



STAR TRACKS 2004

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA – NORTHERN NEW JERSEY SECTION

September / October 2004

Volume 5 Number 5

INSIDE SEPT/OCT ISSUE:

President/Editors Messages	2
Editor's Mailbag	2
Ed. Journal - Star Fest 2004	3
High Gear	4
Fintail Flyer	5
CoupeFest	6
For Sale	7
Chester Oktoberfest	8
June Jamboree Sponsors	11
Under the Hood Star	12
Upcoming Events 2004	12

Mid-Atlantic Regional Picnic 1 - Ivan 0

Even the rain and wind from Tropical Storm Ivan (the Terrible) could not dampen the spirits of enthusiastic Star People or keep them from enjoying the annual Mid-Atlantic Regional Picnic at Falkenhorst co-hosted by SJS and NNJS on September 18.

Thanks to John Bleimaier for once again opening his home to us for this wonderful event. We had over 100 hardy souls show up to enjoy the cars, the fun, the food, and the fellowship. Regional Director Robby Ackerman was there as well as members from Delaware Valley, GWS, Keystone, Northeast Pennsylvania, Virginia, SJS, and NNJS in attendance.

The skies cleared and the sun even made an appearance during the day to show its approval of the beauties that had weathered the storm and traveled down the long mud and puddle laden driveway and onto the field. Their three pointed stars glistened with raindrops as the members made their way across the field to vote on their favorite in each category.

Thanks to everyone who donated an item or two (or more) to the silent auction and to those people who generously bid on the items. We raised \$157 that will be sent to Florida for hurricane relief.

The winners of the Popular Vote Car Contest
Old Sport

1st Joe Grattan & Agnes Penque 1989 560SL
2nd Klaus Drexel 1969 280SL

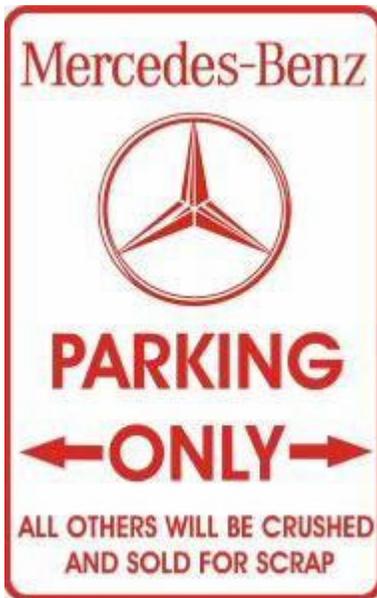
Modern Sport
1st Grant Somerville 2000 CLK430
2nd Dean Nichols 2002 C230K Coupe
3rd George Maulbeck 2004 C230K Coupe

Old Sedan
1st Nick Ford 1986 420SEL
2nd Joe & Pat Mignon 1995 E300D
3rd Harley & Carole Juth 1994 E320

Modern Sedan
1st John Gibson 1999 E300TD
2nd Bob & Claire Wegner 1996 E320
3rd John Donnangelo & Sarah 2004 C240

A special THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make the picnic a success especially: Ed & Pauline Longosz, Dominick & Eva Tucci, Lucille & Frank Chabala, Sean Conner, Doug Ochwat, Mary Taylor, Joe Cristiano, Ken & Loni Spingarn, John Bleimaier, Marina Pushkareva, Danny, Debbie, & Adam Goldberg, and John & Barbaranna Kefalonitis.

We appreciate all of their hard work in setting up the tents and tables, cooking, serving, registering and parking the cars, running the silent auction, and cleaning up. We couldn't have done it without all of your help. -Valerie



Fancy seeing this in any parking lot ! Credits to seller "Monstersign" at eBay if you can't live without one.

NNJS Holiday Party Saturday, December 11, 2004

During the rest of the year the emphasis of the club is on the "Quality of our Stars". This is the time of the year that we get to shine and show off our "Star Qualities." You are cordially invited to attend NNJS Annual Holiday Party at the Fairmount Country Club in Chatham Township, New Jersey on Saturday, December 11th. This is also our premier charity event. This year we will be auctioning off the third in our series of specially commissioned Benz Bears and a Holiday Basket made and donated by Eva Tucci. Members are also asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy to be donated to families who are less fortunate than ours.

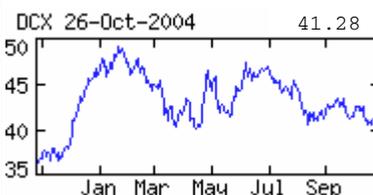
(Continued on page 9)

PRIVATE CAR COLLECTION VIEWING 12th November 2004

Come join other fellow car enthusiasts on Saturday, November 13, 2004 as we tour Ray Catena's private collection of cars at his Mercedes Benz dealership. We will meet in the lobby of the dealership at 9:30 am; from there we will proceed with our escort upstairs in order to view his private collection. This is a very rare and wonderful opportunity for our members, and you **MUST register in advance**. For security reasons, we must have an accurate head count, therefore you **MUST register** with Lucille **before** Wednesday, November 10, 2004. You may register by mail with the coupon on page 11 of the newsletter, or you may email her at luluchab@aol.com. There is no charge for this event and NNJS will provide

(Continued on page 11)

Daimler-Chrysler (NYSE:DCX)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...



The leaves are starting to turn colors as the Fall season and the activities of the club are beginning to turn from outside to inside. There are several wonderful events that are on the horizon for our members to enjoy and I sincerely hope that you avail yourself of as many of them as possible. Not only are you invited to attend events in our section but any other section as well. You can check the MBCA website for links to other sections and take advantage of all that our club has to offer.

Sincerely, Valerie vjcristiano@msn.com

EDITOR'S COMMENT



With every season comes change, and as we bid farewell to Summer 2004 and welcome the autumn, we re-examine our activities and priorities. We managed to pack in yet another warm weather string of concours, picnics, Oktoberfest Harvest and sports outings once again as we maximized our Garden State sunshine quotient, but as the pumpkins turn frosty on chilly nights, our thoughts turn indoors to alternate toasty warm events. Upcoming in November we'll gather in Edison at the showy Ray Catena Mercedes-Benz Dealership for a private viewing of Star Cars in the upstairs museum, and following that, we'll dress to the nines and celebrate our Club friendship at the annual Black Tie Holiday Party, where we not only toast each other for another year well-planned, but work

together to bring a smile for local charity. As always, I hope to see each of you there, and wish you safe Fall driving in the early approaching darkness.

Ellen D. Ruck "190-Girl, The Star Cruiser." eruck@kirkland.com

From the Editor's Mailbag:

Hi Ellen, Brian and I had a great time. You did a wonderful job organizing the event and providing tasty snacks, trophies, and contributing to a worthwhile cause. It was nice to see and chat with Fred and all my Northern Jersey friends!

Be well, Jack
=====

Ellen
Very nice newsletter and you even have StarFest results in it!

Robby Ackerman
Ed. Note: Regarding the J/A 2004 StarTracks
=====

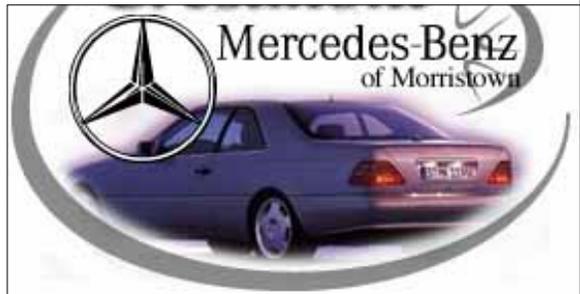
Badgeless Mercedes Automobiles
I read with interest Doug Ochwat's article on the Rear End Identification of German manufactured automobiles. It might interest the readers of Star Tracks that there is also what I would call Non-Identification of Mercedes automobiles. I am a proud owner of a 40th Anniversary Edition of the Mercedes Roadster. It is an 1997 SL-500AE but you would never know it since there is no badge (as Mercedes calls it) on the rear of my car.

On the Anniversary Editions (there was also a SL-320AE) Mercedes chose not to put a badge on these special edition cars. After seeing my Crimson Red beauty I don't know how many times someone, after looking at the rear end, comes up and asks me what the model number of my car

is.
What makes the 1997 SL-500AE so special? Only 500 were produced. It included Special Metallic Crimson Red Paint which was used only on the Anniversary Edition (the standard color that year was Indian Red); Exquisite Parchment Leather; Chestnut wood trim including the steering wheel and Gear Shift Knob; Exclusive Floor mats with "40th Anniversary" embroidered in red; Special Wheel and Tire Package including 17" EVO II Alloy 6 Spoke Wheels and Michelin 245/45 ZR17 High Performance Tires; Embossed "40th Anniversary" Leather Covered Owners Manual; a 6 Disc CD Changer and Heated Seats.

The way you can identify the other 40th Anniversary Model, the SL-320AE, is that it has a Special Metallic Blue Paint and Blue Wood Trim. Only 350 of this model were made.

- Bob Donnelly



STAR TRACKS 2004
The bi-monthly publication of the MBCA-NNJS.

President:
Valerie Cristiano
973-377-2882
vjcristiano@msn.com

Vice President-Operations:
Ken Spingarn
973-377-1997
khs@openix.com

Vice President-Communications:
Frederick G. Perry
703-359-2965
amtech@webspan.net

Treasurer:
Lucille Chabala
973-731-9133
LULUchab@aol.com

Secretary:
Pauline Longosz
973-635-2136
pmlmcas2@aol.com

Technical Advisor:
David Veith
973-731-5871
d1vbenz@aol.com

Editor:
Ellen D. Ruck
908-879-4228
eruck@kirkland.com

Mid Atlantic Regional Director:
Robbie Ackerman
robby@ackerman.net



STARFEST 04 NATIONAL MERCEDES-BENZ CONVENTION

Starfest '04, the national biannual Mercedes-Benz convention, was held July 31- August 4th, 2004 in Mansfield, Ohio and hosted by the Western Reserve Stars section. This much anticipated event brought forth more than 100 Star Cars, each one more exotic and breath taking than the next, from all corners of the USA. Cars were spotted with license tags from coast to coast---California's Fletcher Jones to New York's Big Apple---and all representatives in between. Slowly they trickled in over 2 days registration, with a fairly strong contingent from our home Garden State, until the Benz Force was assembled in full strength.

Except for one. Our very own Fred Perry, departing from the Washington DC metro ring, experienced acceleration difficulties barely one hour out of the Capitol District when flooring his W-107 1989 560 SL. Normally a power monger, this beast was struggling up hills as its 15 year old twin fuel pumps died out on I-70 186 miles shy of Pittsburgh, luckily in broad daylight but very dead on the shoulder. Fred put out a SOS cell phone call immediately to AAA for a flatbed back to Euro Motorcars of Bethesda, MD then celled his Editor/wife to carry onward with her solo journey, in the legendary Red Star 190-E2.6, from NJ straight to Ohio.

Taking one look at the temporarily disabled but dazzling show-car in distress enroute to national competition, Mike Lang of the dealership sprang to action commanding the shop technicians to immediately service the SL so as to carry onward with hope to Starfest. He directed Fred to move to the head of the service queue. Three hours later and with a stern deliverance of verbal guarantee that he could now "smoke out any car on the motoway" Fred repacked the 560SL with his serious concours prep kit and recommenced his Buckeye State journey. Driving with the long distance truckers and nocturnal rain, he arrived at 3:30 AM at the host hotel. Whew! Thank you Mike and Euro Motocar Team!

Starfest 04 was underwritten by Title Sponsor Pirelli, with support from MB USA, MBCA, and Zymol for the Concours D'Elegance. Now all arrived, we registered in the hospitality suite set up by the friendly folks of Western Reserve, each of us clad in a signature yellow day glow Pirelli neck lanyard and section badge denoting our home turf. Adrenalin and excitement eagerly flowed through the facility with miles of smiles, warm handshakes of acquaintances, and discovery of new friends.

MBCA Colorado Club Officers were present, as well as representatives of the Vendor Room.. Our own knowledgeable Ed Ebel was present with his family representing Becker Radio NA; as well as Larry Emmons of Coachworks, supplier of Zymol products: and ExxonMobil with Mobil-1 lubricants. Not to be left out, the whine of a lift gate was overheard, as InterCity Carriers, the preferred closed trucker for MB USA, unloaded the Gullwing, Three Wheeled Replica Car, and other premium toys for viewing at Starfest. Heaven was right at our feet! Behind the Holiday Inn, the biggest and most deluxe Mercedes bath carried on to shame Rose Royce's 1980's production movie "Car Wash". Quintuplet hoses fed five cars at a time under a

tent with plenty of complimentary Zymol products to experiment with, most of us reporting hitting rain somewhere on our inbound journey, with the company representatives on hand to personally deliver concours cleaning guidance. We spent the brilliant afternoon further detailing engines in our respective hotels, and walked that evening to Richland Carousel Park in downtown Mansfield, Ohio for the kick off Welcome Star Party. We dug our heels into the spurs of beautifully hand carved and painted fantasy Carousel full size animals, clutched the polished brass poles, and felt exhilarated on this magical summer night with good things yet to come.

Sunday dawned with acres of sunshine over the Kehoe Campus in Shelby for the much awaited Zymol Concours D'Elegance at a facility to rival Colonial Williamsburg in architecture. We sweated, fostered over minute details, followed directions of the concours chairman, and strutted our best possible effort for the cadre of Judges. There could not be a more perfect venue, weather, or assemblage of fine vehicles. That evening, we were to motor to Ashland University Convocation Center for the awards banquet. No advance directions provided, Fred spotted a sign that proclaimed "Ashland: Home of Ohio's Friendliest People!". We soon seconded the motion, after asking street directions of a male jogger, who then entered the street mainstream, stopped traffic, as to allow our ribbon of Benzes to turn around and proceed! The Mansfield Police Force also guarded our Stars on night patrol, and we express equal thanks for this fine service from the men in blue.

Rob Allan of AMG delivered the keynote speech with an awesome video that kept us on seat's edge until trophy time. Multiple trophies were captured by the NNJS team: Bob Platz Show Class (4) 1969 280SL First Place Harrison Platz Street Class 1959 190SL First Place, Ellen D. Ruck Street Class (8) W-201 1988 190-E2.6 First Place, Fred Perry Street Class (16) W-107 1989 560SL First Place, Greg Calabro Street Class (8) W-201 1986 190-E2.3 16V Second Place, Bob Donnelly Street Class (11) R-129/170/230 1997 500SL Third Place, Joe Grattan Street Class (16) W-107 1986 560SL Third Place.

Events hammered on with Autocross, Time Trials, Defensive Driving, Photo and Scenic Rallies, Craft and Cookery Lessons Tuesday and Wednesday for those who could stay longer. ..

STARFEST '04 - TRACKSIDE VIEW

by Greg Calabro

I have been asked by our newsletter editor to write a couple of paragraphs on the "flavor of" the track events of at Starfest 2004. A couple of paragraphs? A daunting task given my proclivity for going on and on...! So I will cover what I consider the highlights. The track and autocross events were held at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course, a world class track. The fact that the track is world class hit me the following weekend after we arrived home from the event when Speed Channel televised a race from there. It was amazing watching professional drivers taking curves that I was taking only days prior. I was sitting on the sofa expounding to my wife, "I took that curve on that line just like that!". The look on her face of utter disinterest failed to dampen my enthusiasm in the least.

As was to be expected, the track was great although it was an

(Continued on page 10)

High Gear

Do you happen to remember "The Man From UNCLE?" That was the '60s television series which plumbed the depths of the world of international espionage and intrigue. Agents Napoleon Solo and Ilya Kuryakin were pitted against the enemies of civilization in the form of THRUSH and its minions. You could always tell the secret agents from UNCLE because they were driving Finback Mercedes from one safe house to another. While, in those days, regular folks traveled in Dodge Darts, Chevy Belaires and Ford Fairlanes, the habitus of the cloak and dagger world piloted exotica from Sindelfingen. Back then the common folk lived in split- and bi-levels, neo-colonials or ranches, the UNCLE safe houses were castles, villas and ultra-modern architectural showplaces.

The decades have passed but some things never change...

August 2004... It was a moonless night as the pale, fin-tailed 190Dc slipped between the brooding pines of the Monterey peninsula. The unlighted curving byways were shrouded in a heavy mist. I turn the massive, ivory steering wheel into the tight sweepers and feel the feed back from the non-assisted recirculating ball system. Classic, round Bosch fog lamps pierce the gloom with their yellow beams. Right, right and left following cryptic instructions written in invisible ink. Always an eye on the heavily chromed rear view mirror to make sure no one is following us. Down shift the Finback's column-mounted, manual gear selector into 3rd. Left into Viscaino and I spy a conspiratorial group of four starships in a pool of light beside a striking modern edifice. We have found our way to the safe house.

This safe house is an architectural marvel, perched on a bluff in a grove of tortile pines. As I soundlessly disembark from the classic Mercedes I note the structure's signature influences of Frank Lloyd Wright and Richard Noitra. The vaulted ceilings and cantilevered elements come into focus as I breach the fog. I tap out the parole on the door knocker and give the password. The hand crafted oaken door pivots open. The security system announces my entry. I am among friends.

Has your correspondent taken up the life of international espionage? Am I in the thick of deception and conspiracy? Hardly! This is the Pebble Beach classic car weekend and I have successfully navigated my way to the Colson residence which just happens to be located a stone's throw from the venue of the famous Concours d' Elegance and within an easy jog of the Laguna Seca track, site of the Monterey Historic Races. Finding an accommodation in this location on this weekend is decidedly more difficult than locating a safe house for spies in good old East Berlin or Kuala Lumpur!

MBCA national president, Richard Simonds, has invited me to join him and a cell of star people as we enjoy the hospitality of his kinsmen, Eric and Donna Colson, on this special weekend for car aficionados. The Colson's magnificent home is the ideal staging area for our forays down to Pebble Beach, Laguna Seca, the Concorso Italiano, Quail Lodge, as well as the Christies, Bonhams, Goodings and RM collector car auctions. What a kick!

When I got down to the paddock at the Laguna Seca track I saw red. That's because Ferrari was the featured marque for this year's historic races. As the competition began it was a thrill to see the cavalo rampante dicing it out with other noble steeds in the hairpins and down the straight. All this as I luxuriate in the shade of a live oak under the azure California skies on a golden hillside and focus my Steiner optics on the action.

At the Concours d' Elegance my favorite vehicles were a Mercedes 540K with restrained, close-coupled, factory, coupe coachwork; as well as an unrestored, James Dean type, Porsche 550 spyder with the improbable, original, California license plate: "JFK 007." I am much in favor of the recent expansion of the "preservation class" at Pebble Beach. In the real world, every year there are more restored cars and fewer originals. It is surely appropriate that the world's premiere show should particularly honor the surviving "originals."

Ah, the Pebble Beach experience... a magical blend of reality and fantasy. I love it! At the Concorso a gaggle of scarlet vehicles was arrayed on the lawn so as to spell the "F word" when viewed from above. "Ferrari," that is.

During that wonderful weekend I found myself carefully examining a British racing green, pre-war SS Jaguar on the green in front of The Lodge. Suddenly, my every muscle tensed and my senses went on alert as I noticed the car's identification placard. Under the section for owner's name was written the single word: THRUSH!"

John Kuhn Bleimaier

August 2004

STAN'S AUTO TOP



A FAMILY BUSINESS SINCE 1957
SPECIALIZING IN GERMAN CARS

973-635-3443

CHATHAM, NEW JERSEY
PETER SERBANICA

DISCOVERED!
Mercedes Benz Oxymoron - "FINTAIL FLYER"

by Greg Calabro

I always get a good chuckle when I hear an oxymoron. The dictionary defines oxymoron as: *A rhetorical figure in which incongruous or contradictory terms are combined.*

Famous oxymoron's include: jumbo shrimp; deafening silence; military intelligence; and my personal favorite - - happily married. However, the oxy that I get the most "mileage" from is -- turbo diesel*. I have just discovered a new oxymoron penned in the pages of the September issue of *Mercedes Enthusiast* magazine. Contained in that issue is an article with a title that has created, what I call, the Mercedes Benz Oxymoron. The article is called, "Fintail Flyer".

Oxymoron's are two opposite words put together. Hence: jumbo -- meaning large, with shrimp -- having the connotation of small; deafening connoting a very loud sound, with silence -- meaning the absence of sound. Happily married is...well, if you are married, you already know what I mean; and if you are not married, you have get married to find out!

Similarly, fintail -- a slow sedan, and flyer connoting speed or fast, are incongruous terms. Let me explain. The fintail, AKA W220, was a sedan produced from 1959 to 1964. It had a top speed of 100 mph and raced zero to 60 in a blistering, mind numbing 14 seconds! This staid Benz was best utilized as a "sixties" taxi in Europe. Clearly, the fintail is no AMG.

The notion of combining a fintail with the concept of fast speed, creates in my mind, the oxymoron. Fintail flyer -- one more reason for me to chuckle!

I have never let an opportunity pass to "rib" a diesel owning Benz buddy - or anyone else for that matter! For example, I have listened to the gurgle of a running diesel engine and inquired of the owner whether he fed the hamster (powering the engine) that morning? Or, begged the buddy for oxygen when passing the tailpipe. Or, suggesting that my Benz could out run the fellows diesel in a drag race even if my engine off and I was coasting with the parking brake in the on position.

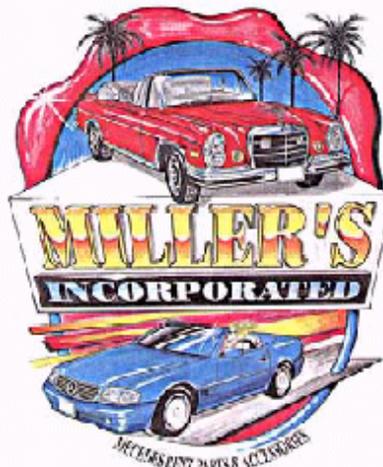
Granted, you had to be there to appreciate some of these ribs-and maybe not even if you were there. ** But there are members out there reading this and remembering, hopefully with the same fondness I have for the memory of the goods times we have shared.

One of my closest MBCA friends is the proud owner of a finback; he is also the subject of a lot of my ribbing. I can't wait to rib him by telling him about the story of the ME article and that "finback flyer" is an oxymoron. Wait..I just did!

To be fair however, lest you get the wrong impression, the Fintail has a strong following and the ME article provides a detailed history of many rally victories. And while I'm being honest, the gents with the finback and the diesels I rib are

**MERCEDES-BENZ PARTS
 SPECIALISTS SINCE 1981**

*Vintage 50's 60's 70's & 80's
 Parts Specialists*



NEW LOCATION



We have Moved to our new warehouse
 Call Kevin O'Brien for Moving Sale Specials !

Miller's East 877-226-1870
 Local 704-226-1870 or 24 Hr. Fax 704-226-1652
 Open Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. EST
 1749 Williams Road, Unit C, Monroe, NC 28110 USA



Visit Our On Line Store - www.millermbz.com

Miller's Inc. has a California Location also:
Miller's West 800-338-7787
17420 Mt. Herrmann, Unit I Fountain Valley, CA 92708
Local 714-557-0115 or 24 Hr. Fax 714-557-0155
Open Monday - Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm PST

some of the best drivers I have ever met and are fast with their cars.

This article is dedicated to all of my MBCA friends who have tolerated my endless jokes and ribbing. All of you are great friends and I thoroughly enjoy the time we spend together at club events. Special tribute goes to three brothers, Darrell, his brother Darrell, and his other Darrell - each of whom have been the subject of my relentless humor.

**If you don't understand something it is probably an inside joke.

Authors disclaimer: the contents of this "tongue in cheek" article are strictly the opinions of the author and is intended to amuse and inform the reader. And if I can get a good "rib" in, all the better!

Read your STAR TRACKS 2004 online:
http://www.mbca.org/northern_new_jersey/NNJMBCA.html

SPRING 04 COUPEFEST CAPADES

with the CoupeFesters

Saturday, June 26th marked the occasion of East Coast Spring 2004 CoupeFest, a gathering of six beautiful SEC Coupe cars representing three states of the core group Delaware Valley. Although technically now summer, it took over three months of



planning since late March to bring together an interested focus group willing to commit to attendance. Rallye Mistress Ellen D. Ruck and her concours Show Car toy Star Cruiser had arranged a Caravan Driving Rallye, Goody

Bags, Country Inn Dinner, and Surprises for 5 other brave CoupeFesters.

On a bright and sunny afternoon at 1 PM sharp Chet & Win Hwilka in their awesome black Coupemobile followed us to Chubb Park in rural Chester, NJ to meet and greet the other CoupeFesters. David Veith of NJ, a senior mechanic technician at Prestige Mercedes-Benz in Paramus, NJ showed up next with his younger son Chris in their mint smoke silver 560. Next car in was the cabernet cruiser of Markus and Nancy Meyer of PA, and after a small hiatus, Matt Mahoney of Mass sailed in, also in a smoke silver car, not to be outdone. Last but not least was Dick Spellman of Mass., also driving solo, who was late because he wanted to see the animals on the Chester farm and wash his car, or so he told us. We shook hands and exchanged hugs, and after debriefing of Rallye driving instructions, which no one listened to, we set off 2 PM in the westward direction conga line style with Star Cruiser in the lead. Dick was fascinated with the plastic Porta Potty house and the rest of the CoupeFesters were gleefully rummaging in their Goody Bags to see how many candy bars fit in a Mercedes-Benz boutique sack.

The Rallye cover sheet warned the CoupeFesters to be aware of "animals, deer, children, and the like" and sure enough, twice within the first five miles, two deer dashed out of the thick undergrowth in front of the lead SEC. We narrowly avoided hitting them in broad daylight and Matt, driving as Car No. 2, was thinking venison might taste good right now. Chet and Win driving Back Door claimed to see nothing but a sea of tail light lenses. Matt, as a matter of fact, had no idea this was a driving rallye where you answer questions and only supplied 2 feeble answers to the 100 questions provided. He mentioned at dinner he was kind of wondering why David kept hitting the brakes and pointing at things. Markus and Nancy, on the other hand, took the rallye very seriously. Within the first few minutes they were already arguing where was the black and white cat, when Nancy really meant to say, the black and white CAR, but by that time, opportunity passed by for a correct answer and the bickering started. For this very reason, the cars are equipped with Black Box flight recorders, so we can play back the marital quibbling for laughs at dinner. Chet & Win quickly earned

IS YOUR VEHICLE PROPERLY INSURED?

Are you protected in case of Fire, Theft, Collision, or Flood Damage?
 What kind of parts will be used?
 Do you have a choice of Repair Shops?
 What is the true & fair amount of coverage if you should have a claim?

Buying an antique, classic, special interest, or muscle car...

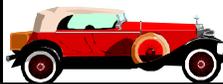
BUYER BEWARE !

Seller Misrepresentation? Odometer Fraud? Prior Collision? True Mechanical Condition? Actual Value?

These and many more questions will be answered when you have East Coast Antique and Classic Auto Appraisers INSPECT, ROAD TEST, and EVALUATE your possible purchase or currently owned vehicle.



LICENSED and BONDED by
 NEW YORK STATE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT
 NEW YORK STATE MOTOR VEHICLE DEPARTMENT as
 AUTO APPRAISERS & BODY DAMAGE ESTIMATORS
 Our Appraisals Accepted by ALL Insurance Companies



East Coast
 Antique & Classic Auto Appraisers

P.O. Box 1189
 MONROE, NEW YORK 10950

ASE Certified and I-CAR Trained

(845) 988-0359
 FAX (845) 988-0411

E-Mail: ecstappr@warwick.net Web <http://ecstappr.tripod.com>

the title SmartyPants, having had prior practice at such rallyes. Dick amazed us all. Driving solo, he not only managed to spill coffee on his pants and clean it up, avoid rear ending the frequently braking David, but also filled in many of the right answers in legible handwriting while talking on the cell phone.

And so the pleasant rallye meandered through some of New Jersey's most historic and scenic backroads as the afternoon wore on! At one point we snaked spiral style down a twisty road to a stop sign creating a most striking helix of desirable SEC's as the CoupeFesters searched for Bruce Springsteen's farm "Born to Run". What a perfect way to spend a day!



By 4:30 we crossed the border into Montana. Yes, there IS a Montana, New Jersey, and it is home to the very scenic and private Merrill Creek Reservoir. Here we pulled uphill to take in the panoramic vista, stretch our legs, uncramp our fingers (either from gripping the steering wheel on the switchbacks, or rallye pen cramp), and loot our Goody Bags a bit more. Keeping an eye to my watch, we had one hour yet to drive to graze Bucks County PA per the Rallye route, so I called out for the Cou-



peFesters to angle park their Stars for a photo shoot. There is a tradition at SEC meets that someone will always break down and experience mechanical difficulties, and right here, in the most remote part of NJ as the sun was setting, Markus decided it would be his turn. No amount of cranking would turn the car over. Ironically on arrival, David flipped his hood open to let his car breathe and cool off, and the Park Ranger asked us if everything was alright. We assured him we were just fine, and the minute he departed, Markus was immobilized. The SEC men gathered under the hood to confer and speculate and deliver last rites, when David discovered quickly that the distributor was fried to a toasty crisp, likely the culprit. The diagnosis was fine, but where to get an OEM MBz distributor and rotor at closing time on a Saturday in a part of NJ more populated by bears than people? Chet proved the point of replacement by offering up his as a demo swap to start the disabled cabernet car, whereupon Markus tried to hop in and take off and we had to hold him back. The phone call to MBz rescue dispatched out of Allentown wasn't the best option and we debated several ideas until Fred sorted out a brilliant idea. We all could return to Chester, where Star Cruiser would donate her organs in a life-giving transplant to help out a fellow species.



The group flew the Coupes, no pun intended, low and fast back to Ellen's house where Dr. Perry removed the distributor surgically using camping lantern light. The hallowed distributor was ceremoniously placed in Fred's Range Rover HSE to transport it quickly via Land Rover navigation system directly back to the reservoir while Ellen took the ladies and other guys to the restaurant. Peeling back the cover of her 14k miles 1991 Double Black 560SEL as an alternate getaway car, Matt asked on the spot to be adopted as my son, and if this was not possible, I might find him snuggled next to the tires later that night. By darkfall Fred and Markus arrived at The Tewksbury Inn to join us for dinner, where I was enjoying my drink intravenously following such excitement.

Ahhhhhh, dinner, time to relax, finally! But there was something strange with the CoupeFest men. Chet and Fred showed up in matching outfits, Markus wanted to take Fred to the reservoir to see if they "could get it on", and Matt and Dick decided to split a check and eat oysters, known as aphrodisiacs in some circles. What gives?

It was time to score the Rallye sheets, or "tests" as Nancy called them. We decided to weight the scores since two CoupeFesters had to drive solo without a Seat Cover, and over cocktails, we conjectured over appropriate factors for each couple as a team effort.

Lively conversation flowed easily seasoned with much laughter as we decided the fate of each CoupeFester. We gave Dick points for handling the coffee spill, having long hair, and driving solo, but had to deduct for not following invitational directions of having a full gas tank at kick off, and for this, he earned First Place. You might want to ask Dick offline what kind of wine he won as a prize. Surprisingly, Nancy & Markus came in second. A whopping ten points was deducted for Distributor Failure, but I added some points back on as Matching Blood Type, in case I ever want my OEM part back again. Matt kind of figured he'd be last, but nonetheless was bolstered by youngest age, arrival even in the face of home emergency, and loudest stereo, so he eaked Third Place admirably despite the odds. Chet & Win were both Birthday Grand Prize Winners and we celebrated with double black 040 chocolate fudge cupcakes I had baked at midnight prior. We parted fine company at 11:30 PM with hugs and kisses outside under the stars.

CoupeFest 04.....you should have been there.....it was a BLAST!



FOR SALE:
2001 ML430 - Special Sport Edition 4WD, V8 24-Valve Engine, 48000 Miles Metallic Desert Silver with Java Leather Upholstery GPS Navigation System, 6-Disc CD Changer, Hands Free Phone, Heated 8-Way Power Seats, Glass Sun Roof, Xenon Headlamps
Many other extras \$26,900
Call Bob at 732-275-1140 or e-mail bobdon@attglobal.net

FOR SALE:
Fitted Luggage for SL-500, SL-600 (Fits body Types 129 and 230)
Cost New \$395. Will Sell for \$200 or B/O
Call Bob at 732-275-1140 ore-mail bobdon@attglobal.net

CLC OKTOBERFEST CHESTER NJ 2004

The best things in life represent a strong bond in partnership with the joie d'vivre of passion mixed with commitment for the cause, and such was the case Saturday, October 2nd at the sixth annual Chester Lions Club Oktoberfest 2004 held at Chubb Park on Route 24 West in Morris County. This worthy and seasonal event is the foremost important fundraiser of the year for CLC, and all the proceeds of the 2-day weekend event go to the Charity Budget, which supports local Fire Departments, Scout Troops, Little League Team Sponsorships, local High School scholarships, New Jersey Battered Women, the Market Street Mission, Morris County ARC, Matheny School, DARE Graduation, the New Jersey Lions' Eye Bank., Seeing Eye program, and 16 other charities. Sight preservation, a very precious natural resource, is a key effort of CLC activities.

It was the extreme pleasure of the MBCA-NNJS Club to be invited to produce a German Car Cruise In at this event by Bernie Anger, CLC Co-Chairman, and Joe Gaudio, incoming 2005 CLC Club President. In exchange for a private Show Ring large enough to accommodate 30 cars in the center forefront of the county park with highly visible Route 24 frontage, we agreed to donate \$5 per Star Car in attendance to the Charity Cause. Not only would we enhance the flavor of this very authentic celebration with a display of some of the Club's finest Show Cars and daily drivers, but we'd have fun gathering in our hometown to support a most worthwhile cause. Anticipation mounted Thursday night before the event as the massive yellow and white striped Oktoberfest pavilion tents were erected and electricity was installed, and in our area, our 10x20 foot private MBCA-NNJS Hospitality Tent was also pitched that night with the generous helping hands of CLC volunteers and Mendham High School girls.

The main stage was decorated with fresh hay bales and aged oak beer barrels, where the 10 piece Adler Family Band was expected to perform over the weekend. Interested CLC Member Ken Sperling was a valuable asset to our German Car Cruise In show plans. Ken made sure we had adequate volunteer help throughout, prepared us an official Show Sign for our entrance gate, and even placed a Star Ledger ad featuring our Club effort at a late hour to drum up support. We are grateful for all of the help we received from the CLC Officers to make our partnership event soar. Dennis Yuro and his authentic German schnauzer Sammy were our first Cruise In arrivals in a classic chiffon Porsche. As he detailed his car from his long drive, Co-Chairs Bob and Claire Wegner and Ellen Ruck began to ferry their collection of Stars onto the show field, numbering nine Mercedes-Benz between them. The Show Ring was taking shape quickly as the noon hour approached with the further arrival of Sean and Kris Conner, Alan and Teri Snyder, David and Donna Veith, Nick and Barb Ford, and Mark and Michelle Suscavage all of whom drove select W126 chassis models.

The lineup was a "Dream Girls" Team of sleek long wheel base late 80's/early 90's Bruno Sacco creations prominently exhibiting their signature striped tail light rear ends to the rear while forward facing silver hood stars stood at attention facing our other contingents in the more modern division. Across the aisle, we had a trio of fine diesels representing Shelley Kennedy and Anthony Ce-

rami and Anna, and Sean's Bruno. We were joined by new Members Mike & Debbie motoring into our ring in a sharp black ML, Ron & Nancy Gossow from LI in their sleek 2002 CLK 320, SJS Editor Jack Morelli and his son Brian arrived in an eye catching black C280, and to complete our festive line up, Bob and Joan Donnelly in the Red Baron 1997 SL 500 coupe style with the hard top on for the season. Bob delighted us by wearing a handmade Edelweiss Oktoberfest costume. Late arrivals included a carload of Becker NA Members and SEC-full of fellows from NYC MB Coupes Group.

Let the party start! We enjoyed a catered Lunch Party under the tent as the member's children and pets played happily in our gated field. Oktoberfest means harvest, and the delectable spread brought rave reviews as the cool air encouraged appetites to snack on cured meats, Italian gourmet sandwiches, crisp crudite, aged cheeses, Halloween candy, dry snacks, and ripe fruits of the season. Under the CLC tent, Becks' Beer was the main sponsor for those wishing a swig of grig in a plastic mug! The band amped up, we mingled and swapped endless car and engine talk, and enjoyed inviting the public showgoers to vote in our People's Choice contest. Furry Llamas nearby kept us company along with an intriguing hang glider, and six New Car Dealers brought 18 brand new models including the Chrysler 300 Hemi for our viewing pleasure throughout the afternoon. A myriad of children's Hot Air Games were available, and CLC volunteers cooked up a serious Oktoberfest cuisine offering, while lovely German maidens dressed in beautiful costumes posed for photographs.

At day's end, NNJS Co-Chairpersons awarded a participation trophy for each Star Couple displaying a car for charity. Bernie and Joe of CLC delivered a short keynote speech to the Membership as they accepted their donation check, and then the Ladies of the Club were quizzed with thought provoking car questions to claim their trophies. They were asked such queries as "Who shifts with the bruises?" and "Who rolls with the chrome?" for fun. Bob Wegner delivered a trophy for Best Odometer Poker based on mileage, and then VP Communications Fred Perry announced the winners in the People's Choice voting contest. Claire's blue 1956 190SL was the First Place crowd pleaser, followed by Bob's 1971 silver 280SL, with Bob Donnelly's persimmon roadster a third place favorite. The CLC has eagerly invited us to return to Oktoberfest 2005 based on our successful German Car Cruise In participation, and we are anxious to oblige based on some of the super comments you will read in Editor's Mailbag in this issue. They've even asked some of us who are locally based to display for two days, due to requests of the general attending public. Will you join us next year in this wonderful partnership of community and Starships? 2004 brought us 24 cars and we'd like to double our goal!

----ED NOTE: Special thanks to CLC Officers, Chester Township Police Dept., Chester Lioness Club, Mendham HS Volunteers, Chester Volunteer Fire Company, and Bob and Claire Wegner, and the helping hands of NNJS. We couldn't have done so well without you! ---Ellen D. Ruck.

(Continued from page 1)

The evening will begin with your favorite libation and delicious hot and cold hors d'oeuvres in the Oak Room from 6:00 to 7:30. This will be followed by a sumptuous sit-down dinner and dancing in the Fairmount Room from 7:30 until 11:00. There will also be an open bar all evening. Pete Limone will once again provide the music for our listening and dancing pleasure. As in the past, members will be awarded their 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 year pins. The Member of the Year Award will be presented.

Mark the date on your calendar now, Saturday, December 11th. Remember we will gather at 6:00 pm for the cocktail hour. Get out your fancy dress, your best suit or tuxedo and join in the fun at the Holiday Party. Black tie is optional, but gentlemen, remember how elegant your lady will look in her best dress so make sure you take the time to look your most debonair.

Our **Championship** evening will consist of the following:

Cocktail Hour

- Fresh Sliced Fruits, Imported & Domestic Cheeses
- Crudites of Fresh Vegetables with Dipping Sauce
- Dim Sum with Duck Sauce , Scallops Wrapped in Bacon
- Spring Roll with Oriental Mustard Sauce
- Grape Leaves Stuffed with Feta Cheese
- Brochette of Chicken Sesame
- Smoked Cocktail Franks in Puff Pastry
- Lollipop Lamb Chops , Shrimp Cocktail

Appetizer

Fresh Melon and Selected Seasoned Berries

Salad

Mesclun Salad with Champagne Vinaigrette or Blue Cheese

Dinner

Sliced Tenderloin of Beef & Chicken Duxelle *or*

Duet of Grilled Jumbo Shrimp & Seared Sirloin Strip Steak
Dessert
Hazelnut Torte with Marinated Raspberries au Grand Marnier .

The cost per person for the evening is \$65.

Please send your reservation form and check to Lucille before December 3rd. If you want to get a table together, please indicate so on your reservation form along with the names of the people with whom you would like to sit and we will attempt to set aside a table for you.

DIRECTIONS:

Fairmount Country Club is located at 400 Southern Blvd in Chatham Township, NJ. Phone 973-377-8900
Rt. 24 West to Rt. 124W Chatham (Main Street) Exit 7B/A. Go 4 traffic lights and turn left on Fairmount Avenue. Then go 2 traffic lights and turn right on Southern Blvd. Go approx. 1.5 miles. Fairmount CC is on your right.

Via I-287 North:

Get off at exit 35 (Rt 124) and make a right at the light then make your first left onto Woodland Road. At the 2nd light make a right onto Green Village Road. Go through the next light (the name of the road changes to Southern Blvd). Go approx. ¼ of a mile and Fairmount CC will be on your left.

Via I-287 South :

Get off at exit 35 (Rt 124) and make a right at the top of the exit and then immediately get into the left lane. Make a left at the light (South Street) then go through one light and then make your first left onto Woodland Road. At the 2nd light make a right onto Green Village Road. Go through the next light (the name of the road changes to Southern Blvd). Go approx. ¼ of a

Holiday Party Saturday 11 December, 2004 - Fairmount Country Club

Please Register by 30 November 2004

Number Attending: _____ **Email Address:** _____

Full Name(s) of Attending _____

Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

Entrée: ___ Tenderloin/Chicken + ___ Shrimp/Sirloin = ___ x \$65.00 each = \$ _____

Send Form to: Lucille Chabala, 6 Brook Way, West Orange, NJ 07052

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

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 vjcristiano@msn.com



If you're a safe driver,
you should pay less.
That's our stand.



If you're a safe driver, I can help you save money on your car insurance. Call me today.

(973) 822-1331

Mark Olson CLU, ChFC, MSFS

The Olson Agency, LLC
12 Main Street
Madison
markolson@allstate.com

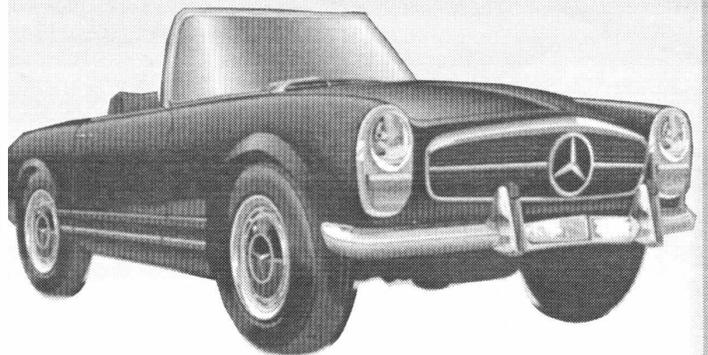


Allstate.
You're in good hands.

Call for a free quote.

Discount and insurance subject to availability and qualifications. Discount amount may be lower and applies to most major coverages. Allstate New Jersey Insurance Company, Home Office, Bridgewater, NJ ©2004 Allstate Insurance Company.

Flemington Foreign Car Repair



Servicing European Cars Is Our Business.

- We specialize in European Automobiles
 - Over 18 Years Experience
- We Accept All Major Credit Cards, Personal Checks
- We Will Maintain Your New Car Factory Warranty
 - All Service and Repair Work
- Authorized Emission Repair Facility

Flemington Foreign Car Repair

35 Route 12 in Flemington

(908) 806-CARS



(STAR FEST Continued from page 3)

incredibly hard technical track. MBUSA treated us to rides in a Maybach and a replica 1800's 3 Wheeler. They also had 2 smart cars that we could test drive.

The autocross was not set up in the usual way with cones as a guide. Instead, the course was outlined in painted path with lines on the left and right to drive between. It looked easier than it actually turned out to be.

The acceleration run was held at Dragway 42 which had the typical "Christmas lights" that signaled the start of the drag race. MBUSA set up the Maybach against the 1800's 3-wheeler on the starting line for a photo op and drag race. The other highlight of the acceleration run event was the pairing 2 Cosworth 16 valves, one a stock 1986 driven by me and the other a modified Euro version driven by our MBCA Regional Director, Robby Ackerman. Onlookers pointed each time we were paired at the line. Robby got the better time on each run, but just wait until next year!

I was delighted to see many novices at the track and many newer Mercedes participating. *-greg calabro*

See the Western Reserve Section website www.benzclub.org and your MBCA Star magazine for follow up details later this season. StarFest was a blast and worth every one of the 1,010 miles I drove! Thank you to all of the sponsors and the Host Section, your collective efforts were absolutely stellar! --Ellen D. Ruck



Mercedes Benz

**The Service Center
With All The Options.**

**CONTEMPORARY
MOTOR CARS INC.**



(732) 842-5353

100 Oceanport Ave., **Little Silver, NJ**

Exclusive Mercedes-Benz Center.

Visit our pre-owned inventory @ www.contemporaryymb.com

(Continued from page 1)

refreshments in the lobby before we begin. Ray Catena Mercedes Motor Cars is located at 910 Route 1 in Edison, New Jersey.

Ray Catena Private Car Viewing Saturday 13th November

Please Register by 10th November 2004

Number Attending: _____ Email Address: _____

Name(s) of Attending _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Send Form to: Lucille Chabala, 6 Brook Way, West Orange, NJ 07052

Some of our 2004 June Jamboree main sponsors

GLOBE
 1230 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE FAIRFIELD, NJ
973-227-3600
 www.globemotorcar.com

**Benzel-Busch Motor
 Car Corp**

Millennium
 AUTOMOTIVE GROUP
 1250 Route 22 East, Bridgewater • 908.685.0800
 An Exclusive Mercedes-Benz Center

prestige motors
 INTERNET ADDRESS
 www.prestigemb.com
 405 Route 17, Paramus, NJ
201-265-7800

YOUR SYMBOL OF TRUST



MERCEDES-BENZ OF MORRISTOWN

THE CENTER FOR MERCEDES-BENZ MOTORCARS IN NEW JERSEY

34 RIDGEDALE AVENUE • MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY • 973-267-5000
www.mercedescenter.com/morristown



Mercedes-Benz



FINE AUTOMOTIVE ELECTRONICS,
DETAILING AND ACCESSORIES



Complete Detailing Packages
Concours Prep • Paintless Dent Removal
Symphony Sound Systems

19 E. HENRY STREET • BASKING RIDGE • NJ • 07920

908-766-7115

UNDER THE HOOD STAR

More on fuel pumps, I talked about pumps outside the tank and some inside the tank, submerged in gasoline. Provide electricity in gasoline to power up the electric pump? This should cause an explosion right? Not so, since the pump is submerged in gas there is no oxygen and the gas cools the motors windings to prevent over heating. Without oxygen there can't be spark for an explosion. A relay is always used to power up the pump and also cuts down on wiring used in the vehicle. Now the diesels' use the engine timing change gear to turn the fuel injection pump to inject fuel into the engine and also pump fuel from the tank mechanically, no electricity. Now one the new E300 CDI(05)W211, there is an electric helper pump in the fuel tank to pump fuel to a very high pressure pump at the engine(mechanical) to produce up to 300 BAR of pressure, which equals over 4000 pounds of pressure per square inch. This new diesel is very sophisticated with lots of electronic processors and sensors, and does it go fast? Yes.

More on this diesel next time,

Happy mercedes motoring, Dave



**STAR
TRACKS
2004**



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

UPCOMING NNJS 2004-2005 EVENTS:

Nov 13 Ray Catena Mercedes-Benz: Viewing the Private collection

Dec 11 NNJS Holiday Party - Fairmount Country Club

Jan 25-30 Barrett- Jackson Auto Auction
<http://www.barrett-jackson.com>

Please contact Valerie Cristiano, President, or the Editor for permission to reprint information from this publication.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Place Mailing Label Here

