



The Bluegrass Star

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

WINTER

2022



MBCA Mission Statement:

“To elevate the Mercedes-Benz experience through knowledge, camaraderie, and exceptional events.”

Thoughts from outgoing President Gary Rumrill & Secretary Carol Rumrill

For Carol and me, our four years will come to an end December 31st. I assumed office as president in January 2019 and started my term with our first event, a visit and lunch on a cold January day to the Speed Art Museum. That was followed by what became the club’s new standard of having an interesting event every month.

Then came COVID with its shutdowns and group size limitations. Despite that, and thanks to the leadership team’s scouting for places that were not only COVID compliant but ones we would like to visit during normal times, there was no need to halt all the monthly get-togethers. Thanks to your new president, Anne Gilliland, for taking the lead on finding these places. During my four years, even with the COVID restrictions, we held 35 events in 21 different places! I expect your new leadership team will continue to find interesting new venues and probably repeat a few that received unanimous thumbs up.

As for Bluegrass Stars membership numbers, despite the pandemic working against us, our section held steady during that time and since then, growth is again occurring. New members join and some leave which is quite normal with any club, but with that said, I’m proud to report that Bluegrass Stars has more members today than we had in 2018, all friendly, great people.

Election news: The members of my team that gave us great events have been elected to take over for Carol and me on January 1st, 2023:

President – Anne Gilliland

Vice-President – Jim Keith

Secretary – Ann Mudge

Treasurer – Fred Mudge (continues in position until end of 2023)

There are three other positions that are critical to the club’s success, and they are Newsletter Editor, a very difficult role, Membership Chairperson and Venue Chairperson.

I thank David Rosenberg, Membership Chairperson, for his communications with the new and departing members, and I thank Ann Mudge, Newsletter Editor, for stellar work in writing a very nice quarterly newsletter. The Venue Chairperson position is currently open. Please contact Anne Gilliland if interested.

Carol and I thank you for your support these past four years, your club is in very capable hands, and we look forward to seeing you again at our next event!

Family Owned and Farmed
SINCE 1843



IN INDIANA

The weather wasn't great on Wednesday, October 26th, for Octoberfest at *Huber's Orchard and Winery*, but the drive up was beautiful! Still, some of us Stars made the trip to enjoy lunch at the Café and then to do some shopping at the Farm Market, bakery, cheese shop and creamery, and, last, but not least, the Wine Shop for a tasting. I admit, I did make some purchases.

Hopefully, we can all visit Octoberfest there again next year to enjoy the beautiful fall foliage without the drizzle!



Electric Mercedes

We Mercedes-Benz drivers have always known that every Benz is “electric!” Now, that is becoming even more true.

Mercedes-EQ made it’s exciting debut in the United States in the fall of 2020 with the launch of the first Mercedes-Benz all electric vehicle, the EQS Sedan.

Now, the all new EQE SUV is coming! “It is a stunning example of luxury performance in a sporty and dynamic package,” says “Inroads: the latest news from Mercedes-Benz.” mbca-email.com.

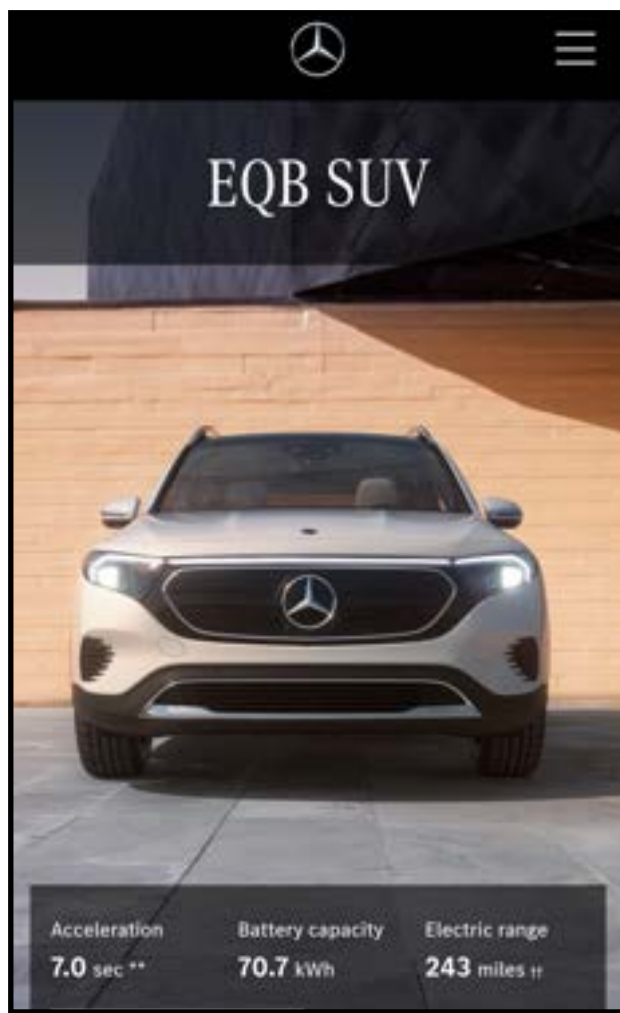
A sophisticated thermal heat pump lets the energy efficient SUV go the distance by reducing draw from the high voltage battery, making it a versatile, agile and spacious luxury vehicle worthy of the Mercedes-Benz name. Inside, the driver and passengers can enjoy “Apple Music,” seamlessly integrated into the MBUX multimedia system – just one of the many all-new innovations to make the EQE SUV a must see and drive experience.

Watch for more information coming soon. And, stay up to date about all the exciting Mercedes EQ vehicles and the lifestyle of electric mobility by signing up to get “Charged,” the exclusive newsletter for Mercedes EQ at mbusa.com



James Motors of Lexington had the EQ Sedan on display at the Concours d’Elegance at Keeneland in July 2022.

And, the EQB SUV is all-Mercedes, too! Available as a seven-seater, and designed with a wide wheelbase, offering 23-cubic feet of trunk space, and 41-inches of headroom, the spacious interior will belay it’s a compact. Its remarkable performance is capable of in excess of 288 (215kW) horsepower in the 350 model.



Information provided by “Inroads: the latest news from Mercedes-Benz.”

Although a few unseasonable snowy flakes fell on Saturday, November 12th, nineteen of the Bluegrass Stars shared a delicious luncheon on My Old KY Dinner Train. The food was surpassed only by the friendly and outstanding staff along with the warm camaraderie we shared with our members.

We all had time to visit and share stories in the Depot before boarding the train for our trip through the wintery Kentucky countryside. Some of the sites we saw were the Jesse James Safe House, the Jim Beam Distillery and the Jackson Hollow Trestle in Bernheim Forest.

The Dinner Train also offers a Murder Mystery which sounds like another outing we may want to add to our Calendar of Events.



“Taking A Ride”





GREETINGS FROM YOUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR

2022 has gone by quickly for me as a first-year Regional Director. Sara and I have spent time in November and December visiting some nearby sections for their end-of-year parties and award ceremonies. We really enjoyed all the events we could attend. Unfortunately, illness forced us to miss the St Louis Gateway Section's Christmas Party, and I was not able to personally present Rick Siefert, President of the Gateway Section, the Central Region's Officer of the Year Award. Rick has been a great help to me this past year and led his section through -- we hope -- the end of Covid and the untimely loss of two very important members of his section. Congratulations to Rick.

Sara and I were able to visit all eight of the Central Region's sections this year and enjoyed meeting so many members from all over the region. Several of the sections are still adjusting to the end of section rebates and having to find other sources for club revenues. I will continue working with them. One of the most important reasons rebates ended was the termination of MBUSA's \$100K+ rebate to MBCA. So the 84 sections of MBCA are not the only ones dealing with the end of rebates.

There has been a change of leadership at the top of MBCA. Doug Geganto has taken over as the National President, as Julie Bruggener has finished her two terms as president. Thank you, Julie. We also have a new National Director. Katie Carruth will be taking over the leadership role from Mike Regennitter in December, and the official announcement will be coming soon.

Looking ahead to 2023, Doug has some ambitious plans to help the club grow and be more vibrant as a unit of 84 sections working together towards our common goals instead of 84 independent clubs doing their own thing. Doug has already implemented a philanthropic director position to help bring recognition to the sections that work to do service for their community and to encourage other sections to initiate these type of programs. He is also looking to establish a membership advisory board to keep him informed of how the members feel about the direction of the club and any suggestions they might have. Add to that national's efforts establishing marketing and social media offices to help spread the word to Mercedes owners about the benefits of joining MBCA.

So, a great deal of effort is being put forth to increase membership and benefits across the whole country within the Mercedes Benz Club of America. The Medallion Rally, in conjunction with the Alzheimer's Association, will become a yearly event to raise awareness of MBCA and at the same time help fight the terrible disease of Alzheimer's. The national event will be moving back to the Midwest and will be held in Indianapolis in October. All of us in the Central Region will be able to help prepare for it and enjoy the many events being planned. I am encouraged by the direction in which we are headed and hope everyone will join me in working together to make 2023 a growing year filled with many fun times and great memories.

Ken Koehler, Regional Director

“TECH TALK”

By Steve Loboyko

W212 (and others) Lower Seat Cushion “Splits”



Fake "seam" failure

A well-known problem for 2010's E and C class cars with MB-TEX or leather interiors is the split seam in the middle of the lower seat cushion. It isn't really a seam but a sewed joining of the seat cover and the pockets for the seat heaters. The holes from sewing weaken the fabric, and eventually it splits. Mine did this at about 30K miles! And I am certainly not of a weight that would have put any strain on it...:)

Mercedes is aware of the problem - a TSB (Technical Service Bulletin) exists - but as to whether the dealer will fix it because the design is defective seems to be case-by-case without actual warranty coverage, by all reports. It can cost several hundred dol-

lars to replace depending on materials and other options. So, it is possible to DIY this and save some money if you are "handy"? Well, yes it is, although, if you have a deluxe interior, your options might be limited in the aftermarket. I have a "plain vanilla" black/charcoal MB-TEX interior, and many companies sell exactly these seat skins on eBay. I bought the US-made version for under \$200. BEWARE: The Chinese versions, although much cheaper (50-80\$), may or may not have pockets for the seat heaters. Virtually all US E's and possibly C's have seat heaters, so using these seat skins may be a problem (see later in article).

Replacing the seat skin is made much easier by first watching the video at the link below:

<https://youtu.be/OQ9NjN2r9co>

Compared to replacing the seat skins on my 1980's SL's, this is very simple and almost tool-free, requiring no removal of the entire seat. Note that the technician in the video is doing this on a European car, and it doesn't have the "cubby" that a US E class seat would have. Removing that piece at the front of the cushion is simple. The material match was excellent in grain, color, and feel.



Replaced Seat Cover (Small wrinkles are probably from sitting on it in the cold.).

I followed those directions and had no problem replacing the cover, except with the removal of the connector for the seat heater. I got so frustrated that I cut the two wires and soldered them back together when I was reinstalling! The aesthetic results/fit/finish were very good; I could see that the "seam" was sewn in a different (and hopefully stronger) way by the US supplier. The material match was excellent in grain, color, and feel.

Because this problem will eventually also happen to the passenger seat, I'm replacing that proactively in the spring. I purchased an inexpensive Chinese replacement (now en route), and it remains to be seen if this can be used/modified for installation of US seat heaters, or even if they did a better job with the seam. I will report on this next year (hopefully!).

Merry Christmas from the Bluegrass Stars!





Ken Koehler, Central Regional Director, presents plaques of appreciation to outgoing President & Secretary, Gary & Carol Rumrill.



Gary Rumrill, Bluegrass Stars President, presents "Member of the Year" award to Al and Hanni Henley.



Todd & Frances Ryan, Diana & David Lawrence and Nancy (Web Master) & Bob Rece.



Ken Koehler and Jim Keith, 2023 Incoming Vice-President.

The Stars closed out 2022 in style with our Holiday Party at the beautiful Hurstbourne Country Club on December 11th. The attendance was excellent with the 2022 Officers and the new 2023 Officers there to "ring out the old, and ring in the new!"

Many, many thanks to our outgoing President, Gary Rumrill, and Secretary, Carol Rumrill, who were thanked for their four years of service to the Bluegrass Stars with plaques presented by the Regional Director, Ken Koehler. Their dedication and hard work were especially challenging during the "Covid" years when it was a struggle to maintain our Section.

Also recognized were Al and Hannelore Henley as Members of the Year. They were presented with a commemorative plaque by Gary Rumrill. We recognize them as two of our most dedicated members, who attend almost all of our Stars events.

Hurstbourne provided three large and welcoming rooms, beautifully decorated for our party. Service was outstanding, and the buffet was delicious. It was such a success that we are already booked for December 2023!

We will see you next year when we all get together for our first event in January!



GET TO KNOW THE “STARS”

Hello to all of our Bluegrass Stars Club members, and thanks for our plaque for Members of the Year which was very appreciated and unexpected!

Hannelore (Hanni) and I met in Stuttgart, Germany 42 years ago and have been married for 41 years.

Being in the Army until retirement (10.5 years) in Baumholder, Stuttgart, and Boblingen, off and on, I spent a lot of time riding in German taxis, mostly Mercedes, so you learn to appreciate the Benz name and quality.

So, after retirement, it took a while to make up my mind to stop fighting my urge to purchase my first Mercedes (E420, AMG E55, ML350 (2), GL450, GLA250, GL550, and now S500, (just verified with Mercedes-Benz Club, Colorado Springs, CO).

Hannelore and I have been members of the Bluegrass Stars since November 2002 and will be until we leave this earth. Plus, we enjoy the company of the Bluegrass Stars, with no drama at our gatherings. This is a welcome and rare commodity in our world today.

After experiencing the Autobahn in a (souped-up or as the Germans call it, a Tuner Auto) 725 HP SL65 at 180 mph with potential of 230mph on the unrestricted part of the Autobahn, Mercedes is the most reliable car for us.

Again, THANKS TO EVERYONE!!

Al and Hannelore Henley

“WHAT’S COOKING?”

Some of those who attended the Holiday Party asked for the recipe for the dessert that was served. I don’t think this is equivalent to a “technical article”, but it can get pretty technical.

PUMPKIN ROLL

From: Ann Mudge
Serves: 15

Prep Time: 45 min
Cook Time: 20 min

Ingredients

3 Eggs
1 Cup Sugar
3/4 Cup Flour
1/2 Tsp. Nutmeg
1 Tsp. Soda
1 Tbsp. Lemon Juice
2/3 Cup Canned Pumpkin
1/2 Tsp. Cinnamon
1/4 Tsp. Salt
1/2 Cup Chopped Pecans

Filling:

1 Cup Powdered Sugar
1/2 Stick Melted Butter
8 Oz. Philadelphia Crème Cheese
1 Tsp. Vanilla

Instructions for Cake

1. Beat eggs, sugar, nutmeg, soda, lemon juice, cinnamon and salt.
2. Fold in pumpkin and flour last.
3. Spread batter in a greased/floured jelly roll pan.
4. Sprinkle top with chopped pecans.
5. Bake 20 minutes at 375degrees.
6. Turn out cake on a tea towel that has been sifted with powdered sugar. Roll up in the towel and cool.
7. Beat all filling ingredients.
8. After cake is cooled, unroll and spread with filling.
9. Reroll and sprinkle with powdered sugar.
10. Cover with aluminum foil and place in refrigerator or freezer.

NOTES:

The roll slices easier while still chilled, I like mine warmed when eating. I pop a slice in the microwave for about 20 seconds. YUM!



Bluegrass Stars Officers 2023

President: Anne Gilliland (mbca2023jag@gmail.com)

Vice-President: Jim Keith (jkeith1940@att.net)

Secretary: Ann Mudge (mbca.mudge@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Fred Mudge (fredmudge@aol.com)

Web Master: Nancy Rece (benzir@gmail.com)

Newsletter Editor: Ann Mudge (mbca.mudge@gmail.com)

Central Regional Director: Ken Koehler (skkoehler@att.net)

Membership Chairperson: Open

Venue Chairperson: Open

"Happy New Year to all the Stars! We look forward to seeing you at our first 2023 event, information to follow soon!"