

# StarTracks 2010



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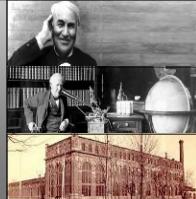
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## Thomas A. Edison Historic Site Tour



The morning of Saturday, 14 November 2009, was cold and drizzly. However, some 55 Northern New Jersey Section members attended what was one of our most successful events, a tour of the Thomas Edison Historic Site in West Orange, followed by an à la carte lunch at a nearby restaurant. The site, administered by the National Park Service, had only recently reopened after an extensive renovation. It comprises both Glenmont, Mr. Edison's home in Llewellyn Park, and the nearby Edison Labs.

Glenmont, a Queen Anne-style mansion built in 1880, became the home of Mr. Edison and his second wife, Mina Miller Edison, on their return from their honeymoon in 1886. Our tour started in the conservatory, filled with plants and flowers from the estate's greenhouse. We continued to a paneled reception room near the main entrance, another living room, a large dining room (with the table all set!), a music room, the kitchen, laundry, and servants' dining room on the first floor. We took the service stairs to the family bedrooms and family room on the second floor. Our park ranger guides explained the furnishings and the artwork to us. We then descended the carved oak staircase back to the conservatory, and walked outside to a two-story garage. This building was constructed entirely out of poured concrete, a technique Edison used to build workers' housing in his Menlo Park facility. Its contents included an early electric car, a Ford Model T, and a 1931 Brewster town car, as well as its own gas pump.



Mrs. Edison lived in Glenmont until her death in 1947. Interestingly, her son Charles (1890-1969) became FDR's Assistant and then Secretary of the Navy (in 1940) and ran as a Democrat for Governor of New Jersey, a post he occupied from January 1941 to January 1944.



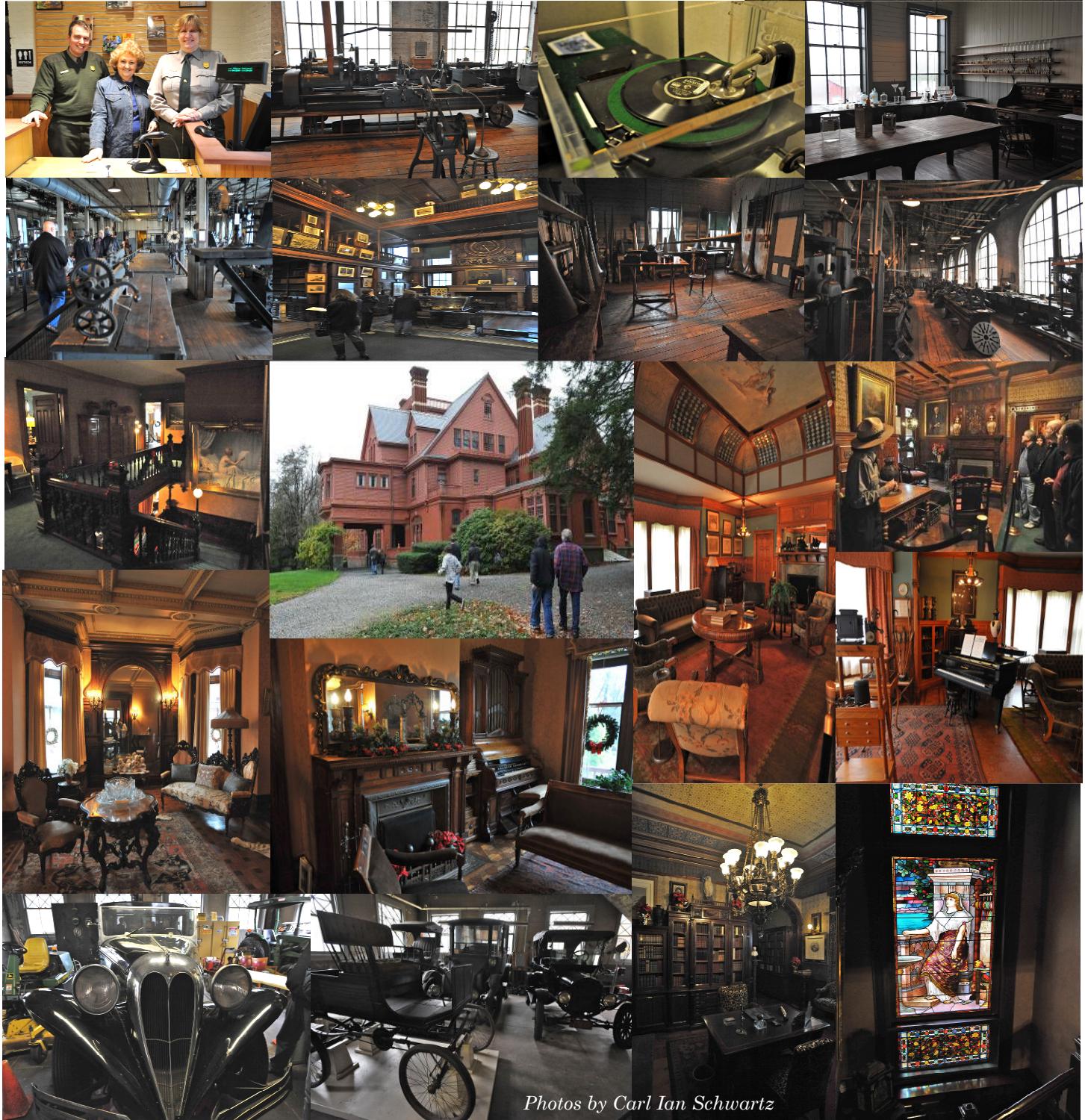
Club members then got into their cars and traveled less than a mile to visit the balance of the historic site—

among the first "idea factories" that made American industry so innovative in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. After an audio-visual introduction to the facility, we toured an amazing building (one of several), which comprised Mr. Edison's lavish library, a machine shop, a recording studio, a stockroom with all sorts of exotic materials, and a turntable-mounted film studio ("the Black Maria") moveable to catch the sun. Besides the incandescent bulb and sound recordings (first on wax cylinders), Edison was a pioneer in motion pictures and even tried his hand to develop a process to make rubber from indigenous plants!

Interestingly, Edison's creative imagination was sometimes hampered by his own inventions. He and his staff opened the first electric-light generating station in downtown Manhattan in 1882 near Fulton and William Streets. They developed a complete system to generate and distribute electricity—as well as household wiring, switches, and lighting fixtures. However, this system used direct current (DC) instead of alternating current, which was developed by the Westinghouse Company. Continued on pg. 2

The Edison Labs' machine shops used electric motors, working through pulleys and belts, to power its tools—but it used DC motors only and would not convert to AC! Without the model of the Edison Labs, later research-and-development (R&D) facilities (such as Bell Labs) probably would never have occurred. Pure research, without consideration to immediate financial gain but with an eye to the future, would have remained a dream.

The last 40 years have seen less and less money devoted to pure research by both private corporations and institutions of higher learning in this country. A solid R&D infrastructure, pioneered by Edison Labs, helped make the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century what Henry Luce labeled “The American Century.” Carl I. Schwartz



*Photos by Carl Ian Schwartz*



**FOR SALE:** 1972-1985 SL Black Hardtop including cart and cover. Fits all W107 chassis. Hardly used, constantly garaged and in mint condition. I need more storage space. \$1825.00  
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**FOR SALE:** 1987 560SL Convertible. Signal Red/Palomino. 83K miles, both tops, service records, excellent condition, same owner since 1996, only driven on weekends in good weather, ga gared. \$12,900. Call for details/photos. Curt Bradbury (973) 838-9403, [cbradbury@verizon.net](mailto:cbradbury@verizon.net)

**FOR SALE:** 1986 190E 2.3 -16. smoke silver; 93K; EVO II wheels with new Goodyear Eagle tires. See feature article on my car at [www.worldcarfans.com/102110111582/1986-mercedes-benz-190-e-23-16v](http://www.worldcarfans.com/102110111582/1986-mercedes-benz-190-e-23-16v). This car has been improved since I purchased it 7 years ago. New, windshield, dash, clutch, timing belt, pads, rotors, more. Very clean, very fast (for a 16 valve). Best offer over \$14,000.00  
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**FOR SALE:** 1992 400E Smoke Silver with Creme Beige interior. 108K miles. Near Showroom Condition in and out. One of the best exam ples of this desirable model to be called a daily driver. It is currently equipped with newer 16" rims and tires which gives it a similar ap pearance to and handling qualities of a 500E. The original 15" rims and tires will be given to the new owner. \$8,950. Please contact



Alan Snyder at (908) 756-5599 or [TheMercedesMan@comcast.net](mailto:TheMercedesMan@comcast.net)

**FOR SALE:** 1987 560SL Convertible. Arctic White with Navy leather interior. Two tops (white hard top and navy soft top). Hard top comes with wheeled caddy for stor age. Pirelli P4000 Super Touring tires. Alpine 6 CD and cassette player with AM/FM radio. Always covered and garaged. 102K miles. Maintained by a Mercedes me chanic. Excellent condition. Driven only on weekends and in good weather. Ask ing \$14,500. Call Rick 973-464-5845



**FOR SALE:** 2001 320 SLK Convertible/Coupe Silver/Charcoal Like New only 12,000 Miles, All Standard Equipment plus Automatic Trans., Heated Seats, 6disc CD Changer. Garaged with MB cover. \$16,500.  
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**FOR SALE:** 1985 300TD Diesel Station Wagon, Navy Blue Exterior, Saddle Interior, Automatic Transmission, Air Conditioning, Original AM/FM/Cassette Radio, Manual Sunroof, Luggage Rack, Rare Third Seat, 229,000 miles, Excellent Driving Condition. \$5,800

Andy Perminson [thepermitage@comcast.net](mailto:thepermitage@comcast.net) 973-379-7283

**WANTED:** Right Side Tail Light Lens for 1984 380 SL. Call George Maulbeck 908-369-4030 [riverweim@aol.com](mailto:riverweim@aol.com)

**Reminder:**

The next deadline for submission of material to the editor is February 15, 2010.

Please send your submissions to the editor, Ken Spingarn [khs@openix.com](mailto:khs@openix.com)

**Reminder:**

Did you know that For Sale ad submissions are free for members? Just email your ad to the editor by the 15th of the month prior to publication. You may include one or more digital photos with your ad.

## Holiday Party Brunch 2009

Our Holiday Party Brunch at the Essex Fells Country Club on December 5, 2009 was enjoyed by a great bunch of members. We celebrated the Holidays at a magnificent facility overlooking the scenic golf course in Essex Fells. Our brunch was both appetizing and festive. It was fun to schmooze with our friends as we relived the events of the past year and met some new faces.

Our outgoing President, Doug Ochwat presented our photographer, Carl Ian Schwartz with the 2009 Member of the Year Award. Carl graces us all with his deft photographic eye. Doug also presented a special award to Frank Chabala in recognition of his many years of outstanding work and service to the club. Frank is our mainstay. There is nobody like Frank. All of our members were quite pleased when member Bob Wegner presented Doug Ochwat the Chester Lions Club Appreciation Award to the Northern New Jersey Section for our support. For several years we have held our charity Oktoberfest Celebration in cooperation with the Chester Lions Club. Christine Chase, Mercedes-Benz USA National Brand Specialist, pictured with Joe Grattan, joined us as our special guest. Our Ladies received stylish Mercedes-Benz bags and Doug & Nora Ochwat were presented with two china place settings from the M-B museum in Germany for their dedicated service.

NNJS members once again showed their generosity in donating to the Toys for Tots program. Members brought a wide variety of toys, stuffed animals, and games for children of many different ages to the Holiday Party. The toys were then donated to the Chatham Township Police Department where the toys were sorted and then sent off to the Elizabeth PAL. NNJS continued its tradition of charity by also donating the leftover food from the Holiday party to the West Orange soup kitchen and to the Eric Johnson House in Morristown. Thank you to Lucille & Frank Chabala and Valerie & Joe Cristiano for once again taking the time to deliver the food to these worthwhile charities.



# I thought I was in heaven...

**M**ercedes to the left of me, Lamborghinis to the right of me, Ferraris in front of me. Then I turned around, and there were Porsches. Yonder in the parking lot were magnificent spectrum vehicles—Maseratis, Carreras and more. The sun was shining and I thought I had died and gone to Heaven!

It was showcased as the *Alpine Classic Invitational Car Show*. This event was held on behalf of the Educational Foundation of Alpine, Inc., and put together from conception to execution in a mere three weeks. The organizers of this event not only secured the use of the Frick Mansion and its acres and acres of land, but managed to invite to the show an array of beautiful cars, put up posters in all of the surrounding towns, provide food, and attracted hundreds of visitors. If you weren't there, you missed a great event.

**A** major sponsor and the driving force of the event was **Benzel-Busch Motor Car Corp., of Englewood, NJ** and a host of other sponsors.

**N**ext year, for the second annual *Alpine Classic Invitational Car Show*, applications to appear in the show will be sent out requiring complete bios and photos of all cars. I will provide you with information well in advance so that you may request to enter your car. Contact Greg Calabro at [GCal842938@aol.com](mailto:GCal842938@aol.com)



Photos by Carl Ian Schwartz



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# Welcome New Members

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**Barry Fleischman**

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**Brian Hamburger**

**Cane Janevski**

**John Kavanagh**

**Theresa Kavanagh**

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**Leon Valera**



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## Vice President's Message.....Nick Ford



### Happy New Year Everyone!

2009 was a great year for the club. We had a lot of fun events, with many members attending. 2010 is looking to be another big year, with a lot of events being planned already. We'll be having driving events, car shows, tech sessions and informal tire kicking events. I'm sure I'll see many of you there.

I'd like to offer a special invitation to those of you who are new to the club, haven't been to an event yet, or maybe haven't been to an event in a while. It's a great way to enjoy and learn more about Mercedes.

There are events for everyone, even if you're not a car expert. So come out to an event, even if just to share thoughts and stories with other members about our cars. Or maybe talk with a fellow member who has a Mercedes model that you want to learn more about. The upcoming events are always in our newsletter. (It's available on line and in color too!) If you have any questions about the events, please contact me, Joe, Rich, or Lucille, and we'll be happy to tell about them in more detail. Looking forward to seeing you in 2010!

# Technical Corner

*Andreas Molde*



**A**s I am writing this, it seems winter is here in full force, judging by the third snowfall and it's not even Christmas yet. If you have not installed/mounted winter tires on your M-B by now, it may be a good time to re-think your strategy. If you drive your 2 Wheel-Drive M-B in the snow, winter tires are a must in my opinion. It is strongly recommend to mount 4 (!) snow tires, which gives extra traction to get up and go and for braking and steering. I also like to add about 100-150 lbs of additional weight in the trunk, since M-B's tend to be light in the rear. Preferably get salt and/or sand, which can be used in case you get stuck on ice. I personally use the salt from my water softener, which is available in 40 lbs bags. They are fairly easy to carry and once the season is over, I'll dump them back into the softener tank.

M-B's with 4-Matic Drive systems are definitely more forgiving than the 2 Wheel-Drive in the snow, but they would certainly benefit from winter tires, too. All-Season tires are mostly adequate, but not exceptional in any season!

I recently came across a Headlight Restoration Kit by BG Product( [www.bgprod.com](http://www.bgprod.com) ) that may be of interest to some of you, especially if you have acrylic headlight lenses like the 210 chassis on your M-B (or other vehicle). I have seen this product in use and was impressed by the results.

Use the above website to locate a BG Dealer that will either sell you the product or perform the restoration (most M-B Dealers will) on the headlights. The cost will definitely be lower than a new set of headlights, but most of all will improve the clarity and light output.



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## **Joe Wozney ~ 1942-2009**

A wise old war veteran once intoned, "All gave some, but some gave all." We who have soldiered on the sweltering track, who have smoked rubber at the screaming contact patch and who have struggled mightily against the wrenching g forces at the tiller; we know that Joe Wozney gave his all to the motor sports programs of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America. Every volunteer and every contender has helped burnish the luster of the silver star in the arena of wheel to wheel competition. But it was Joe Wozney who put it all together. Joe drew up the autocross grid. Joe painstakingly sorted the time trial classes for fairness and for sport. He was on the tower flag a waving; at the computer keyboard performing a staccato sonata of calculation. Into the night he labored and was ever cheerily present by track side at dawn's early light.

The first time I drove in a Cosworth Mercedes was as a passenger on the track at Summit Point and Joe Wozney was behind the wheel. Joe was a master of everything which he did and he had no equal in the twisty bits. He worked the close ratio ZF manual tranny so deftly as to have just the right torque available for every part of the track. Using technique which I understand he had learned in the Porsche Club he exploited every inch of tarmac so as to achieve absolutely blistering lap times. Joe never did anything by half.

Despite his unequaled talents as a competitor in the Mercedes-Benz Club of America we will always remember Joe for the invaluable help which he provided to other members and to our gallant company of starpeople as a whole. Joe Wozney, with the indefatigable assistance of Bobbie and a tiny cadre of stalwarts, nurtured and maintained our Club's driving events. For more than two decades every time that a Mercedes driver enhanced the reputation of the silver star in competition on this side of the Atlantic Joe's critical input was there, front and center. So great was Joe Wozney's dedication to our motor sports programs that he ultimately had little time to compete himself, finding his satisfaction in mentoring others and organizing flawlessly conceived events. Autocross, time trials, acceleration runs and drivers education programs in the Mercedes community will ever bear his imprimatur

Joe served with distinction on the MBCA national board of directors. Here also I had the pleasure of observing his unmatched skills first hand. He was our national vice president during a critical time in our Club's existence, when our president was frail and ill. Joe chaired the board with the éclat of a seasoned parliamentarian and spoke on critical issues with verve and eloquence. During a pivotal time in the history of the Mercedes Club Joe and a dedicated group of colleagues preserved the heart and soul of our organization. We who enjoy the perquisites of membership in our great and historic club today owe a debt of gratitude to Joe and his trusty associates.

By training Joe was a mathematician and a manager. By character he was a leader and a teacher. His dedication to helping others no doubt had its genesis in his education by the Vincentian Fathers at Saint John's University . His qualities as a leader were surely shaped by his experience as a naval officer.

Every time I get behind the wheel of one of my starships I am mindful of the glorious heritage of the marque. And personally I have a lifetime of memories associated with the silver star. When I am driving alone down a country road at twilight I sometimes have a sense of unseen passengers aboard. I feel the warm presence of relatives and dear friends who have long journeyed across Jordan. Now I know that I will have a new friendly spirit on board who will help me to get my shifting points right and to mind the apexes in the tight curves.

*John Kuhn Bleimaier*

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## From the President ..... Joe Grattan



**W**e have some great things planned for 2010. We have engaged an outside provider to distribute both the newsletter as well as monthly emails. You will receive the newsletter from our Editor, Ken Spingarn via email as soon as it goes to the printer, 7 to 10 days before the printed copy arrives in your snail mail.

We have changed vendors for the shirts with our club logo. Lands End will take over. The known quality and flexibility of Lands End are advantages. We will be able to have our club logo embroidered onto any Lands End product in any catalogue they produce. At some of our events we will give away a \$100 gift certificate to a member. The first of these will be at the Euro Tire tech session in February, followed by two \$100 gift certificates in April. In addition we will give away a couple of Lands End shirts at some other events. We will be buying new judges hats for use at the June Jamboree. In addition to the June Jamboree, there are big car shows in July and September we are considering. Sit back, relax and enjoy the newsletter. See you soon.

### **Tech Session at EuroTire on Feb. 20 in Fairfield, NJ**

**O**n Saturday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> arrive about 12:30pm for some tire kicking and conversation. Rich Luongo has arranged for us to visit this new location. Tech session starts at 1 PM. During the year we will, at some events, give away a \$100 gift certificate. Euro Tire is the first event where one member will receive a \$100 gift certificate to be used at Euro Tire. The fine print: 1). Winner must be a member 2). Whatever service or product you select must be for a Mercedes-Benz. *Come on down for our first event of the year.* We need a count of who will be attending. Please notify Lucille Chabala below. Euro Tire is located at 500 Route 46 East in Fairfield, NJ- one mile west of the Willowbrook Mall (973) 575-0080. Their website is <http://www.eurotire.com/index.htm> This is a no charge event.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Contact Lucille Chabala [LuLuChab@aol.com](mailto:LuLuChab@aol.com) or 973-731-9133  
6 Brook Way • West Orange, NJ 07052

### **Antiques Road Show - Sunday, March 21**

**O**n Sunday, March 21 we will return to Bella Italia in Orange to have Alan Snyder lead us through the history and value of your antique treasures. Always a good time, Bella Italia has great food, wonderful service and off-street parking. Cost remains the same as the past few years at \$35 per person. No charge for the under 12 set. Directions are on their Web site <http://www.bellaitaliarestaurantnj.com> (973) 669-0966 Please respond to Lucille by March 14.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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Make check payable to MBCA-NNJS and send to: Lucille Chabala • 6 Brook Way • West Orange, NJ 07052  
[LuLuChab@aol.com](mailto:LuLuChab@aol.com) or 973-731-9133

### **Tech Session April 17 at Shade Tree Garage and All-in-the-Details**

**O**n Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. something different this time. We will have events at both places with a catered sandwich lunch in between. They are both in the same building. We will visit Shade Tree in the morning starting about 9:30 for another great tech session.

We will then break for lunch, going to All-in-the-Details about 1 PM so Chris can give us hints about detailing our Starships. (June Jamboree is coming). Attend either sessions or only one. Lunch will be served about noon.. Cost is \$5 per person to partially offset the cost of the lunch. We will be giving away a \$100 gift certificate at BOTH Shade and Details. You must be a member and work is to be only done on an M-B. Previous winner (s) are not eligible. The address is 169-171 Washington Street, Morristown, NJ 973-540-9880 More details in next issue.

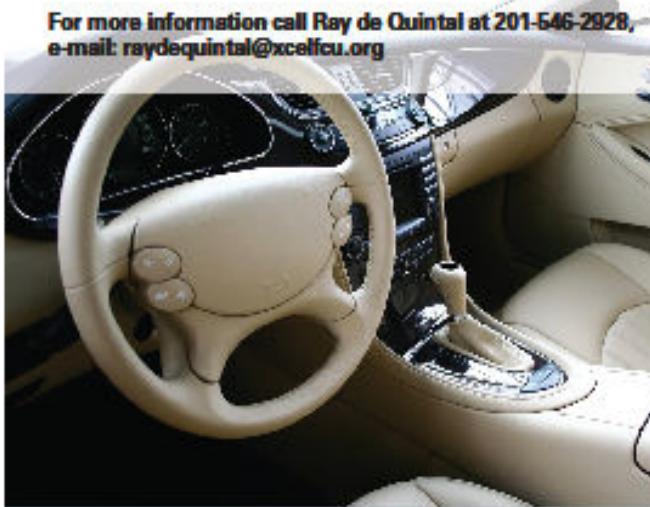
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## NNJS Upcoming Events



**Saturday, February 20** — Tech Session — Euro Tire — Fairfield, NJ — See page 10



**Sunday, March 31** — Annual Antiques Road Show — Bella Italia Ristorante — Orange, NJ — See page 10



**Saturday, April 17** — Tech Session — Shade Tree Garage and All in the Details — Morristown, NJ — See page 10

**Saturday, May 15** — Reprise of the popular Edison Home & Laboratory Tour — West Orange, NJ — Details in our next issue.