



# STAR TRACKS 2005

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA – NORTHERN NEW JERSEY SECTION

March/April/Early May 2005

Volume 6 Number 2

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

## NNJS Board of Directors and Committees Appointed

The following members were appointed to the NNJS Board and committees at the January officer's meeting. Thanks to all for volunteering:

### NNJS Board of Directors

Barbaranna Kefalonitis  
Doug Ochwat  
John K. Bleimaier

### Committee Chairs

Membership— Sean Conner  
Driving Events —Greg Calabro  
Webmeister —Ken Spingarn  
Social —Kris Conner

## Daimler-Chrysler (NYSE:DCX)



## Road Rallye, Dinner, and Live Comedy Show—May 14 also C-Class Enthusiasts Group to attend

We will gather at 1:00PM at Loantaka Brook Reservation in Morristown and the first car will be sent off shortly thereafter.

We will meet again for a private sit-down dinner at approximately 4:30PM at Calaloo Café / 190 South Street / Morristown. The cost per person for dinner is \$30. Dinner will include soup or salad, entrée, dessert, and beverage. There will also be a cash bar available. Children are welcome to attend and will choose their meal from the kid's menu – this will be the parent's responsibility and is not included in the price. The cost for the rallye is \$10 per car and we have some lovely Mercedes Benz prizes awaiting the winners.

For all those interested, stand-up comedians come on stage between 8:00-8:30PM (\$10 additional per person, purchased on site). We would love to have the group stay and enjoy the show.

The C-class enthusiasts group will also be joining us on this exciting rallye. There will be many surprises and delights in store for

all those attending.

If you have any questions please contact

**Sean Connor at 908-608-0418  
(cball1@att.net)**

### Directions to Loantaka Brook Reservation

**From 287 North:** take exit 35 (Madison Avenue Rte 124) and make a right at the light at the top of the exit – this will be South Street. The park will be a short distance down on your left.

**From 287 South:** take exit 35 and make a right at the top of the exit and immediately get into your left hand lane, make a left at the light onto South Street. Go through the next light and then the park will be a short distance down on your left. There are restrooms available at the park.

**See Road Rallye Reservation Coupon on Page 11**

## June Jamboree 2005 will be here soon.

Mark your calendar. Here are some photos from previous Jamborees of some of the beautiful cars, and NNJS members collecting trophies in the concours events.

**Find details for this year's event beginning on Page 3.**

This will be another fantastic event, with great cars, great food, great prizes, and of course great people.

Look forward to seeing everyone there on June 18.

**Observe New Jersey Law: Wipers ON—Lights ON.**





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

Ahhh.. 'Tis Spring when a young man's (and woman's) fancy turns to love. Love of a beautiful Spring day while sitting behind the wheel of your Mercedes and driving down the road is a pure pleasure. Even the high price of gas (and diesel) will not deter the true driving enthusiast from taking out his/her cherished car for a drive in the countryside, down the shore, or that extra trip to the store. In our household, it is also the time to get out the hose and bucket and begin to wash the cars ourselves (actually Joe washes the cars) instead of taking them through the car wash. It's time for me to gather up the toothbrush and other cleaning supplies and get into my beloved engines and get them all cleaned up from their New Jersey Winter. It is amazing how much dirt and grime can get on a clean engine in a few short months! Driving events and car shows aplenty are looming on the horizon and I look forward to attending them and showing off my babies and admiring the beauties that others will bring. Take advantage of the many events which are offered not only by our section, but other sections as well. You can meet many wonderful people with similar interests and develop lasting friendships. Looking forward to seeing you soon,

Valerie - NNJS President



## EDITOR'S COMMENT

There is an old saying in the general fair trade that "Hope Springs Eternal". It is my wish for each of you Drivers and Armchair Readers to fully share the joie d'vivre that Mercedes-Benz automobile ownership brings to you with the fullest enjoyment possible. During this time of year with extended warm evenings, the excitement of exotic travel agenda, and anticipation of even better yet enticing summer engagements, let us not forget those not so fortunate. The charity work we graciously provide for during the fall and holiday months should continue throughout all seasons, and congenial Club relations should prevail at all times. In this light a dazzling host of Spring activities from April Rallye through June Jamboree has been planned for your participation to bring New Members together with seasoned Members for the spirit of fun and hearty car banter. Please avail yourself and come see what our Club can offer you.....

the Silver Hood Star awaits!

Warm regards, Ellen D. Ruck, "190-Girl. The Star Cruiser"

eruck@kirkland.com

### STAR TRACKS 2005

The bi-monthly publication of the MBCA-NNJS.

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## MARCH ANTIQUES ROADSHOW

### Lights! Camera! Action!

The NNJS Antiques Roadshow, hosted by Alan Snyder, once again proved to be a successful and fun-filled afternoon. As members entered the private upstairs dining room at Bella Italia in Orange, NJ, they proudly began to exhibit their treasures on the table.

The display of various items sparked lively conversations and introductions of new members. We were able to gaze over the array of treasures as we dined family style. The food was absolutely sumptuous. We began with a delicious bowl of soup, followed by appetizers of mussels marinara, fried calamari, mozzarella en corossa, and antipasto.

We were then served salad and penne ala vodka, and as if this were not enough, the waiters then brought out the entrees of lemon chicken, eggplant rollatini, and fish.

As dessert and coffee were being served, Alan began by giving a brief history of his work with antiques and how he would be doing the appraisals. He asked each person to tell what they knew about the items that they had brought and we all learned a great deal. There were so many wonderful things to

(Continued on page 11)

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**Doug Ochwat**  
John K. Bleimaier

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### Join the Mercedes-Benz Model Club

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For more information, visit our website: [www.mbmpc-america.com](http://www.mbmpc-america.com)

**June Jamboree – June 18, 2005 - MBUSA Headquarters in Montvale, NJ**

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual June Jamboree will be held at Montvale, NJ on Saturday, June 18, 2005. There will be many marvelous examples of Mercedes Benz craftsmanship and luxury on display for your viewing pleasure. The event will be held Rain or Shine.

The **Concours** classes will be judged by teams of judges while all those who register a car for the event will have the opportunity to vote for the **Popular Vote** car of their choice in each of the **Popular Vote** categories. **Concours** cars will need to be cleaned and detailed inside and out, while **Popular Vote** cars need only to be clean and presentable. My suggestion for Popular Vote cars is to give the baby a bath and come out and enjoy the day. Pre – registration is greatly appreciated as it allows the judges to have the field set up more accurately. Pre-registration for Concours and Popular Vote is \$35 (the same as the past several years) – registration the day of the event will be \$45.

Registration will begin at 8:30 am in the lobby of MBUSA. If you are registering a vehicle for the Jamboree, please drive up and park outside while you register. After you receive your registration packet, please proceed around the circular driveway and there will be a surprise waiting for you when you show your vehicle registration packet. You will then be directed as to where to park your vehicle. If you are not registering a vehicle, DO NOT drive up to the registration area; please follow the signs and park in the parking area. After parking, please come in and let the registrars know that you are there and pick up your name tag.

The schedule for the day is as follows:  
 Registration 8:30 am until 10:30 am. Judging will begin at 10:30 and there will no more detailing of the cars allowed.  
 Luncheon graciously provided by Maryalice Ritzmann and MBUSA will be served at 12:30 or as soon as the judging of the

**Concours** cars is complete. All **Popular Votes** must be turned in before entering the lunchroom.

Awards ceremony will follow the luncheon and the completion of the judging.

For more information, please check out our website [http://www.mbc.org/northern\\_new\\_jersey/NNJMBCA.html](http://www.mbc.org/northern_new_jersey/NNJMBCA.html) or contact Valerie 973-377-2882 mercedeslady1@earthlink.net or Lucille 973-731-9133 luluchab@aol.com

Concours classes will be grouped according to National rules see below.

**CONCOURS CLASSES**

A class shall have a minimum of three (3) entries. The class assignments can be made from the chart below: If there is insufficient number of entries for any class, the Concours Chairman of the event will group the entries for competition and will inform the competitor before judging starts. The classes may be divided into "Show" and "Street", and "display" which NNJS calls "Popular Vote" \*\* see Popular Vote categories below

**GROUP 1 VINTAGE**

**Class 1** Pre 1945

**GROUP 2 CLASSIC**

- Class 2** Sedans W 120, 121, 128, 136, 186, 187, 188, 189, 191
- Class 3** Coupes/Convertibles W 120, 128, 186, 187, 188, 189
- Class 4** SL's W 121, 198

**GROUP 3 GRAND MERCEDES 600**

**Class 5** 600 Limousine W 100

*(Continued on page 4)*



**42nd Annual June JAMBOREE Reservation Form - MBz HQ Montvale, NJ**

**Form and Check MUST be received by June 13th**

**I / We will be attending the June Jamboree Saturday June 18, 2005**

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **No. of Guests** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**eMail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cost: \_\_\_ cars @ \$35/ car Pre-Registration, or, \$45/car Day of Event** (circle an entry class below)

**1. Model:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Year:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Concours** **Popular Vote**

**2. Model:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Year:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Concours** **Popular Vote**

**Send Form with Check or M.O. to: Lucille Chabala, 6 Brook Way, West Orange, NJ 07052**

**Make Check Payable to NNJS-MBCA (No refunds for inclement weather)**

**GROUP 4 EARLY MODERN**

- Class 6 Sedans W 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 114, 115
- Class 7 Coupes/Convertibles W 107, 111, 112, 114

**GROUP 5 MODERN**

- Class 8 Sedans/Station Wagons W 123, 124, 201
- Class 9 Sedans W 116, 126
- Class 10 Coupes W 123, 124, 126

**GROUP 6 CONTEMPORARY**

- Class 11 Coupes/ Roadsters R 129,170,230
- Class 12 Sedans/Station Wagons W 202, 203, 210
- Class 13 Coupes/Convertibles W 208
- Class 14 Sedans/Coupes W 140, 215, 220

**GROUP 7 SPORTS CARS**

- Class 15 Vintage W 113
- Class 16 Modern R 107

**GROUP 8 OFF ROAD**

- Class 17 M Class W163
- Class 18 G Class W463
- Class 19 Unimogs

*(Continued on page 5)*

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**DIRECTIONS TO MERCEDES-BENZ HQ @ MONTVALE, NEW JERSEY**

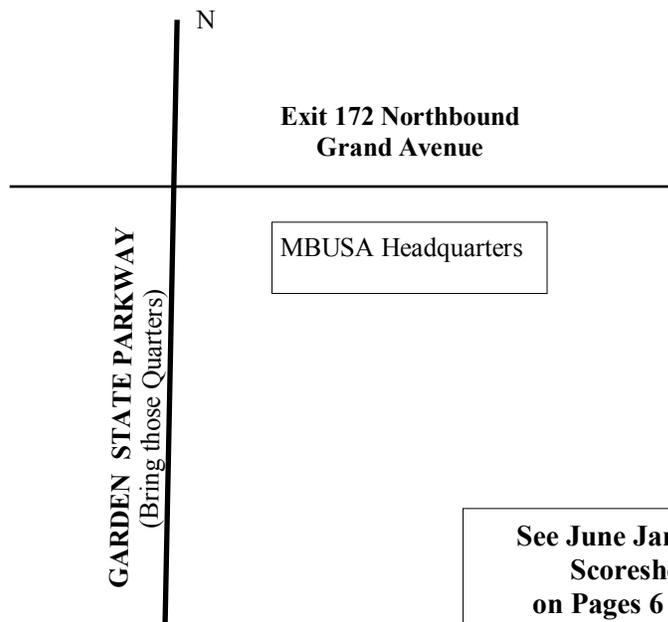
**From the Garden State Parkway North,** Take the Grand Avenue Exit (Exit 172 Northbound) and turn Right at the end of the ramp. MBNA Headquarters is on the right.

**From the Garden State Parkway South,** Go To the Montvale REST STOP, and follow signs to the Parkway North (See Above.) Note: You enter the rest stop Southbound simply to reverse direction and exit the rest stop Northbound.

**Hotels Close by:**

Montvale Holiday Inn  
100 Chestnut Ridge Road  
Montvale, NJ  
201 391 7700

Woodcliff Lake Hilton  
Chestnut Ridge Road  
Woodcliff, Lake, NJ  
201 391 3600



**See June Jamboree  
Scoresheet  
on Pages 6 and 7**



(Jamboree—Continued from page 4)

**Popular Vote Categories**

The Popular Vote category has been increased this year. The classes will be as follows.

- New** - 2001 - 2005 for Sports Car and Sedans
- Modern Sedan** – 1991-2000
- Modern Sport** – 1991-2000
- Old Sedan** – 1981 – 1990
- Old Sport** – 1981 – 1990
- Vintage** – all cars pre 1981

Hope to see everyone there in June !!!



**Read your STAR TRACKS 2005 online:**  
[http://www.mbca.org/northern\\_new\\_jersey/NNJMBCA.html](http://www.mbca.org/northern_new_jersey/NNJMBCA.html)



[WWW.GRIOTSGARAGE.COM](http://WWW.GRIOTSGARAGE.COM)

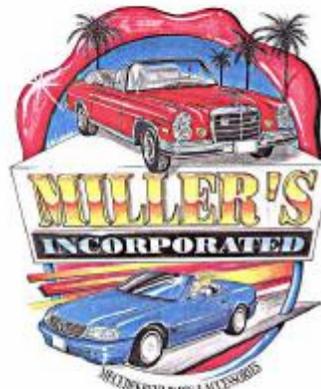
**WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS**

If you have not received NNJS notifications via email, or if you have recently changed your email address — Please send your email address to [mercedeslady1@earthlink.net](mailto:mercedeslady1@earthlink.net)

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

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	<b>MBCA CONCOURS d'ELEGANCE SCORE SHEET</b> Northern New Jersey Section --- 18 June 2005 42nd Annual June Jamboree - Montvale, NJ	
<b>---- Entrants Please Note: Once Judging has begun, DO NOT TOUCH THIS SHEET ----</b>		
NAME _____ CLASS _____ CAR # _____ ANY RESTORATION ??? _____		
PERCENT RESTORED _____		
YEAR _____ MODEL _____ COLOR _____ MILEAGE/KM _____		
PAINT CODE NUMBER _____ ORIGINAL PAINT CODE: YES _____ NO _____ CLASS: <u>CONCOURS</u> / POPULAR		
<b>----- SUMMARY OF SCORING ----- (Judges only below this line)</b>		
	Points	Points
<b>1</b> Interior, upholstery, trunk, hard top, soft top		<b>6 Model Year</b> (1/2 half point /year, max 15 points) (Street Class)
<b>2</b> Chrome, plastic, rubber, glass, lights, trim		<b>7 Mileage</b> 1 point per 20,000 miles (Street Class) Maximum 15 Points (1 km = 0.62137 miles)
<b>3</b> Engine compartment		<b>8 Mandatory Deduction - If Trailered</b> (10 Pt Loss) (Street Class)
<b>4</b> Exterior Paint, finish, body work		<b>Subtotal</b>
<b>5</b> Chassis, Underbody, Exhaust (Show Class)		
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>Subtotal</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b> →		
POSSIBLE POINTS MAX: SHOW = 470 STREET = 430		

Section 1 Interior, upholstery, trunk, hard top, soft top	Max Points	DEDUCTIONS			Total	Comments
		Auth	Cond	Clean		
Dash, Console, switches, Crevice Dirt ?	6					
Under-dash cover, side panels	6					
Instruments, controls	6					
Radio (MBz or Becker), speakers	4					
Steering wheel, column, pad	4					
Wood Trim, Chrome Moldings	6					
Sun Visors, Rear View mirror	2					
Headliner, soft top inside and frame	8					
Hat Tray, Rear Brake Light as applicable	2					
Seats (Any stress in Leather), Trim, Frame	16					
Door Panels, Arm Rest, Pillar covers	12					
Factory Issue Carpet (i.e. under the mats)	8					
Interior paint, door saddle strip and chrome	4					
Trunk Interior, Paint finish, decals, under deck	6					
Trunk floor covering, sides, MBz battery, cover	6					
Spare Tire, Jack, and Instruction Card	2					
Complete Tool Kit, First Aid Kit and Contents	2					
<b>Max Total</b>	<b>100</b>					<b>TOTAL SECTION 1</b>

Section 2 Chrome, plastic, rubber, glass, lights, trim - DEDUCT ANY GOLD	Max Points	DEDUCTIONS			Total	Comments
		Auth	Cond	Clean		
Grille, Hood Star, Badge, Squirters	8					
Front lights & bezels, Side Markers and Trim	8					
Front bumpers and License Surround & plate	10					
Windshield, seal, trim, wiper arms and blades	8					
Moldings: fender, door, roof, Drilled add-ons	12					
Side Mirrors and Door handles	6					
Side Windows, door seals, window run chrome	12					
Rear window, seal and trim	8					
Trunk trim, lock, seal and license bracket rear	10					
Rear light, side marker and trim	8					
Rear bumpers, chrome over-riders	8					
Antenna, Antenna mounting	2					
<b>Max Total</b>	<b>100</b>					<b>TOTAL SECTION 2</b>

**MBCA CONOURS d'ELEGANCE SCORE SHEET - Page 2 of 2**

18th June 2005

Section 3 ENGINE COMPARTMENT	Max Points	DEDUCTIONS			Total	Comments
	Points	Auth	Cond	Clean		
<b>DO NOT DEDUCT:</b> Cosmoline stains from factory. Alarm components. Use good judgement re owners intent to maintain vehicle.						
Cooling System and Fan Shroud	6					
Power-Steering System	6					
A/C System	6					
Battery and Charging System	6					
Intake Manifold	6					
Air induction System	6					
Exhaust Manifold	4					
Brake System, booster, master cylinder & lines	6					
Engine Block and Finish	6					
Hoses and Clamps	6					
Horns and Windshield Washer Tank	6					
Ignition wires, wiring harness & fuse panel	6					
Fuel injection system and Carburetor	6					
Engine Mounts, supports, and shrouding	6					
Firewall, grommets, cables and linkage	6					
Hood underside, hood pad, springs	6					
Inner fenders, cross-brace, finish	6					
<b>Max Total</b>	<b>100</b>					<b>TOTAL SECTION 3</b>

Section 4 Exterior Paint, Fit, Finish, Bodywork	Max Points	DEDUCTIONS			Total	Comments
	Points	Auth	Cond	Clean		
<b>MANDATORY DEDUCTION: After Market Chrome (or Gold) not Authentic to the model including wheel well and door edge</b>						
Hood	4					
Lower Front Valence	6					
Right Front Fender	6					
Right Door(s)	6					
Right door jamb(s) and pillar()	6					
Right Rocker Panel	4					
Right Quarter Panel	6					
Rear Valence, Tail Piece	6					
Rear Deck Lid	4					
Left Front Fender	6					
Left Door(s)	6					
Left door jamb(s) and pillar()	6					
Left Rocker Panel	6					
Left Quarter Panel	4					
Roof, Sun roof, Soft top (exterior only)	6					
Wheels, Covers, Tires (incl. matched Spare)	6					
Wheel Well Cleanliness	4					
Paint, color	8					
<b>Max Total</b>	<b>100</b>					<b>TOTAL SECTION 4</b>

Section 5 - - *** SHOW CLASS ONLY *** - Chassis, Underbody, Exhaust System	Max Points	DEDUCTIONS			Total	Comments
	Points	Auth	Cond	Clean		
Front Suspension, Steering, Brakes, Lines	12					
Transmission	6					
Drive Line, Flex Discs	6					
Rear Axle, Differential, Axle Shafts	6					
Rear Suspension, Brakes, Lines	10					
Fuel Tank	6					
Fuel Lines, Fuel Hoses, Clamps	6					
Underbody or Frame	8					
Exhaust System	6					
Wheel Wells	4					
<b>SHOW CLASS ONLY Max Total</b>	<b>70</b>					<b>TOTAL SECTION 5</b>

PARTICIPANTS SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ CHIEF JUDGE'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**Rule 6.5(D) - For change of color** deduct 5 points in Show (or Concours) class, 3 points if in Street class. How ever if color used w as available for that model year,deduct only 3 points in Show class, 1 point in Street class.

**Rule 6.6.2(G) - Light Alloy Wheels** were a factory option for the 280SL starting w ith the 1969 model year. Deduct 2 points for non-conforming w heels.

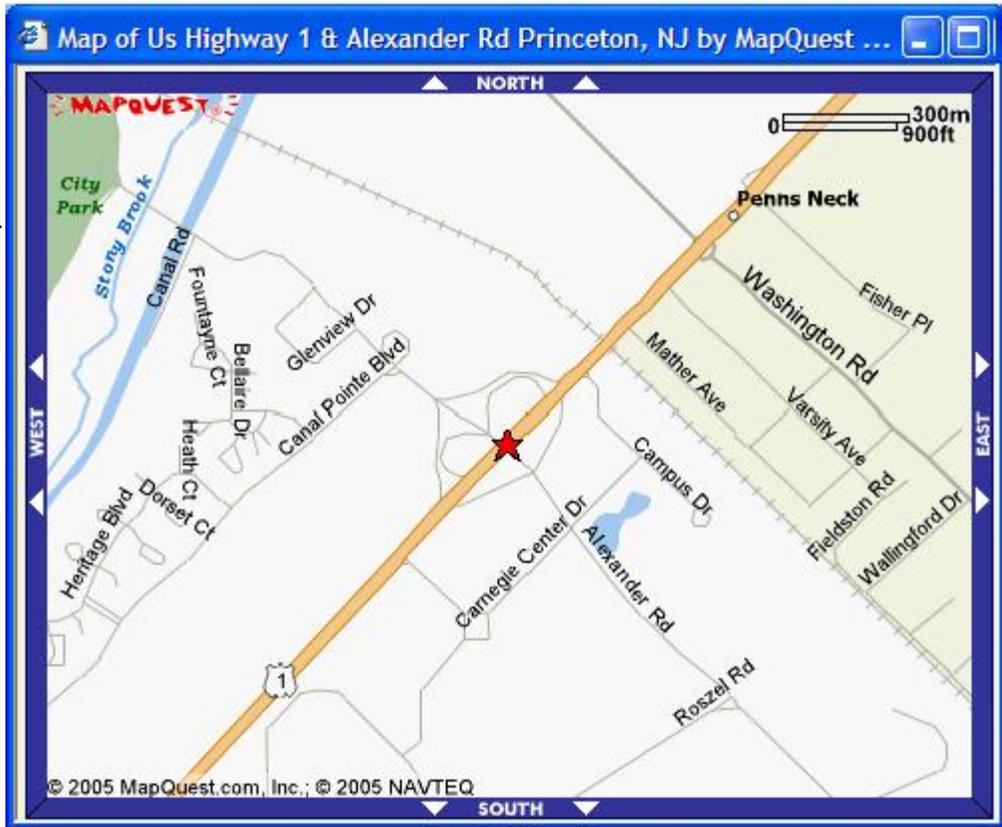
# 14th ANNUAL ROTARY CAR SHOW— CARNEGIE CENTER, PRINCETON, NJ May 15, 2005

This year's event will be held at Princeton's Carnegie Center on Sunday May 15.

Last year's event was great fun and we had a fantastic sunny day. For our own Mercedes-Benz "area" we need a minimum of 10 cars. There is a registration fee of \$10 per car. Carnegie Center is at the intersection of Route 1 (north) and Alexander Rd.

**Bob Wegner is graciously coordinating participation again this year, and can be reached at 973.515.0052.**

- Dash Plaques to all Pre-Registered Vehicles
- Show car classes Determined by Pre-Registration (Deadline May 3, 2005)
- Setup Time 6:00-8:00 AM
- All Show cars arriving before 10 Am will be judged.
- NNJS members please Pre-register and pay \$10 in advance so we can park together in a group.



## 14th Annual Rotary Auto Show Pre-Registration Form



Please make checks payable and mail to:

The Foundation of the Princeton Corridor Rotary Club - P.O. Box 7161, Princeton, NJ 08543

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Auto Make \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Model Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_  Yes, I can assist with judging.

Unrestored       Restored       Modified       Trailered

Auto Show car entries @ \$10 ( \$15 day of show)      Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please put me with the grouping of vehicles representing the Mercedes Benz Club of America

**High Gear**

Florida is no place for a car enthusiast. Sure, there are palm trees and sea breezes. Yes, without a real winter you can travel top down practically all year round in the "sunshine state." But, the essence of enthusiast driving is hanging your tail out in a sweeper. It's downshifting through a switchback. It's cresting a rise and going flat out to the summit. Alas, Florida is pancake flat and the state's roads are arrow straight to the horizon.

I'll never retire to Florida. It's not just my fear that Alzheimers may be contagious. Yeah, for me "Mickey Mouse" is more a term of derision than a personal hero. True, hurricanes and king size cockroaches hold little attraction. But my real reason to strike Florida off my wish list is the fact that, if I lived there, I'd have no reason to drive the cars which I love. I would never again need to worry about scrubbing rubber of my sidewalls. I could forget about replacing my clutch. And I'd have no occasion to pull on my string back driving gloves. Nope, the great, wet peninsula is not for me.

So, why is it that in the beginning of March every year I find myself dashing across Dixie on Route 95 South? Well, it's the Amelia Island weekend that beckons me to cross the Saint Mary's River and gulp down orange juice at the Florida Welcome Center. A classic car rallye, the RM sports car auction and the Concours d' Elegance make for a great car enthusiast weekend. This year was no exception.

One of my cars really only gets used once a year. It's my '80 300CD. That's my Amelia Island car. It's the sole vehicle I have ever owned which has automatic transmission. It's got a somewhat cushy ride and exhibits a little too much compliance in hard cornering. But it's powered by a bullet proof five cylinder, three liter, normally aspirated diesel. This is an ideal car for interstate cruising, and for Florida. So for the last several years I have taken the 300CD out of the garage for its annual milk run down from New Jersey to the Amelia Island Concours d' Elegance. It is a testimony to the quality of this Mercedes that I am able to get into a vehicle which has basically been sitting idle for eleven months, change the oil, check the belts and fluids, adjust the tire pressure; and hit the open road going full bore for a thousand miles. All this plus an attractive body style which never fails to garner smiles and thumbs up in the spectator car park.

Alfa Romeo was the featured marque for 2005 at Amelia Island and there was some magnificent Milanese machinery on display. I was particularly attracted to the early postwar coach built 1.9 liter Alfa coupes with their flowing lines penned by Pininfarina, Bertone, Vignale, Carozzeria Touring and Zagato. These were high performance grand tourers with large diameter steering wheels and column mounted manual gearshift levers. As beautiful as any Ferrari and much more tractable on the road.

Surprise, surprise, my personal favorite Amelia Island

show car for 2005 was built north of the Alps! In Stuttgart to be exact.

The classic car which caught my fancy this year was a 1934 Mercedes 130H. Those of us who have had the chance to attend world class car shows like Amelia Island and Pebble Beach can become jaded. I am almost accustomed to the sight of a magnificent Mercedes 540K, with proud grill, bullet headlights and swooping fenders. The 130H is very different. This is a conservative, mid-size sedan with a 1.3 liter engine. What makes the 130H unique is that the engine is located behind the rear wheels. Hence the "H" designation which stands for "heck motor," or "rear engine" in German. During the '30s Mercedes experimented with the rear engine layout and produced a series of tail wagging sedans, coupes and roadsters. I find them irresistible with their reverse snob appeal (no pun intended). I can imagine what a hoot they must have been to drive with their radical rear weight bias and swing axle rear suspension.

In general, Florida is not the place for car enthusiasts. Unless, that is, you know when and where to look, and you have a trusty starship to whisk you there with Éclat and sans fuss!

*John Kuhn Bleimaier— April 2005*

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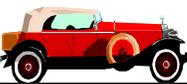
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Please send in by May 10, 2005

**I / We will be attending the May Rallye Saturday May 14, 2005**

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **No. of Guests** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Number for Dinner** \_\_\_ @ \$30 / person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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*(ROADSHOW—Continued from page 2)*

see and stories to hear that it is impossible to list all of them; these are just some of the highlights from the afternoon.

Bill Ryan told us about a silent movie camera and projector that he had used for teaching one of his courses. Helen Wolfe brought in a small, yet intricately carved ivory statue of Ghandi that she had picked up on one of her travels. Eva Tucci showed us a very delicate cameo that had been in her family. Bob and Mary Archigian brought a very lovely hand painted vase. Nick Ford told us how the library at work was throwing out some old safety pamphlets and he rescued them and brought them to share with us.

Gene and Lucila Roche brought a wood print from a famous Japanese artist and told how much of his work had recently been destroyed in a fire. Mark Sluscavage brought in a pre-Victor record player that he had found in Europe and carried home on a plane. Michelle Gallego showed us an antique print of Puerto Rico that she discovered in an antiques shop.

Jeff Corton, President of the Hudson-Mohawk Section, brought an oil painting of a sailing ship by a Maine artist that has been handed down at least three generations in his family. Ron and Nancy Gossow brought in a car horn from a right hand drive vehicle.

We thanked Alan for a job well done with a warm round of applause.

We also had a guest from the Classic Car Center in California with us, Tom Hanson. Tom is a familiar voice to

many of us as we have spoken to him over the years while ordering parts for our Mercedes while he worked at this previous job. Tom has been a Mercedes enthusiast for many years and is very active on the Club Forum website.

The event had finally come to an end and we bid one another good bye, or so many of us thought. When we arrived in the parking lot and the boys got close to their toys, the conversation started up again. As hoods were popped, engines checked, a member's latest acquisition was given the seal of approval. Several went for test drives in a '93 500E. The ladies were just as much into the cars and even showed the guys a thing or two that they didn't know about the vehicles.

Finally, it was time to say goodbye, again. We started our engines and waved to each other looking forward to gathering together once again at our next event.

- Valerie

*(Hood Star—Continued from page 12)*

first place, should think about how safe these cars are and how Mercedes Benz shared with the rest of the industry air bags, crumple zones, door strikers that open after a crash and about 20 other safety features I can think of off-hand. I also know of 2 people in the last 2 months that totaled their 95 c220 and a 2000 S 500, both got out without a bruise or any pain the next few days and are very thankful they were in a Mercedes Benz.

Drive safe. Happy Mercedes Motoring, Dave



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### UNDER THE HOOD STAR

Complaints, complaints..How can anyone complain about owning a Mercedes-Benz? The last issue of the star had some letters that were sent with stories about their dissatisfaction, owners saying things like there "190E is an angel unlike the current models" or there 2001 W210 had a rear window failure so they sold the car and kept the 87 300E 124.

Let me tell you I've replaced a hundred rear window regulators on the W124 chassis cars. Yes the W124 were excellent cars, as were the W201's but they had there problems that were taken care of under warranty, and by the time that was up that model had those problems corrected. Sure the motor mounts and bushings wear, electronics have glitches, bulbs go out, emission related items cause the check engine light to come on, (this doesn't mean the engine is going to blow up) and this pertains to all cars.

Now I do agree that some models have a/c freon leaks before there time and the ML 320 power steering hoses coming apart when its cold out and you loose power steering is unacceptable.

I see some cars with 10,000 miles that look like they just rolled off the show room just in for maintenance, and others with the same miles that look ready for the junkyard with a list of complaints that usually cannot be duplicated by the tech. The point is, you take care of the car, and the car will take care of you. Lastly, all those unhappy people who should be grateful to own and be in a Benz in the

*(Continued on page 11)*



## STAR TRACKS 2005

P.O. Box 146 Chester, NJ 07930-0146



### UPCOMING NNJS 2005 EVENTS:

- April 22-24** STAR TECH, Cary NC.
- May 14** May Rallye—Sean Conner
- May 14** Del Valley Section -Tech Session with George Murphy (see ST Jan/Feb 05 p.11)
- May 15** - Princeton Rotary Car Show, coordinated by Bob Wegner
- June** TBA June Jamboree 2005
- June 25-28** Gemuetlichkiet 2005 Auburn Hills, MI
- Sept 2005**— Mid Atlantic Regional Picnic—Falkenhorst
- Oct 2005** —Oktoberfest—Chubb Park
- Nov 2005**— Tech Session—Ray Catena
- Dec 10**—Holiday Party Fairmount Country Club

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