



# The Bluegrass Star

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

Winter 2024

## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

Another year is in the books, and, all in all, we did well. MBCA/GlueUp.org is still dealing with a few growing pains, but members are learning to deal with it—or ignore it, I'm not sure which! Although we gained members in 2024, we lost more than we gained. We currently have 76 primary and 11 associate members. This time last year, we had 102 primary members. Still, we will continue to move forward and get the word out about our events which continues to be our priority.

Thanks so much to Jim Keith for his service to our Chapter as Vice-President, 2023-24. Now, we are pleased to welcome Roger Dospil to the Executive Committee as Vice-President for 2025-26 (See Page 7). Congratulations to our Secretary/Editor, Ann Mudge, for her well deserved award of Member of the Year! Unfortunately, we end 2024 with sad news—the loss of long time member, David Rosenberg. He will be missed and remembered fondly.

This year we tried some new events, and, with the help from our members, we hope to continue to add new and exciting venues and maybe even try some overnight events since we will no longer have a Regional event going forward.

As for tried & true events, we plan to keep the following events on the Events Calendar:

January 25th - Member's meeting & movie at Martin's BBQ Joint

April (DTBD) - 2nd annual Derby Party at Tony York's

July 19th-Concours d'Elegance in Lexington, KY

December 5th—Holiday Party @ Hurstbourne Country Club We were so glad we were able to offset the increase over the 2023 price and hope to be able to continue in 2025.

As always, my goal for 2025 continues to be the same as when I took office in 2023—increased & continuing contact with members and events scheduled that will be of interest to everyone.

So, thanks to all the Stars for helping to make 2024 a success!

Wishing you all a happy & healthy 2025. See you next year!

J.Anne Gilliland

Bluegrass Stars President



The Bluegrass Stars Chapter is so grateful to have a great relationship with our local Mercedes-Benz of Louisville dealership in Louisville, KY. Miller Warren, the General Manager at MB of Louisville, invited our Chapter to lunch and a tour of their beautiful, recently renovated showroom and their modern body shop. If any attendee wanted a car wash and vacuuming of their Benz, well, they offered that as well. Those babies were shining and were left for us to wonder how they got them to look so much better than when we do it. They were shining. One owner didn't want to drive hers and get it dirty. The showroom was full of new models and left us all wishing that we could win the lottery.

During lunch, we had a question-and-answer period where Warren and one of our members were able to answer some technical questions as well as some advancements that are coming. It was a very informative session which reminds us that our members are hungry for this kind of information.

We are so appreciative for this opportunity. Our membership is fortunate to have this resource that connects us to the brand.





## Stars in Starlight, Kentucky!

On Saturday, November 9th, the Bluegrass Stars got together with a couple of Cincinnati Stars for a delicious family style lunch at Joe Huber's Family Farm and Restaurant.

It was beautiful late fall with an occasional breeze that made for a great day for driving to their location less than an hour from Louisville.

After visiting with our Chapter friends, we took a group photo to commemorate the occasion, and a few of us had a wine tasting while others could not resist the creamery.

All in all, a good day to have great friends who share our love for all things Mercedes!



On Sunday, December 1, the Stars celebrated the Season with our annual Holiday Party at Hurstbourne Country Club. It was a warm, happy, and wonderful way to ring out 2024.

As always, the service and food were delicious and beautifully served, and we had a great time with all of our Mercedes-Benz Club of America Bluegrass Stars Chapter members.

The Executive Committee was so pleased that this year, because prices continue to go up, we could "pay back" our loyal members by offsetting the meal price.

A special thanks to Paige and Ken Kikuchi for bringing goodie gift bags for everyone - so thoughtful!

For a second year in a row - Adrian Lauf won the German gift basket !!! Lucky! - hope you and your family enjoy it!

The highlight of the evening was awarding our amazing Secretary/Editor, Ann Mudge, the Bluegrass Stars Club Member of the Year! So well deserved, and everyone agreed!

Another highlight of the evening - the Stars have a new 2025 - 2026 Vice-President, Roger Dospil! We are all looking forward to working with him! Thanks, Roger, for "volunteering!"

And, thanks so much to Jim Keith, our 2023 - 2024, Vice President for his work and dedication to the Stars.

As we say goodbye to 2024, our first event of the new year will be our annual Members Meeting on Saturday, January 25th, at Martin's Bar-B-Que Joint.







***Sophia Loren*** (1934-...), the Italian actress, owned a silver Mercedes-Benz 300SL Gullwing, a gift from her husband in 1955, film producer Carlo Ponti. She was frequently photographed with it during the height of her career in the 1950s. Loren wasn't just a passive owner-she drove the 300SL in prestigious events, including the Mille Miglia and the Rallye del Cinema, an exclusive Italian rally where film stars and directors showcased their cars.

There was a chemistry between her and the Benz. They both had class, they both had style. Her Gullwing also placed her in elite company alongside other celebrity owners like Pablo Picasso, Elvis Presley and Clark Gable.

Years later, the car was rediscovered by HK Engineering, a renowned specialist in 300SL restorations, who carefully restored the Gullwing to its original condition, preventing its history and connection to Loren.



David A. Rosenberg, 72, beloved grandfather, brother, husband, and friend to many, died peacefully on October 18, 2024 after his battle with cancer. David was born April 18, 1952 to parents Samuel and Lucille (Berman) of Louisville.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Judy Lehocky (Ron). He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Martha (Gatz), son Aaron (Emily), grandsons Abram and Miles, sister Cheryl Streedain (Dick), and several cousins, nieces, and nephews.

David attended Belknap Elementary School, Highland Junior High School, Atherton High School class of 1971, and graduated from Bellarmine in 1977.

He was a lifetime member of Lakeside Swim Club, member of Temple Shalom since its inception, belonged to the Louisville British Sports Car Club, Mercedes-Benz of America Bluegrass Stars Chapter, Evolve Kentucky, and the Louisville Photographic Society. David also volunteered time with the Who Dunnit Murder Mystery Theater group.

Anyone who met David knows his heart was kind, getting hugs were the best part of his day, and his sense of humor was hard to match. He will be missed dearly.



# Meet our 2025-26 Vice-President

## Roger Dospil



**Hello Bluegrass Stars,**

**Thank you for letting Tina and me join your organization. I found your group through a Facebook search and read about the event coming up in Midway, KY. We decided to head out, meet you and hopefully join up!**

**I purchased my first Mercedes, Excalibur, 13 years ago. It is a 1987 560 SL Roadster. At the time, I did not know much about the model other than I felt it was and still is the sexiest model of the fleet. About 3 years ago, we had some considerable family health issues, and my car stayed covered and quiet. About 4 months ago I decided to sell her since I was not driving it and wanted a 1966 Mustang convertible. So, long story short, I knew I had to get Excalibur roadworthy to sell. After 4 days of work, I finally got her started and drove around the neighborhood. In that short ride, I knew I could not sell her, I mean a Mustang for a 560 SL, really?**

**Recently, I inherited my father's 1998 E320, Ruby, with only 59,000 miles, and she looks brand new. Now, we are a 2 Mercedes family and I have a passion for the brand. I am very glad to meet other like-minded people who not only enjoy their cars but enjoy fellowship!**

# 2025 Calendar of Events

## (Tentative)

January 25th @ 4:30PM	Benz & BBQ (Martin's BBQ Joint)
February 14	"Dirty Dancing" @ Palace Theatre
March 22 (TBD)	Collection 21 with Cincy Cincinnati, OH
April 26 @ Noon	Tony York's Derby Lunch Glendale, KY
May 10 (TBD)	Dust Off with Cincy
June 14 # Noon	Goose & Gander Restaurant and Shopping Midway, KY
July 19 (All day)	Keeneland Concours d'Elegance
August (TBD)	Cars and Coffee; James Motors; Pot Luck and Swap Meet @ Paige & Ken Kikuchi's Lexington, KY
September (TBD)	Fall Meet @ Churchill Downs Or Frankfort, KY
October (TBD)	Tech Talk @ Ryan's Garage Frankfort, KY
November (TBD)	Bengals Football Game or Paristown Cincinnati, OH and Louisville, KY
December 7 @ 5PM	Holiday Party @ Hurstbourne Country Club Louisville, KY

1st Saturday each month (April-November)

Coffee and Cars; Fante's Coffee House; Louisville, KY

2nd Saturday each month;

Cars and Coffee; Captain's Quarters; Louisville, KY



# Benz and Barbecue

## January 29th

**4:30PM**

### **MARTIN'S B'BQ JOINT**

Join us at Martin's Barbeque Joint for Movie Night and a member meeting. If you haven't been there before, you order and pay at the counter, and your order will be brought to your table in the private dining room that they provide for us at no charge; so be sure and tip well when you order.

Check here for their menu: [www.martinbbqjoint.com](http://www.martinbbqjoint.com).

**RSVP HERE:** <https://forms.gle/5f1YjK1kT62faSnB9>

# Merry Christmas to All



## **BLUEGRASS STARS MBCA CHAPTER LEADERSHIP**

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