

StarTracks 2014



Volume 10, Issue 4

August-September-October, 2014

Picnic at Falkenhorst 2014



It doesn't get much better than this – beautiful day, magnificent cars, delicious food, and fabulous fellowship was what it was all about at the annual picnic hosted by NNJS & SJS on Saturday, September 20, 2014.

For the 27th year the picnic was held at John Bleimaier's Falkenhorst in beautiful Hopewell, NJ. With over 40 cars on the field and about 100 people in attendance, it was a great day to walk around in the sunshine and vote for your favorite car in each of seven categories.

This year we had the picnic catered by Ribdicolous BBQ which gave several of our members time to relax and chat instead of manning the grills! Chef Charlie and BBQ Master Alex did a fabulous job of cooking the burgers to order, not to mention the outstandingly delicious Cowboy Baked beans!

The winners were called up by category, had their picture taken, and then when all the winners were announced – we took a group shot. The first place winners were then able to select their prize from table, followed by the second place winners, and then the third place winners. In keeping with the Fall theme, the prizes consisted of scarecrows on a pole, standing scarecrows, and fall floral baskets.

Thank you to all who participated in the Silent Auction at our September picnic. The proceeds amounted to \$225.00 which were sent to Covenant House in NYC. Some of you may know that Covenant House feeds, clothes and tries to get teenagers/young people in house from sleeping out on the street in all weather elements. Thank you to Laura Hall, Nora Ochwat & Lucille Chabala for helping out. Your donated articles and bids for the Silent Auction are greatly appreciated.

Thanks to Loni Spingarn for once again conducting our successful 50/50. Thanks also to Ralph Esposito for donating the compact cloth shopping bags which Valerie Cristiano was able to hand out as the cars registered.

A great time was had by all. A special "Thanks" to all those who helped to make the day a super success.

Valerie Cristiano



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27th June Jamboree Car Show Results

New Sedan (2010 – 2014)

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|------|---------|
| 1 st | Mitch & Nancy Tanner | 2015 | S 550 |
| 2 nd | Miriam Buzzi | 2012 | E 350 |
| 3 rd | Paul LaPenta | 2014 | GLK 350 |

New Sport (2010 – 2014)

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|------|-----------|
| 1 st | Fred Marcus | 2012 | E 350 cab |
| 2 nd | Don | 2011 | E 350 cab |

Modern Sedan (2000 – 2009)

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|------|-------|
| 1 st | Jerome Johnson | 2009 | E 350 |
| 2 nd | Murray & Akemi Kane | 2000 | S 430 |
| 3 rd | Al & Trudy Frei | 2007 | S 550 |
| 3 rd | Joe & Pat Mignon | 2006 | S 350 |

Modern Sport (2000 – 2009)

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|------|------------|
| 1 st | Rasmus Haaring | 2005 | CLK 55 AMG |
| 2 nd | Paul Buzzi | 2005 | SL 500 |
| 3 rd | Tom Elder | 2003 | SLK 320 |

Old Sedan (1990 – 1999)

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|------|-------|
| 1 st | Debbie Egolf | 2001 | E 320 |
| 2 nd | David & Donna Veith | 1998 | C 280 |
| 3 rd | Carl D'Angelo | 1993 | 300d |

Old Sport (1990 – 1999)

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|------|---------|
| 1 st | PJ Buzzi | 1999 | CLK 320 |
| 2 nd | Jerry Campagna | 1999 | SLK |
| 3 rd | Rocco LoFaro | 1999 | SL 550 |

Vintage (pre 1990)

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|------|---------|
| 1 st | Chuck & Barbara Benz | 1971 | 280 SL |
| 2 nd | Ramon & Erica Infante | 1987 | 420 SEL |
| 3 rd | Elli & Bill Ryan | 1988 | 560 SL |





FOR SALE: 1985 Mercedes Benz 300 TD Diesel station wagon. Navy blue exterior, saddle M.B. Tex. interior. With the optional third seat , manual sunroof, am/fm cassette Air Cond. Power windows, luggage rack, Drives great and looks good. too! 229,000 miles owned for the last 8 years and driven locally only in nice weather. \$7,475. Andrew Permison thepermitage@comcast.net 973-379-7283



FOR SALE: 1999 E300 Turbo Diesel (W210) Original owner, non-smoker. All records since new. Mobil 1 every 5,000 miles. A/C blows cold. Silver with light gray leather interior. Sunroof. Everything works. Heated front seats, six disk dealer installed CD changer, Bose Premium Sound from factory. 348k highway miles. Well maintained. Just bought a new W212 E250 Bluetec turbo diesel. — 34 photos + original window sticker shown at this link: <http://imgur.com/a/nZcQQ> (Cut and paste link into your web browser) Car located in Stewartsville, NJ 08886 — \$6,750 obo



FOR SALE: 1979 280 SL, Brown with tan interior. 107k miles. Garage kept. Includes service receipts and documents 1984 till present and service manuals. \$7,000. Contact John for detailed description at jpsirx@aol.com or call [718-702-9168](tel:718-702-9168)



FOR SALE: 1983 Mercedes-Benz 300 SD diesel; 31,140 miles; silver with navy interior; all original, perfect low mileage car. \$18,500. David Barclay 732-544-9035 dcbarclay@optonline.net



FOR SALE: 1985 380SL Red with red hard top, dark brown convertible top, and tan interior. 185,000 miles. Garaged in Morristown, NJ in case you want to check it out. \$9,750. Contact joe.stivaletti@gs.com or 646-245-8926



FOR SALE: 1988 560SEC for parts or restoration. Has rear suspension damage and some surface rust. 230,000 miles. Engine and drive train excellent, uses no oil. Good restoration candidate for someone who knows bodywork. Asking \$1750. Mike Tortorella 732 615 0355.

FOR SALE: 2004 E500 4matic Station Wagon, sand/tan, 95,000 miles, garage kept, all service records, \$9700. Ronald J. Bermel 140 Cherry St. Tinton Falls, NJ 07724 732-741-3849

FOR SALE: 2003 SLK 230 convertible silver/black automatic sport edition 63K miles \$9,995. Alvin Martz 42 Hidden Ledge Road Englewood, N.J 07631 201-612-6184 or 201-567-7224

FOR SALE: 1985 Mercedes 380SL, light blue with matching hardtop, dark blue leather interior. Excellent condition, mileage: 52,086, One owner garage-kept. Auto transmission, A/C, Power windows, steering, locks, Key entry, AM/FM/ Cassette, Cruise control, Regular gas 8-cylinder engine. Hard top + soft top. Asking \$15,000 - Bill Deegan - Tele: (201) 934-9145 Email: wpd_98@yahoo.com



FOR SALE: 1985 380SL 13,671 original miles, Signal Red w/ M-B Tex Palomino interior, Black Top plus red hardtop w/ carrier & cover, Chrome MB Wheels. One of a kind Mileage, the right year & the perfect color combo. Spectacular. All original except new tires (11 miles), newer battery & some recent fuel system repairs. Family owned since Aug 1986. Always garaged. Best offer over \$27,000. (908) 790-1480 or mrwindward@verizon.net



Mercedes-Benz Rescue Assist

Mercedes is the world technology leader again – and they chose to GIVE this new technology to all other car manufacturers in the world; ‘too important not to share’.

I was speaking with Andreas Molde (Shop Forman) during my service visit to Benzel - Busch. He detailed the new QR code decal protocol initiated by Mercedes a few months ago.

Briefly, this is a decal SPECIFIC TO EACH MODEL (starting with MY1990) and placed inside the gas flap and on the opposite side B pillar. In addition there are other, earlier models available as well.

In the event of a major accident, emergency responders can approach either side of the car, scan the QR decal and the schematic of the specific vehicle appears on the screen.

Diagram of the car including location of airbags, fuel lines, batteries, electrical system, hood opening location and other specifics are all clearly shown on the screen of the smart phone or tablet held by the emergency responder.

This is available from any MB dealer at no cost to you and does not need to be part of any other service. Call them to arrange to have this done.



Here is the decal for a 2011 E Class sedan. Scan it and see what emergency responders see.

Joe Grattan

Welcome New Members

Rajkumar Anandani
Art Brinker
Vincent De Pasquale
Cherie Devivo
Gary Domingo
Sean Doyle
Robert Dumville
Edward Esposito
Dave Ferio
Gene Feyl
Kevin Fritzsich
Jeff Gorsak
Carl Grady
Frank Gravato
Scott Harvey
Nick Incantalupo
Charles Michelet
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From the President Matt Huda



Cruising along the back roads of NNJ earlier, sunroof open and enjoying the fall foliage earlier was a moment of relaxation and exhilaration. I LOVE driving my Mercedes. As members of MBCA I think we may actually forget how lucky we are to drive the vehicles that so many people aspire to own their entire lives. Coming around a corner I press the pedal harder and hear the turbo in my E diesel spool up as I barrel up a hill and my hood ornament leads the way, reminding me –and the other motorists- that it's something special.



This past year –my first- leading our section is like driving my car. I feel honored for the opportunity, to be one of the chosen few who are trusted to steer our club towards the future and all the good things that are to come. Our board members and I have been working diligently all year to bring the best membership experience for all of you. I very much so hope to see everyone at our holiday party this year on 7 December! There will be a great presentation of

BIERGARTEN AT THE GERMAN-AMERICAN CLUB

Our annual Biergarten was held on 11 July 2014. The evening was a success, with absolutely perfect weather and lots of great food hosted by the Deutsche Club of New Jersey in Clark.

A special thank you to Karla Schwedt for helping to organize the event and to those who brought their lovely cars to be shown. Our annual Biergarten evening is an excellent way for us to kick back, relax and socialize with each other while enjoying all the great German food!

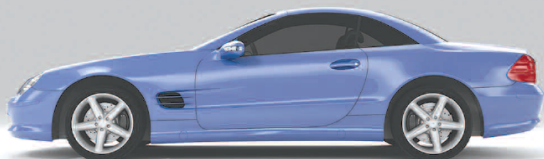
As always the Deutsche Club's kitchen was in full swing, preparing traditional German cuisine for the attendees.

Just like a traditional Biergarten in Bavaria, our very own here in New Jersey is authentic- from the food, great beer and authentic German music with accordion playing for our entertainment. We plan to enjoy this festive Summer event again next year

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Covered Bridge Tour #3

Can you believe it! This was our third Covered Bridge Tour and we had another fantastic day and 15 cars and drivers on the tour. We gathered in the parking lot of Perkins Pancake House in Flemington where Valerie gave out the directions and the snacks and water for the trip. From there, everyone was on their own to enjoy the ride and the scenery before meeting up for Brunch at the Lambertville Station.

This time our route took us along Rosemont-Ringoes Road into Sergeantsville before we crossed over the Green Sergeants Bridge (the only covered bridge built before 1900 still in existence in New Jersey). The bridge is 84 feet in length and is of a modified Queenpost construction. It was built in 1866 and crosses the Wickecheoke Creek.

From there we traveled south along the Delaware and crossed the river at Washington's Crossing and then we headed north along the Delaware on the Pennsylvania side. There was a built in rest stop and an opportunity to stretch one's legs at Bowman's Hill Tower. One would take in the view from the ground, but many of our more adventurous members took the elevator and then climbed an additional 20 steps to the top for a spectacular view of the surrounding area.

Our second bridge was the Van Sant Bridge. It is also called the Beaver Dam Bridge and is located in Solebury, PA. It is 86 feet long and it opened in 1875 and crosses the Pidcock Creek.

We continued through the countryside and along Aquetong Road and eventually arriving at our third bridge. This one was Cabin Run Bridge located in Point Pleasant, PA. It was built in 1871 and is 15 feet wide with a length of 82 feet and crosses Cabin Run Creek. I

In less than 2 miles we crossed our fourth bridge. The Loux Bridge is located in Plumstead, PA. It was built in 1874 and is made out of hemlock. It is 15 feet wide and 60 feet in length. It is located upstream from the Cabin Run Bridge and also crosses Cabin Run Creek.

We continued on our journey passing Tohicky Park and eventually crossing our fifth covered bridge. The Frankfield Bridge is located in Point Pleasant, PA (that makes two in Point Pleasant). It was built in 1872 and is made out of oak. It is a town truss bridge and it is the only bridge in Bucks County with side windows. The bridge is 130 feet in length, a width of 12 feet, and has a clearance of 9.42 feet. It crosses the Tinicum Creek.

Our sixth and final bridge was the Erwinna Bridge. The Erwinna Bridge is located in Erwinna, PA. It was built in 1832 according to the county records and in 1871 according to the National Register of Historic Places. It is the shortest covered bridge in Bucks County; it is 56 feet long and 15 feet wide. It crosses Swamp Creek.

We then headed back through the woods and then along the river and over the bridge into Lambertville. As we pulled into the driveway leading to the Inn at Lambertville Station, the parking attendants directed us to an area which they had marked off with cones for our group. It was nice to be able to stretch our legs and enjoy the view of the river and the bridge as we entered the hotel for brunch. We were greeted by the hostess and shown to one of the 3 large round tables which had been reserved for our group. We were all able to enjoy the view of the river as we partook of the delicious and beautifully prepared and presented food. There were made to order omelets and eggs benedict (my personal favorite) along with a scrumptious assortment of other items to choose from. Another popular one was the Belgian waffles with fresh whipped cream. The dessert table was awesome!!! The wait staff made sure that your plates were removed promptly and that your beverage was always full.

A wonderful day was had by all who participated. Some members were only able to join us for the tour while others joined us for both the tour and the brunch. Several of our members are looking forward to doing the tour again during the change of seasons. If anyone is interested in a copy of the tour, please email me and I will be glad to email you a copy. Send email to mercedeslady1@verizon.net with **Covered Bridge Tour** as the subject. I do not open emails from addresses that I do not recognize unless I know the subject. *Valerie Cristiano*



EXCITING NEWS!

At MBCA-NNJS we're going digital! As of first quarter 2015 we will be offering the newsletter via email for you to easily view on your computer, tablet or smart phone. This will not only help us to provide a more enhanced experience for our members, but also refocus our costly printing budget to roll out an entirely new website complete with regular updates and enhanced interaction across the entire section.

If we have your email address on file we will automatically begin sending you the newsletter Q4 2014. If you wish to continue receiving a paper copy mailed to you after Q1 2015, you must fill out the coupon below and send it to **Lucille Chabala - 6 Brook Way - West Orange, NJ 07052** luluchab@aol.com no later than 30 November 2014.

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THREE ALL-NEW 2015 MERCEDES-BENZ STARS

Introducing 3 additions to the **2015 Mercedes-Benz** lineup:
the **S-Class Coupe**, **C-Class Sedan** and **GLA-Class SUV**
coming soon to Benzel-Busch.

The all-new **2015 S-Class Coupe** is a breathtaking version
of our new flagship S-Class.

This sporty two-door commands not only a striking,
self-assured presence you've come to expect
from the S-Class.

It also delivers exhilarating driving dynamics and
is packed with some of the world's most
innovative driving assistance systems.

The all-new **2015 C-Class** has been redesigned from the
road up – and from the inside out – the next generation
of the world's bestselling Mercedes-Benz family emerges
as more sophisticated, more powerful and
more luxurious than ever before.

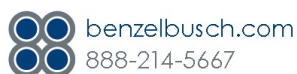
The all-new **2015 GLA-Class** is nimble on the road,
a true premium compact SUV with
responsive handling and dramatic styling to match.

The GLA-Class also offers a thoughtful and innovative interior
immersed in signature Mercedes-Benz quality with a
7-speed dual clutch automatic transmission and a
new-generation 4MATIC® all-wheel drive.

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2015 C-Class



2015 GLA-Class



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IN PRAISE OF IMPERFECTION

Imperfections and idiosyncrasies are endearing. Would we love Marilyn Monroe quite so much if she did not have that damned mole, a gross solecism, on her flawless cheek? The English-speaking people adored King George because of, not despite, his blasted sssstammer. Would the Liberty Bell be our national icon without the crack? I rest my case.

Well the same thing applies to motorcars. The largest marque based organization in the country is the Porsche Club of America. As everyone who has driven one well and truly knows, Porsches have always been quirky. Rear weight bias that surpasses Michelle Obama and a swing axle made the 356s from Zuffenhausen positively suicidal... and beloved. Try lifting off in a tight corner while driving a 911 and you will get a feel for Porsche heritage and a 360 degree view of the scenery. Porsche aficionados are enamored of their funky cars. They only moan and complain when the company brings out a perfectly sensible SUV or a practical four door saloon.

Now anyone familiar with the enthusiast car scene knows that the most fanatical crew are the devotees of English cars. The sun has never set on the British automobile devotee, despite the fact that most of Albion's erstwhile grand marques have gone the way of the *raj* and the stiff upper lip. There are still MG and Triumph clubs. Even the Bristol and the Armstrong Siddley continue to have a following. These thoroughly decent chaps gather not to extol the virtues of their chosen objects of affection. On the contrary the anglophiles revel in droll stories of Lucas electrical systems and the prince of darkness; of drinking warm beer from Lucas refrigerators. These upper crusty fans of Masoch and the Marquis de Sade exchange twisted stories of exquisite pain and mechanical disaster by the side of the road.

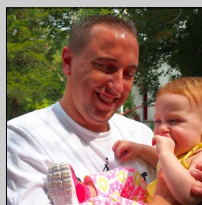
Given this unaccountable perversion in the human character, is it any wonder that we in the Mercedes-Benz Club of America are occasionally plagued with modest membership numbers and unimpressive event participation? When is the last time you shared an exciting tale of having been stranded by your Mercedes? Have you ever reveled in the psychotropic sensation of inhaling the smoke of a burning wiring harness? How often have you boasted of the design flaws which give your car character? Need I say more?

So the bane of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America is actually a feather in the cap of Mercedes-Benz the purveyor of fine motorcars. Intelligent well adjusted folks purchase Mercedes automobiles in droves. However, they don't join our club in commensurate numbers because there is no impetus to gather together and commiserate. This conundrum has preoccupied my thoughts for quite some time. I now have arrived at a solution.

There are many superannuated, clapped-out vehicles on the used car market which still wear the silver star. These former luxury and sports vehicles surviving from a bygone generation are mere shadows of their former selves. They are rusted and misused, damaged and neglected. Long out of warranty, characterized by outdated technology and yesterday's styling they have fallen into the hands of young louts, dissolute eccentrics and chronic underachievers who have not had the means to maintain them. While these fine cars were built without planned obsolescence, careless owners have inflicted a cruel toll. The presently tarted up, bondo botched, erstwhile reliable beauties have become a pitiable scourge.

Here's my plan for enlivening our club and multiplying its membership. Owners of new Mercedes-Benz characterized by flawless perfection should be encouraged to adopt a fallen starship from the distant past as a humanitarian act of charity. I am not talking about acquiring a concours, trailer queen. I mean buying a used car lot nightmare with sagging doors, bubbles in the paint and blue exhaust smoke; a car which has been cruelly abused by the heedless rabble.

Now the new adoptive owners of the old stray thinkers will have mechanical problems with which to contend. There will be adventures with tow truck drivers and heart to heart discussions with parts merchants. They will experience the agony of the failure to start and the occasional ecstasy of the solved electrical problem. In general, there will be the need for a support group; for a shoulder on which to cry; for a source of friendly counsel. Enter the Mercedes-Benz Club of America.





Annual Holiday Party - Sunday - December 7, 2014 from 12 Noon to 4pm



Our 2014 Holiday Party will be held on Sunday 7 December 2014 from noon – 4 o'clock at the Brownstone House in the Grande Ballroom. As always it's a wonderful time to get together with each other and reflect on the past year and plan an exciting one to come. This year is will be especially exciting as we unveil new and exciting events as well as ways to interact and be your Mercedes-Benz source

This is also our annual **Toys for Tots** collection. In the past our members have been very generous in donating new and unwrapped gifts for children and young adults. Let's continue with this wonderful worthwhile tradition in spreading a little Holiday Cheer to those less fortunate than ourselves.

Bring your appetites, as many of you know who have attended affairs at Brownstone House know, the food is plenty and exquisite!

[Click here for directions from Google Maps.](#) Travel Directions: [The Brownstone House](#) - 351 W. Broadway - Paterson, NJ 07522

1. From Fair Lawn - Route 4 to 208N. Maple Avenue South exit. Keep right & follow sign to Paterson/Hawthorne. Route 507 South (becomes Maple Ave.). At first light turn right onto Wagaraw Road. Bear right at fork (N. 8th Street). Follow to end & turn right onto Haledon Avenue. Proceed to second traffic light. Make first left onto Burhans Ave. At 2nd light turn right. Brownstone entrance is on your left.

2. From Route 46, Totowa Area - Take Route 46 East or West to Union Blvd., Totowa, Paterson exit. Take Union Blvd. North 7 traffic lights and turn left onto Richmond Avenue. Proceed 2 traffic lights and turn right onto Chamberlain Avenue. Proceed to end and turn right. The Brownstone House is 1 block on your right.

3. From Southern New Jersey (Garden State Parkway) - Take exit 153B, Route 3/46. Follow Route 3 West to Route 46 West. Continue on Route 46 West to Union Blvd., Totowa exit and proceed.

4. From Lincoln Tunnel - Take Route 3 West to Route 46 West. Continue on Route 46 West to Union Blvd., Totowa exit and proceed.

5. From Route 80 (George Washington Bridge) - Take Rout 80 West to exit 55B (Union Blvd., Totowa, Paterson) onto Union Blvd. Proceed 5 traffic lights and turn left onto Richmond Avenue. Proceed 2 traffic lights and turn right onto Chamberlain Avenue. Proceed to end and turn right. The Brownstone House is 1 block on your right.

6. From Route 80 (Del. Water Gap Area) - Take Route 80 East to exit 53 onto Route 46 East to Union Blvd., Totowa, Paterson exit.

7. From Ridgewood - Take Godwin Avenue to Goffle Road. Turn left and proceed approximately 3 miles. Bear right onto No. 8th Street. Proceed to end and turn right onto Haledon Avenue 2 traffic lights and turn left onto Burhans Avenue. Proceed 2 lights - turn right. The Brownstone House is on your left.

8. From Staten Island - Take New Jersey Turnpike North to exit 16W. Follow signs to Route 3 West. Follow signs to Route 46 West to Union Blvd., Totowa/Paterson exit.



Holiday Party at the Brownstone House Sunday, December 7, 2014 from 12 Noon to 4pm



Name : _____ Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone #: _____

No. of Adults @ \$30.00 = \$ _____ No. of Children 5-12 @ \$10.00 = \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Please send in your reservations by November 30. Make check payable to NNJS-MBCA and send to

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Don't miss our Annual Holiday Party at the famous Brownstone House
on Sunday, December 7 from Noon to 4pm
See page 10

NNJS Upcoming Events

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Visit us on the Internet
[http://sections.mbca.org/
northern_new_jersey](http://sections.mbca.org/northern_new_jersey)

Kindly turn to page 10 to make your reservations for
our Annual Holiday Party at the famous
[Brownstone House](#).

It is important that you notify Lucille Chabala,
6 Brook Way - West Orange, NJ 07052 - 973-731-9133
Luluchab@aol.com before November 30 at the latest
so we can properly accommodate all members and
guests who wish to attend.

[Click here to visit the Brownstone House on the Web](#)

