

STAR TRACKS 2007



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 5

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2007

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Sunday, 21 October 2007

Autumn along the Delaware River is beautiful, especially in Hunterdon County, New Jersey and Bucks County, Pennsylvania. And it's even more beautiful when we explore the rural byways amid peak foliage and discover the few covered bridges remaining!

Come join us on a drive through this beautiful region on **Sunday, 21 October 2007**.

We'll start out by meeting at 10:30 a.m. for coffee, etc. at the Perkins Family Restaurant just off US Route 202 South in Flemington, the



county seat of Hunterdon County. Just make a right turn off Church Street before the Flemington Shopping Center and the Flemington Traffic Circle.

We'll get our route/itinerary and leave the Perkins parking lot by 11:30, heading first to the Green Sergeants Covered Bridge on Rosemont-Ringoes Road (County Road 604). It's unique because it's covered in the westbound direction only--the eastbound lane is a regular bridge. From there we'll continue past farms and homes to Raven Rock State Park, where we'll



turn right to drive north on State Route 29 to Frenchtown, where we'll turn left and cross the Delaware into

Pennsylvania, discovering the Uhlerstown Bridge, driving through Tinicum to the Erwinna Bridge, then on to the Frankenfield Bridge, Loux Bridge, Cabin Run Bridge, and, finally, the Van Sant Bridge on the Pennsylvania side.

Along the way, we'll pass near New Hope and the Bowman's Hill Tower, as we drive south to Washington's Crossing, where we'll cross back into New Jersey and take

New Jersey Route 29 north to Lambertville and on to Stockton, where we will meet at 5:00 p.m. or so at the Stockton Inn--the "small hotel with a wishing well" from the song--to enjoy dinner together.



This will NOT be a rally or a competition of any sort--just an afternoon of pure driving pleasure at your leisure! You'll be able to use "Comand" or your GPS on this drive--indeed, you may want to stop in Frenchtown, New Hope or Lambertville, to go antiquing or shopping.

This event will be perfect for top-down motoring. Be sure to take your camera to capture the beauty along the way!

Please fill out the coupon on the next page so that we can have a head count for this event--We are in the process of arranging a set dinner at the Stockton Inn (with choices of entrées, etc.). The more the merrier for this event!

We will keep our members posted on the latest information via email.

First Annual Covered Bridge Tour—Sunday, October 21

I/We will be participating in the Covered Bridge Tour on Sunday, Oct. 21 beginning at 10:30am at Perkins Family Restaurant, Flemington, NJ 08822 and ending at the Stockton Inn, Stockton, NJ 08559

Name (s): _____ **Telephone:** _____

E-mail: _____

No. of cars: _____ **Will you be staying for dinner?** _____

Send this coupon, email or call Lucille Chabala 6 Brook Way West Orange, NJ 07052

LuluChab@aol.com or 973-731-9133



For Sale: 1967 300SE Convertible Coupe, VIN11202312009493. One owner, garaged for life in New Jersey and Florida. Exterior, interior, and engine in excellent condition. Exterior is white and interior is original blue leather. Blue convertible top is original. Mileage estimated at approx. 150,000. Refinished in 1985 and recently tuned by Bob Platz at Precision Autoworks (currently stored at Precision Auto-



works). Asking \$45,000 or best offer. Photos attached. Contact Kevin Henry at kevinandbethhenry@yahoo.com or 610-213-3133.



For Sale: 1977 450 SEL 6.9 Euro model - brown/bronze with beige velour interior. This car is in very good condition. It has 97k miles. Good tires. No rust. Comes with full maintenance records and owner's manual. \$5000. Call Ojars 201-723-5685.

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Welcome June & July 2007

New Members

Russell Bey	Don & Sally Tauber
Garland Farwell	Charles Thomas
Richard Luongo	James & Tara Bratek
Frederick K. Moss	Adeline Bruni
John & Amanda Paul	Edward & Jane Esposito
Maria & Richard Rampinelli	Marc Farbstein
Michael Rubin	Vernon L. Tatem, Sr.

NNJS Annual Mid-Atlantic Regional Picnic & Car Show Sunday, September 23, 2007 at Falkenhorst

Get ready to enjoy our annual car show and picnic at “Falkenhorst”, John Bleimaier’s 18th century country home. We will have some chairs and tables, but if you have your own please bring them. The fourth Sunday in September will be hot and sunny, the smell of freshly mown grass will be in the air, free hamburgers, hot dogs, pizza, sodas and a bunch of other stuff will be on the tables under the tents.



For many years, folks have brought entrées, salads, appetizers and desserts to the picnic. We continue that tradition this year, but would like to emphasize bringing more salads, side dishes and appetizers rather than desserts.

We will enjoy the friendly competition of a **six category popular vote car show**. There will be a ‘**silent auction**’ (proceeds to charity). Bring something lightly used. John will have slides of the latest Concours at Pebble Beach; you will see and vote on a bunch of great cars. Last year we had more than fifty cars. Sounds like a lot to do in one afternoon, but we’ll squeeze it all in. Plan to bring the kids.



This event is co-sponsored by the South Jersey Section. There is no cost to you, but **WE NEED A COUNT**. We have to buy the food, beverages and supplies. Please complete and mail the coupon below or contact Lucille Chabala by phone or email.

I/We will be attending the NNJS MidAtlantic Regional Picnic & Car Show on **Sunday, September 23, 2007 beginning 11AM**. Please bring along an appetizer, salad or entrée as well as an item to donate for the silent auction. You may also want to bring along folding chairs, umbrellas and other comfort items. There is no charge for this event. NNJS will be electing officers this year at the picnic.

Name(s): _____

Email: _____

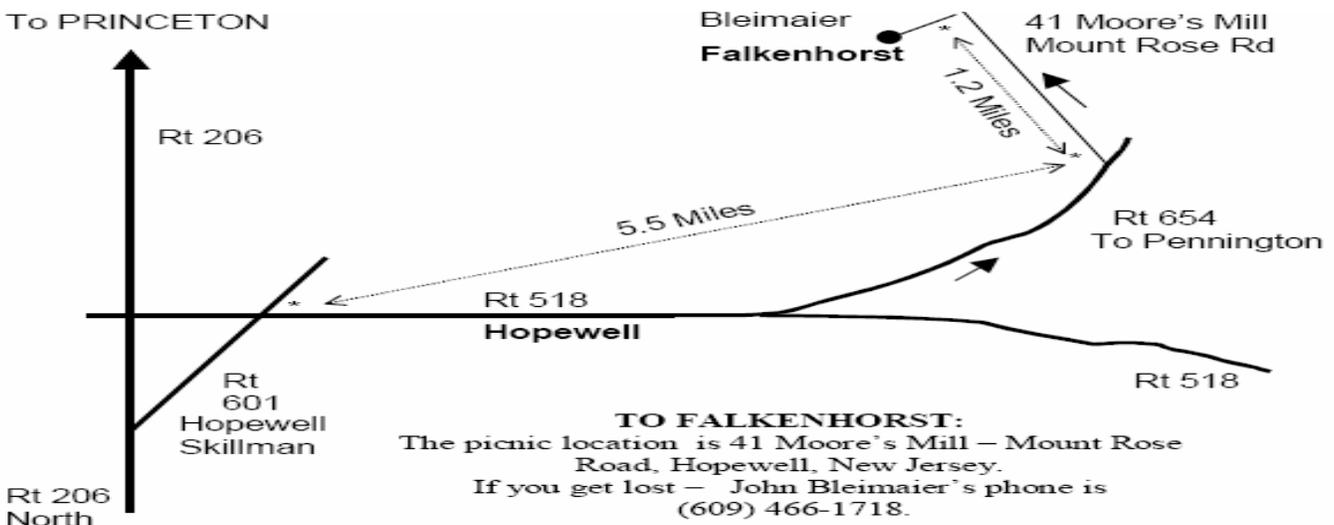
No. of people attending: _____

No. of cars to be displayed: _____

I am bringing to the picnic: Appetizer Salad Side dish Entrée _____

Lucille Chabala 6 Brook Way, West Orange NJ 07052 973-731-9133

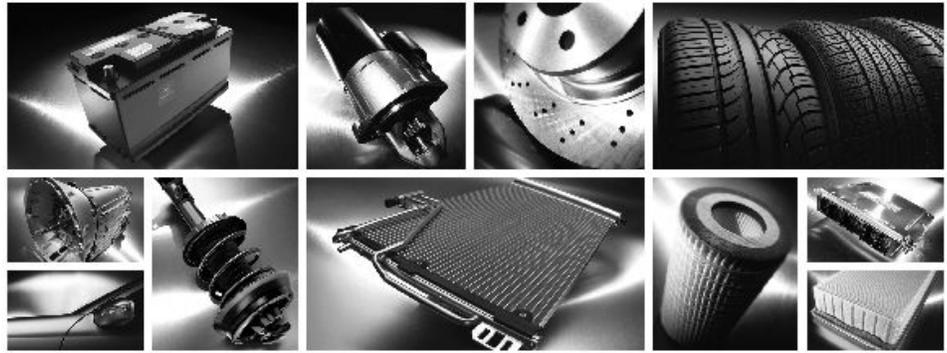
LULUCHAB@aol.com



Another great "Tire Kicking" Session

About a dozen members met on Saturday, July 28, 2007 at Mercedes-Benz of Princeton. After "kicking some tires" in the parking lot, we moved inside to the air-conditioned customer lounge, since it was very hot that day. We continued our "Shoptalk" and had the chance to meet some new club members, too. We also had a chance to admire the new C Class, which was scheduled for test drives that day. What a nice Automobile. Thank you, to the owner of Mercedes-Benz of Princeton, Bob Greses, the General Sales Manager, Tom Knobloch and staff, for making us feel welcome. Our next "Tire Kicking" Session is on Saturday, October 27, 2007.

Time and location will be posted on our website and expect email notification.



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Technical Corner

Andreas Molde—

amh86@optonline.net

This month I'd like to resume our Q&A format and answer questions from our members. I encourage you to continue sending me your questions via email.

Q:

Is there any part related to the heater/ac blower motor that would cause it to sound like a bird chirping when on low speed? Or is the motor just going?
After my 1990 560 SEC is running for

fifteen minutes or longer the low speed on the blower motor sends out a high pitched chirping noise. Odd thing is when you stop and put the car in "park", the noise is not as frequent. Would not bother me if it was on the high speed, but I never use that. When on auto, once the temperature reaches the desired level, the blower settles down to low and chirping sound is heard. It happens on low speed in heat, a/c and "ec" operation. Just want to know if there is something I am not aware of before changing the blower motor I have five cars in ranging from 1959-1978 that have never had the blower motor changed.

My 1990 560 SEC 90,000 miles motor makes noise not including 1987 300 SDL which I consider "new" or newer

keep cruisin...

Jay

A:

Hi Jay,
You are right on target, it's the blower motor going. Time to replace it. You could try to lubricate it, but that may turn out to be a waste of time.



Continued on page 6

OKTOBERFEST 2007

Saturday, Sept. 29th from 11 am to around 3:30 pm — Chubb Park, Chester, NJ

On Old RT. 24 approximately 1 mile west of RT. 206

Featuring authentic Oktoberfest music, food, and official German Oktoberfest outfits

Cost: \$20.00 per car. Here's what you get back, you will receive \$15.00 per car in food vouchers, free admission to the Oktoberfest. Water, coffee & snacks are supplied by the Club. Authentic Oktoberfest music and dancing.

Trophies awarded for sedans, coupes, wagons & SUV's, roadsters & convertibles, along with Best of Show.

Exclusive Mercedes-Benz Grouping!

There will be a gag odometer trophy and prize for best Lederhosen outfit (this year, featuring couples). Pre-reservation is welcomed, although you may pay at the gate. We would appreciate a count of the amount of cars attending. Please contact Lucille Chabala at LuluChab@aol.com or 973-731-9133. Please direct any questions about the event to Bob Wegner at my280sl@verizon.net or 973- 515-0052

From the VeeP.....Doug Ochwat



You are reading this newsletter and it's late August and you haven't attended any club event this year. Well, guess what? It is not too late. Late summer and the fall are prime times to attend a club event..

You can start on September 23rd, by attending one of the biggest events of the year. The NNJS Annual mid-Atlantic Regional picnic takes place at Falkenhorst in Hopewell, NJ. It's a people's choice car show, a picnic, a Pebble Beach slide show and this year election of officers, all wrapped into one great afternoon. The second event you could attend in September is Oktoberfest in Chester on September 29th. It also includes a people's choice car show and all the typical Oktoberfest festivities. So, come on out and join the fun.

On October 13th Benzel-Bush Mercedes-Benz in Englewood is hosting our section at another one of their great tech sessions. This one will feature the all new for 2008 C-Class. The following week we are having our first ever Covered Bridge Tour through Hunterdon County, NJ and Bucks County, PA. As is obvious, our events are spread all over Northern New Jersey. With plans still being worked on for November, the last event I'd like to highlight is our annual Christmas/Holiday party on December 1st at the beautiful Essex Falls Country Club. This year's party will be different from the past in that it will be a brunch, rather than an evening dinner and children are welcome.

Details on all these events are in this issue of STAR TRACKS. Although the fall is fast approaching, there are still a lot of good times to be had during the remainder of 2007 and I personally look forward to seeing you at as many of these events as you can attend.

Reminder:

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

We need your email address

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

We're on the Web!

[www.mbca.org/northernnew jersey/nnjmbca.html](http://www.mbca.org/northernnewjersey/nnjmbca.html)

Click to follow link

Reminder:

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

khs@openix.com

Continued from page 4

Technical Corner

Q:Hello,

I got your email off the MB Club site. I'm in Bergen county. I recently bought a 1981 280 with 66k documented miles. It is verified by MBUSA to not be grey market. It was a weekend car in the Hamptons that had been parked for about 6 years. I towed it home and tried to nurse it back to health by pouring oil into the cylinders and letting it sit a while before starting. I replaced the gas. gave it new wires air filter, cap and rotor. Then I started it and let it run a little... it started real easy. Then gradually I drove it around the block. So on and so forth. It has not improved. It still blows smoke upon deceleration, makes noise etc. I called the guy who sold it and he said that he got it started and drove it real hard to clean it out for me. Ughh!!!!

Originally, I bought it thinking that I could spend a couple thousand on the body and motor and have a damn fine 66k w123. Now I have a very pretty, rusty (under) car with 66k miles, a heap of motor problems, but everything inside works, the cluster including the clock, the cruise, climate control, window switches, good glass, window motors (rear driver window hops on track) sunroof, wipers, all wood trim is crack free, great dash, all seats are brand new condition mb tex carpets are pristine except for drivers is a little frayed behind where the left foot goes. Antenna motor, original radio, charging alternator, steering wheel is beautiful, exterior trim, grill. All lights (lenses) are intact and in clean good shape. I don't know if people use used suspension parts, but this car sits so perfect and does not have excessive bounce, nor does it pull even at high speeds. I'm not sure if the tranny is bad, or if the linkage needs adjustment, I'm not a mechanic, but I think it might just be the linkage.

To make a long story short do you

know anybody who is looking for a treasure trove of W123 interior, electric motors, glass, lenses, and body trim for relatively cheap?

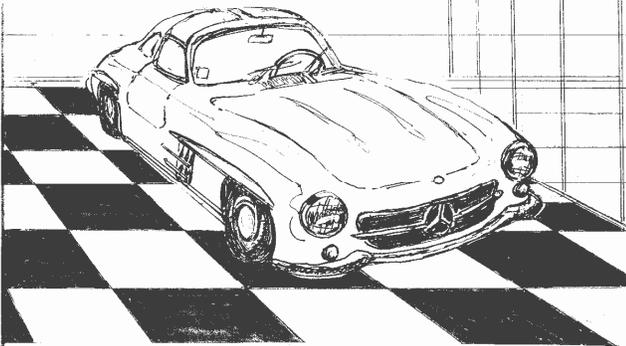
I'm going to take a bath on this no matter what, but I'd like it to go to a worthy cause. The interior is literally showroom quality, except for the drivers carpet and dashbox cover. Dark blue interior. Thank you for any help you might give me. Chris A.

A: Hi Chris,

So did you take it to Bell's ,or someplace else? I hope you received my previous response, when you were looking for a repair shop.

I don't know of anybody looking for project cars and to be honest, I have a tendency to discourage people from getting involved in cars like that, because they usually turn in to never ending story's/money pits. Of course, there are always people looking for parts cars. Perhaps you could list it in our club Newsletter and /or in the Star magazine. Continued on next page 7.

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continued from page 6

Technical Corner

Now getting to the noise and smoke. The 280 engine(110) tends to be noisy, coming from the valves/camshafts. Even after properly adjusting them the engine is fairly loud.

As far as the smoke is concerned, if it is a US car/engine, then you have a vacuum pump mounted in front of the engine. The diaphragm inside that pump tends to rip, and engine oil gets sucked into the intake and causes smoke at deceleration. I would suggest that you have somebody with MB experience take a look at it.

Hope this helps, Andreas

Q:

I have a 2001 ML320. What type of Freon does the a/c use? How are the spark plugs changed? How do you check the transmission fluid?

Thank you,

Warren

A:

Hi Warren

Your ML uses R134a Freon, as all Mercedes do, starting in, I believe 1992. In order to check the Trans fluid level, you need a "work shop tool" dipstick. Your car and any other Mercedes, starting in 1996,

did not come with a Trans dipstick and you can not buy one that stay's in there permanently. You can purchase the shop tool from any dealer(don't expect them to have it in stock) or find it online, the cost is about \$ 45-50 .

Now, getting to your spark plugs. It is a little difficult to access them. It starts with removing the plug connectors and possibly the coils. There are again special tools available which you can find online, too. You do not want to pull on the ignition wires, that is a sure way to damage them. From there on, the plugs are removed just like on any other car, but there is very little room in that engine compartment. Also, it is important that you reconnect the spark plug connectors in the proper sequence, which is indicated on both sides, in the valve cover. Frankly, I would not recommend you tackle that job if you are not experienced.

Here are some websites where you may purchase tools for your MB.

- www.asttool.com
- www.baumtools.com
- www.samstagsales.com

Hope this helps.

Andreas



Question: In what year did the first Mercedes Benz logo (3 pointed star) appear on an automobile?

Answer: The three-pointed star had been designed by Gottlieb Daimler, to show the ability of his motors for land, air, and sea use. This star first appeared on a DMG model in 1909, so it was chosen for the new logo.



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Mercedes-Benz



Porsche



On the lovely, sunny morning of Sunday, August 12, starting around 11:00 a.m., Mercedes and Porsche Club members gathered at Falkenhorst, the Hopewell, New Jersey home of John Kuhn Bleimaier, to pick up the maps and materials for a "navigation" rallye in the beautiful western New Jersey countryside.



Participants had to navigate between the village of Hopewell, Harbourton, Mount Airy, Ringoes, Sergeantsville, Rosemont, and back to Falkenhorst. Drivers and their navigators had to prove they were at the various landmarks (whose photos appeared in the materials) by answering questions in the handouts. There were also bonus questions, which, in one case, settled a tie in mileage. One of the six photos depicted the Black Bass Inn on Route 32 in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. This required drivers to park at Bull Island State Park on the New Jersey side and cross over the footbridge!

The rallye ended at Falkenhorst, where participants dined on pizza, salad, soft drinks, and cookies while awaiting the tabulation of the results for the three classes of participants: Mercedes drivers and experienced and novice Porsche rallye drivers. The car with the least mileage expended in seeing all of the landmarks got first place in each class. Nevertheless, no matter in which place one finished, a good time was had by all!

Photos by Carl Ian Schwartz



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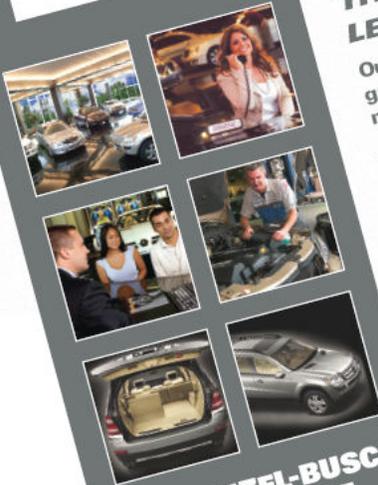
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TECH SESSION AT BENZEL-BUSCH – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2007

Want to see the new C Class sedan? Want to test drive the new C Class sedan?

Benzel-Busch Motor Car Corp. will host a tech session on October 13, 2007. The feature attraction at the session will be the unveiling of the new 2008 C Class sedan. Not only will the members be treated to a learn about, sit in, and examination, but Benzel-Busch has offered to allow each of our members to test drive this new vehicle.

Plan on getting there early (as early as 9:30) for a 10:00 a.m. start. The address and other information may be found in Benzel-Busch's full page advertisement on page 9 in this newsletter.

Benzel-Busch Motor Car Corp, Englewood, NJ, one of the nation's largest Mercedes-Benz dealerships, continues to offer MBCA members a **15% discount** off service and parts at their dealership. To qualify for the discount, make an appointment for service of your Mercedes-Benz and present your MBCA membership card to obtain the discount off your invoice.

In the past, Benzel-Busch and Jay Agresta, an owner of Benzel-Busch, has supported our club by treating us to tech sessions, giving us tickets to the NY Auto Show, and supplying yearly prizes for June Jamboree. Also for the second year, they have placed a full page advertisement in our newsletter. Thank you to Benzel-Busch and the Agresta

family for all of their support. The pictures on the right represent both the "Sport" and "Luxury" models of the new C class. Notice the difference in grill design between the two models. Many other changes have been made to the new C class. Take a Saturday drive to experience a thrill!



In Memoriam – Ed and Pauline Longosz



Ed was a very enthusiastic member of our section. He was involved in many of the club events, especially "behind the scenes", he was a judge at the June Jamboree, helped to rewrite and update our section's by-laws, as well as member of the National Membership Committee. Ed passed away in May.



Pauline, our section's secretary for many years, passed away in July. Pauline was another one of those "behind the scene workers" – always involved with helping with the prizes at the June Jamboree and cooking in the kitchen at our Regional picnics in the fall. She was efficient beyond belief as our section's secretary.

Holiday Party

This year our section is trying something new for the Holiday Party. It will be held on Saturday, December 1 at the Essex Fells Country Club. It will be a brunch starting at noon, instead of an evening affair. The cost will be \$40 per person and \$12.50 for children under 10. We will once again be doing our Toys for Tots program. In recent years we have donated toys to several different organizations and they have always been thrilled with the generosity our members. We hope to continue, if not better, our tradition this year. There will be more details

Election of Section Officers

As announced at the June Jamboree, we will hold the bi-annual election of officers at our picnic on **Sunday, September 23**. The two year term will begin January 1, 2008. Werner Fehlauer is the Election Chairman.

Election procedure:

- A). Any member in good standing can submit to the election Chairman, in writing or by Email, his/her name and position sought or a slate of four candidates for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.
- B). Each person/slate is encouraged to submit brief biographical sketches of the person/slate members.
- C). At the annual/election meeting, additional nominees of persons/slates will be accepted from the floor. If there is more than one candidate for any position, including slates, a written ballot shall be distributed at the meeting. All members of record as of August 1st of the NNJ Section, including Second Section members, are eligible to vote. If there is only one candidate, including slates the election will be by voice acclamation. In either case, the results shall be determined by a majority of those members present at the meeting.

Contact **Werner Fehlauer, Election Chairperson**, directly by mail at 631 Swedesboro Rd, Gibbstown, NJ 08027-1216, or by Email to w.fehlauer@verizon.net, phone 856 224 1792 or Joe Grattan, NNJS President, Josephgrattan@aol.com, phone 973 628 1781.

Werner Fehlauer informs us that he has received notification from the following slate of officers to date:

- Doug Ochwat, President Joe Grattan, Secretary
- Andreas Molde, V. President Lucille Chabala, Treasurer.

High Gear

John Kuhn Bleimaier

There are multiple advantages to driving an old Mercedes. These are not confined to the joys of mechanical simplicity and purely aesthetic considerations associated with old time design. Some anecdotal evidence may be in order.

Just the other day I parked my '65 Finback in a loading zone in Princeton while waiting to pick up a friend. Now, Princeton is not generally an auto friendly environment. There are only a small number of very expensive parking meters; vast no parking zones; regulations against meter feeding; tow away zones; sticker requirements for residents; etc, ad nauseum. One of the most strictly enforced dictates of the parking Gestapo is the prohibition against the use of loading zones by any vehicles other than commercial carriers with appropriate permits. Mea culpa. I did indeed pull my 190Dc into a space reserved for commercial vehicles. It was a busy Friday at noon time. My guilt quotient was pushing the red line. But I honestly had not been able to find any other place to wait for my pick up. Nuff said.



Imagine how I felt when the blue and white tricycle of the parking enforcement authority pulled up next to me and the meter storm trooper rapped his knuckle on my window. As I cranked down the manual wind window on my elderly starship my mind ran through what might be suitable excuses for my infraction... disaster, distress, depression, diarrhea? Would any of these possibly work. Oh, what a sense of relief when the stern constabulary visage broke into a broad smile and the meter man said, "Now that's a real Mercedes!" Without so much as a warning he proceeded to put...put...put up the block on his merry rounds. Well, that perfectly well brought home the benefit of driving a classic Mercedes!

Later that afternoon as I drove home to Hopewell I savored my escape from the deprivations of the parking enforcer. With time the joy of having gotten away with an infraction was alloyed with a troubling notion. By calling my beloved Finback a "real Mercedes," the meter man had indirectly slighted my other starships, my 1980 300CD and my '02 C230K sports coupe. Were they not "real Mercedes" also?

This trend of thought brought back a distant memory. You see, my 1965 Mercedes has been in my family since new. As some of my friends may recollect, my parents bought this car way back when I was a Sophomore in high school. The casual comment of the parking enforcer had stirred up the recollection of a long suppressed adolescent experience.



I think it was at the New Hope Pennsylvania Automobile Show of 1966. It was a sunny August day with a pleasant breeze blowing off the Delaware River and rustling the leaves of the majestic red maples. On the show field were cars from the '40s, '30s and '20s. In the spectator parking lot you could see brand new Oldsmobile Toronados, Plymouth

Barracudas, Borgwards, and Iso Griffos. Yes, it was a long time ago.

On the lawn, entered in that New Hope show of 1966, was a beautiful 1949 Mercedes 170DS four door sedan. I was absolutely captivated by that stately diesel powered starship. The vertical grill; the four cylinder compression ignition engine; the rear swing axle. I perceived this 170DS as an esteemed older sibling of my parents 190Dc. It was my personal favorite in the show. Imagine my consternation when, while I was admiring the '49 Mercedes, a disagreeable old codger approached the owner of the show car and said, "Now that's a real Mercedes!" I was mortified. Our Finback had been gratuitously insulted!

The moral of the story is that there really is a kinship which links all the fine cars which have been built by Mercedes-Benz. All the vehicles wearing the three pointed star are "real Mercedes." With age they grow into their role. The oldtimers do have their distinct virtues and advantages of ownership, however.

Yesterday I took the Finback out for a spin. I enjoyed proceeding up through the gears, flicking the column mounted shifter. Fourth is top and I snatched that cog as 42 mph showed on my vertical ribbon speedometer. There is a speed trap set up with substantial frequency in the 25 mph zone in Pennington, New Jersey. It was already too late when I saw the black and white armored personnel carrier hidden in the bushes. It was with a sinking sensation that I looked at the officer with the large black radar gun in his hand. You could have knocked me over with a feather when his face broke into a smile and he gave me an unequivocal thumbs up!

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NNJS Upcoming Events

Sunday, Sept 23— NNJS Annual
Mid Atlantic Regional Picnic—
Falkenhorst—Hopewell, NJ—See
page 3

Saturday, Sept 29—Oktoberfest—
Chester, NJ—See page 5

Saturday, Oct 13—Tech Session—
Benzel-Busch—Englewood, NJ—
See page 10

Sunday, Oct 21—Covered Bridge
Tour—Hunterdon & Bucks
County— See page 1

Saturday, October 27—Tire Kicking
Session—Details to be announced

Saturday, Dec 1—Annual Holiday
Party—Essex Fells Country Club—See
page 10



FIRST ANNUAL COVERED BRIDGE TOUR

Sunday, OCTOBER 21st

Come and enjoy the rapidly vanishing
rural countryside of Hunterdon
County, NJ and Bucks County, PA.

Colonial history will be explored as our
incredible assemblage of Mercedes will
travel down two lane roads and traverse 7
covered bridges. At least one of these
"covered bridges" has a claim that it is
haunted!

We will cross the Delaware River where
General George Washington transported
2000 troops by long boat on Christmas Eve
in 1776. Driving over bridges that were
built 60 years after Washington made his
crossing, our Mercedes will be able to take
in the abundance of fall foliage surrounding
us!

See Page I for details.