



TRI-STAR

VOL. 09/ NO. 2 FINGER LAKES SECTION April, May, June 2020

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 2nd Quarter 2020 by Don Klug



The sun is shining today, our first day of Day Light Savings in 2020 and I really want to be out driving with the car top down. Must be spring fever or MBCA Finger Lakes Section fever. It is a time of year when I miss seeing all of you. My fix has been the Syracuse Auto Expo in February to ogle the 2020 models waxed up with no snow piled on top. I know some of you most likely meandered over to the Rochester Auto show in early March. The tease of spring is now here and hearts grow fonder with thoughts of driving unencumbered by the winter nasties. Due to the recent facts of life, a short drive appears all that we may be able to do for the immediate future. So, go ahead and leave winter in your rearview mirror with a short drive.

The quickly evolving Novel Coronavirus pandemic has reached our region and it is imperative that we align our club activities along with recent local and regional practices. The health of all our members and families is paramount. As a result, we are unable to hold our annual opening day garage tour at club member Bill Wayman's home this spring. Bill is sharing a photograph of his recent work elsewhere in our newsletter, so all is not lost.

As of this writing the Lotus-Mercedes-Benz Driving Education Event at Watkins Glen on June 17th and The Sonnenberg Father's Day Car Show on June 21st in Canandaigua are still on the schedule of our club events. Our annual Picnic at Red Kozinski's home is July 12th. This is a good time now to place these dates on your calendar.

By popular demand we have scheduled another Seneca Falls Rotary Jazz Festival and Mercedes Benz Car display on September 13th at del Lago Casino, at the Waterloo exit off the NY State Thru Way. In addition, the 2020 schedule also has another road rally scheduled and to be organized by Doug Archer, long time MBCA FL member for early October. More details on these two events will be in our 3rd Quarter Tri-Star.

Ethan Fogg presented an idea at our annual meeting last November, called 'Pop-Up' events. A 'pop-up' event is a get-together with minimum advance notice at some very localized event that may be enhanced by a group of Mercedes Benz Club cars on display. Our web master's Oscar and Peggy are able to send out quickly an advertisement in a special edition of Tri-Star, so communicating the event will be a breeze. Possibly such an event may occur in late May or August.

Happy and safe driving, Section President Don Klug

Syracuse Auto-Expo 2020



A Saturday excursion to enjoy looking over 2020 Mercedes Benz's at the Syracuse Auto Expo. Don

Upcoming Events

April, 2020 : TBD

May, 2020 : TBD

June, 2020 : Date TBD, FLMBCA-Western NY Lotus Club Joint Driver Education Event at Watkins Glen.

June 21, 2020 : Father's Day Car & Motorcycle Show at Sonnenberg Gardens, Canandaigua, NY.

July 12, 2020: Annual FLMBCA Picnic at Red Kozinski's Home.

August, 2020 : TBD

September 13, 2020 : Seneca Falls Rotary Jazz Festival.

October, 2020 : Road Rally, organized by Doug Archer. Date TBD.

November, 2020 : Annual Meeting, Date & Location TBD.

December, 2020 : Community & Family Holiday Events.

BILL WAYMAN'S ANNUAL GARAGE AND SHOP TOUR

"The quickly evolving Novel Coronavirus pandemic has reached our region and it is imperative that we align our club activities along with recent local and regional practices. The health of all our members and families is paramount. As a result, we are unable to hold our annual opening day garage tour at club member Bill Wayman's home this spring. Bill is sharing a photograph of his recent work elsewhere in our newsletter, so all is not lost". Don Klug



March 2020



March 2020



March 2020

**1971
Jaguar
XKE OTS**



March 2020

"Each spring for the last several years our club has held an event at Bill Wayman's garage called 'The garage tour'. In an effort to disappoint our membership as little as possible here are pictures of Bill's latest car rebuilding project". Bill Wayman



April 28th 2019



April 28th 2019

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Notification

As the situation around novel coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to evolve, we are all aware of the impact it is having on our country and our own communities. The Mercedes Benz Club of America wants to be sure the safety of our members is always our first consideration. Although some areas have not been touched by the disease yet, it is surely only a matter of time. Therefore, I call upon your good judgment to determine when it is in the best interest of your members to cancel an event. I know that is always a difficult call, given the time, effort, and sometimes money, put into the planning and execution of some of these events. Certainly taking into account the number of people attending, and where they are coming from, can help you decide if that is the right course of action. But the safety of the members, and the communities in which they live, must be your primary consideration.



Thank you for all you do for the Club!

**Julie Bruggner
Mercedes Benz Club of America
National President**

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Keeping the memory of Bertha and Carl Benz alive.

Jutta Benz, great-granddaughter of Carl and Bertha Benz.



134 years ago, we patented the very first car! On January 29th, 1886, Carl Benz filed an application in Berlin for a patent on his three-wheeled motor car. Ever since that day has been considered the official birthday of the Automobile!

Jutta Benz, great-granddaughter of Carl, inventor of the motor car, and his wife, Bertha Benz.

Mercedes-Benz Museum

Bought it, Drove it, Shipped it, Sold it and Found it



Last year we asked club members to share their stories about how they came to own their Mercedes Benz cars. This story, the fourth in the series, seems the most unique due to the unusual circumstances.

Ken Rucki, a MBCA Finger Lakes member since the late 1980's purchased his 1972 Red 350 SL back in 1983 while serving as a military helicopter pilot. He moved to Ft. Drum near Watertown, NY in 1986 and after military retirement decided to remain in the area to start a small helicopter sight seeing business. By 1994 the local economy soured enough that necessitate Ken to sell the 350 SL to keep the business moving. Besides, he still had his white 1968 280 SL and the 1990 300 TE station wagon.

Off the red roadster went, but the new owner never registered the car. Unfortunately, the car fell into a family in disharmony that ended in divorce and an ownership fight ensued. As is usual with these situations just one spouse can win custody of their 'baby'. No one is sure who stored the car, but eventually the spouse and owner moved from the area and everyone lost track of the 1972 red 350 SL.

We now jump the nearly 20 years to 2016 when the local police stopped by Ken's home to inquire about a "garage find" red Mercedes Benz roadster. It seems that it was locked up in a standalone garage of a rental property that had changed owners many times over the years. The garage windows were painted over, the doors padlocked and a small tree was sprouting in front of the bay door. When Ken had the car shipped from Germany in 1986 his name had been inscribed on the car body. The new apartment house owners, unaware who possessed the car, contacted local authorities. The police, after finding the inscribed name, came calling. Ken, a person who files away everything, shared all the old shipping and service records with them. It seems that the previous purchaser never registered the car and public records still listed Ken as the owner. Ken shared his story with the unamused police who thought they were onto some nefarious hunt. (Continued on Page 8).

Ken now did three things. He offered to reach out to the long-gone spouse to gain information and decided to re-register and insure the car. Now the new apartment house owner, seeing an opportunity, decided that rent was due for what was guessed an almost 20 years of storage. We cannot make up this stuff. This is not fiction, just every day human activity at its finest.

Now to add spice to the story, good news and bad.

No key was found, so, good news, no one could drive off with the 'garage find'. After Ken re-connected with the distant spouse owner and shared photographs the decision was made that restoration was not an item of interest and said former spouse owner wrote a letter authorizing Ken as the red 350 SL owner.

Unfortunately, a problem remained with the enterprising apartment/garage landlord owner, we are guessing now number six since the car was originally stored and locked up, demanding rent for all those years of storage. Of course, Ken declined the offer to pay thousands in fees and things settled into a standoff waiting game.

By 2019 a new tenant decided the garage was a first-class storage space and offered the landlord compensation for his access and use. The landlord now seeing no resolution to the 350 SL storage dispute now insisted that Ken or the ex-spouse move the vehicle. In no time at all, with the police present and a mechanic with a tow truck and talent for repossessing cars in less than 7 minutes the long-gone red SL was on its way to Ken's home with hopes of restoring the car to road worthiness. But this story is still not over! Remember, no key was ever found which is now the bad news.

The Mercedes Benz Classic Center in Irving, California was unable to replace the key using the '14 digit' VIN number listed on the 350 SL body and type 116 engine. No record what so ever. A call to Germany ended with the same results. Today's VIN's are 17-digit alphanumeric characters. So now we reach out to our fellow club members to ask if any knowledge exists regarding 14-digit VIN's. If so, Ken would appreciate a call at 315-782-1078.

Classified ads



UNIVERSAL IMPORTS

834 Linden Avenue
Rochester, NY 14625
585-381-8677



Günter and Astrid arrived here from Bavaria Germany in the late 60's and founded Universal Imports in 1984. Günter created an incredible business that still today stresses quality service and top line vehicles. They raised three children and helped raise seven grandchildren, and built this company from scratch. Sadly, Günter passed away in 2018. Astrid continues in her role of Owner and Vice President.

Founded in 1984, Universal Imports of Rochester specializes in the sales and service of pre-owned import cars. Our sales and service teams have years of experience with all car brands specializing in Audi, BMW, Mercedes Benz, Volvo, Porsche, VW, Jaguar, Saab Land Rover, Lexus and Infiniti.

"For the month of April, Finger Lakes Mercedes Benz Club will receive a free Car Care Club membership (a \$49 value). Just come in for service, and mention that you are a member. Our Car Care Club gives members a free New York State Inspection, \$50 off an alignment, \$10 off oil changes, and a 10% discount on labor."

Hours of Operation

Monday Thru Friday: 7:30 am to 6:30 pm

Saturday : 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

Sunday: Closed

Classified ads

Mercedes Benz of Rochester



**Mercedes Benz of Rochester would like to thank you for your loyalty by giving you:
10% OFF all Mercedes-Benz Parts and Accessories AND 10% OFF on your next service.**

**Mercedes-Benz of Rochester
4296 W Henrietta Rd
Rochester, NY14623**

**Parts Department
(585)424-4740
Mon-Fri: 7:00am – 6:00pm**

**Service Department
(585)424-4740
Mon-Fri: 7:00am – 6:00pm
Appointment Recommended**

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Selling one new 15 " wheel Mercedes Benz OEM , I purchased it for my 1986 MB SEL, but never had a chance to mount it . Asking \$ 50 or BO. Number 7Jx15H2 ET 25.

Contact Oscar Raffo at oscarraffo@hotmail.com or (585)317-8857

**Selling 4 new 15" wheels from Tire Rack , with bolts,
Asking \$120 (\$30 each) or BO. Number 7Jx15H2**

Contact Oscar Raffo at oscarraffo@hotmail.com or (585)317-8857





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FLMBCA WEBSITE:

Fingerlakes.mbca.org

Trip Routing (MBUSA) Call: 800-367-6372

**Tech Assistance and Information:
Tech talk and website forum with
George Murphy, link on-line thru
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- ◆ **Six Big Issues of The Star**
- ◆ **New Friendships**
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- ◆ **Networking**
- ◆ **Club Forum**
- ◆ **Local Section Newsletter**
- ◆ **National Events and Conventions**
- ◆ **Free Classified Ads in the STAR**
- ◆ **Free Classified in local Newsletter**
- ◆ **Free Technical Advice and Reprints**
- ◆ **Vintage Reprints Club Store and Raffles**

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