Northern New Jersey Section — Mercedes-Benz Club of America

STAR TRACKS 2006

Volume 2 Number 4 | MBCA 50th Anniversary 1956-2006 | July-August 2006

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June Jamboree Celebrations - Expanded Edition

Friday Dinner at the Holiday Inn

As part of our celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Mercedes - Benz Club of America we held a dinner on Friday night at the Holiday Inn in Saddlebrook, NJ.

The highlight of the evening was the visit of Jodie Allen. Her husband, Dr. Milton Allen, was the founder of the MBCA right here in Summit, New Jersey. Jodie flew in

from Florida to be part of the June Jamboree weekend. Jim O'Sullivan, President of MBCA and David Cummings from the National Office, Robby Ackerman, director at large, Greg Magnus, Regional Director and the Presidents of several other Sections were all there to help us celebrate the founding of our club.

The Friday evening celebration included a cocktail hour and dinner capped off by a special MBCA 50th Anniversary cake with a realistic presentation of a vintage 300 SL.

Maryalice Ritzman representing Mercedes-Benz USA

used this occasion to announce, for the first time a new nationwide program, sponsored by Mercedes, for members of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America. MBUSA will send a check to

any member in good standing who purchases a car from an authorized dealer. The check, up to $2,500, is independent of any negotiations you may have with the dealer. The money comes from MBUSA, not the dealer. This is a great benefit to our members and is detailed on pgs. 13 & 14 in this issue.

Saturday Concours and Popular Vote Car Show

The STARS really came out for NNJS 43rd Annual June Jamboree as we celebrated MBCA's 50th Anniversary. The Northern New Jersey Section – the First Star Section - of the Mercedes Benz Club of America proudly presented its annual Concours and Popular Vote Car Show and many members from far and near attended this stellar event. Most notable was Jodie Allen, wife of Dr. Milton Allen, founder and past president (1957 – 59) of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America. Jodie's cheerful countenance, bubbly personality, and impish grin charmed everyone with

whom she came in contact.

One just could not escape her enthusiasm and charm as she reminisced about her husband and how the Club began. Other noteworthy attendees from National Committees included David Cummings, Frank and Mary Alice Cozza, Jim O'Sullivan, Werner Fehlauer, Greg Magnus, and Robby Ackerman. We were also honored to have several section Presidents in attendance as well: Roger Egolf (NEPA), Ray Mang (DelVal), Teresa Canepa (Virginia), and Werner Fehlauer (SJS). Cont. Pg. 7

Route 6 - 50th Anniversary Update

As I hope most of you have read by now, the RT 6 part of the 50th Anniversary Celebration is taking place from September 12th through September 15th. It will terminate in Chicago in conjunction with the Chicagoland's section segment of the 50th Anniversary Celebration that weekend September 15th through September 17th. On the 17th the Route 66 trip will leave Chicago eventually ending up in Los Angeles at the new Mercedes Benz Classic Center, followed by Starfest in Las Vegas.

Joe Grattan, our section president, and I recently did a trial run of our September adventure from New Jersey to Chicago. For those of you giving some thought to taking this trip, I can tell you that I truly believe it's going to be lot of fun. The first day from NW New Jersey follows an interesting path and winds up in the quaint town of Wellsboro, PA near the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania State Park. We'll have a group dinner that evening at the old Wellsboro Hotel that dates back to the late 1800's.

The second day out we'll be crossing the most rural part of Pennsylvania driving through some memorable scenic areas along with towns that have history paralleling that of historic Route 6. We will end up that evening just east of Cleveland and have a group dinner with members of the Western Reserve Section, some of who will be joining us on the remainder of our adventure.

On day three we will spend a couple of hours driving along the southern shore of Lake Erie west of Cleveland and then head southwest toward Indiana spending the evening in Auburn, IN with some members of the Three Rivers Section. Auburn is the home of several automobile museums along with a famous World War II Museum.

We hope to have a cocktail party that evening at one of the automobile museums.

The final day will be a leisurely drive from Auburn into Chicago a distance of under 200 miles. All the roads have been checked out and the host hotels have been blocked with special room rates.

The cost of early registration is $50. After August 1st the cost of registration is $75. It includes a number of items some of which will be 50th Anniversary memorabilia. All cars registered will be included in a drawing for a couple of nice prizes on the evening of September 14th in Auburn.

For more information please call me at 908-850-9643, or email me at daocatswamp@yahoo.com

Doug Ochwat, VP

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Mercedes-Benz

For Sale: 1972 250C,6 cyl, gas, duel carbs, dark green, light beige interior, good rubber, has been sitting unused, moved twice a year to let boat out. Seats and interior in great shape, motor in great shape. The body is still in very good shape, needs power assist for brakes, a little rust. An excellent project car. $1,500. takes it. 609-242-9444 (Exit 74 off of the Parkway) J. Miller

For Sale: 1974 450SL Convertible - Timing Chain Snapped ...while driving home recently, headlights/dash dimmed, then car stopped on the highway. Car was taken by flatbed to my mechanic, who diagnosed timing chain snapped & no compression on passenger side of engine. Currently not drivable. Have owned car since 1995 & thoroughly enjoyed the last 10 summers, third documented owner, professionally restored, no accidents, garage kept, well-maintained, 130K miles, emerald green w/palomino leather, new tires/brakes, newer black convertible soft top, no hard top, custom wheels, Pioneer CD player w/ Blaupunkt speakers, nice cosmetic condition, New Jersey QQ Historic plates. Fabulous car, but I do not have mechanical expertise to refurbish engine. Ideal for car collector or SL owner with damaged body, but strong engine looking for a great body. $7500/best reasonable offer. Tom 908-392-6511 or tfilep@greenwichsolutions.com

For Sale: 1992 600 SEL V12 Cabernet red (color code 587) 81,000 miles. Tan leather interior.4 door, 12 cylinders, power brakes, steering and seats. Contact Joe Grattan 973 628 1781 or email JosephGrattan@aol.com.

WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

If you have not received NNJS notifications via email and you want to add your email address—Please send your address to JosephGrattan@aol.com

Moving:

Send Address Changes to: MBCA 1907 Le-Larey Street Colorado Springs, CO 80909 or call 1-800-637-2360

Reminder:

All submissions for the next Star Tracks 2006 newsletter must be received by the editor at khs@openix.com by September 18, 2006.

Thank you

Welcome New Members

May

William S. Penza

Dan Yungnien Huang

Kevin P. Kelly

Sal R. Anicito

Maciej Michalski

Letsy Pinda

June

Larry O. Butler

Barbara L. Heller

Steven James Cennamo

Kathleen Kelleher

Robert Lutze

Ates Yegen

Jordan L. Viders

Laura Landau

Allen Gordon Jacobson

Nicholas Bellizzi

With 16 new members for May & June ,we now have a total of 60 new members for the first half of 2006. NNJS welcomes you. We hope you will join us at our many fun events.

"June Jamboree Celebrating the "50's"

The morning of June 10th was spring like as we gathered at MBUSA headquarters to celebrate in grand style our club's 50th anniversary.

With the sun shining and a nice breeze blowing "Doc South", a DJ with a local radio station, was on grounds all day, literally spinning records from the 50's, and in particular those popular during the year 1956.

The mood was festive; vinyl jukeboxes, ice cream fountain sodas and stools, guitars, music notes and large plastic records decorated the interior of MB Headquarters lobby and cafeteria. Those of us who left our inner child out for the day were dressed to the "50's". We saw peddle pushers, camp shirts, neck scarves, pony tails, Converse high top sneakers, poodle skirts, white tee shirts with cigs rolled up in the sleeve, black slacks with white socks and black shoes, baseball caps, rolled up jeans and jean jackets, you name it, I believe we had it.

As promised in our last newsletter four prizes were awarded for attire; first place prize for gals went to Loni Spingarn with a close second place won by Mary Alice Cozza of the Western Reserve Section (Cleveland). Frank Cozza won first place in the guy's division with our own Frank Chabala being awarded second place winner. A hearty thank you to all of you who came out to join in the fun and festivities.

Nora Ochwat

Each year we ask the Mercedes-Benz dealers in our area to donate gifts which we use as prizes for the drawings on Saturday afternoon at The June Jamboree.

These are the dealers who contributed to the success of the June Jamboree. Please support the dealers who support us. Thank you!

Benzel-Busch, Englewood

Contemporary Motor Cars, Little Silver

David Michael Motor Cars, Freehold

Globe Motors, Fairfield

Intercar, Newton

Mercedes-Benz of Princeton

Millenium, Bridgewater

Prestige Motors, Paramus

Ray Catena, Edison

Technical Corner

by Andreas Molde

Hello MB Friends

Hope your summer is going well and you're staying cool, and dry!

It's tough to stay dry with all the recent rain we had and your Mercedes might even like it less than you do.

You or your repair shop should check the water drains on you MB, especially if the car is parked outside a lot, near trees and bushes. You'll be surprised how much debris will accumulate and clog up the drains. On the older cars we used to worry only about the sunroof and A/C drains, once in the while, and there was usually no harm done after everything was dry again.

With all the electronics in today's MB (or other vehicles for that matter), it's a different story. On most cars, the area between the engine compartment and passenger compartment is filled with electronics, inside the fuse and relay boxes, which are water resistant but not waterproof. Located in that same area are the water drains, which can handle a lot of water, but if debris accumulate there over time, the drains will eventually get clogged. The water level can rise to the point, where it will enter the fuse and relay boxes and even get inside the vehicle.

Over time, corrosion will build up and the electronics in you MB will not be happy!

As a very general rule, I would suggest that you have a closer look at the drains, starting with the year 1996 and up.

Check for leaves and other debris, next time you open the hood, in the area close to the windshield, left and right. If you find debris, remove what you can by hand and have your repair shop clean the rest, which can probably be done only with compressed air and a little know-how. If you see water accumulated, it's time to call for an appointment, otherwise have them check it next time you go in for service.

This kind of preventive maintenance is not part of a regular service anymore and you will have to ask for it (and possibly pay for it).

Hope this helps to keep you and your MB happy!

Joseph LoFaro, MD was our 50th registrant and received a special prize at our June Jamboree.

Dr. LoFaro realized his hobby at age 12 when he saw a 300 gullwing at an auto show. Since that time he has always had a great appreciation of Mercedes and had many opportunities to experience them first hand while living in Europe through his twenties. In the summer of 2004 he drove an E55 AMG and knew immediately he had to have one. He ordered the car and it was delivered in the fall. He bought a 1998 SL 500 last summer as a weekend fun car/project car. It is a work in progress.

Dr. LoFaro has attended the last 2 Jamborees and looks forward to participating in future events. Good Luck, Joseph.

Lucille Chabala

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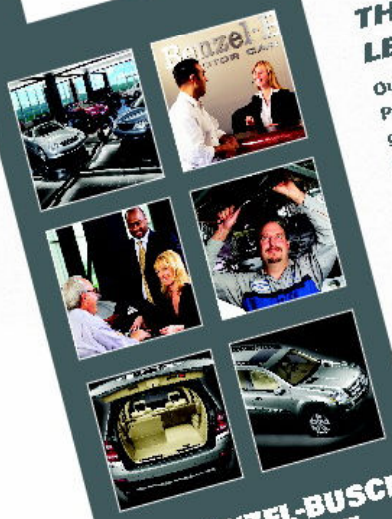

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Continued from page 1.

The STAR Sections were also well represented: Northern New Jersey – the First Star Section, South Jersey, Delaware Valley, Greater Washington Section, Central Virginia, Northeast Pennsylvania, Virginia, Connecticut/West Chester, Maine Maritime, Sea Level, Western Reserve, and Triangle (apologies if we failed to mention a represented section).

The joint began jumpin' around 8:30 AM when members started to roll in, register, and have their car's picture taken. After parking their car in designated spots, our members returned to the main lobby for a delicious breakfast of pastries, bagels, fruit, juice, and coffee and more.

Entrants enjoyed the time between their arrival and the beginning of judging by socializing with others or finalizing the detailing of their car by removing the dust from the trip. At the appointed time, teams of judges swooped onto the field and began the judging of the cars. The place never

stopped rockin' as we were treated to the music of the fifties by our DJ strategically located in the upper parking lot.

After the judging was complete, we all settled into the cafeteria of MBUSA for a scrumptious lunch, door prizes, and the awarding of trophies. Finally, it was time to call it a day as we bade "Good bye" to one another and hit the road for home.

Thanks to our Judges for a job well done. Special thanks to Ed Jahn for once again serving as Head Judge.

Engines: Robby Ackerman, Harrison Platz, Greg Magnus, Andreas Molde, Mike Parlato, Ken Spingarn

Exterior: Frank Chabala, Xavier Maigman, Sam Berliner, Bob Platz, Frank Donnangelo, Carl Salierno

Chrome and Plastic: Larry Taylor, Claire Wegner, Bob Wegner, Lou Manganiello, Ralph Esposito, Burgess Berlin

Interior: Doug Ochwat, Bill Hopper, Joe Cristiano, Barbaranna Kefalonitis, John Kefalonitis, Agnes Penque

Mileage Recorder: Nick Silva

Score Tally Team: Werner Fehlauer, Brenda Calabro, Joe Grattan, Valerie Cristiano

Sunday, Day Three of The June Jamboree

Well, we did it! Not only did we have the largest June Jamboree ever, we turned the JJ into a three-day event, culminating with a defensive driving course on Sunday morning, followed by an autocross on Sunday afternoon.

We owe much of our success to the efforts of Mary Alice Ritzmann of MBUSA for securing the parking lot at MBUSA Headquarters to conduct our driving activities, and to Frank and Mary Alice Cozza of the Western Reserve Section for coming to New Jersey and coordinating both driving events. I'd also like to thank Greg and Brenda Calabro, Andreas Molde and Werner Fehlauer of the South Jersey Section for their assistance.

Twenty-eight members took the defensive driving course and received their certificates that day. Passing the course can mean a reduction in your insurance premium, but far more importantly, it might help our members avoid accidents by improving their driving skills.

The following participated in the defensive driving course:

- Robbie Ackerman
- John Bleimaier
- Brenda & Greg Calabro
- Ted Faraone
- David Feske
- Allen Gold
- Michelle Gallego
- Aaron, Adam, Dan, Deb Goldberg
- Joe Grattan
- Stephen Lazar
- Andreas & Helga Molde
- Leanore Naphtal
- Doug & Nora Ochwat
- Agnes Penque
- Carl Schwartz
- Thomas Severone
- Mark Sluscavage
- Mary & Larry Taylor
- Bart Voyce
- David Zieghaus

Eighteen members participated in the Autocross. Listed in alphabetical order are their best times of the day.

Robby Ackerman	21.93	190 2.3 16V
John Bleimaier	20.18	C230 Coupe
Brenda Calabro	23.54	190 2.3 16V*
Greg Calabro	21.54	190 2.3 16V
Ted Faraone	27.77	Corvette
David Feske	30.63	ML350
Allen Gold	25.97	SLK320
Bill Hopper	22.06	ML350*
Andreas Molde	22.59	E300
Helga Molde	28.76	E300
Leanore Napthal	25.53	320CDI*

Continued on pg. 8

2006 Northern NJ Section MBCA 43rd June Jamboree Results

2006 NNJS 43rd Annual June Jamboree Results

POPULAR VOTE RESULTS

NEW (2001 -2007)

				Votes
1st	Mark Sluscavage	2006	E320 CDI	13
2nd	Joseph LoFaro	2005	E55AMG 4WD	11
3rd	Phin Suy	2006	SLR	10
	Robert Clifford	2007	S550	6
	Carl Ian Schwartz	2002	SLK320	6
	Nora Ochwat	2001	E430	2
	Caryn Murray	2004	C320 4WD	1
	Doug Ochwat	2004	C320	1

MODERN SPORT (1991 – 2000)

				Votes
1st	Joseph LoFaro	1998	SL500 Sport	32

MODERN SEDAN (1991 – 2000)

				Votes
1st	Roger Egolf	1992	500E	16
2nd	Paul Henriques	1998	C230	11
3rd	Will Waterfield	2000	E430	10

OLD SEDAN (1981 – 1990)

				Votes
1st	Nick Ford	1986	420SEL	17
2nd	Robby Ackerman	1984	190e 2.3 16v	14

OLD SPORT (1981 – 1990)

				Votes
1st	Rich Tana	1989	560 SEC	20
2nd	Jerome Johnson	1988	560 SL	17
3rd	Jay Hirsch	1990	560 SEC	1

VINTAGE (pre 1981)

				Votes
1st	Frank Chabala	1965	220SE	13
2nd	Ralph Esposito	1976	450SL	12
3rd	C. Martin Stickley	1967	300 SE	11
	John Bleimeier	1965	190D	10
	Dave Lamoreaux	1968	280 SL	8
	John Miller	1972	350 SL	4
	Jack Morelli	1970	280 SL	3
	David Brink	1979	450 SL	3
	Mike Parlato	1964	300 SD cab	2
	Steven Harris	1971	280 SL	1

ON THE ROAD IN THE FIFTIES

				Votes
1st	Bob Platz	1953	300S	22
	Eckart Scheffler	1957	300 SL	13
	Tony Libertelli	1959	180 A	9
	Hans Karl	1957	220 S cab	8
	Claire Wegner	1956	190 SL	6
	Bill Miller	1958	220 S	4
	Peter Rutigliano	1957	190 SL	2

CONCOURS RESULTS

CLASS 3

				Points
1st	Bill Miller	1958	220 S cab	388.434
2nd	Bob Platz	1953	300 S cab	381.512
3rd	Hans Karl	1957	220 S cab	374.647

CLASS 4

				Points
1st	Eckart Scheffler	1957	300 SL	381.400
2nd	Claire Wegner	1956	190 SL	360.280

CLASS 7

				Points
1st	Loni Spingarn	1980	450 SL	384.134
2nd	Frank Conforti	1986	560 SL	380.604
3rd	Joe Grattan	1989	560 SL	365.188
3rd	Larry Butler	1988	560 SL	364.878
	John Kefalonitis	1978	450 SL	335.748
	Herbert Becher	1975	450 SL	336.430

CLASS 8

				Points
1st	Robert Milite	1994	E320	375.019
2nd	Rui Silva	1987	190e 2.3 16v	367.719
3rd	Mark Sluscavage	1991	300 TE	340.108
3rd	Allan Eggleston	1985	300 TDT	339.292

CLASS 9

				Points
1st	Burgess Berlin	1978	450 SEL	385.888
2nd	Werner Fehlauer	1983	300 SD	358.137
3rd	Alan Snyder	1991	300 SE	343.165
3rd	Mark Sluscavage	1990	300 SE	343.093

CLASS 10

				Points
1st	Valerie Cristiano	1995	E320 cab	380.530
2nd	Rocky Miranti	1991	560 SEC	360.467

CLASS 11

				Points
1st	Lou Manganiello	2000	SL500	381.902
2nd	Robert Singer	2002	Sl 500	374.128
2nd	Tom Elder	2001	SLK 320	374.128
3rd	Eckart Scheffler	1997	SL 600	368.743
3rd	Richard Tynes	1990	500 SL	368.374

CLASS 12

				Points
1st	Dean Nichols	2002	C230 K coupe	385.556
2nd	Joseph Bemelmans	1996	E300 D	340.909

CLASS 13 & 14

				Points
1st	Valery Moskin	1994	S500	380.218
2nd	Paul Buzzi	1999	CLK320 conv	368.212
3rd	Joe Grattan	1992	600 SEL	339.946

CLASS 15

				Points
1st	William Hopper	1998	ML320	347.470

CLASS 16

				Points
1st	Vincent Canepa	1967	250 SL	378.384
2nd	Larry Frankel	1971	280 SL	340.665

CLASS 17

				Points
1st	Eric Geiger	1981	380 SLC	365.342

BEST IN SHOW

CLASS 6

				Points
	Keith Morgan	1967	250 S	389.558

Continued from pg. 7

Doug Ochwat 23.00 C320 Coupe

Agnes Penque 35.61 560 SL*

Carl Schwartz 32.95 SLK320

Mark Sluscavage 22.00 E320CDI

Larry Taylor 22.22 400E

Mary Taylor 25.35 400E

David Zieghaus 21.65 E320CDI

* denotes cone penalty included

We did not set the cars up by class, and therefore gave out no awards, but the best time of the day was posted by our past president and past regional director, John Bleimaier. It was a great event and the next time we do a defensive driving course and autocross we hope to have even greater participation. Doug Ochwat

NNJS 43rd June Jamboree—50th Anniversary of Mercedes-Benz Club of America —June 9,10,11, 2006

The photographs throughout the newsletter and on this page were ably taken by NNJS members, Carl Ian Schwartz and Allen Gold. They were active participants during the three days of events and managed to photograph all of the venues completely. We heartily thank them for their efforts. Next month we will include an article by Carl Ian Schwartz describing the steps he takes to accomplish photographing these types of celebrations & events. Look for more photographs of the June Jamboree to be posted on the club's website in the near future.

Anything and Everything Mercedes-Benz

by Andreas Molde

Recently, while talking to some fellow MB Friends ,I was surprised to find out that they did not know about the Roadside Assistance Program, that Mercedes Benz offers. If you ever need any (technical) Assistance , you can call 1-800-222-0100 or 1-800- FOR-MERCEDES (1-800-367-6372).

You may also find that phone# on your sun visor, or inside the glove box. Now don't call them to ask how to change the oil or the spark plugs, etc., remember this is Roadside Assistance, but if you need a jump start ,have a flat tire that needs to be changed or run out of gas/diesel, Roadside Assistance will send somebody out to you FREE OF CHARGE! (I know what you're thinking, but I believe they will catch on to you quickly, if you call them every day and say you ran out of gas!)

It does not matter how old your MB is or how many miles are on it or whether you own the car, if it is an MB, Roadside Assistance is available! Of course there will be a service charge if other repairs or towing is required, unless the car is under warranty. MB will even reimburse you for "Trip Interruption" if your car is still under warranty and a warranted mechanical failure interrupts your trip. BTW, it is helpful to know your location, when you call them.

A "newer/extended" version of the Roadside Assistance is Tele-Aid. For the last few years all or most Mercedes come equipped with that system. You can find a service and an info button in the center console and an SOS button on the overhead control panel.

There is a monthly service charge to subscribe to Tele-Aid , but it's nice to know that if you need ANY assistance whether you are lost, have an emergency or for any other reason you can hit the SOS button and a live person will be on the other end and assist you in any way possible. Also , should you get into an accident and one or more of the air bags in you MB are deployed, the Tele-Aid System will automatically place the emergency call and someone from the Call Center will be talking to you (hopefully you are responsive) and sent help, if needed.

A nice feature of the Tele-Aid System is the GPS (Global Positioning System), which lets the Call Center know where your location is ,any time a Tele-Aid call is placed, either by you or automatically in an accident ,where one or more air bags have deployed.

Now if you don't have Tele-Aid or do not subscribe to it, you can always call the 800 number.

In closing a little "Trivia": Did you know, that you will most likely get a ticket if you run out of gas on the German Autobahn ?

ORDER SHIRTS WITH THE NNJS LOGO ONLINE

We have arranged with a major, Philadelphia-based uniform company to embroider our Section logo on any shirt or other item in their clothing line. Order directly from their website & get delivery to your door in about two weeks

Aramark Uniform Company is offering 15% off list price for all merchandise in their clothing line. Have the **Northern New Jersey Club logo** applied to any garment for only $6.00.

Shop with our club discount at www.aramark-uniform.com/**mysite**.

Our club's Username & Password are

both NNJMBCA.

Special pricing will automatically appear. Please be sure to enter your own '**ship to'** address (REMOVE THE ADDRESS THAT IS THERE) when placing an order.
If you have questions or need assistance, call or email their Customer Care Rep Tim Strazdes at (800) 677-6060 x5612, or email him at tim.strazdes@aramark-uniform.com

A CASE FOR THE C-CLASS COUPE PART II

Some of you may remember reading my article in the March-April 2006 edition of STAR TRACKS entitled *"A Case For The C-Class Coupe."* The article dealt with the discontinuance of this model in the US after Mercedes Benz sold over 30,000 units in only three years. The article pointed out my opinion as to why it was discontinued in the US. It also outlined some of the many reasons that endeared this model to me, i.e. value, practicality, sportiness, available 6 speed manual, and fuel mileage to name a few.

My alabaster white C-Class coupe is a 2004 C-320, 6speed manual loaded with options that goes by the name of Alabaster Annie. I closed that article by stating that I was now looking for a stable mate for my C-320 in the form of a C-230 coupe. Well, the search is over. I am now the owner, maybe the only one in the US or even in the world, of two C-Class coupes.

Sitting in my garage is a 2003 C-230 (1.8) coupe with less than 5,000 on the odometer. Magma Magic is equipped with a leather interior, 6 speed manual, zenon lights, BOSE stereo, 6 pack CD, heated seats, etc. In fact, Magma Magic is equipped exactly with the same options as Alabaster Annie and, by the way, the color is a real surprise, Magma Red. Those of you, who attend the annual regional picnic at Falkenhorst on September 24th, will have the privilege of seeing a trio of C-Coupes; a 2002 C-230 (2.3) owned by our host, John Bleimaier, my 2003 C-230 (1.8), and my 2004 C-320, all 6 speed manuals. That alone is worth the admission price! Doug Ochwat

High Gear by John Kuhn Bleimaier

It was a long day's journey into Newark. Split to Zagreb; Zagreb to Frankfurt; Frankfurt home to New Jersey. I had spent a week sailing off Croatia's Dalmatian coast with my yachtsman cousin. There are no direct flights back home from that delightful part of the world. I was waiting for my connection at Frankfurt's international airport with ten euros burning a hole in my jeans. I ambled over to a news stand and purchased two German enthusiast magazines, MERCEDES WORLD and AUTO ZEITUNG. Bingo! I hit pay dirt. MERCEDES WORLD had a feature article about a 1964 190Dc which lives in Berlin and is used as a "special events vehicle." This Finback Diesel is virtually identical to the one which my parents bought new in 1965, and which now resides in my barn, in a place of honor. AUTO ZEITUNG published a comparison test featuring the new BMW 120d, a four door, "One Series" Bimmer diesel which is not sold in the United States. Juxtaposing the data from the two articles provides some interesting insights into five decades of evolution in Diesel technology.

If you placed the forty year old Mercedes and the new BMW side by side it would appear at first blush that they had nothing in common other than both being automobiles. The former sits tall, proud and finny. The latter is low, smooth and aerodynamic. However, examination of the specs reveals that these vehicles have a lot of similarities. Both German cars are four door diesel sedans powered by four cylinder engines. The old Mercedes weighs 1300kg, while the new BMW weighs 1340kg. The old Mercedes has an engine displacement of 1988cc, whereas the new BMW 's engine displaces 1995cc. When it comes to economy, once again, the numbers are close. The old Schwabian gets 32 miles per gallon, whereas the Bavarian newcomer gets 36 mpg.

Where the years of technological development have come into play is in the area of power and performance. The 1965 two liter Diesel engine develops 55 horsepower (DIN) and 113 Newton meters of torque. The 2006 two liter Diesel engine pumps out 163 horsepower (DIN) and 340 Newton meters of torque. This disparity on paper translates into a substantial difference at the contact patch between the tires and the road. While the forty-something Finback requires 29 seconds to get from zero to 60 miles per hour, the new car gets there in 8.4 seconds. The '65 Diesel has a top speed of 80 miles per hour and the new oil burner tops out at 135 mph.

Now we see in stark contrast the difference between 1965 and 2006 when it comes to Diesel automobiles. From the same engine displacement it has become possible to propel a vehicle of the same weight to much greater speeds in substantially less time. That is progress! Mercedes also currently builds two liter Diesel engines embodying the latest technology and exhibiting sparkling performance.

One more thing has changed materially since 1965. It is the regulatory environment. Back in the sixties my parents were able to go to their local foreign car dealer and purchase a two liter Diesel automobile with manual transmission and sensible appointments. While it might not have appealed to a broad segment of American car buyers, my folks had free access to the cutting edge compression ignition technology of their day. Today, Americans can not purchase a new German two liter diesel vehicle with manual transmission for love or money. No manufacturer has decided to certify such a car for the United States market. You cannot realistically bring one in on your own legally, either. That's a shame, because Diesel engines continue to lead the way in fuel economy, safety and environmental friendliness, not to mention performance.

Second to using the power of the wind to travel between the scenic ports of call of the Dalmatian coast, I love to drive the give-and-take back roads of western New Jersey in a straight forward, compression ignitioned starship. Because of government regulation, I'm compelled to undertake this latter activity in a classic Finback. But, hey, I'm not complaining.

Fiftieth Anniversary Tour of Historic Route 66

Classic and modern Mercedes-Benz vehicles will be driving through your community on their tour of Historic Route 66 between September 17th and 30th. This is the club's 50th Anniversary and in celebration they have organized this tour of "The Mother Road." Many communities will have people along the road to view the cars as they pass through. We encourage you to see our "classic" Mercedes-Benz vehicles (ranging in age from pre-war models (20s, and 30s) to a wide selection of post-war models (40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, & 80s). There will also be a sampling of newer Mercedes-Benz cars (90s to new). This is a "once-in-a-lifetime" event and the tour organizer—Past National President, Richard Simonds has made two planning drives to set it up. For more information about our MBCA 50th Anniversary Tour of "The Mother Road," go to the club website at http://www.mbca.org and click on Historic Route 66 Tour. The tour is open only to club members, but you may join MBCA online or by phone if you want to join us on this memorable occasion.

RALLYE in AUGUST in beautiful Warren County, NJ

Sunday, August 20 at 10am

We will meet at Mattars Restaurant on Route 517 at 10am. Mattars is two miles South of Route 80, Exit 19, on Route 517 at the junction of Ridge Road.

Continental breakfast will be served from 10am until 11am. The Rallye will start at 11am and should end about 3pm. Dinner will start at 3:30pm.

This Rallye will be a series of questions based on a map that will be provided. TIME IS NOT A FACTOR. You will need to plot the route based on the questions and the map. You will need to be back by 3:30pm.

Dinner will consist of an appetizer, salad, choice of chicken, fish or pork loin, dessert, soft drinks, coffee and tea. The event will end about 6:30pm or so. Cost is $20 per car for the Rallye. Dinner is $40 per person.

If you have any questions please contact Doug Ochwat, VP

DAOCatswamp@Yahoo.com or 908 850 9643

Please complete this registration form and send it to Lucille Chabala, 6 Brook Way, West Orange, NJ 07052 973-731-9133

I/We will take part in the Rallye on Sunday, August 20, 2006

Name (s)_____

$20/CAR $_____

I/We will have dinner at Mattars _____ X $40 = $_____

Total $_____

Princeton Rotary Car Show & Fair-May 21, 2006

The weather looked ominous but the tree lined entrance drive looked inviting as we motored our way onto the grounds of the Carnegie Center in Princeton for the Annual Princeton Rotary Car Show. The Mercedes group had their own spot and we set up our tent and chairs and put out a few snacks to share. After doing some last minute wiping down of the cars, it was time for the judging to begin. We were not allowed to judge our own group, so we headed off to judge some of the 300 other cars of different persuasions that were on the field. We each had our favorite outside of our group.

A special "Diamond in the Rough" award was presented by Bob Wegner to Wesley Franken for his 1973 Blue 280D. The car is being used as a daily driver by his Dad and Wesley wants to really polish it up before his Dad lets him use it. With a little TLC he will surely have a "Little Diamond" of his own. The winners included members of NNJS, Connecticut/ Westchester, and SJS.

Dave and Kristin Lamoreaux took the Best in Class Trophy for the Mercedes group with their 1968 280 SL.

Group A

Bruce McNab 1972 350 SL First Place
Bob Wegner 1969 280 SL Second Place
T&L Libertelli 1959 180A Third Place

Group B

Claire Wegner 1988 560SL First Place
Ralph Esposito 1976 450SL Second Place
J. Bemelmans 1985 380 SL Third Place

Group C

Thomas Pizio, Jr. 1991 300 SL First Place
P. Buzzi 1999 CLK 320 cab Second Place
R. A. Simicsak 1995 SL500 Third Place

Special Interest

Lisa Matta 2006 SL500 First Place
Lou Manganiello 2000 SL500 Second Place
Tom Elder 2001 SLK 320 Third Place

OKTOBERFEST in Chester, NJ

Saturday, September 30

Chubb Park - Arrive by 11AM

Once again we will join with the CHESTER LIONS CLUB and bring our beautiful Star Cars for all to see. There will be a popular vote which is open to the public. Our cars are parked in a separate area and all Oktoberfest people are invited to view the cars, ask questions and vote, you are invited to join the fun of viewing cars, good food, German music (and dancing)

Cost is $20 per car, $10 of which is donated to the Lions Club.

What you get is $10 in food/beverage/ ride tickets for each of the first two occupants. There is a selection of German food and beverage as well as rides for the kids. Entrance to the Festival is included as well. This is a nice family day. Please complete this registration form and send it to Lucille Chabala, 6 Brook Way, West Orange, NJ 07052 973-731-9133

Directions to Chubb Park: Take Dover-Chester Road (Route 513) about 8 miles to Chester. At light (Amoco station) continue straight onto Route 24 approximately 1 ½ miles through town, to Route 206/24 intersection following Route 24 West. Park is ¾ mile on right. Our entrance for the display is on the LEFT, a few hundred feet from the main entrance.

I/We will attend the Oktoberfest in Chester, NJ Saturday, September 30, 2006

Name(s)_____

_____

_____

$20/CAR Total: $_____

Mid-Atlantic Regional Picnic & Car Show at Falkenhorst - Sunday, September 24, 2006

Please plan to arrive around 11am. Lunch will be served around 1pm. Our host, John Bleimaier will have some chairs available. You may want to bring your own table and chairs. The volleyball net will be set up and in addition to the Car Show, we will have the Jersey Lawn Sprints Competition by the end of the afternoon. Once again we will be holding one of our Silent Charity Auctions and ask that you bring something to donate to the auction table. It does not have to be something new; something that is gently used would be great. Idea! Clean out your closet of those unwanted gifts and donate them to charity. The Silent Auction will run during the day. Winners will be announced by days end. This event is sponsored by both the Northern New Jersey & the South Jersey Sections. Come and partake of the fun.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Picnic & Car Show Registration

Please register by September 18, 2006 - No Cost.

Name (s) of attendees:_____

Email address:_____ Phone#_____

Address:_____

Mercedes: Year_____ Model:_____

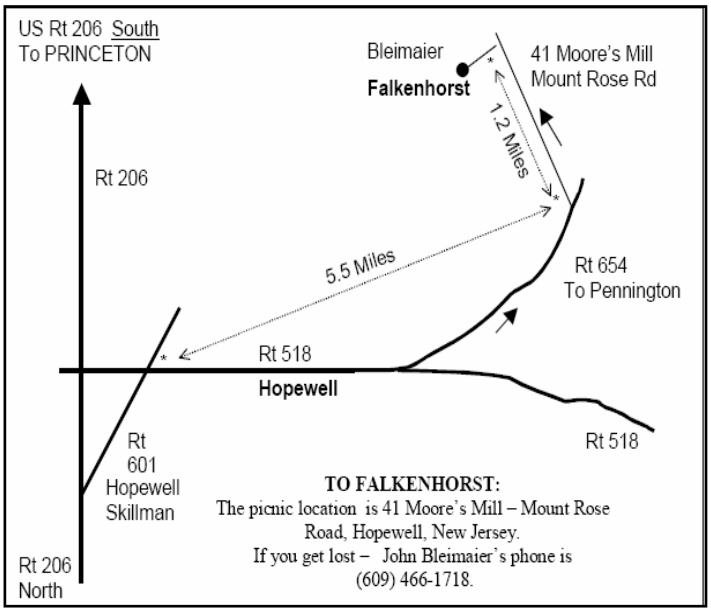
I/We will bring:____Main Dish ____Salad____

Appetizer ____ Dessert_____

Please send form to: Lucille Chabala

6 Brook Way, West Orange, NJ 07052

973-731-9133 luluchab@aol.com



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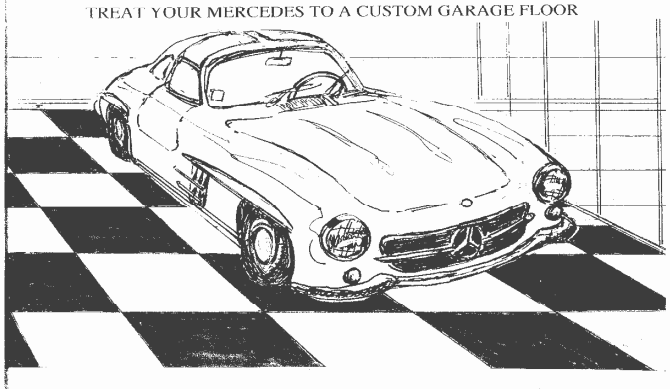
TREAT YOUR MERCEDES TO A CUSTOM GARAGE FLOOR



IN JUST A FEW SHORT HOURS YOUR GARAGE FLOOR CAN BE TRANSFORMED INTO A SHOWROOM FINISH.

MAINTENANCE FREE "RACE DECK" FLOORING IS EASY TO CLEAN, MADE IN THE U.S.A., AND QUITE COMFORTABLE TO STAND ON. THESE NEW CUSTOM FLOORS CARRY A TEN YEAR WARRANTY AND WILL COVER IMPERFECTIONS AS STAINS, CRACKS, AND BUMPS.

"RACE DECK" FLOORS LOOK GREAT, FEEL GREAT, AND GIVE ADDED VALUE TO YOUR HOME. REMEMBER, IN MANY HOMES, THE GARAGE IS THE MAIN ENTRANCE.

FOR LITERATURE AND A FREE AT HOME ESTIMATE, CALL STUART BERSON IN MAHWAH AT 201 327-7711

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA MEMBERSHIP LOYALTY REWARD PROGRAM

You may be eligible to receive a membership loyalty bonus based on the purchase or lease of a new Mercedes-Benz through an authorized U.S. Mercedes-Benz dealership. A membership in the Mercedes-Benz Club of America (MBCA) of one year or more immediately preceding the purchase date of the vehicle is required in order to take advantage of this program. **A member in good standing cannot have any lapse in membership during the preceding 12-month period.**

Terms and Conditions:

Only those vehicles purchased from authorized Mercedes-Benz dealerships in the United States qualify for the purchase allowance.
The MBCA membership allowance is non-transferable and can only be redeemed by an MBCA member.
Sales documents and vehicle title must be in the MBCA member's name or the name of the member's business.
If a MBCA member co-signs for a vehicle with a non-MBCA member or with another MBCA member, both must reside in the same household. And, there can be only one rebate submission per member per year.
This program is available in conjunction with other special purchase programs offered by Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC, including Mercedes-Benz Financial special finance/lease programs.
Vehicles purchased or leased through a 3rd party (brokers, lease companies, etc.) do not qualify.
Mercedes-Benz USA allows one rebate per calendar year per member, and only one member can apply for a rebate if there is joint or multiple ownership of the vehicle.
Mercedes-Benz USA is not responsible for late, lost or misdirected applications.

Eligible Vehicles:

Designated new passenger vehicles (including European Delivery and Diplomatic sales), new SUVs and retail demos with less than 1,000 miles.

Ineligible Vehicles:

New, non-registered vehicles in excess of **1,000 miles** including company vehicles and loaner vehicles. All AMG vehicles are excluded.

Check request form must be completed and received by MBUSA within 60 days of date of purchase.

Procedures:
Visit an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealership of your choice and negotiate your best deal. Then submit the required paperwork within 60 days of the date of delivery:

- Completed check request form
- Proof of purchase (copy of bill of sale or lease agreement)
- Odometer Statement

The check request form can be obtained by contacting MBCA via internet or telephone as follows:

Via the Internet –
Visit **www.mbca.org** and click under benefits. Print out the one-page MBCA check request form.

Via Telephone –
Telephone MBCA at 1-800-637-2360 and request that the check request form be mailed or faxed to you.

Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz USA is pleased to provide this program for qualified members of MBCA in recognition of MBCA's golden anniversary. Your continuing support and enthusiasm are very much appreciated.

MBCA MEMBERSHIP LOYALTY REWARD PROGRAM CHECK REQUEST

You may be eligible to receive the following allowance based on the purchase or lease of a new Mercedes-Benz vehicle through an authorized U.S. Mercedes-Benz dealer. An MBCA membership of one year or more immediately preceding the purchase date of the vehicle is required to take advantage of this program. An MBCA member in good standing cannot have any lapse in membership during that 12-month period.

Vehicles delivered between June 1-December 31, 2006, are eligible for the following bonus:

MY 05
No AMG models are eligible

M-Class	$1,500	as available
G-Class	2,500	as available
C-Class	1,500	as available
E-Class	2,000	as available
CLK-Class	2,000	as available
SLK-Class	2,000	as available
SL-Class	2,500	as available
S-Class	2,500	as available
CL-Class	2,500	as available

MY 06
No AMG models are eligible

S-Class	$2,500	all models
CL-Class	2,500	all models

MY 06 AND MY 07
No AMG models are eligible

R-Class	$2,000	all models
M-Class	1,500	all models
GL-Class	1,500	
G-Class	2,500	
CLS-Class	2,500	
C-Class	1,500	all models
E-Class	2,000	all models
CLK-Class	2,000	all models
SLK-Class	2,000	all models
SL-Class	2,500	all models

Terms and Conditions:

Only those vehicles purchased from authorized Mercedes-Benz dealerships in the U.S. qualify for the purchase allowance. The MBCA allowance is non-transferable and can only be redeemed by an MBCA member. Sales documents and vehicle title must be in the MBCA member's name or the name of his business. If an MBCA member co-signs for a vehicle with a non-MBCA member or with another MBCA member, both must reside in the same household. And there can be only one rebate submission per member per year. This program is available in conjunction with other special purchase programs offered by MBUSA, LLC, including Mercedes-Benz Financial special finance/lease programs. **MBUSA allows one rebate per calendar year (6/1 through 12/31, 2006) per member** and only one member can apply for a rebate if there is joint or multiple ownership of the vehicle. MBUSA is not responsible for late, lost or misdirected applications.

Check request form must be completed and received by MBUSA within 60 days of date of purchase.

Eligible Vehicles:
Designated new passenger vehicles (including European Delivery and diplomatic sales), new SUVs and retail demos with less than 1,000 miles.

Ineligible Vehicles:
New, non-registered vehicles in excess of 1,000 miles including company vehicles and loaner vehicles.

Procedures:
Visit an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealership of your choice and negotiate your best deal. Then submit the required paperwork within 60 days of the date of delivery:

- Completed check request form
- Proof of purchase (copy of bill of sale or lease agreement)
- Odometer Statement

Mail these documents to:
MBCA Membership Loyalty Reward Program
P.O. Box 7478
Eden Valley, MN 55329
1-800-784-7452 FAX

MBCA Membership Loyalty Reward Program Check Request

Name _____

MBCA Membership Number _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Mercedes-Benz Dealership: _____

Address: _____

Model: _____

Vehicle ID Number (VIN): _____

Allowance: (Please check one)

MY 05
Model _____
Allowance $ _____

MY 06
No AMG models are eligible

- ☐ S-Class $2,500 all models
- ☐ CL-Class 2,500 all models

MY 06 AND MY 07
No AMG models are eligible

- ☐ R-Class $2,000 all models
- ☐ M-Class 1,500 all models
- ☐ GL-Class 1,500
- ☐ G-Class 2,500
- ☐ CLS-Class 2,500
- ☐ C-Class 1,500 all models
- ☐ E-Class 2,000 all models
- ☐ CLK-Class 2,000 all models
- ☐ SLK-Class 2,000 all models
- ☐ SL-Class 2,500 all models

I have read and understand the terms and Conditions of this program.

_____ Date _____
MBCA member signature

_____
for MBUSA internal use only

_____
MBUSA authorized signature

_____
MB Dealership No.

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY SECTION —
MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA

150 Leeds Ct.
Madison, NJ 07940

We're on the Web!

www.mbca.org/northern_new_jersey/nnjmbca.html

NNJS Upcoming Events

- **Sunday, Aug 20**—Rallye in August—Warren County—See page 12
- **Tues-Fri, Sept 12-15**—Doug Ochwat's Route 6 Tour—See page 2
- **Sunday, Sept 17 —** Begin Route 66 Tour—Details at www.mbca.org
- **Sunday, Sept 24 —** Mid-Atlantic Regional Picnic—John Bleimaier's Falkenhorst — Hopewell, NJ — See page 13
- **Sunday, Sept 30 —** Oktoberfest at Chubb Park, Chester, NJ — See page 12
- **November, 2006 —** Tech Session at Ray Catena — Edison, NJ — Date & Time to be Announced
- **Saturday, Dec 16** — NNJS Holiday Party — Fairmont Country Club — Chatham Township, NJ Details to be in the next newsletter & Website

CAR CARE CLINIC AT BEVERLY HILLS AUTO RESORT

Every year for the last five or six years, the Northern New Jersey section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, has held a car care clinic at the Beverly Hills Auto Resort in Basking Ridge, NJ. This years event was held on June 4, 2006. This time, owner Mike Perrino demonstrated how scratches can be removed with a little time, patience, and the right car care products. We look forward to next year's clinic.
Greg Calabro