegrass president Nat Williams at the holiday party.

The authentic menu was a once-a-year treat for many!



The service was, as usual, excellent and the larger-than-expected crowd was accommodated well.



It was almost difficult **not** to win a “door prize”.

Table discussions centered on our favorite cars, their past, and their future.



Richard Barnett’s show-winning, low-mileage (but driven!) 1988 560SL, as described in this newsletter.

condition. Dick says it makes him feel 10 years younger when the top is down.

Now Dick has never in his lifetime ever entered any of his vehicles in a car show but thought that maybe it was time to share his pride and joy with the public. On October 18th he paid the \$10 show entry fee to the Calvary Nazarene Church in Louisville figuring that it was a donation to a good cause. They had 30 beautiful automobiles and trucks and five motorcycles in the show. Dick's favorite was a 1936 DeSoto, restored to perfection and painted a bright yellow. It had been a NYC taxicab and was equipped with its original meter along with 14 cents a mile fare prices on the doors. The owner bought it from Disney World in Florida and said the cab had been used in the movies.

This was the first annual open car show sponsored by the church and when the awards were handed out, Dick's 560SL (see center page for picture) won a trophy with a \$25.00 cash bonus. Dick described the trophy as somewhat gaudy with double columns sitting on a marble base supporting another marble base which in turn supports a single column. At the top of the single column is a large gold plated star, appropriate for a Mercedes!

In addition to the trophy, Dick's name was drawn for the last and best door prize – a 14" battery operated wall clock in the shape of an alloy wheel. He gave this to his grandson. So Dick had a good day and came out \$15 ahead. His advice from this experience... "if you have a nice Mercedes – don't hesitate to flaunt it – it may just pay off for you!"

### 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](http://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.  
2 sets of MB rubber mud flaps with molded 3-pointed stars. \$25/pair.  
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 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)*

### 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](http://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,

**President:**

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