



The Bluegrass Star

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

Fall 2024

A Message from the President:

Starting off on a positive note – we have had three amazing events in our third quarter, and I could not be more pleased! Some of the Cincinnati Chapter members joined us for a visit to Over the Rhine and the Findlay Market in Cincinnati, Ohio, and we enjoyed an authentic German lunch at the Queen City Radio Bar afterwards. We may have to add this to our repeat events, but pick a cooler month!

July 20th found us at the Keeneland Concours d'Elegance in Lexington, Kentucky. We again provided our visitors with lots of beautiful Mercedes-Benz to see, brand information, cold water and cookies – and we were able to recruit several new members! Next year we plan to expand even more by providing “bios” for each of the cars on display!

We ended the quarter with a Central Region event in French Lick, Indiana. There were 35 individuals attending, representing five of our eight Chapters. On a less than positive note, if the MBCA new By-Laws pass in November, the Regional Director position will be eliminated, and there will be only Directors at Large. If you would like to read the current By-Laws and/or vote on the proposed new By-Laws, you can find both on the mbca.glueup.com site. This will also mean we will no longer have Regional Events – something I have looked forward to each year.

The thing that I am most proud of this year continues to be choosing “His Blessings Box” as our Charity Component that serves the homeless of Louisville with food, clothing, etc. Having seen them in action for the last year, I can say that the volunteers, of which several of our members are, get almost as much fulfillment as do the recipients of your gracious gifts. I wish I could share the stories of these wonderful giving people and those in our community who receive their help. It is a Blessing to all. The latest is the completion of actual “Blessings Boxes” where donations can be dropped off and can be sponsored by a church or group who is interested.

Our last three events of 2024 will be a visit to the Old Friends Farm, followed by lunch with the Cincinnati Chapter; a visit to Huber’s Family Farm and Restaurant, and, of course, the Holiday Party at Hurstbourne Country Club.

We hope to see lots of our Bluegrass family there!

J.Anne Gilliland
Bluegrass Chapter President

Inside this issue

Concours d'Elegance	2
Central Region Event.....	3
Schnitzelbank Restaurant.....	4
Get to Know Your Stars.....	5
Remaining 2024 Events	6
Mercedes-Benz Louisville	7
Audrey Hepburn.....	8
Bluegrass Stars Survey	9
12 Best Designed M-B.....	10
Welcome New BG Stars.....	11
BG Stars Officers & BofDs.....	12

Special points of interest

- Please participant in the enclosed Bluegrass Stars Survey (Page 9).
- Remaining 2024 Schedule of Events

Keeneland Concours d'Elegance 2024

Mercedes-Benz reigned supreme at the 2024 Keeneland Concours d'Elegance on July 20th as the 2024 Marque. It was a beautiful day for this year's event, and we have been told that this was the largest and best Keeneland Concours since they began in 2003. The biggest winner is the UK Children's Hospital who is the beneficiary of the proceeds from the Concours.

We had so many spectacular Benz in the premier Marque Paddock that we literally had to direct traffic.

The photos do not do the field justice, and the Bluegrass Stars talked to so many Benz lovers that we gave away all of the copies of the Star Magazine and the "Nice Benz" cards to potential new members. The cookies and ice water are always a draw, but most of those folks stayed to sit a minute in the shade, talk Benz with us, and inquire about our own personal "marques." Many also took copies of our impressive 2024 Schedule of Events. We even had one couple join MBCA on the spot, and we expect more from the contacts we made.

University of Kentucky Children's Hospital has Eastern and Central Kentucky's only Level I pediatric trauma center, Level IV newborn (neonatal) intensive care unit and pediatric intensive care unit.





August 1-4, the Central Region event at the West Baden Resort in French Lick, IN brought 35 members from five different chapters. It provided a great opportunity to reunite with friends as well as to make new ones. After registration on Thursday afternoon, we had dinner at 33 Brick Street in French Lick.

Friday was a very full day: We toured the Tell City Pretzel Factory in Jasper, IN where the town was celebrating the German Strassenfest on the town square; we enjoyed happy hour at El Compadre Mexican Restaurant and met for a group dinner at The German Café.

On Saturday, we caravanned through a beautiful scenic area and then met for lunch at Legendz Sports Bar. That evening ended our event with a banquet in the West Baden Springs Resort.

We hope to see these same great members plus some others for a Central Region reunion next year.



Deutscher Verein Room

On Saturday, September 7th, the Bluegrass Stars Chapter met for lunch at the Schnitzelbank German Restaurant in Jasper, IN. Our waitress, Lindsey, was happy and professional and took great care of us. We had a wonderful group of friends and members, and a chance to have an impromptu members' meeting to discuss lots of issues and new ideas.

We discussed the members who have not renewed their membership, and ways to try and encourage them to do so. Ideas included sending out emails to those who have not. Several members had ideas about appealing to more Benz enthusiasts, and we are working on that, including the possibility of adding subgroups to our Chapter.

We have a great group of Mercedes drivers who have become great friends and want 2025 to be an ever better year! Hope you will join us!



“GET TO KNOW YOUR STARS”

Growing up (do military aviators ever really “grow up?”) on the rural southern edge of The Bluegrass in the ‘50’s and 60’s, as with every red bloodied American adolescent male, I was enthralled with the coolness and freedom provided by the automobile. I believe every male kid from my generation has a “Corvette story”. The Marque that was Mercedes Benz wasn’t even on our radar.

I drove a C-1 Corvette during Army Flight School. Years and a number of different addresses stateside and abroad found me back in a string of Corvettes. Still no MB? I’m getting there!

In 1998, I’d sold my two remaining C-4’s and was still awaiting the National Corvette Museum delivery of my new C-5 and needed something to drive during the wait. Something lead me to a used car dealership dealing in Mercedes, BMW’s, and the occasional exotic where I found a really nice 1986 190E 2.6 liter. I bought it as a “driver” car awaiting my plastic Chevy. My new used 190E just kept on impressing the car guy in me to the point that, still awaiting “the delivery,” I traded for an even nicer 1993 300E. Did I mention that the MB seed had now been firmly planted? After taking delivery of my new C-5 and having a really nice 300E as an alternate “daily driver,” the 500E bug started. My used car dealer, turned friend, happened to have a couple of 500E’s on his lot and, yep, my 300E became a really low mileage 500E.

About this time, Anne needed a reliable vehicle for her new commuter job with the USDOJ, and we liked the looks of the first generation ML 320. At that point we were unknowingly a firmly entrenched Mercedes-Benz family, and, in 2005, I decided to join MBCA.ORG. I liked her ML so much I bought it while she drove a new Mercedes C320 when she moved to more civilized terrain in Columbia, South Carolina. Back home in San Antonio, I added a 2005 CLK 320 to “the fleet.”

I’m now down to the 500E, the ML320, the afore mentioned 2005 CLK320, and my C-5 along with Anne’s C320.

By the time we moved to Louisville in 2007, I was down to “only” two cars: the 500E and C-5. I found myself a 2003(IRC) E320 shooting brake, aka “station/sport wagon” in Indiana. Everything I had read in “The Star” and other publications was true. It handled like an “E” Class sedan with as much or more room than an ML SUV and AWD.

Sometime around 2010, I found a newer E 350 CPO “shooting brake” (pretentious, aren’t I?) better color, IMHO, (silver and black interior) and the larger V-6 (350 vs 320). The ML 350 was rear-ended about this time, and thus was our first experience with accidents and Mercedes; kudos to the vaunted Mercedes safety rating.

We traded the 2007 ML350 for a new 2017 GLE350 in the summer of 2017, and that has been our “go to” for trips to Texas, shopping hauls, and just about everything else.

By now we were attending more events with the Bluegrass Stars Chapter, meeting new friends and enjoying the events.

Our last addition to the fleet was a snazzy little 2013 M350 Cabriolet, and we loved it, even if we were back to three cars with a two car garage! We were getting more and more involved with the Stars; the friendship of like-minded enthusiasts has been cemented due to our appreciation of the Mercedes automobile!

And me? I’m still enthralled with the coolness and freedom provided by the automobile. Only now, that automobile is the true marque of the industry – the Mercedes-Benz.

This is a condensed version of Vic’s many experiences and adventures with his many Mercedes-Benz automobiles. Please click this link to read in its entirety:

[Vic’s Mercedes-Benz Adventures](#)



Mercedes-Benz

Remaining 2024 Schedule of Events

October 5; 1PM	Mercedes-Benz of Louisville Tour/Lunch/Car Wash
October 19	Old Friends Farm (Cincy lead) Georgetown, KY
November (DTBD)	Joe Huber's Family Farm & Restaurant Huber's Orchard & Winery Starlight, IN
December 1; 5PM	Holiday Party Hurstbourne Country Club (Eagles Nest) Louisville, KY
1 st Saturday each month (April – November)	Coffee and Cars Fante's Coffee House; Louisville, KY
2 nd Saturday each month	Cars and Coffee Captain's Quarters; Louisville, KY

Passion

never goes out of style.



Mercedes-Benz
of Louisville

7

mblouisville.com | 502-896-4411 | 2520 Terra Crossing Blvd.

Forget Fancy Ferraris: Audrey's Love for Elegance and Practicality

Audrey Hepburn rose to fame in the 1950s and 60s, starring in iconic films like “Roman Holiday,” “Breakfast at Tiffany’s,” and “My Fair Lady.” **Known for her grace and beauty**, she often played roles that were both stylish and strong-willed. It's perhaps no surprise, then, that her car of choice reflected these same qualities – **a classic and elegant machine that was also practical and functional**.



The 230SL was a sleek and stylish **two-seater convertible with a retractable hardtop roof**. Think of it as the ultimate beach-going accessory, the kind of car that turns heads. It was perfect for cruising the Italian Riviera with the wind in her hair. But it wasn't all about looks. The 230SL also packed a bit of a punch under the hood © Provided by TORK US. It sported **a fuel-injected 2.3L inline-6 engine** that offered enough power for comfortable highway cruising.



The interior of the 230SL was all about understated elegance, just like Audrey herself. Think **rich leather seats, a wood-trimmed dashboard, and a simple yet functional layout**. There weren't any fancy digital screens or complicated buttons – just the essentials for a smooth and comfortable ride. While some might scoff at the lack of modern features, that's part of the 230SL's charm. **It's a car built for a simpler time**, a time when elegance and quality mattered more than horsepower and gadgets.

So, how much would it cost to own a piece of Audrey Hepburn's automotive history? Well, **a 1967 Mercedes-Benz 230SL can range anywhere from \$30,000 to well over \$100,000** depending on the condition and specific features. It's definitely an investment, but for a car so timeless and stylish, it might just be worth it.

Next time you watch a classic Audrey Hepburn movie, picture her not just sipping coffee at a Parisian café, but cruising down a scenic highway in her white Mercedes. Are you stylish enough to drive a timeless classic like this car?

Just some grilles...

We are beginning to plan our Chapter's events for 2025, and we would like to have your help. Please click on the link below, and give us your input.

Thanks.

<https://forms.gle/RgDEhWctCEPwYvKU8>



The 12 Best Looking Mercedes-Benz Models Ever Designed

Mercedes-Benz has been designing beautiful automobiles for well over 100 years. Here are some of the most memorable examples from it's incredible collection. Click link below to read about.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/autos/enthusiasts/the-12-best-looking-mercedes-benz-models-ever-designed/ar-BB1qMkh7?ocid=msedgdp&pc=DCTS&cvid=ee4815979835428aa868c6f2e0b74b1b&ei=26>



Mercedes-Benz 300 SL Gullwing



Mercedes-Benz SL Pagoda (W113)©



Mercedes-Benz 600 Pullman



Mercedes-Benz SLR McLaren©



Mercedes-AMG G63©



Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG Black Series©



Mercedes-Benz 26/120/180 Type S©



Mercedes-Benz 560 SEC AMG Wide Body©



Mercedes-Benz SL 600©



Mercedes-Benz 540K Autobahn Kurier©



Mercedes-Benz 190E 2.5-16



Mercedes-AMG GT Black Series©



Tyrone Campbell	8/02/24
Elizabeth Crider	8/07/24
Robert Kappes	5/31/24
Ken Knusbacher	7/20/24
Angela Leet	1/05/24
Phillip Lowther	1/05/24
Randall Miles	4/08/24
Shane Miller	7/22/24
Werner Niederholtmeyer	4/08/24
Danny Taylor	1/12/24
Gary Turgeon III	5/20/24



BLUEGRASS STARS MBCA CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

President: J. Anne Gilliland:	mbca2023jag@gmail.com
Vice-President: Jim Keith	jkeith1940@att.net
Secretary/Editor: Ann Mudge	mbca.mudge@gmail.com
Treasurer: Fred Mudge	fredmudge@aol.com
Events Chairman: Roger Dospil	rdospil2227@gmail.com
Webmaster & Membership Chair:	
Nancy Rece	mbca.bluegrass.membership@gmail.com
Ken Koehler: Regional Director	skkoehler@att.net

BLUEGRASS STARS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J. Anne Gilliland: mbca2023jag@gmail.com
 Jim Keith: jkeith1940@att.net
 Ann Mudge: mbca.mudge@gmail.com
 Fred Mudge: fredmudge@aol.com
 Gary Rumrill: g.rumrill@twc.com
 Roger Dospil: rdospil2227@gmail.com
 Ken Hays: khays2214@gmail.com
 Nancy Rece (Alternate): mbca.bluegrass.membership@gmail.com