

# Ye Ole Dominion Star

The Newsletter of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America's Central Virginia Section



Spring 2023

Photo courtesy of Mercedes-Benz AG



VOL. 31 NO. 1 | Spring 2023

## A Note From The Editor

Welcome to the Spring edition of *Ye Ole Dominion Star*. Springtime is a time of renewal, and as you can see in this expanded issue full of information about past and future events, our Section is awakening from our winter slumber and charging headlong into the driving season. So, check out our upcoming events and be sure and sign up straight away when registration comes available. Also, be sure and read Ken Brasfield's most excellent story about his "barn find" 1972 290SE 4.5.

In addition, take a look at our new Helpful Resources and Cars & Coffee sections.

If you would like to contribute an article, biography about you or your car (don't be shy), tech tip or simply pictures of your car(s) to the newsletter, you can send them to [editor.cvsmbca@gmail.com](mailto:editor.cvsmbca@gmail.com).

Be sure and check out our FaceBook page(s) for up to the minute information and upcoming events.

*Der Editor*

## Welcome New Members!

- Scott Kalbrener
- Jennifer Landes
- Matthew Newkirk
- Clifton Copper
- Kent Jorgensen
- Tyler Pieron
- Marshall Agee
- William Owen
- James Yeaman
- Scott Flynn
- Mary Lou Weselin
- David Smmith

## Thank You Loyal Members!

- Todd Jenkins
- Arthur Collins
- Owen "Chip" Hughes
- Forest Scott Brinkley
- Marianne Lumsden
- Patrica Meadows
- Marty Martin
- Valarie Carter
- Frank Brown
- Tom Otis
- Jansen Rogers
- Sean McGlynn
- David Tetterton
- David Hay
- Claire Tieder
- Frank Legg
- Mary McDonald
- Gary & Robyn Tyer
- William Stewart
- William Martin
- Kenneth Carter
- Don Thompson
- Susan VanStavern
- James Smuts
- Ramonia Stith
- Todd Lusby
- Darryl Starnes



## Membership

As of the date of this writing our Central Virginia Section has 164 members. This is an increase of 10 members from the same time last year. Although we are trending positive we are still off our pre-pandemic strength of 176 members. Our goal is to keep focused on organizing interesting events to entice potential members to join, while offering value for your membership to retain current members.

If you are interested in helping by serving as our Section's Membership Director, or in any other capacity, please contact President Todd Lusby at [cvsmbca@gmail.com](mailto:cvsmbca@gmail.com).

### Membership has its Benefits!

**The Star Magazine®** – Your membership of the MBCA includes a subscription to the bi-monthly magazine *The Star®*.

**Section Newsletter** – “*Ye Ole Dominion Star*” is published four times a year. It contains information about events and other timely articles, technical information, and membership news.

**Local, Regional and National Events** – MBCA members are invited to participate in a wide range of events and activities in our area, region, and destinations across the USA and Canada.

**Member Rebate Program** – If you are planning to purchase or lease a new Mercedes-Benz vehicle, you should consider participating in the MBCA Member Rebate Incentive program. The Member Rebate program is an incentive program sponsored by MBUSA to encourage MBCA members to purchase or lease a new Mercedes-Benz vehicle. Those who do can receive cash incentive towards the purchase or lease of the vehicle.

**Discount on Parts, Service & Accessories at Participating Mercedes-Benz dealers** - As a Mercedes-Benz Club of America member, you may be entitled to 5%, 10% or up to 20% off parts, services and accessories from



participating U.S. and Canadian Mercedes-Benz dealers and participating local independent shops.

Join MBCA



## President's Corner Todd Lusby

I hope this message finds you all well. I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude for your passion and dedication to the Mercedes Community.

As I kick off my term, there are a couple of themes that stick out:

1. **Excitement** – We're still early in the year and we already have a solid events list. The leadership team, and our Rock Star events coordinator Sally Bobbitt, have put together a great list of club events, along with regional and national events within driving range of our area.

2. **Engagement** – One of the things I shared with the other regional presidents is that we increase member engagement. This means:

a. We want to see each of your smiling faces at a minimum of one event this year. We are putting a big effort into a full schedule in the belief more members come and stay in the club. Don't be shy. We are a friendly group.

b. Everyone of us is a club ambassador. That means you are recruiting for the club when you meet or see a fellow enthusiast. This a great way to strike up a conversation with the owner of the beautiful SL you see in the Costco parking lot.

Once again, thank you for your commitment to the club, and for making it such a special place for all of us. I look forward to our continued success together.

Thanks,  
Todd

## Save the Dates! Upcoming Events

(Click on **BOLD** entries for information and registration links to organizers)

### March

**3/2-5 - Amelia Island Concours**

*\*Regional Event*

### June

**6/3 - Fredericksburg AACA Car Show**

*\*Area Event*

**3/18 - Richmond Cars & Coffee followed by a tour of Will Milby's Garage Mahal**

\*CVS Event

## April

**4/1 - Fools Rush In Rally & Lunch**

\*CVS Event

**4/22 - Williamsburg British & European Car Show**

\*Area Event

**4/29 - Spring Clean Tech Session**

\*CVS Event

## May

**5/5-7 - The Greenbrier Concours d'Elegance**

**5/5-7 - Miami Grand Prix**

**5/13 - Breakthrough Car Show**

10:00AM - 3:00PM

Pamplin Historical Park - Petersburg, VA

\*Area Event

**5/22-27 - MBCA Germany Tour 2023**

\*MBCA Event

**5/26-29 - Sandhills Motoring Festival**

\*Area Event

**6/17 - Tech Session @ Mercedes-Benz of Midlothian (Date subject to change)**

\*CVS Event

**6/24 - 15th Annual Bluegrass Family Day Fly-In & Car Show**

\*Area Event

9:30AM to 4:00PM

Middle Peninsula Regional Airport

1000 Airport Rd., Mattaponi, VA 23110

For more information contact:

[bluegrassflyin@proton.me](mailto:bluegrassflyin@proton.me)

## July

**7/8 - Deutsche Classic**

## August

**8/22-25 Shelton Vineyards Mercedes-Benz Car Show - Dobson NC**

\*Regional Event

## September

**9/6-10 - MBCA Mercedes Grande**

\*MBCA National Event

**9/10 - CVS Fall Cookout**

\*CVS Event

**9/11-16 - MBCA Germany Tour 2023**

\*MBCA Event

## CVS 2022 Member of the Year David Hay



**David Hay** received recognition as our Central Virginia Section - Eastern Region, Member of the Year.

David has been a member of our Section for over 28 years and Section Events Director for the past two years. David has impressed everyone with ability to transform our once moribund Section into an active one. Where we once had barely four events a year, we now have monthly events with high

David is extremely active in our Section leadership and attends all leadership meetings, making suggestions to improve not only our events, but our overall operation as an organization. Although David no longer serves as our Events Director he is still involved in supporting our new events committee. Davids positive impact is obvious by the renewed vitality of the Central Virginia Section.



participation rates, which is quite a striking change for our small club. David organized highly entertaining events, including drives to many of Virginia's historic venues and taverns, introducing us to many new places we may have never reached if left to our own devices.



## Meet Our New Events Director Sally Bobbitt

Sally is a native of Farmville, Virginia, a Hokie and a recent retiree from the Talent Acquisition organization within the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond.

She and her husband Tom live in the Brandermill community of Midlothian VA.

A lifetime "Car Girl," she and Tom have six "children," including a '87 560 SL, '10 C300, '11 E350, '85 Ferrari 308 GTS, '86 Porsche 928S, and '89 Audi 100, and their German Shepherd rescue, Mercy.

Sally loves researching family genealogy (an ancestor arrived on the 1619 ship, The George), Winston Churchill, Southern cooking, reading, true crime podcasts, driving country roads, Charleston SC, needlepoint, classic rock and R&B (Tom is a retired drummer) plus a daily two-hour walk on neighborhood trails.





## Powhattan Drive & Brunch 1933 Public House

On 10 December members of our Central Virginia Section rendezvoused at Richmond Cars & Coffee for a scenic drive to Powhatan for brunch the the 1933 Public House.

There was a fine selection of food in stylish surroundings along with a friendly and accommodating staff.

We took this opportunity to present David Hay with his Member of the Year award (see above).

The 1933 Public House is located at 3844 Old Buckingham Rd, Powhatan, VA 23139.

<https://www.1933pubhouse.com>

If you stop in make sure and tell them the Central Virginia Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America sent you.

## CVS 2023 Annual Banquet

Our Central Virginia Section held our Annual Banquet on 15 January at Tarrant's West in Richmond.

This was our first banquet in two years due to the recent pandemic. Thirty-six Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts enjoyed great food, good service and the camaraderie of new and old friends.

A fair number of our members walked away with not only full bellies, but some pretty impressive swag generously provided by our local dealers Mercedes-Benz of Midlothian and Mercedes-Benz of Richmond.

Our new President, Todd Lusby, outlined our goals for 2023 and beyond. All-in-all it was a great event. We should all be looking forward to a great year ahead.

<https://www.tarrantswest.com>





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## Hanover Tavern Brunch





On 19 February, 19 Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts converged upon the historic Hanover Tavern in beautiful Hanover Courthouse, Virginia, for a delicious brunch and repertoire of stories of driving skill and mechanical derring-dos. Good times were had by all, and our own President, Todd Lusby, received a much overdue award as our Central Virginia Section's Member of the Year for 2021 when he served as our Membership Chairman. Following brunch some members took a historic tour of the Tavern, originally licensed in 1733. The current structure dates from 1791 with later additions. Thank you Sally B. for arranging this great event!

See a list of our upcoming events (above) in this newsletter and be sure and keep a close eye on your email for updates and additional happenings.

<https://hanovertavern.org/>

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## **1972 Mercedes Benz 280SE 4.5 (W108)** **The "S" Class Before there was an "S" Class** **By Kenneth H Brasfield**



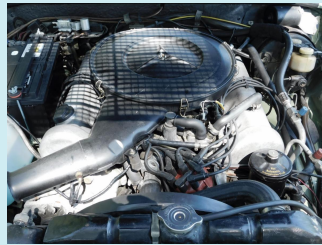
The year was 1971 and Mercedes Benz needed a family 4-door sedan with a V8 engine to be more competitive in the luxury USA car market. The company already had the W108 chassis introduced in 1965 with the 250 series and finally the 280 series 6-cylinder cars. However, with their European gearing and 6-cylinder engines, many Americans found the car too busy. They also had the W109 chassis, however they were more luxuriously appointed, had a longer wheelbase, and had air suspension, making the W109 a more costly and complicated car. In 1967 the W109 300 SEL 6.3 V8 (M100 engine) was introduced with a strong and positive reception. But this was not the intermediate family 4-door sedan Mercedes Benz USA was looking for. In 1969 the M116 V8 engine (3.5-liters) with Bosch D-Jetronic electronic fuel injection would move the W108/W109 further in many export markets and allow it to be more competitive in the USA. This 197 bhp V8 engine was first fitted to the W109 in August of 1969 and named the 300 SEL 3.5 then to the W108 in July of 1970 as the 280 SE/SEL 3.5.

Due to stricter engine emission regulations in the USA, the high compression M116 was bored out to 4.5-liters to compensate for loss of power from lowered engine compression and named the M117 engine. This engine has the same power output as the M116 but can burn 87 or 89 octane fuel and does not need 93+ octane. It was introduced exclusively for the USA in the Spring of 1971 and production ceased at the end of 1972. However, the M117 engine went on to power subsequent chassis models and continued to be bored out all the way to 6-liters when production stopped in the G-Class W463 in 1991. A most venerable engine indeed.



There were 13,547 280SE 4.5 sedans produced and shipped to the USA from the Spring of 1971 to the end of 1972. Some of these cars are titled as 1973 due to time of delivery.

My car was produced in 1972 and delivered to Colonial Imports, 3450 North Verdugo Road, Glendale, California. It received regular service as documented in the service book I found in the glove box from 1972 (729 miles) till 1980 (76,030 miles). The record stops here and picks up again on 6/28/2013 (117,811 miles) in New Jersey at a vintage car dealership. At that time the records show it received a full service, AC was converted from R12 to R134 with new compressor, complete kit, new hoses and fan belts. It also received new timing chains, timing chain tensioner and guides, transmission service and new shifter bushings. The car was purchased on 11/1/2014 and brought to Virginia. This owner loved and appreciated the car's beauty but was not mechanically inclined and quickly discovered he could not afford to pay for the expertise needed to fully recommission the car. He gave it to his son-in-law in 2018, thinking he had the skills to take the car further and they could enjoy it together. Alas, that did not happen. Let us fast forward to 2021.



I received an email from a friend who was at his landscaper's place of business when he saw a car under a dirty, nasty canvas in a heavy machinery shed covered with red dirt dust. He saw a green wheel cover with what looked like a star embossed on it and asked if he could see what was underneath. Brian, the owner removed the cover. My friend asked if it is for sale. Brian said yes. Brian gave permission for my friend to contact me, thus the email. I telephoned Brian as his place was only about 15 miles from me. I arranged for my wife and me to meet him at his place of business that week. That car was so filthy inside and out but I could tell it was some sort of green and the interior could be cream colored. It was hard to tell through all the mold and mildew. I learned that his father-in-law gave it to him in 2018 because he could not work on it himself and was learning very quickly he could not afford to hire the work done. He figured that since his son-in-law (Brian) was handy with welding and machinery in general he could fix it up. So, there it sat for 3 years collecting dirt and grime because Brian did not have the time, resources, or energy the car required. Also, he knew nothing about the car other than its beauty. Brian felt quite guilty for letting it just sit there and go downhill as he knew enough to know it was just deteriorating from benign neglect. He told me it ran, just barely. I asked if I could look at it in detail and he gave me permission to open it up and explore.

I moistened my finger and carefully wiped away years of crud on a discreet area of paint and was amazed how good it looked. The panel fit and shut lines were excellent. The interior was moldy and had mildew on the upholstery. Nothing shined inside. It had a nasty Sony aftermarket tape player/radio in the dash that did not work. I was reluctant to sit on the driver's seat for fear of grinding in dirt, but I did anyway and got the car started. It ran very rough, but no scary noises came from the engine. The exhaust system was shot but the transmission engaged well and all exterior lights worked. The driver's headlight door was crushed in and full of gravel because he had run into it with his front end loader. He had purchased replacement parts and they were in the trunk. I found service documentation in the glove box and he did not know any of that was there. The documentation was in the actual Mercedes service book that survived with the car along with additional invoices from 2013 to that day. Brian was surprised as I was. This was a very important find as far as I was concerned.

A few days later he drove the car to my place, and we put it up on my lift so a careful inspection could occur. Brian was reluctant to do that because he had not driven that far before and it ran so rough. However, he agreed. When he arrived he said the car ran better the closer to my place

he got. That was an excellent sign. We put it up on the lift and I could clearly see this is a solid car. I could also see some problems but nothing scary. I took it for a short drive and knew this is a solid example that was most likely only in need of some serious reconditioning. We agreed upon a price, and I drove him home in my 1971 280SE.

The first thing I did was completely clean and detail the inside and outside so as not to damage its beautiful finish. That took 3 days. Brian did not know when the car was repainted; he just knew it was that way when his father-in-law purchased it. My guess is sometime between 1980 and 2013 as that is the huge gap in this car's history.

Several months past before I licensed it for the road as it needed a complete run through before I was going to seriously drive it. With its first ever electronic Bosch D-Jetronic fuel injection system married to a totally mechanical ignition system connected by trigger points that actuate the fuel injectors, made for a steep learning curve for me. Before I dove into the mechanical refurbishment I read, read, then read some more. Even then, there were lots of things that needed attention that only became evident to me as I drove the car. One should never be surprised that the vintage car they have just purchased will need items attended to. Many times, vintage cars are acquired by well intended but naive owners. They get in over their heads, don't have the skills or think they cannot learn them, to keep these cars running. Even dealers pass on cars with needs that are known and unknown. Now, the car provides the driver and passenger(s) with that famously sublime W108 experience topped off with that lovely M117 V8 engine. I am just the current caretaker with the responsibility to not allow this quality automobile to fall by the wayside again and to someday pass it along better than I found it.

You can check out my YouTube channel "Ken's Show & Tell" for driving videos and continued documentation. Here is the link: [Ken's Show & Tell - YouTube](#)



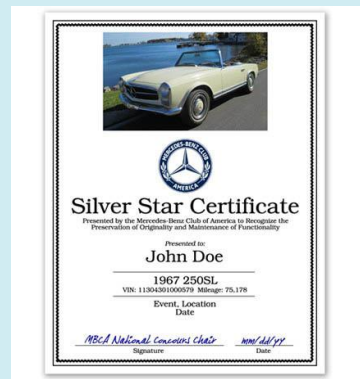


## Silver Star Preservation A Self-Judged Class

This class is for cars, 25 years old or older that are largely original and have been unrestored since new. It is intended for driver- quality cars that have withstood the ravages of time, climate, and daily driving. It is not intended for "Trailer Queens"-for those we have a Show Class- nor is it intended for rusty and dirty barn finds that do not operate properly and have not been on the road for several years.

This classification is designed to formally recognize original cars that meet the defined set of standards by presenting the owner with a certificate commemorating the event and displaying a photo and pertinent data, suitable for framing. It can also add to the provenance of your car whenever one intends to sell or insure it. The certificate awards the owners who have treated their pride and joy gently over the years and have resisted the temptation to restore. As the saying goes, "they are only original once" and as we all know, you cannot restore originality!

Your eligible Mercedes-Benz must be entered in a MBCA sanctioned sectional, regional, or national concours. To be eligible, the vehicle must be at least 25 years old, and it should be in good working order, driven under its' own power to the event and be largely original. Your eligible car should have an original engine and drivetrain. There can be partial refurbishments of various components, but no complete restorations can be accepted.



A digital photo of the entrant's car in JPEG format is taken at the show and the completed classification form along with the photo is forwarded to the MBCA National Business Office. The MBCA National Business Office will create and send to the owner an official Silver Star Certificate formally declaring the car to have met the standards of the Silver Star Preservation Class. The owner may also purchase a specially designed grille badge from the MBCA National Business Office.

Cars may be certified at additional shows in

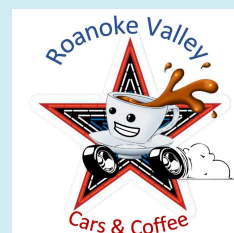


At the event each Silver Star entrant will be given a Silver Star Preservation classification Score Sheet and be instructed how to complete it. The cars are self-judged by the entrant following the form. On the form, the owner informs the judges which aspects of the car are entirely original and which aspects have been altered over time. A Preservation Class Judge, assigned by the Concours Chief Judge will review the completed form with the entrant, evaluating each aspect of the car. If the car has earned enough points to be certified, the Chief Judge and the Class Judge verify the findings and initial the form. A Preservation Class Judge, assigned by the Concours Chief Judge will review the completed form with the entrant, evaluating each aspect of the car. If the car has earned enough points to be certified, the Chief Judge and the Class Judge verify the findings and initial the form.

succeeding years. We have certified many cars two and three times over the past few years. Though the Silver Star Preservation classification is not yet well known, it is rapidly gaining widespread acceptance. We certified over 80 cars last year and expect to do many more this year.

## Local Cars & Coffee

*Our Central Virginia Section spans a wide geographic area. Take your Mercedes to a local nearby C&C and spread the word about the MBCA. If you know of another C&C in our geographical area not listed below, please send their information to [editor.cvsmbca@gmail.com](mailto:editor.cvsmbca@gmail.com) and I will get it posted here in subsequent issues.*



### March

3/4 & 18 **Cars & Coffee Richmond**  
3/18 - **Williamsburg Cars & Coffee**

### April

4/8 & 22 - **Roanoke Valley C&C**  
4/15 - **Cars & Coffee Richmond**  
4/15 - **Williamsburg Cars & Coffee**  
4/15 - **Lynchburg Cars & Coffee**

### May

5/13 **Cars & Coffee Richmond**  
5/13 & 27 - **Roanoke Valley C&C**  
5/20 - **Williamsburg Cars & Coffee**  
5/20 - **Lynchburg Cars & Coffee**

### June

6/10 & 24 - **Cars & Coffee Richmond**  
6/10 & 24 - **Roanoke Valley C&C**  
6/17 - **Williamsburg Cars & Coffee**  
6/17 - **Lynchburg Cars & Coffee**

### July

7/8 & 22 - **Cars & Coffee Richmond**  
7/8 & 22 - **Roanoke Valley C&C**  
7/15 - **Williamsburg Cars & Coffee**  
7/15 - **Lynchburg Cars & Coffee**

### August

8/5 & 19 - **Cars & Coffee Richmond**  
8/5 & 19 - **Roanoke Valley C&C**  
8/19 - **Williamsburg Cars & Coffee**  
8/19 - **Lynchburg Cars & Coffee**



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## Helpful Resources

**A list of internet links which lead to technical, sales and parts resources.**

If you have a link you would like included, please send to [editor.cvsmbca@gmail.com](mailto:editor.cvsmbca@gmail.com).

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Our friends at Pelican Parts not only provide the part you need for your special Mercedes-Benz, but they also supply technical articles to help you DIY.

[Mercedes-Benz Tech Articles by Pelican Parts](#)

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Have you ever wanted to decode the vehicle identification number of your car or that of a perspective purchase, only to find dead links, SPAM infested web sites, and Russian Trolls on links provided by Google? Well, the solution is here on the official National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's VIN Decoder.

[NHTSA VIN Decoder](#)

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Are you in search of a hard to find part for your 1953-1989 vintage Mercedes-Benz? Check out MB Classics. Based in Vechta, Lower Saxony, Germany, MB Classics carries parts for W105/W120/W121W128/W180/R121/R&C107/W108/W109/W110/W111/W112/R113/W114/W115/W116 & W123 chassis and ships world-wide.

[MB Classics](#)

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Are you looking for your next classic Mercedes-Benz? How about a "new classic" or a unique late model? Our friends Blakley Leonard (Roanoke) and Ryan Hemphil (Savannah/NYC) went live with The MB Market's auction website in 2021 to exclusively deal in Mercedes-Benz automobiles. As specialists in the marque, The MB Market helps you avoid the superfluous noise you find on those *other* online auction sites. Click the link below and sign up to get the best of The MB Market Auctions directly in your inbox every day and subscribe for a curated list of their top market listings and articles.

[The MB Market](#)

Based in the Finger Lakes Region of New York, Mercedes-Market was founded by Dave Tobin as a resource for Mercedes enthusiasts providing information about all subjects related to classic and modern Mercedes-Benz vehicles. Mercedes-Market publishes articles and reference materials to help you make sense of Mercedes values and prices as well as the differences between models and model years. Dave reports on the current Mercedes-Benz market, events and noteworthy news items from the Mercedes-Benz universe.

## Mercedes-Market

### Trivia

1. What year did Mercedes-Benz return to racing after WWII?
2. In which race?
3. With what car?
4. Who was the driver?

*See bottom of last page for answers*

### Central Virginia Section, Officers, Board of Directors & MBCA Leadership

#### President

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Able Bodied Asst. - Avril Purvis

#### Directors at Large

Robert Aftel  
Owen "Chip" Hughes  
Brad Purvis

#### Committees



### Membership Card

Your MBCA Membership card is available on the MBCA National website. Here is how:

- Log into MBCA ([www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org)) with your username/password
- Click on **My Membership** from the menu on the left
- Click **Print Member Card**
- Print to your printer

**TIP:** Take a screen shot of your membership card and save to your photos on your phone.



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David Hay

Don Bewkes

Membership - **Vacant**

Social Media - **Vacant**

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- *Editor*

*Trivia Answers: 1. 1950, 2. ADAC Six Hour race for sports and touring cars at the Nürburgring, 3. 170S, 4. Karl Kling. (ref: Mercedes-Benz Group Media)*

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