

StarTracks 2011



Volume 7 Issue 2

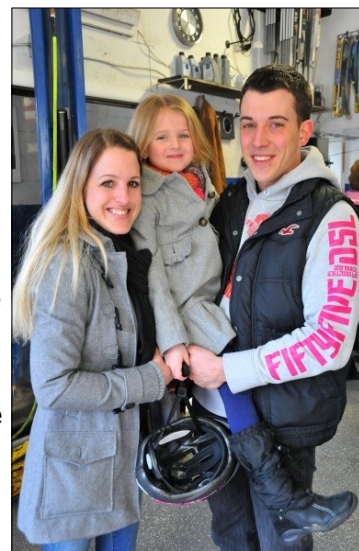
March - April 2011

Tech Session at Precision Auto Center



On February 26, 2011, Sandy & Felipe Cuadra, owners of Precision Auto Center in Rockaway opened up their doors again to us for a very fun and informative “Tire Kicking”—Tech Session.

Members started to arrive a little after 9 AM and after some refreshments we “kicked” off the session at 10 AM with a “Happy Birthday to you, Sandy”. “Yu’up,” we managed to schedule this event on **her** special day. We are forgiven, I was told, but I’m not sure about her husband Felipe, he might be in the dog house for some time.



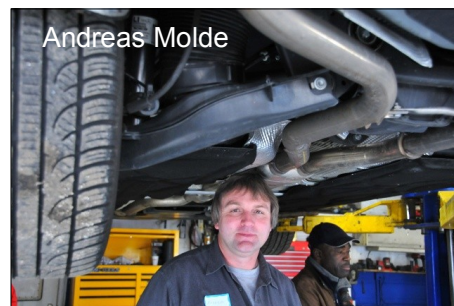
We had over 30 participants and after a lively question & answer session covering issues from simple maintenance to very technical topics, we moved on to the more “Hands-On” part of the day.

We were able to put several MB’s on the lift (one at a time), ranging from the ’70’s to current years for detailed inspection.

Two of the MB’s stood out from the crowd. One, a (2006?) E-Class was just repaired by a body shop and returned to the owner the day before the event. The inspection revealed some “unfinished” business to say the least. The second, a high mileage but well maintained 1999 E 300 Diesel had a rusted out right front spring perch which rendered the car unsafe! Wisely, the owner decided to leave the vehicle to be repaired.

We also raffled off two \$100 gift certificates and each member received a bottle of washer fluid on their way out.

We hope to do this again soon and want to say “Thank you” to Sandy & Felipe for basically handing us the key to their great repair facility on that day. *Andreas Molde - Tech Advisor*



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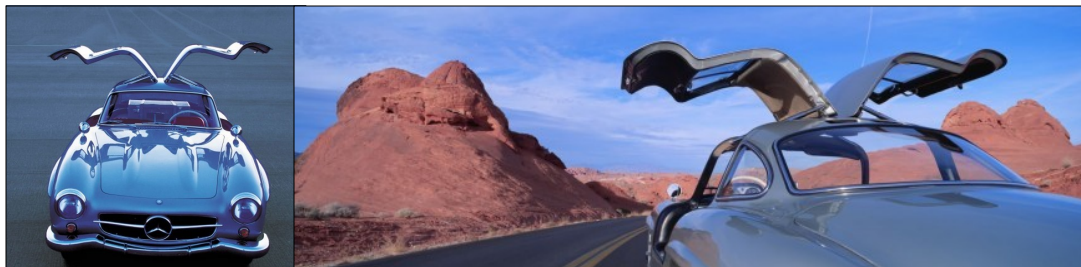
CarlIanschwartz@mac.com

Auto XX at the Meadowlands

On **Sunday, April 17** we will join the Porsche Club at the Meadowlands for a day of Auto XX on the new smooth parking lot (where the original Giants stadium was).

Last time we were there, we joined 120 cars. Registration opens at 8 AM. Cost last year was \$45, probably the same or similar.

We will get together in **PARKING LOT E**. This is on the Route 3 side of the new stadium. Look for the big Verizon logo on the stadium wall.



Saturday, June 18 *The most established MBCA event in North America.*

This fine tradition continues! **The 48th June Jamboree** will be held Saturday, June 18th at Mercedes-Benz of America headquarters in Montvale, NJ. Registration is open 8:30 to 10AM. Concours, Popular Vote, Continental Breakfast and Lunch courtesy of MBUSA.

Tires to kick, things to see, do and learn. People to meet, conversations to have, pictures to take. Memories and goodies to bring home.

Car registration is \$45 (\$55 day of event) includes breakfast & lunch courtesy of MBUSA. Meals and facilities cost is \$10 per person for those not registering a vehicle. Event concludes by 4 PM.

Please contact **Lucille Chabala** for advanced registration
973-731-9133 or LuluChab@aol.com

FOR SALE: 1985 Mercedes Benz 300 TD Diesel station wagon. Navy blue exterior, saddle M.B. Tex. interior. With the optional third seat, manual sunroof, am/fm cassette Air Cond. Power windows, luggage rack, Drives great and looks good. too! 229,000 miles owned for the last 8 years and driven locally only in nice weather. A real classic wagon! \$4875. Seller details below



FOR SALE: 1985 500 SEC. Rare imperial red, saddle leather interior, A/C, AM-FM-Cassette, Sunroof, 105,000 original miles, Excellent condition, One owner, 25 years from new until May 2010. Original paint, no rust. Drives great. Asking \$16,495. Andrew Permison thepermitage@comcast.net 973-379-7283



FOR SALE: 1995 SL500. Garaged and in excellent condition. 61,200 miles. VIN #WDBFA67E5SF124534. Includes four snow tires on rims. \$14,000. Jim Schuffan 2 Rainbow Ridge Drive, Livingston, NJ 07039 Call: 973-992-7597



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 storage. 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 mechanic. Excellent condition. Driven only on weekends and in good weather. Asking \$14,500. Call Rick 973-464-5845



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FOR SALE: 2001 320 SLK Convertible/Coupe Silver/Charcoal Like New only 12,000 miles
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FOR SALE: Two Becker OE radios. Both working when removed. 1. BECKER EUROPA STEREO MU-SN H-175262. Removed from 1970 250C. Changed because I wanted a cassette player. 2. BECKER GRAND PIX ELECTRONIC - SN EP 6119533. Removed from 1982 380SL Changed because I wanted bigger display. \$50.00 Each plus shipping—both for \$80.00 plus shipping.

FOR SALE: VDO Speedometer Part no. 114 542 31 01. Bought as a spare for the 72 250C that I sold 12 years ago. The odometer shows 95085 mi. \$28.00 free shipping. Call Bill at 732 367 3648 or drbillryan86@alum.rpi.edu

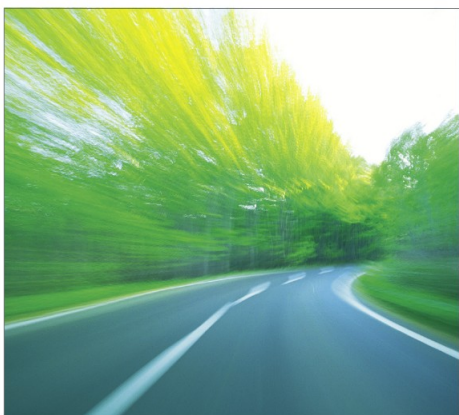
FOR SALE: 1982 380 SL. Black with tan upholstery. New German canvas soft top last year. Factory installed duel timing chain. Hardtop and carrier, top hoist included after installation of hardtop. 2007 popular choice winner in category at fall picnic. 114K miles. Nonsmoker. Not perfect, but not expensive. Garaged in winter and rain. Moving forces sale. \$5500. Call Bill at 732 367 3648 or drbillryan86@alum.rpi.edu

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Welcome New Members

William Berenbroick

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Bob Carson

Thomas De Sena

Frederik Ebert

Robert Gollance

Alan Graf

John Graham and

Nell Graham

Keith Handler

John McConnell and Arelis
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AACA Car Show - Sunday, May 1

Don't forget! The AACA Car Show in Florham Park is coming up – the first Sunday in May, May 1st. It's a great event, and we've had our own non-judged section there for a few years now. It's at the Automatic Switch Co. parking lot, 50 Hanover Road, Florham Park NJ. Please contact Lucille Chabala for Registration: **973-731-9133** or LuLuChab@aol.com

Reminder:

Did you know that **For Sale** ad submissions are free for members? Just email your ad to the editor by the 21st of the month prior to publication. You may include one or more digital photos with your ad. Send to khs@openix.com

Notice:

The next deadline for submission of all written and graphic material to the editor is May 11, 2011. Please email your submissions to Ken Spingarn khs@openix.com

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Farewell to Ann Barber, "See you down the road!"

Ann Barber is inextricably connected with many happy memories for members of our car club. It's nearly 30 years ago now that I joined the Northern New Jersey Section of the Mercedes Benz Club of America. At my first meeting I met Ann & Dick Barber. They were part of the club leadership and took their roles very seriously, greeting a newcomer with hearty warmth and charm.

Ann & Dick drove a 1970 Mercedes **220Diesel** which they kept in pristine condition. It was their pride and joy. The Diesel connection cemented our friendship as my starship was a 1965 **190Diesel**. Those of us who are into compression ignition form a unique fraternity. We even have a secret handshake... first we rub the grease off our hands!

When I became the section president of the MBCA in 1986, Dick Barber was my first vice president. Ann attended all board meetings with her husband and made a valuable contribution to planning our events.

The June Jamboree, which is the Mercedes Club's annual *concours d' elegance* car show, was one of Ann's favorite events. She helped administer the event and took care of the hospitality for many years. I last saw Ann Barber a couple of years ago when she attended our current June Jamboree as a guest of honor.

It was the occasion of the first appearance of Ann & Dick's 1970 Mercedes as a show queen, exhibited by its new owners, Ken & Loni Spingarn. Yes, the Mercedes-Benz Club is a big family. After Dick passed on, Ann conveyed her beautiful **220Diesel** to Ken & Lonnie, who are also esteemed members of our club. We will miss Ann. She was a member of our silver star family. There is an empty place at our table.

John Kuhn Bleimaier



Deutsche Classic - Fleetwood, PA

Held on Saturday, July 11, 2011. The event offers a full day of entertainment for the German auto enthusiast with events including a judged car show (German marques only) expecting about 400 vehicles.

A parts swap meet, car corral and other special events round out the day. The \$15 dollar admission fee includes lunch. Wow, what a great deal and a nice event. This event is suitable for the whole family and is held at a municipal park. The drive time is less than 2 hours a great way to spend a summer Saturday.

Their website is: <http://www.deutscheclassic.com/>

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



I was just about ready for us all to turn the corner from winter to spring, and then we got hit with another snowstorm last week. It's not that the amount of snow was so bad, but all the salt that was put down on the road is still there, and getting on my car! We need a good rain to wash this salt away, and hopefully the winter weather is behind us.

Just in time, because we have a few events coming up real soon. The Antiques Roadshow is Sunday April 10th, the AutoXX at the Meadowlands is April 17th, and the AACA Florham Park car show is May 1st. Hope to see you there!

From the President Joe Grattan



We have a good year so far. Several events – all indoor of course – and now we move to the time of year for car shows, the June Jamboree, summer drives, picnics and other fun in the sun.

I want to highlight the JUDGES SEMINAR on Saturday May 7th. We have a revised scoring system based on 100 points rather than the 400 point system we were using in the past. While the points are different, the categories and lines of the score sheet are very similar.

The four major areas (engine, interior, exterior and trim) are the same. There is a different approach for some lines and the deduction procedure is slightly different. Review the article on page 14 in this issue for more details. I would like to see you there if you can make it.

I just ordered the trophies for the June Jamboree; high cost, but really nice. In addition we will be making a donation to the Eric LeGrand fund. He is the Rutgers football player who was severely injured last Fall.

At the picnic on September 10 we will be preparing 25 'care' packages for the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, 20 male and 5 female. More about that later. Also, our section will be holding elections for club officers.

In closing, I want to say I have enjoyed being a part of the Club leadership for the past 6 years and will be stepping down at the end of this year. If you would like to get involved in planning an event or even holding a position of leadership in our section, please send me a note. It can be fun and rewarding. With so many people involved, it isn't a lot of work and none of the work is done by one person. It's a club effort.

Technical Corner

Andreas Molde

At a recent Tire Kicking Session we had a late '90 E-Class (Chassis 210) that had a serious rust issue in one particular area. The car was very well maintained, but we found the right front upper spring perch/mount so badly rusted that it barely held the coil spring in place, which is very dangerous!

The spring perches are spot welded to the chassis and have a rust proofing/undercoating applied, but at times water gets underneath the coating and the metal starts to rust. It is sometimes very difficult to spot and needs a trained eye and it may even require the removal of some of the undercoating for a close inspection.

If you have/own a 210 E-Class, built between 1996-2002 (Wagon until 2003) I would recommend that you have the front spring perches inspected by a qualified technician, sooner rather than later!

I like to share some (MBUSA) websites with you that highlight frequently asked questions and have some instructional videos that can be very helpful. Let's face it, some of the newer cars are very "High Tech" and can be overwhelming to operate. 1. www.mbclicktoknow.com/

2. www.mbusa.com/mercedes/only_mercedes_benz/owners_support 3. www.mbusa-mobile.com

This last website has a list of phones that are compatible with MB Vehicle's, depending on year, model and which wireless carrier you have. Lastly, Mercedes-Benz has a "Portable Hands-Free Kit" available which is intended for older MB's. It clips right on to the visor and allows you to place "hands-free" calls via Bluetooth. The Part Number is BQ 682 0981 and the MSRP is \$105.00. Contact your dealer for further information.



High Gear

John Kuhn Bleimaier



Star gazing has been my passion for many years. Serious astronomers know that the best locations for observing heavenly bodies are to be found on mountain tops or on islands. The key is to be far from the bright lights and the madding crowd. This March I pursued my stellar hobby on a small island located in the Atlantic Ocean just east of the estuary of the Saint Mary's River. Officially this land mass is in the State of Florida, but in spirit and geography it should be part of Georgia. Be that as it may, it is the best place to see the stars of my avocation just before the onset of the vernal season.

This year at the Amelia Island *Concours d' Elegance* there were starships ranging from a 1908 competition car to the Pope's 1973 model 600. The 1908 Mercedes, along with a 1935 500K roadster and a 1959 180D pontoon sedan were displayed by MBUSA in their lavish pavilion. On the show field the Pontiff's erstwhile limousine was displayed along side Hugh Hefner's 600 and Luciano Pavorotti's grand Mercedes. The sacred and the profane found harmony.

The prewar classic European class was won by a conservative 1931 Mercedes Mannheim cabriolet from the Kemp collection. Jim Utaski's spectacular 1960 300SL roadster took the blue ribbon for postwar Mercedes. The Mercedes-Benz "star of excellence" award went to a 1960 300d cabriolet presented by its restorer, Bob Platz. The sports and gran turismo classification for the years 1954 to 1963 was won by a 1963 230SL with special Italian coachwork by Peninfarina. I have seen this one-off vehicle at Pebble Beach several times. While I aesthetically prefer the production model "pagoda top" as designed under the tutelage of Paul Bracq, the Italian rendition is a real crowd pleaser.

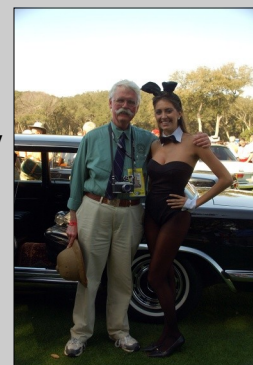
I do not intentionally march to a different drummer. Eccentricity is not a quality which I have ever cultivated. Nevertheless, in museums I frequently find myself gravitating toward paintings which were not in the syllabus for Art History 101. Perhaps my favorite 19th Century painting is Albert Edelfelt's "Maria Magdalena." Don't bother looking for it at the Louvre or the Metropolitan. It hangs in the Athenaeum in Helsingfors. At Amelia Island this year my favorite Mercedes was a 1956 300c shooting brake. The massive Adenauer platform is ideally suited for a custom station wagon, although only a handful

were produced. We are accustomed to associating this top of the line Mercedes saloon with parade cars for heads of state and formal transport for captains of industry. However, the rugged chassis and ample ground clearance make this 300c shooting brake ideal for getting to a driven partridge shoot in Hungary, the pursuit of grouse in the Scots highlands or a tiger hunt with a maharajah in the Punjab.

Of course not all the stars at the concours d' elegance have three points. I was attracted to an outlaw Southern California 1956 356a Porsche and a 1959 Weidner Condor with 2 stroke engine. My grandfather had a Delage back in '27 and representatives of that outstanding French marque always get my attention. The brilliantly straightforward mechanicals of a pre World War I Duesenberg race car exemplified early Yankee ingenuity. The low slung 1920 Mercer on display reminds us that there was a time when one of the finest sports cars in the world was manufactured in Trenton, New Jersey.

During my stargazing field trip I also looked in at the classic car auctions organized respectively by RM and Gooding contemporaneously with the Amelia Island festivities. Some very fine Mercedes managed to fetch astronomical figures. But I am not one to try to catch a shooting star.

I wandered lonely as a cloud about this automotive field of dreams from one daffodil yellow well formed shape to a violet close-coupled coupe with impeccable lines. But some heavenly bodies hold a particular attraction for me. In my orbits I found myself ever drawn to a particular starship. It was the Mercedes 600 previously owned by a magazine mogul from Chicago. For some reason there was an attractive young women hovering about that car dressed in a very fetching Easter bunny outfit. *I suppose it's that time of year!*





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In-Service at Becker Auto Sound

On Saturday February 12 we visited with Becker Autosound in Saddle Brook. Their team is led by Club members **Ed Ebel and Tom Mitchell**, and focus on the service of radios, antennas, amplifiers and speakers. What a setup: compact and chock full of Becker, Bose, Blaupunkt and virtually every other radio or sound system component used in MBs since the 50s, along with the service benches, test equipment and expertise to repair, refurbish, update and – if you like – bring to Concours standard just about any radio or related component.



Need a new face plate or knob for your 1967 R113 SL radio? The vibrator in your 1950s Adenauer giving you trouble? Is the volume control knob getting wonky? Need a new antenna mast, or maybe want to have an iPod or Auxiliary audio input jack installed? Just give Becker Autosound a call.

The same thing with your speakers; imagine how many shapes and sizes there are. They've got speakers in stock for all Mercedes-Benz models since the 50s? If you give them a call, you'll find that not only do they have original quality speakers that fit perfectly, they also offer upgrade speakers – again with a perfect fit. One of their mottos is “never cut the car”.

No matter what your sound system issue or concerns, Ed, Tom and crew can figure it out, make suggestion, and provide solutions. This was fun stuff to learn – useful too. If you want to see what's available for your specific car, just visit their website <http://www.beckerautosound.com> and follow the links to your year and model. They also have some technical and troubleshooting info posted as well.

The day started with a history of Becker radios and Mercedes-Benz, from the 1950s with their huge tube radios to modern COMAND systems. We then heard about their capabilities for repairs, upgrades, all delivered with some humorous stories about finding this or that replacement part. Most amazing was the number of different spare parts that are – literally – the last of their kind in the world.

At the end of the morning, we had two drawings for \$100 gift certificates. We were fortunate to have what we thought was an unbiased person to do the drawing for us. Three year old Teddy Leon from Basking Ridge was there and was nice enough to help. He drew 2 names from the 35 or so slips of paper. The first name he drew was member Peter Lobasso, \$100 to Peter. The second name he drew was Dr. Bob Leon (Teddy's driver). Hmmm?

This was a fun day for all of us.

Becker Autosound is located at 101 Route 46 West in Saddle Brook, NJ, on the Northwest corner of Rte. 46 West and North 5th Street, second floor. Targeteers occupies the lower floor. Their web site www.beckerautosound.com has their contact info, or give them a call (201) 773-0976.



Piano Recital with Mariam Nazarian

Pianos and Mercedes are not that surprising a combination: in the early 20th Century the Steinway Piano Company of New York signed a contract with the Daimler Company to assemble Mercedes cars in America.

This combination renewed itself after a fashion in this century when Northern New Jersey Section members attended a concert given by Mariam Nazarian on a Steinway under the auspices of the Steinway Society of Greater Princeton on March 13, 2011

Ms. Nazarian, the daughter of composer Aram Nazarian and musicologist Anna Artunian, is an alumna of the Mannes College of Music and Harvard University. At age 14 she performed Bach's Goldberg Variations at Carnegie Hall (the youngest person to do so!), and has also performed with the Boston Pops, Princeton Chamber Symphony, Philadelphia Chamber Symphony, and other ensembles.

Norman Seldin of Jacobs Music, at whose Lawrenceville facility the concert was held, introduced Ms. Nazarian and described the program to us.

Our concert consisted of two Bach pieces, a Beethoven sonata, three short pieces by Chopin, and culminated in Liszt's "Valée d'Obermann" from "Années de Pèlerinage."

Ms. Nazarian displayed a wonderful talent for both technique and emotion, and we look forward to hearing her in the future.



Long standing section member, Nick Starace has written a memoir, "White Sails Became Me" — a moving story of worldwide adventure and passion for life. Visit his website at www.whitesailsbecameme.com for a full description and excerpts from this fascinating book.

Star Tracks 2011 on the web

http://sections.mbca.org/northern_new_jersey



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Hours of Operation: Mon-Fri 8am to 5pm Sat 8:30am to 2pm

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Judges Seminar - May 7th at Globe Motors in Fairfield, NJ

Pete Lesler, past national president, will be joining us to present a seminar on the new scoring system we will use at June Jamboree for concours judging. Basically, it is the same system with some changes in the point totals. The items checked will be the same. Pete had conducted this seminar a few years before at Globe Motors to great success, so we welcome his return to help us train qualified judges for June Jamboree.

The seminar is meant for existing judges and those members who are serious about learning concours judging skills. We are also video taping this seminar with the help of our membership director, Dave Hall in order to produce a video course that could be used by us and possibly other sections for training. Our intention is to extend what we have learned to fellow members at the national level. Participation is limited to first come, first served, so please contact Lucille Chabala for Registration: **973-731-9133** or LuLuChab@aol.com as soon as possible.

Arrive by 8:45 for bagels, croissants, juice and coffee. Presentation starts at 9:30. Lunch served at noon. Members may be asked to participate in the video taping which is completely voluntary.

This is a great opportunity to refresh your concours judging skills to participate in our 48th Annual June Jamboree on June 18. We will be awarding 6 gift certificates, \$50 each, to be used at the Globe Motors customer service department.

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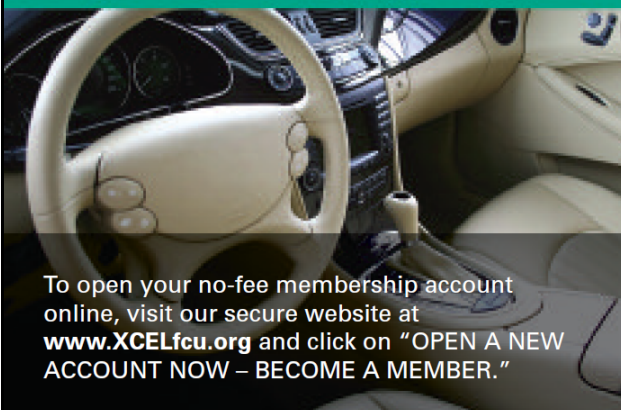
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For more information:
Call Ray de Quintal at **201-546-2928** or
e-mail raydequintal@XCELfcu.org.



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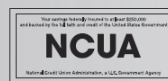
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NNJS Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 17 —Auto XX —
Meadowlands Stadium parking lot E
— See page 2

April 27— May 1 — StarTech and
National Meeting — Wisconsin —
See National Star Magazine for de-
tails

Sunday, May 1 — AACA Car Show
— Special MB Grouping — Auto-
matic Switch Co. — Florham Park,
NJ — See page 5

Saturday, May 7 — Judges Semi-
nar — Globe Motor Car Co. — Fair-
field, NJ — See page 14

Saturday, June 18 — 48th Annual
June Jamboree — Mercedes-Benz
of America Headquarters — Mont-
vale, NJ — See page 2

Friday, July 22 — Friday Evening
Car Show — German American
Club — Clark, NJ — Details to be
announced.

