

STAR TRACKS 2007



Volume 3 Issue 2

March - April, 2007

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2007 Annual Antiques Road Show

The 6th annual NNJS Antiques Road Show on Sunday, March 11 featured members bringing in their own antiques for evaluation and appraisal by long term member, Alan Snyder. He was ably accompanied by his lovely wife, Teri and their charming daughter, Amelia. Members who participated were treated to a varied assortment of fine antiques and object d'art.

Alan evaluated each piece, gave a description of the era it came from, how it was made, what it was used for, and appraised it's condition and value. We were treated to items that included lovely 19th century glass vases, a Victorian parlor chair, unusual 19th century household items (knife polisher & scale), antique jewelry and several paintings ranging from the 19th to the 20th Century.

While perusing the assortment of antiques, we were treated to a truly delicious full course Italian meal at Bella Italia Ristorante in Orange, NJ. We have held previous "Antiques Road Shows" at Bella Italia and each year the food just gets better and better. Combined with good food, comfortable ambiance and Alan's informative and expert discussion, NNJS members experienced an enlightening and enjoyable afternoon.

The Annual NNJS Antiques Road Show has become a much anticipated event for NNJS. We look forward to next year's Antiques Road Show. Start taking inventory of your favorite collectibles and antiques and choose which pieces to bring for next year's 7th Annual Antiques Road Show.



Presidents Message - Joe Grattan



In the previous issue of Star Tracks we wrote about Ken Spingarn receiving the Member of the Year Award due to his many different contributions to the success of our club, especially the excellent job he has done as Newsletter Editor.

Now, Ken receives another prestigious award. The newsletter committee for the Mercedes-Benz Club of America has recognized him as one of the top 10 newsletter editors in the entire organization. There are more than 80 newsletter editors whose work was evaluated. Our Section has never received this honor before Ken took over slightly more than a year ago. Ken takes the articles, modifies some – especially mine, adds the graphics/images and gives the newsletter the award winning professional appearance. Thank you, Ken. Great job.



FOR SALE: 1977 450SL, 80,600 miles; Always garaged, soft/hard tops, rear seat, car cover; Same owner 20 years; Excellent condition. Asking only \$14,000.00.

Also, 1978 450SL; 128,000 miles, always garaged; newer paint, soft top and upholstery; hard top. Asking \$8,000.00.

Barry (908) 526-2334 or barryrosenberg@optonline.net



His and Hers with Love!



FOR SALE: 1995 E300 Diesel Sedan — 121,000 original miles. All books & records.

FOR SALE: 1995 E320 Station Wagon — 79,600 original miles. All books & records.

Rare imperial red exterior & parchment interior for both cars. The wagon has leather & the sedan has MB Tex upholstery, very clean. The wagon has a third seat, new wiring harness, up-graded audio & the engine heads replaced. The sedan has all power options including sunroof, a/c, p. seats, all working fine. Both **"His & Hers"** vehicles are in excellent condition.

1995 E300 Diesel-\$14,500 ————— 1995 E320 Wagon-\$11,500



Andrew Permison 973-379-7283 thepermitage@comcast.net



New Members

Welcome New Members for Jan & Feb 2007

Garry Katz	Marlin Easter
Roger Klein	John Glauda
Ray Pencak	Howard Hopkins
Richard Troiano	Ed Keller
Richard Wejnert	Jim Kuhn
Bill Zimmerman	Michael Schalet

Gregory Skurka

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Mercedes-Benz

Auto Cross in Englishtown - Saturday, April 21

For the first time in several years we will take part in the SCCA Auto Cross in Englishtown, NJ. The event is sponsored by the Sports Car Club of America – NNJ Region.

Time Schedule

- Gates open 7:00 AM
- Registration opens at 8:15 am - Closes 9:30 am \$40.
- Tech open 8:30 am - 9:30 am
- Course walk closed 9:30 am
- Driver meeting 9:40 am
- First car off 10:00 am
- To Enter the Site, go to GATE 4, NOT Gate 3.



Pre-Registration is not required, but recommended. You may still register on site. Registration Closes 9:30am. In addition to fun driving, participants are expected to take their turn working the corners, etc. For important day-before information go to <http://www.autox4u.com/> and click on the NOVICE page button on the left of the screen. For additional information, email Joe Grattan JosephGrattan@aol.com.

Technical Corner

by Andreas Molde, Technical Advisor



Winter is just about over and it's time for a "Spring Cleaning" of your Mercedes-Benz.

I would suggest to first hose off all that road salt, from top to bottom and more importantly, the undercarriage and wheel housings. You can also hose off the engine bay, just make sure you stay away from sensitive electronics and that the engine is not hot.

This is also a good time to replace the wiper blades. I prefer to change them twice a year, spring and fall, and of course whenever needed. All it takes is one cycle across a frozen windshield and they can be ruined.

Lastly, tires. If you were driving on snow tires, it's time to put the summer tires back on. Hopefully you marked the tires, when you took them off the car, because it is a good idea to rotate them at this point. Inspect the snow tires for any wear and/or damage before you put them away. If you find wear or damage, or recall hitting curbs and potholes during the winter, you should consider having the alignment checked.

From the VeeP.....Doug Ochwat



Spring is here and our club has a lot going on this year. After having celebrated the 50th Anniversary of MBCA both at the national and local levels in grand style during 2006, we have a calendar for 2007 that has events in it for just about everyone. These events will take place not only within our Northern New Jersey Section, but also at some of our nearby sister sections, along with regional and national events which are taking place in our part of the USA, that are within easy striking distance.

I'd like to call your attention to a few of these. Nationally, for the first time in many years we have STARTECH, a National event only a short half day's drive away in Virginia, hosted by the Greater Washington section. Read all about it in the STAR and on page 5 in this issue of Star Tracks. It takes place in May.

Regional events, include Gemutlichkeit in Northeast Ohio, hosted by the Western Reserve Section in June, followed by STARTRACK hosted by the Pittsburgh Section in July. Later in the year the Greater Washington Section will again sponsor TRI 'O' RAMA.

In addition there are many great events going on all year long by nearby sections. I'd like to point out several that I've personally attended that are always a lot of fun. They are Wheels & Wings on May 26th and the annual Blueberry Picnic and Car Show on June 30th. Both are in South Jersey. The Northeastern Pennsylvania Section's annual picnic will take place in July or August and it takes place in a wonderful setting.

Last of all, some great events, both old and new, will be happening in good old Northern New Jersey in the next number of months. They include a tech session at Globe Motors, and a autocross at Englishtown, both in April. The month of May will also be busy with the annual Princeton Car Show, along with the Regional and South Jersey events mentioned earlier. These will be followed by our 44th Annual June Jamboree and our first ever Covered Bridge Tour on July 14th. That covers only the first half of the year. Come on out and join the fun. I personally look forward to seeing you.



STARTECH2007

www.StarTech2007.org



STAR TECH is May 18-20 ... WHAT IS STAR TECH?

Each year MB enthusiasts get together to attend a series of seminars about maintaining not only Starships but all cars as well. This year it is held in Reston, VA – a few miles west of Washington, DC. The seminars start after lunch on Friday. The agenda as it stands now...

- Flexible fuel vehicles, hybrids, E85, and biodiesel;
- Modern shops and their high-tech computer equipment;
- Tools and equipment the do-it-yourselfer can buy and use;
- Basic performance upgrades (e.g., tires and suspension);
- AMG vs. modifications to non-AMG Mercedes-Benz vehicles;
- Myths and facts about diesels and performance driving;
- Restoration and upkeep for historic vehicles used in performance events;
- Running the Carrera Panamerica in a 1965 220SEb;
- Engine modifications (e.g., chips, induction systems and filters); and

Body modifications—cladding, flares and tails.

On Friday night there is a bus trip to the Vehicle Prep Center in Baltimore. All Mercedes to be delivered to any dealership East of the Mississippi enters the country here. Demonstration Day at Summit Point will be held on Monday, May 21 after StarTech2007.

The website for detailed info is <http://www.startech2007.org/>. for more information email Doug Ochwat or Joe Grattan.

Our Membership Chairman, Julie Levine reports that we have added thirteen new members to NNJS since January. We welcome our new members and urge them to participate in whatever event or activity meets their interest. We are an active section, holding numerous events throughout the year and continually trying to upgrade services to our members. We encourage all of our members to come out for these events to exercise your interest in all things Mercedes-Benz. Editor

Reminder:

All submissions for the next Star Tracks 2007 issue must be received by Ken Spingarn khs@openix.com by April 15, 2007

We need your email address

If you have not received NNJS notifications via email, please send your email address to JosephGrattan@aol.com



Reminder:

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

khs@openix.com

April 14, '07 Tech Session at Globe Motor Car Co.

Once again, we invite our members to attend the April Tech Session at [Globe Motor Car Company](http://www.globemotorcar.com), 1230 Bloomfield Avenue, Fairfield, NJ 07004 — **Saturday, April 14 at 10am**. Our host, Peter Scherr will have staff on hand to answer any question you may have about your “Benz” while showing us all the new models on hand. Peter will try to have an SLR available for our examination & demonstration as well. As usual, coffee and bagels will be served.

There are many exciting technical innovations coming down the pike at Mercedes-Benz, from a new generation of 4-matic transmissions to BlueTec diesel technology. Take this opportunity to see first hand what the automotive press is “raving” about. Real life examples of cutting edge technology, innovative styling and new attention to fuel economy reveal the value of owning a Mercedes-Benz automobile. There is no charge for attendance, but we do ask that you register with **Lucille Chabala** LuluChab@aol.com
Telephone: 973-731-9133 Link to www.globemotorcar.com for directions.



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Andreas Molde, Technical Advisor

“ The new C Class is coming! ”

I'm sure you will read about the new C Class elsewhere too, but I like to add my opinion to the subject.

Unfortunately, I have not seen the actual car yet, but some time ago I was treated to an official German Mercedes-Benz Brochure featuring the new C Class and I was impressed!

The body lines are striking and they reminded me of the new S Class, which is available for over a year now. I was told by a good source that not only the looks are similar but a lot of the S Class Technology is found in the new C Class, which should insure quality, because the former has been excellent!

I noticed that there seem to be two different looks from the front and rear of the vehicle. Looking at four door models the “Standard” version has the regular grill with the hood ornament and the “Sport” version has an integrated emblem in the grill. The rear bumper also is different, possibly depending on dual or single exhaust. I guess it remains to be seen, what model line up we will receive here in the USA, and if that will include two door coupes and wagons. I am sure some people would like a diesel engine and I am certain, some folks would love to get there hands on the 6 speed manual transmission! Will just have to wait and see (and hope).

We should get our first chance to see the car at the New York Automobile Show in April of this year and we may get a “Hands On” Show during a seminar at one of our generous dealers, Benzel-Busch in late summer/early fall.

Well, see you in April.



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March “Tire Kicking” session kicked us up a notch!

Members of NNJS came together on Saturday, March 3, 2007 at the Stonefire Grille House in Randolph for our first “Tire Kicking” Event.

The weather was cooperative and the “crowd” was much larger than anticipated. After setting up some extra tables in our meeting room to accommodate everybody, we ordered lunch.

While waiting for our lunch, we had a lively discussion about our favorite automobile. The discussions went on way past our lunch and included such topics as the (sometimes frustrating) use of GPS units, selecting the proper tires, the pros and cons of new fuels (Diesel and Gasoline) used in older and newer cars, vehicle storage and service/maintenance issues and many more. By the time we stepped outside to “kick” some more tires, the nice weather had turned and was giving us a cold shoulder, literally. Everybody had a good time and we gathered for the group picture above before we called it a (good) day.



Andreas Molde, Technical Advisor

Reserve the date for our next “Tire Kicking Event”

We will meet for another informal “Tire Kicking” Session **Saturday, May 12th, 2007 at 10AM.** The owners of the Carriage House Automobile Storage & Sales have invited us to use their facility for this event. The address is : Carriage House, 66 Rt. 31N, Washington, NJ 07882 Tel: 908-835-1133



Everybody is invited, so please come on over and let’s kick some tires. Registration is not required, but recommended. Drive-ins are welcome. If someone desires to have lunch, we can do so at a local diner, after the event. If you have any questions send an email to: [Andreas Molde](mailto:Andreas.Molde@optonline.net) amh86@optonline.net

Editor’s Note:

Section leadership is planning now for our annual **June Jamboree**. Andreas Molde, our technical advisor, is coordinating the judging for the event and has asked that those who are qualified and interested in participating, contact him at amh86@optonline.net 973-454-8251 as soon as possible. Others, who may want to volunteer their participation in the June Jamboree in some other capacity should contact Andreas as well.

NNJS uses judging standards mandated by our national organization. Members may review these directly at www.mbc.org.



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**16th Annual Princeton Car Show—Carnegie Center
Princeton, NJ—Sunday, May 20, 2007—9am to 4pm—
Rain or Shine—Mercedes-Benz Grouping**

Bob Wegner will once again coordinate this event to be held again this year at the Carnegie Center at Highway #1 and Alexander Road in Princeton, NJ.

This is a really exciting event since we will participate with other car marques in a show which includes foreign, custom, muscle & exotic vehicles. We will have our own NNJS area for showing & judging our Mercedes-Benz autos. We had great fun last year at this show. Don't miss it.

- Dash plaques to all pre-registered vehicles
- Car classes determined by pre-registration deadline of May 14, 2007
- All show cars arriving before 10am are eligible to be judged
- NNJS members please pay \$10 in advance so that we can park together in our own area

Pre-Registration Form 15th Annual Auto Show & Fair
Please make checks payable to: The Foundation of The Princeton Corridor Rotary Club, P.O. Box 7161, Princeton NJ 08543

NAME: _____ AUTO MAKE: _____
 ADDRESS: _____ MODEL: _____
 CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP: _____ YEAR: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____
Please Reserve:
 ____ Auto show car entry(s) at \$10 (\$15 day of show) Amount ____
 ____ Auto(s) for sale \$15 (\$20 day of show) Amount ____

Unrestored Modified Restored
 Club Affiliation _____
 Yes, I'm available to assist with judging

General Admission: \$3.00
(Except for registered car owners & children under 12)
Thank You

- Please indicate your club affiliation NNJS-MBCA on the Pre-Registration form
- If you are interested in judging please so indicate on the Pre-Registration form
- Autos for sale \$15 (\$20 day of show)
- Call or write Bob Wegner at 973-515-0052—mv280sl@verizon.net for more information
- Please pay attention to the May 14th Pre-Registration deadline
- Proceeds of the show & fair will benefit charities

NNJS SIXTH ANNUAL ANTIQUES ROAD SHOW



High Gear by John Kuhn Bleimaier



Professor Ferdinand Porsche is the genius who stands behind much of what we hold dear in the world of the motorcar. On a regular basis we encounter vehicles on the road with design features originally propagated by the good professor, from horizontally opposed cylinders to independent rear suspension. Historic production cars such as the prewar Mercedes types S, SS and SSK, the Volkswagen beetle, as well as the Porsche 356 are the tangible embodiments of Professor Porsche's creativity.

But a historic production car is like a Piranesi engraving. It is a masterpiece produced in substantial numbers. Now there are also some Porsche original works of art. Enter the 1939 Auto Union "D type" racer which is being auctioned off by Christies this winter in Paris. This is a "one off" which was built under the watchful eye of Professor Porsche; on which he actually laid his hands. That's an original.

While this Auto Union race car is not part of the immediate family tree of our own beloved starships, it is of substantial interest to Mercedes enthusiasts. We might even say that there is some shared DNA. It is important to remember that Professor Porsche had been an engineer with Mercedes prior to his having set up an independent design shop and his having taken on this racing project. Furthermore, the Auto Union grand prix cars shared the legendary appellation, "silver arrows," with their Mercedes cousins during the exciting racing seasons of the late 1930s. The Auto Union team, lead by Nuvolari and Rosemeyer, along with the Mercedes team lead by Caracciola, von Brautisch and Seaman, provided the world with an unequalled demonstration of engineering excellence, sportsmanship and elan.



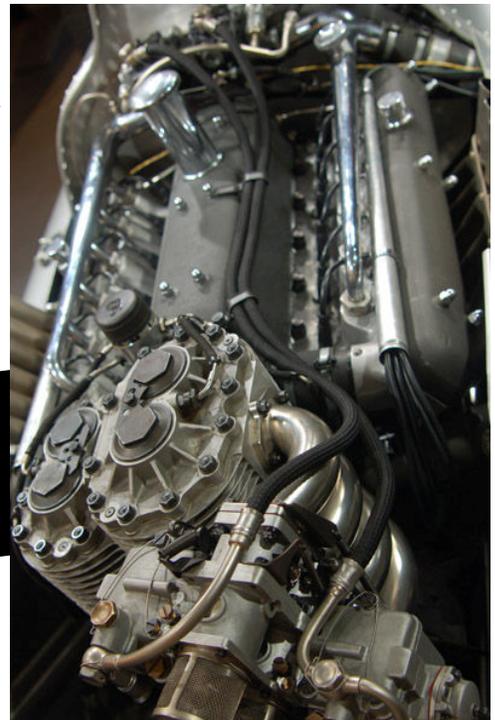
When Christies invited me to a private showing of the famous Auto Union "D type" it took my breath away. Accompanying are photographer, Marina Pushkareva's images of the last project undertaken by Professor Ferdinand Porsche before the war.



Yes, it's great to live near the vortex. I treasured the opportunity to feast my eyes on this silver arrow before it gets flushed through the system of high roller auctions and ends up in the holding tank of a closed collection.

March 2007

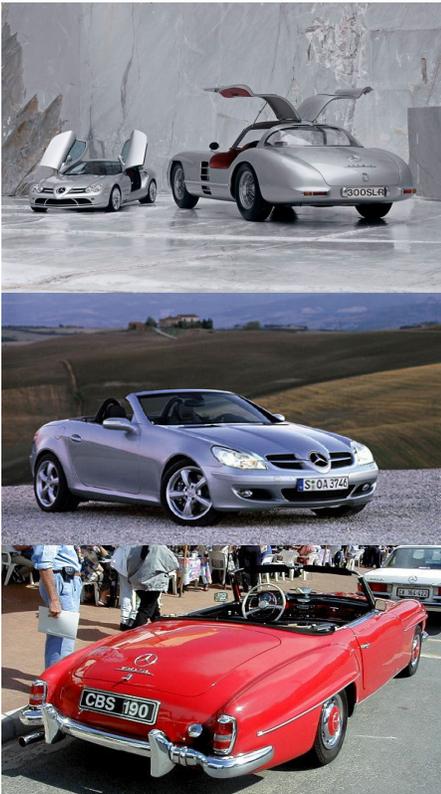
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www.mbca.org/northern_new_jersey/nnjmbca.html



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NNJS Upcoming Events



Saturday, April 14 — Tech Session—
Globe Motors—Fairfield, NJ—See Pg. 6

Saturday, April 21— SCCA Auto Cross—
Englishtown, NJ—See Pg. 3

Saturday, May 5—AACA Car Show—
Automatic Switch Parking Lot—Florham
Park, NJ—Details to be announced

Saturday, May 12— "Tire Kicking "
Session—Carriage House Auto Stor-
age—Washington, NJ—See Pg. 8

Friday-Monday, May 18-21—Star Tech
2007—Reston, Virginia—
www.startech2007.org—See Pg 5

Saturday, May 20—Princeton Car
Show—Princeton, NJ—See Page 10

Saturday, May 26—South Jersey
Wheels & Wings Show—Millville, NJ—
Details in next issue

Saturday, June 16—44th Annual June
Jamboree—Mercedes-Benz North
American Headquarters—Montvale,
NJ—Details in next Issue

Saturday, July 14—Covered Bridge
Tour & Economy Run—Details to be
Announced

