

StarTracks 2012



Volume 8, Issue 4

July-August 2012

49th Annual June Jamboree Highlights

"It doesn't get much better than this"...it may be an old saying, but it is the perfect way to describe the 49th Annual NNJS June Jamboree held at MBUSA Headquarters in Montvale, NJ on Saturday, June 16, 2012. The weather was just beautiful, sunny but not too warm with clear blue skies which set the stage for a fantastic rest of the day..

The "CREW" arrived early, as usual, in order to set up for the day and was greeted by the Mercedes Benz security and custodial staff. We pulled up to the doors to the building and unloaded – registration information, trophies, prizes, computers, and photographic equipment and were soon ready for our first registrants as they pulled up to the building at 7:15 a.m.

Upon receiving their registration packet, the participants then drove up to the Mercedes Benz sign where Nick Ford and Rich Luongo took a picture of the car. From there they proceeded to their designated parking spot ably assisted by the parking crew. Many began some last minute detailing of the Concours cars – wiping off any road dirt or bugs that had decided to attach themselves on the way to the show. Not to be outdone, the Popular Vote entrants also did some last minute detailing before venturing down to the building for a delightful Continental breakfast graciously provided by MBUSA.

"Let the judging begin" was the signal for detailing to stop and for most members this meant that it was the time to walk around the grounds and view and admire the magnificent display of Mercedes Benz craftsmanship over the years. The oldest vehicle on the field was a 170V from 1950 – a true "senior citizen" to the "infants" from 2012 – SLS, E350 cab, E550, C63, and a C300 luxury sedan. The fine lines and attention to detail that these cars proudly show off is something to behold, the technology may have changed over the years but the wonderful craftsmanship still endures. While the judges were hard at work, many of the members had time to look over the cars and then cast their ballots for the Popular Vote vehicles. Others took advantage of the well placed lawn chairs, while still others chose the air-conditioned cafeteria to socialize and watch as pictures of past June Jamborees moved across the screen.

We had members from many different sections attend this year's June Jamboree - rather than leave out a section – I am not going to mention which sections attended. But I promise that next year, the registration form will include your section name which will serve two purposes: **1** – when you win a trophy – your section can be mentioned and **2**- when I write up the Jamboree, I will mention your section! Gary Anderson, editor of The Star was with us as well.



At 12:30 we were treated to a delicious luncheon, but only if you had your wristband!!!! After the luncheon was over door prizes were drawn and Loni – "Queen of the 50-50 Tickets" announced the winners of

the drawing – Loni was one of the winners and she graciously donated her winnings back to the club. Meanwhile, Nora – "Queen of the Silent Auction" was readying the names of the winners of the items. Thanks to all who generously donated to these two events. The monies that are raised with these two events are used to support a charity. In the past we have donated to: the Troops with care packages, Eric LeGrande fund, Habitat for Humanity, and others, and we will again choose a worthy charity to support. Membership

pins were also awarded to members for 5; 10; 15; 20; 25; and yes 30 years! – Congratulations to Michael Goldberg and John Bleimaier.

Steve Dierks, National President, gave us an update on what is going on in the club as a whole; Anne-Doris Korralus, spoke about the European Delivery Program; Adam Paige – Manager, National Brand Public Relations told us about how the SL's are being used in Hollywood videos.

A special "Thank you" to Christine Chase – National Brand & Public Relation Specialist (Thanks for all of your hard work – we certainly appreciated all of your efforts in order to make sure that things went smoothly. The lawn furniture so beautifully placed, the water for the judges, clearing out the parking lot, the display of cars in the front lawn, and of course – the food.); Intern – Lauren Iannelli for being a great contact person. We couldn't have done it without the following people. Thanks to our judges:

Head Judges: Pete Lesler and Andreas Molde

Interior: Tim Harrington, Andreas Molde, Arpi Kertesz, Bill Hopper, Ralph Esposito, Jerry Shapiro, Ray Di Meglio, Don Derosa

Glass/Chrome: Claire Wegner, Barbara Fiedler, Bob Wegner, Thomas Hovind, Ray Di Meglio, Don Derosa, Ed Fiedler, Jay Hirsch ;

Engine: Jan Van der Baan, Lou Palumbo, Ken Spingarn, Tom Elder, Steve Dierks, Rocky Miranti, Larry Taylor, Andrew Syracuse;

Paint: Jim Motacki, Marc Loranger, Sean Connor, Felipe Cuadra, Joe Cristiano, Pankaj Dayal, Michelle Loranger, Janice Boop.

Paint/Mileage Recorders: Bob Platz + Pete Lesler;

Score Sheet Runners: Katelyn Hovind + Lauren Kertesz;

Parking: Jim Motacki, James Motacki, Justin, Pankaj Dayal, Dave Hall.

Thanks to; Carl Ian Schwartz for preparing the slide show of past Jamboree experiences that ran during the day and as our official Photographer; Doug Ochwat for setting up the trophies and the prize table; Joe Grattan & Ken Spingarn for making sure that the day continued to run smoothly. A special "Thank you" to Trudy Frei and Bobbie Wozney for helping me with registration this year. As many of you know, Lucille Chabala was not able to be with us this year physically - due to open - heart surgery, however, she was certainly there in spirit! Already looking forward to the 50th! Hope that you will be able to make it. We are planning a full weekend of varied activities – so check our website often as we continue to update our events.

Thanks to our wonderful dealers for their continued support over the years. Bob Greces, President, Mercedes Benz of Princeton; Peter Scherr, Sales Manager, Globe Motors in Fairfield; Tim Allocca, Intercar Inc, Newton; Frank Mastrovito General Manager, and David Allard, Parts Director, Mercedes-Benz of Freehold.

Full results, including the winners of both the Concours and the Popular Vote may be viewed on our website at http://sections.mbca.org/northern_new_jersey/ij2012results.pdf

Valerie Cristiano



Mercedes-Benz Christmas Cape May Event - November 16 and 17, 2012

November 16 & 17, 2012 Cape May “**Christmas Mercedes Benz**” Event by **Nora Ochwat**

This is Northern New Jersey’s second trip to Cape May for the Christmas Tree Lighting at the Emlen Physick Estate, which starts the Christmas season. The first trip was in 2008 and this one again will be a lot of fun.

The highlight of our event is the Tree Lighting, house tour and caroling at the Emlen Physick Estate Saturday evening. Trolley rides through Victorian Cape May and Cape May mall (blocked to cars) are within walking distance of the hotels. Venture by car to see the light house at the point as well as the cement WWII partially sunken cement ship and bunkers, or just relax. Friday and Saturday evenings, however, are reserved as group dinner nights.

Congress Hall, boasts hospitality since 1816 and as one of the oldest buildings in Cape May has been refurbished to modern day accommodations yet retains the look and charm of a bygone era. It now houses a spa, boutiques, Tommy’s Coffee Shop, a charming old world restaurant, the Blue Pig with an inviting fireplace to take the November chill away and a great hall gathering room to relax and chat. “Town View” rooms (which can be changed at reservation time at slightly different rates) without efficiency accommodations, are being held in Congress Hall at a rate of \$167+ tax per night. Refrigerator and microwave can be had for an added fee for each item per night. Although coffee machines are not available for the rooms; there is Tommy’s Coffee Shop on the main floor. Each room comes with a \$20 breakfast voucher to be used in the Blue Pig restaurant.

The **STAR at Congress Hall** (a sister hotel, directly across the street) also has been refurbished and sports efficiency accommodations and you can enjoy all of the advantages of Congress Hall’s public areas. “Standard” efficiency rooms at \$149 + tax per night also have a \$20.00 per room breakfast voucher at the Blue Pig restaurant. Ample parking will be available. Those who want an extended weekend may inquire about additional days and rates.

The room block is being held as “Christmas Mercedes Benz” and that is what you will have to ask for when making your reservation and deposit to get the package. Rooms will be held until August 31st, NO EXCEPTIONS, at which time they will be released. For reservations, for either hotel, please call Congress Hall at 1-888-944-1816. Please ask about, and understand, their cancellation policy. Kindly complete the form below and either send, email or call Nora before the August 31 deadline.

Also, please note that Cape May no longer sleeps after the June to September high summer season. A vibrant season again starts in the beginning of November and extends well into February. If you are thinking of joining the November “**Christmas Mercedes Benz**” event, you must get your reservations in before the deadline. Any questions you may have please call Nora 908-852-7772.

Christmas Tree Lighting in Cape May—November 16 & 17

I/We will be making a reservation at the **Congress Hall** or the **Star** before **Aug.31** and will notify Nora Ochwat either by mail, email or telephone. Nora Ochwat 91 Catswamp Rd. Hackettstown, NJ 07840 - 908-852-7772 - nbocatswamp@yahoo.com

Name(s) _____

Phone No. & Email _____

I have secured a reservation with deposit Yes ___ No ___

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FOR SALE: MB 1998 SL500, red/beige interior clean car fax 145K miles, New top \$10,500 Also: MB 1994 E320 cabriolet Black/Parchment, 88K miles, \$18,500. Please call Alvin Martz @ 201-567-7224 or 201-615-6184



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less entry and ignition; Navigation; Xenon headlamps; Alarm; Traction Control; Rear window shade; New tires on rear; 3 sets of floor mats (rubber for winter and 1 set never used); All service by Mercedes technicians. \$34,800 (obo) Michael Fischer Madison, NJ 862-485-2433 michaelwfischer54@gmail.com



FOR SALE: 1998 Mercedes Benz ML320 AWD Black with gray leather interior. Well maintained and mechanically reliable. 243k miles. Mature, original owner & non-smoker. Mobil 1 oil changed every 5k miles. 3.2L V-6. Complete, professional transmission rebuild @ 216k miles in October 2009. High and low range transfer case. Vehicle is loaded including sunroof, tilt wheel, cruise, PW, PDL, OEM Bose AM/FM cassette & 6-disk CD, heated seats, power seat, PS, roof rack, etc. Towing package. Michelin tires. All records since new. \$4,750. Call 908-377-5982 or e-mail kwmccauley@earthlink.net

FOR SALE: 1990 Mercedes 560 SEC 2 door coupe Black Pearl exterior/gray leather interior, sun roof, 150,000 miles, maintained by Mercedes mechanic. Asking \$10,000. Will consider offer.
 Mrs. Park 609-579-4645



PARTING OUT: 1983 300D four door sedan 160,000 miles: Silver Exterior/Perfect Blue Interior Most parts still available. Please call: John Longo 201-454-7490

FOR SALE: Two (2) Alloy Wheels for W123 with Tires, Perfect for Snow Tires. No Curb Rash or Visible Damage. Fits 240D or 300D \$100. Please call: John Longo 201-454-7490



FOR SALE: 1973 450 SL Mint condition. Must see! Original buyer family, recent complete overhaul including entire new exhaust system. Signal red with matching hubcaps. Palomino MB Tex interior, like new. 51,000 miles and always garage kept. Complete maintenance records and original manuals. European chrome bumpers. Removable hard top and convertible roof. \$22,000 or Best Offer.
 Call George @ 201-310-2411

Nascar Flags and What they Mean

Have you ever noticed all the flags used on the track at Nascar races? Those different colors each have a different meaning. NASCAR Flags have been around as long as the sport of auto racing itself. Before there were two-way radios in NASCAR race cars, the only method of communicating with drivers during the extremely loud racing action was with the use of colored flags. These large, colorful flags gain the attention of drivers and are easy to see. Almost every auto racing series uses the same combination of flag colors to keep things consistent. NASCAR drivers can see the status of the race by looking at the flag. Just as traffic signal lights at a street intersection let drivers know exactly what to do, these Nascar flags communicate different racing conditions to the Nascar drivers. The NASCAR flags are usually waved by a flagman on a platform at the start/finish line.

Here is what the different colored Nascar flags mean:

Green Nascar Flag: The green flag is used to signal the beginning of the race or a race restart. Green means that the track is clear and the race cars may continue.

Yellow Nascar Flag: This Nascar flag is used to signal an accident, debris on the track, a mechanical failure or bad weather. The yellow flag means that the track is not clear. It signals drivers to slow down and hold their position. Drivers are allowed to group up behind the leader. A yellow flag during a practice race means the race cars should go to their pit stop immediately.

Red Nascar Flag: The red flag means that the track is unsafe and there is a situation that requires the immediate attention of Nascar officials. All race cars must stop. The red flag is usually waved in cases of heavy rain or an accident that requires medical assistance. A red flag can also mean that the race track is blocked by debris or a crashed car. A red flag during the closing laps of a race can also be waved to ensure the race ends under good conditions

White Nascar Flag: The white Nascar flag means that there is one lap remaining in the race.

Checkered Nascar Flag: The familiar black and white checkered flag means the race is complete.

Welcome New Members

Jerome Alpart

Alan Andrea

Charles Benz

Waseem Bhatti

Alexander Bley

Larry Churchwell

John Cyrus

Harry Emerson

Mike Esposito

George Finelli

Benjamin Klein

Eric Lozauskas

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Joseph O'Hora

Andrew Potgieter

Ankur Randev

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Did You Know! Your tires can actually lose pressure and that you should check your tire pressure at least once a month. Personally, I do it every week – that way there are never any surprises while I am driving.

You need to check all 5, yes all 5 tires – that means the 4 that are touching the ground and the “spare” in your trunk.

You should check your tire pressure when the tires are “cold” which means BEFORE you drive or at least 3 hours AFTER you have stopped driving.

Use a reliable tire pressure gauge and look on the inside of the door frame to see the correct tire pressure for your vehicle – DO NOT use the psi on the sidewall of the tire.

If your tire pressure is low, you will need to add air; if your tire pressure is too high, you will need to let a little bit of air out at a time in order to get to the proper pressure for your vehicle. Safe driving! Valerie Cristiano

November Cape May Event-See page 2



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25th Annual Regional Picnic & Car Show

NNJS & SJS are once again proud to co-sponsor the picnic to be held at the home and on the grounds of Falkenhorst, John Bleimaier’s country estate. This year the picnic and car show will be held on Saturday, September 22nd beginning at 11 AM with lunch being served at noon. There is no cost to attend the picnic, BUT we do need to know whether or not you will be attending in order to make sure that we will have enough food.

NNJS will once again supply hot dogs, hamburgers, beans, sauerkraut, paper products, and condiments and SJS will supply the water and soft drinks. There will also be the “Silent Auction”. Please bring a new or gently used item that you would like to donate to the ‘Auction’ table. The proceeds from the auction will be used for one of our Charity donations.

Even though the majority of the food and drinks will be supplied by NNJS & SJS we still need you to bring an appetizer, side dish, salad or dessert to supplement the buffet.

Please let Lucille know what you will be bringing when you register – PLEASE remember to let us know that you are coming – we need a head count for when we go shopping! Everyone is welcome to attend. We do have some table and chairs available, but if you have chairs bring them along.

You may register by one of the following ways: Return the coupon; email; or phone. Just please remember to let us know by September 19th – How many? What car? What you will be bringing?



[Click here for Directions to Falkenhorst](#)

41 Moores Mill Mount Rose Road

Hopewell, NJ 08525

609-466-1718

**I/We will be attending the 25th NNJS –SJS Regional Picnic & Car Show
Saturday, September 22nd beginning 11:00 AM.**

Lunch to be served at Noon. Please bring along an appetizer, salad or side dish, dessert as well as an item 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. As always, the Northern New Jersey and the South Jersey Section are co-sponsoring this event. Please notify Lucille prior to September 19, 2012

Name(s): _____

Email: _____

No. of people attending: _____

No. of cars to be displayed: _____

I am bringing to the picnic: Appetizer ___ Salad ___ Side dish ___ Entrée ___ Dessert ___
Please circle what you will be bringing

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Technical Corner

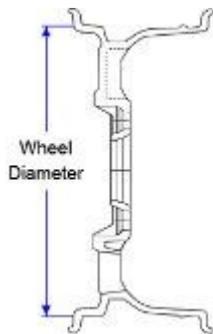
Sean Connor, Technical Advisor



THE SKINNY ON WHEEL DIMENSIONS

This is dry material, but important to know if you're considering installing larger diameter wheels on your Mercedes. I've learned the hard way there's nothing worse than making calculations five separate times and still coming up wrong...Terms that you may not be familiar with such as offset, centerbore, bolt pattern are also important characteristics of "wheel dimensions" and I hope to help you understand how they are measured. In order to obtain proper fitting a wheel must have the right combination of these dimensions. Just as the sleeve length on a shirt or the inseam on a pair of pants has to be right for them to fit your body, your wheels have to be the right size for them to fit properly on your car or truck.

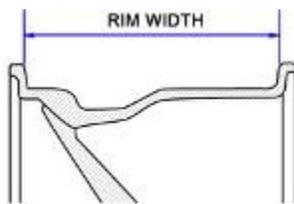
DIAMETER



Diameter is the most familiar wheel dimension. When someone says they have 20-inch rims, they're referring to the wheel diameter. Diameter is the distance between the bead seating areas (where the tire seals to the rim) at the opposite sides of the rim when viewed from the side, not including the wheel flanges. The wheel diameter determines how much of the wheel that you see when you look at a car or truck. Larger diameter means that more wheel surface area is visible.

It may be hard to believe but it wasn't so long ago that 14-inch and 15-inch rims were the standard sizes for most cars, whether these wheels were on new cars from the automobile manufacturers or from the aftermarket. Today, 16- and 17-inch rims are standard on most ordinary cars, with 18- through 20-inch sizes on performance models. And in the aftermarket, the sky's the limit with wheel sizes up to 32 inches and beyond. When you want to go to a larger diameter wheel, the easiest way is to do so while still maintaining the same approximate tire diameter. Many systems

on your car such as the driveline gearing, speedometer, anti-lock brake system and stability control system were designed to work with a particular tire diameter. Significantly altering this diameter can affect vehicle performance and the function of these systems. So, in order to maintain the same approximate tire diameter, the sidewall of the tire must become shorter as the wheel diameter is increased. This concept is called "Plus-Sizing", with *plus one* meaning going up one size in wheel diameter, *plus two* going up to the following size, and so on.



WIDTH

Width is the distance between the bead seating areas across the wheel rim – another dimension that has increased in modern times. The primary consideration of wheel width is that it be the proper size for the tires that will be installed. Every tire manufacturer specifies a range of rim widths for each tire size, but even within this range, the mounted width of the tire will change.

(Note: A tire's actual mounted width on the wheel can increase by almost an inch in some cases when going from the narrowest to the widest rim specified. This may not sound like much but it should be observed when selecting a tire and wheel package. A tire mounted on a narrower rim within the range may fit on your car whereas the same tire on a wider rim may not.)

OFFSET

Offset is the distance between the wheel's hub mounting surface (where the wheel bolts to the vehicle) and the wheel's true centerline. On a wheel with zero offset, the hub mounting surface is at the wheel centerline. If the hub mounting surface is toward the wheel face (the visible side of the wheel) side of the centerline, then the offset is said to be positive.

This configuration places more of the wheel over the hub and brake components, and is common on front wheel drive cars. Negative offset means the hub mounting surface is closer to the back side of the wheel, so more of the wheel extends outward. So called "deep dish" wheels have a negative offset.

BACK SPACE

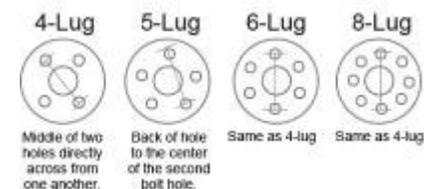
Back space is the distance between the hub mounting surface and the inner edge of the wheel rim. The offset and back space must be correct on a replacement wheel to ensure everything fits properly in the wheel well and doesn't contact the fender, frame or any other components throughout its range of motion. I've seen that quite often in past shop experience.

CENTERBORE

The "centerbore" is the machined hole in the center of the wheel. Ideally it's sized to fit snugly over the flange that extends from the hub to center the wheel as the lugs are tightened to prevent wheel runout (read, big vibration). However, the size of the hub flange is not standard and varies according to vehicle manufacturer. In order to make a wheel that will fit as many different vehicles as possible, many aftermarket wheel manufacturers machine a larger centerbore and use centering rings to fit all size vehicle hubs later.

Some wheels are not designed to center on the hub flange. Such wheels are called non-hub centric or lug centric, because they become centered as the lug nuts are tightened. Lug centric wheels should never be tightened with the weight of the vehicle on the wheel, to reduce the risk of runout and vibration.

BOLT PATTERN



Wheels are secured to the hub with lug nuts that fasten to studs on the hub, or with bolts that thread into holes in the hub. There can be anywhere from 4 to 8 studs/holes on late model cars and light trucks. Unfortunately the numbers of studs or holes is not the only difference between vehicles, as the distance between the adjacent studs or holes can also vary. This is why a wheel with 5 holes may not fit every other vehicle in the universe with 5 studs. "Bolt pattern" is expressed as the number of studs or holes X the distance between 2 specified studs/holes. For example, the bolt pattern 4 x 4.5 means four studs/holes with 4.5 inches between the centers of the studs/holes opposite one another.



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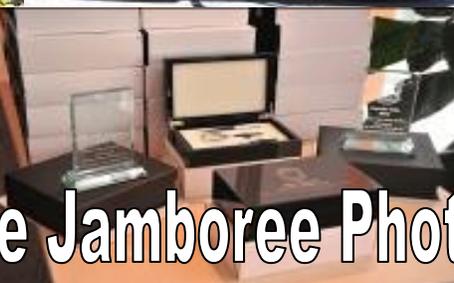
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June Jamboree Photos by Carl Schwartz



Sundial Magazines the publishers of the monthly title *Mercedes Enthusiast* have launched a new quarterly magazine *Classic Mercedes*.

Classic Mercedes will focus on the world's best and most coveted classic Mercedes-Benz models, from the iconic SL Gullwing of the 1950's through to the Modern Classics of the 1980s and 1990s.

Classic Mercedes will have strong international theme sourcing the broadest possible spread of material from across the world with company and model profiles, plus guidance on buying. The photographic element will be pronounced feature of its presentation.

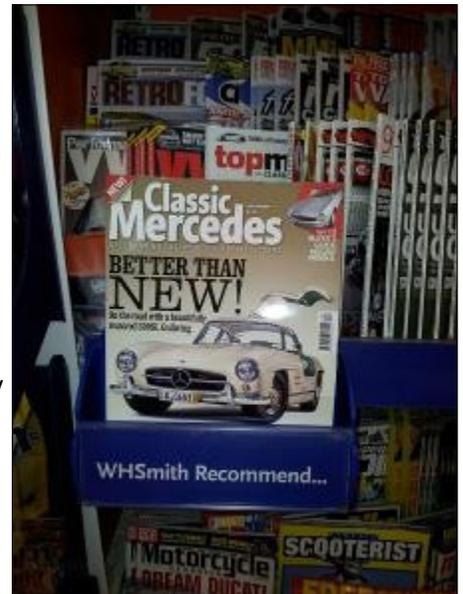
It is designed to complement *Mercedes Enthusiast* which maintains its policy of covering all aspects of the Mercedes brand while leaving the new *Classic Mercedes* to concentrate on solely classics.

Classic Mercedes is targeted at the affluent collectors and enthusiasts of the brand which will emphasised by the high quality production and paper stock of the title.

Classic Mercedes will be on sale in selected Barnes & Noble stores from the end of July/early August 2012 and will cost just \$12.50 per issue.

If you can't get to a Barnes & Noble store, then you can order *Classic Mercedes* on the website (\$12.50 inc. air mail) or subscribe for just \$40.

For more information www.classicmercedesmagazine.com



Congress Hall - Cape May, NJ
See page 2

Moving?

Send Address Changes to:
MBCA 1907 LeLarey Street
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or call 1-800-637-2360



Werner Fehlauer

MBCA Mid Atlantic Regional Director Werner Fehlauer passed away in July.

Werner had been a very active and involved member of MBCA for a long time. He enjoyed doing Auto Crosses in his "Smart Car" and faithfully attended our June Jamboree as well as many other events such as the Regional Picnic held at Falkenhorst and our Holiday Parties over the years.

He would travel to the different sections as Regional Director and enjoyed participating in a variety of events. He and his wife, Nancy, were also the hosts of the annual Blueberry Picnic hosted by the South Jersey Section.

He loved his Mercedes and was always enthusiastic when discussing them and the benefits of sponsoring safe driving courses for our members.

His support and his knowledge of all things Mercedes-Benz will sorely be missed. We offer our sincere condolences to his family.



Deutscher Club Biergarten Benz Blast

It was touch and go for a while on July 27, but the weather decided to cooperate and the dark and gloomy skies gave way to blue skies and fluffy clouds. We gathered under the trees in the Deutscher Club's Biergarten in Clark and proudly displayed our Benzes for all to see.



Red was the color of the day – as four of our 15 cars were red - 1995 e 320 cab, 2011 GLK 350, 1989 560 SL, and a 1995 SL320. While the music played in the background our members dined on some well prepared and delicious German food and some even hoisted a beer or two. The Deutscher Club members took a great deal of interest in our cars and spent a lot of time talking to our members about them.

Valerie

Friday Evening, August 3, 2012 – Germania Park in Dover, NJ. Thanks to one of our members, we have been invited to participate in the Auto Show at Germania Park this year. We will be able to display our cars in the picnic area by the *Biergarten* for all to enjoy. There will also be music by Bernies Orchestra for our listening and dancing pleasure. So break out the lederhosen and come join fellow members for another fun night. There is no charge and complimentary dinner coupon for the driver and one guest is included. The event will take place from 4 pm to 10 pm and you may arrive any time during that time. There is no registration fee for this event, however, please let Valerie know whether or not you will be attending so that we can plan on space for all of our cars.

You can let her know by email mercedeslady1@verizon.net or by phone if you do not have email – 908-369-0793. Germania Park is located on Conger Street in Dover, NJ – just minutes off Rte. 46 or I-80 – 80 West – exit 35A; 80 East – exit 35. You can check out their website for directions and more information about the Park. www.germaniapark.com

Wednesday Evening, August 15, 2012 - Flemington Car Show – 2012 Car Show Series Hunterdon Shopping Ctr.

Calling all Mercedes Benz owners.....Come join us on Wednesday, August 15, 2012 for a fun filled evening at the Flemington Car Show from 6-8:30PM at the Hunterdon Shopping Center, located at the intersection of Rt 31 & Reaville Ave. General Admission is FREE and there will be lots of fun places to shop and grab a bite to eat while you're looking at the cars and listening to music provided by DJ, Classic Gas. If you would like to bring your own car down, there will be no charge... just show up and have a great time. Each car that participates will get coupons and a meal voucher good for FREE FOOD! Come meet and talk with fellow MB enthusiasts – Just look for our NNJS banner Awards will be independently judged for "Classic Car of the Night" and "Muscle Car of the Night." In addition, each show we'll be asking spectators to vote for the "People's Choice Car of the Night." Each winning car will receive a trophy and prizes. That's not all...those votes cast by spectators are also entry forms to win prizes!



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From the President Valerie Cristiano



Want to get more involved in Club activities?

How about helping with the planning of a nice scenic drive?

Do you know of some good places to eat where we could meet as a group?

Do you have a favorite weekend destination that you think our members might enjoy?

How about volunteering to help plan our 50th June Jamboree?

Do you have a special area of interest or expertise that you would like to share with other members of the Club? Have you been to an event/activity with another section or group that you would like to see our Section offer to its members? What about ideas or suggestions of activities that our Club could do?

If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, please email me mercedeslady1@verizon.net with your thoughts, ideas, or suggestions.

The more that our members are involved in the planning and the carrying out of activities, the more varied they will become and hopefully participation in events will increase.

Reminder:

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

Notice:

The next deadline for submission of all written and graphic material to the editor is Sept. 21, 2012. Please email your submissions to Ken Spingarn khs@openix.com



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John Kuhn Bleimaier



There is something very special about driving the twisty back roads of Spain's Basque region. The mountains are much lower than the Alps but they have a jagged, angular quality which differentiates them substantially from the Appalachians with which I am intimately familiar. The switch backs down the side of the Cantabrian Mountains require judicious application of throttle and brakes while rowing up and down the gearbox to select just the right cog. A touch of heel-and-toe, coupled with disabling the electronic stability control, allows one to hang out the tail in a sweeper. The Spanish road surfaces are impeccable and the vistas across steeply inclined verdant pastures punctuated by steely grey rock outcroppings make for an unforgettable experience.

I'm not surprised that C Class Mercedes coupes are very plentiful on the byways of the Iberian peninsula. From personal knowledge I can tell you that the junior partner in the Mercedes passenger car lineup possesses perfect balance and tenacious grip. These are effectively four-wheeled "luge sleds" meant for high speed work in a mountain environment. Watching a fleet C180 sports coupe (sic) scrubbing rubber on the curves plunging into the Deba River valley in the hands of a deft Spaniard is a joy indeed.

I happened to find myself in Spain in order to join my cousin, Martin Pluess, before the mast of a 53 footer catching the breezes around the Balearic Islands. While in this part of the world I could not resist the opportunity to visit Eibar, the Basque town where elegant side-by-side shotguns have been crafted for the Spanish bespoke sporting trade for centuries. At the terminus of an arduous yet exhilarating drive I visited the exalted workshops of Aguirre y Aranzabal, Arrieta and Garbi where I watched artists fashion cold steel into lively implements for the chase. As an ardent fan of all things mechanical I thoroughly enjoyed the sight of skilled hands fashioning a delicate sidelock mechanism from a raw bar stock forging.



But riding the roads of the Basque country alone would justify a visit to this unique corner of Europe. Along the craggy marge of the Bay of Biscay folks with a fine sense of aesthetics have laid down a well banked strip of tarmac. One can run the razor's edge of delight between the azure deep and the unforgiving rock wall, proceeding at full 10/10ths. The ever present subconscious sensation of peril actually adds to the intensity of the pleasure like the savor of close cut fugu sushi. As I said before, I have never seen so many Mercedes C Class sports coupes on the road in any other country. When you are going to carve up a potentially deadly curve you need a sharp, precision instrument.

I am personally very pleased that Mercedes has now reintroduced the C Class sports coupe in our US market for 2013 and is making it available in an AMG package. We have some pretty demanding back roads here, from Skyline drive to the California coastal highway and this starship is just the ticket. This time around MBUSA is introducing this very sharp C Class coupe as a serious, sporting vehicle not as a poseur's entry level, micro luxury liner. The Mercedes sports coupe deserves a place among the world's finest drivers' cars.

Speaking of serious road going machinery, recently Porsche USA invited me to New Jersey Motorsports Park to sample their new model lineup including the new Boxster and the new Panamera sedan. These Zuffenhausen chargers are quick and competent. Shod with broad-beamed low-profile rubber they can post blistering times on the Millville closed circuit track. However, I have to note that the Mercedes C Class sports coupe is substantially more fleet footed than the Porsche Panamera and, furthermore, gives the diminutive Boxster quite a run for its money. In fact the AMG coupe beats out the Boxster S in virtually every category of performance. So, when it comes to shotguns and sporting vehicles, I admire the good taste and discernment of the Spanish people.

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Registration fees are grouped into "pre-bundled" savings packages but Members may also select and pay for a number of activities individually.

Package options include the Basic Package, designed for MBCA Members, Associate Members and their guests.

The Basic Package includes the welcome reception, rallye, admission to **all** seminars, credentials, a goodies bag and much, much more. Members can select either the Concours d'Elegance Package, the Driving Package or the Complete StarFest Package. These packages combine the most commonly-attended activities and offer significant savings versus registering for activities separately. See ad on next page

These savings Packages, as well as separate events, are explained in detail on the website.

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Don't miss our 25th Annual Regional Picnic - See page 7

NNJS Upcoming Events

Friday, August 3—

Biergartenfest & Auto Show—

Germania Park, Dover, NJ—See
page 13

Wednesday, August 15—

Flemington Car Show—Hunterdon
Shopping Center—Flemington,
NJ—See page 13

Saturday, September 22— 25th

Annual Regional Picnic at
Falconhorst—Hopewell, NJ—See
page 7



Saturday, November 3-

Tech Session—Contemporary Motors—
Little Silver, NJ

Friday & Saturday, November 16 &

17— Cape May Event—Cape May,
NJ—See page 2

Sunday, December 2—

Holiday Party at the German American
Club—Clark, NJ



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