



The Jersey Southern Star

"Das Beste oder nichts"

Volume 7, Issue 1

January/February 2012

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It's AUTO SHOW TIME! Details on Page 4!



**MBCA-
SJS
NEEDS
YOU!**

See Page 5...

**2011-2013
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Welcome, New Members!

Joseph Archer

Luciano Bispo

Mark Grabowski

George Molyneaux

Roland Zimmerman

**We look forward to seeing you at one of
our upcoming events!**

*Have you recruited a new member for our club?
Please call 1.800.637.2360 or visit www.mbca.org
to join now!*

We are doing EMAIL BLASTS!

**Don't miss out on our
MONTHLY events!**

**Send your email address to
Interim Secretary,
Danny Goldberg at
mb300dt@yahoo.com TODAY!**



Correction: The Ad for 20% classic Mercedes Benz maintenance that was published in the October-November issue of the Jersey Southern Star should have indicated that the offer was from MB of Wilmington, DE. The Editor apologizes for any confusion.

Club Calendar

South Jersey Section Events

Check out our website @ www.sjs-mbca.org for the latest event information!

January 21, 2012—Meet and Greet at Ponzio's Diner in Cherry Hill

Let's talk about this year's events, cars, and more over coffee and cake at Ponzio's Diner on Route 70 in Cherry Hill. Meeting time: 10 AM. Need directions? Contact any of your new E-Board reps!

February 4, 2012 Philadelphia International Auto Show *See Page 4!*

Sunday, April 22, 2012 - Finding the Alphabet A MBCA-SJS Scavenger Hunt!

Meet up at 1 pm at Fiesta Mexicana, 327 12th St, Hammonton, NJ 08037

Registration fee: \$20 per car

Plan to join us for a driving hunt for The Alphabet. The teams will search for specific letters of the alphabet, such as the A from Applebee's, around Hammonton, NJ. Drivers will be given a map and a sheet of alphabet pictures. Awards will be awarded for finding the most letters, before the time limit expires. The search area will be limited to a confined area, Hammonton, NJ and some of the country side.

Drivers, and their navigators, will be given a list of pictures (yes 26) and asked to describe where the letter was found. Drivers will earn points for accuracy and total time to resolve. To add a twist, drivers will be asked to guess how many letters they expect to find before the driving begins, closets to the actual will win also. We will meet back at Fiesta Mexicana for snacks and awards. The awards will be allocated to cars, with no consideration to the number of riders (more eyes find more letters).

Bill Fisher is managing this event and may be contacted with questions or comments. Please notify Bill if you are attending. Pre-registration and payment are not required, but notification will help in the planning. BillFisher_560sl@yahoo.com 609-221-2633

For more information on events in your region or around the country,
check out the MBCA Events Calendar @ <http://www.mbca.org/upcoming-events>

The 17th annual Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance will be held March 9-11, 2012.

Adults tickets are \$50 in advance; \$60 at the gate, and Youth age 12-18 are \$25. Children under 12 are admitted at no charge when accompanied by a paying adult. Tickets are also available for the Friday and Saturday seminars, the Porsche Driving Experience, and Club Amelia.

Club Amelia ticket packages will be mailed prior to the Concours; all other tickets purchased in advance on-line cannot be mailed, but will be held at Will Call for pick-up during show week. *If you would like a gift receipt, showing what you have purchased that special someone, please note this in the Special Instructions section of your order along with the mailing address and we will mail the gift certificate to you.*

All tickets can be purchased online at www.ameliaconcours.org.

Philly Auto Show 2012

Exclusive access to the Mercedes Benz Pavilion at the Philadelphia International Car Show



Last year this beauty was on the raffle block...what will the prize be this year??? Join us on February 4 to find out!

This very popular MBCA SJS event is scheduled for Saturday, February 4, 2012.

The club will meet at the Woodcrest PATCO station (the high-speed line) at 7:15 AM and take the 7:33 train into Philadelphia. Train tickets are sold from vending machines only, no ticket windows, so please bring paper and coin currency that is accepted at a machine (not the dirty old bills). The Woodcrest Station is at Exit 31 on I-295.

We are set to enter the show at 8 AM, an hour before the rest of the show opens, for our exclusive access to the Mercedes-Benz exhibit.

The club will collect \$5.00 per person for a donation to the "The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia". This enables us to match the contribution the Car Show is making to the hospital.

After our private tour of the MB exhibit, we are free to roam the auto show. Those of us interested in a dutch-treat lunch at a local restaurant usually venture back to the train station around noon-ish. Feel free to come or spend the day in the city.



Get behind the wheel of a number of new and exciting models at the world famous Philadelphia Auto Show!



Want to join in the fun? Just be at the train station bright and early, or even meet us at the show — no registration required. For more car show info, see www.phillyautoshow.com. —Bill Fisher

Catch a Falling Star



I bought my first Mercedes in 1999 after trading a two hour train commute for a 35 mile drive in each direction. Long wanting a Diesel, this was the perfect opportunity to acquire one. The car was a 1984 Massa Red (read: odd orange) W123 300d work horse.

Being a shade tree mechanic, I set off to learn how to maintain a Diesel. Thanks to the internet it was easy to find great sources of information, including MBCA which I promptly joined. The first Club event we attended was the annual regional picnic at John Bleimar's farm in Hopewell.

Later that fall as the South Jersey section Board was being retooled I agreed to become section secretary. The "job" is really painless and requires very little time. In return MBCA - SJS has offered me not only car repair advice, a great magazine and fun events to attend, it has also created friendships with many wonderful folks.

Sadly however, since 1999 the club has been unable to find another volunteer to step forward to become secretary. Over the years it's gotten worse and now the section is facing a crisis! The same dwindling core of people have been the section leadership forever, and frankly as much as we care, as much as we like MBCA, we are all a bit burned out and want to go back to just "being members".

So here is the deal, this "new - old" transitional leadership team will continue in our positions for the next eleven months. During that time, you, *yes you*, and other section members need to take the next step and come forward to join the Board. Trust me, it's not rocket science, it's not all consuming, and it need not cost you a dime! If you know how to use a phone and surf the web, you're more than qualified. The Board's main task is to set the section calendar, plan and run the events. Have kids? Held birthday parties for them? Been on the PTO? Helped plan the office surprise party for the boss? You're good to go – it's that simple a deal.

The alternative is not nearly as pretty. If by December 2012 the section does not have a functioning group of volunteers, the current officers will vote to dissolve the section.

We don't want to, but feel there's no alternative. Blame us if you want – in reality it's unclear if you will. The sad part is for the 60 plus members who do come to one or more event each year it will be a loss. If your excuse is lack of interested in the current events, come out and help create a new one you like. Don't worry, MBCA members will continue to receive the STAR (as long as you pay dues) and you will be offered a new section with which to affiliate.

The new Ad-Hoc Board's first monthly meeting will be at Ponzio's Diner in Cherry Hill on Saturday, January 21st, at 10 AM. Come tell us what the club means to you and how you can lend a hand. Bad time to take a drive and have a cup of coffee (on us)? Drop me an email mb300dt@yahoo.com and we'll go from there.

Danny Goldberg, Interim Secretary

M E M B E R V O I C E S

Holiday Party 2012

From Top Center: Members enjoy a sumptuous brunch buffet; Interim Secretary Danny Goldberg finally gets a shot at the omlette station; Regional Director Werner Felhauer checks out the Michelin Tire silent auction, before; spending time with treasured family and friends, including former Treasurer Lou Granato and clan; MB ornaments about at the gift table; MB Santa Bear looks on in delight before posing for a shot with Lou Granato's granddaughter, Dominica.

M E M B E R V O I C E S



Susan Goldberg humbly accepts the Member of the Year honor.



Norm Ross joins the McNicholl clan.

Congratulations!

Al Adelhoc—15 Years of Membership

Joyce Ellis—5 Years of Membership

Don Wilson—5 Years of Membership

Susan Goldberg, Newsletter Editor—Member of the Year

Five-Year Honoree Donald Wilson, wife Shirleen, and good friends including past President Jerome Johnson and wife Roslyn.



Jurgen and Barbara Bahlo, Jim Beck, and friends reconnect over a delicious buffet while Treasurer Bill Fisher leads the group in a reflection on this past year's events.



Interim President's Message

The 2011 year was fun and comes to a close. Our club ended the year with a delicious Holiday Party at Scotland Run Golf Course. We will start 2012 off with a Board Meeting open to the public at Ponzio's Diner in Cherry Hill on Saturday, January 21st at 10 AM. Please, come and share your event ideas and tell us why SJS matters to you!

The traditional outing, the trip to the Philadelphia Car Show, will be on Saturday, February 4, 2012. We get early and exclusive access to the Mercedes cars from 8 to 9 AM, and we have the fun of all there other members being there. We continue this event, because it is so popular.

In April, Bill Fisher has committed to providing a fun romp around Hammonton, NJ with the Alphabet Game, a challenge that was hosted by the Portland Section with great success, as reported in the Star . The year will have more events; these are just a taste of what's to come.

In order to give the club members an opportunity to actually meet face to face and to discuss cars and things about cars – we are planning a monthly meeting at a diner. We will have more details in the next newsletter.

You may notice a few new names on the list of officers, and a few 'older' names. I'm new to being President of the section, and I ask your patience as things get started. Adam Goldberg has stepped up to Vice President and is new to the officer ranks – thanks Adam for your contributions. Our Secretary is a returning favorite, Danny Goldberg. Danny has carried the role of secretary for many years and kept the corporation legal. Many thanks to Danny's contribution. The treasure remains Bill Fisher, who reports there is money in the account today, and that we are on budget.

In the works for mid-year is a big – fun – driving event. We will tell you more when we know more – but if you are in the club looking for that fantastic driving event (with no speeding tickets), watch for more news. A seed of a thought was planted at the Holiday Party, and members are working on it.

Happy motoring!

Karen Fisher

Check out these AMAZING deals from club member, Michael Colosi.
Interested? Contact him at 717-575-7817 or macol3@aol.com

2008 Mercedes Benz SL550, 22,000 miles, excellent condition, \$58,000.

RARE panorama sunroof built into the hardtop convertible, two sets of matching rims each with seasonal tires, Navigation, Premium I Package: (heated/ventilated seats with massage for both driver and passenger, bi-xenon cornering fog lamps and keyless go), AMG Sport Package: (Paddle shifters, multi-spoke 18" wheels and AMG appearance trim items), 318 Trim Package: (Stone nappa leather interior, wood/leather shift knob, and steering wheel), chestnut wood trim and Hands free phone. Adult driven, one owner, garage kept, original MSRP \$109,425.

2008 Mercedes Benz E63 AMG, 58,000 miles, excellent condition, \$49,000.

VERY RARE "030" AMG Performance Package: (limited slip rear differential, upgraded 18" multi-piece wheels, alcantara steering wheel, further suspension adjustments, and a speed limiter DELETION). Top speed 186 mph, car has never seen the track or raced, Premium II Package: (heated/ventilated seats, Navigation, power rear sunshade, headlamp washing system, bi-xenon cornering fog lamps and keyless go) Panorama roof, Designo burl walnut trim, Electronic trunk closer, Hands free phone, iPod integration, Rear spoiler. Adult driven, one owner, garage kept, original MSRP \$102,260.

SHANGRI—LOT

Advertising Information: SJS members may place an ad in The Jersey Southern Star free of charge. To place an ad please contact the Newsletter Editor. The editor has sole discretion in determining ad acceptability and length.

For Sale—M-B factory Windblocker for a 2005 and on SLK Mint condition! including carrying case \$375.00 firm. Contact Joe Turner Old Mill Lane Meadowbrook, Pa 19046 Cell 609-774-8495

For Sale – 4 1984 380SL original wheels in average condition. There are four P 205-60R14 radials currently mounted on them. The tires have less than 3000 miles on them and the side of the auto on which they were mounted is noted on the inside of each wheel. Pick up only. **Make Offer!** Call Joe (609) 680-3049 or e-mail to jgreco23@comcast.net.



For Sale—Wheels & Tires
4X Yokohama ADVAN-032ZR Specs: 245-45-ZR17.
\$200 + Shipping. Free delivery in South Jersey.
Contact Dr. Richard Miranti at 732-505-0828



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Know of a Benz-related Business Looking to Advertise?

Contact SJS Treasurer Bill Fisher at billfisher_560sl@yahoo.com or by phone at 609.221.2633.

Full Page: \$500.00

Half Page: \$275.00

Quarter Page: \$150.00

Business Card: \$75.00

Rates are for one year or 6 consecutive bi-monthly issues, with ad material or black and white artwork suitable for scanning or direct incorporation into the newsletter, provided by the advertiser.

MBCA 2012 Membership News Bulletin

From MBCA President Steve Dierks (steve@mbca.org)

and Executive Director Doug Truitt (doug@mbca.org)

Effective January 1, 2012 MBCA membership dues will increase as follows:

	U.S. <u>Membership Dues</u>	Canadian & Int'l <u>Membership Dues</u>
1 Year	Was \$45 Will Be \$49	Was \$55 Will Be \$59
2 Years	Was \$87 Will Be \$95	Was \$107 Will Be \$115
3 Years	Was \$127 Will Be \$139	Was \$157 Will Be \$169

5 Reasons for the 2012 Dues Increase

1. It has been 12 years since MBCA last raised its dues
2. 2012 dues represent an increase of less than 9% over 2011
3. MBCA has been able to avoid a dues increase for more than a decade but increasing operating expenses makes it virtually impossible to avoid a modest increase today
4. The list of MBCA member benefits and discounts has markedly expanded in the last two years. Please see the 2/3 page advertorial in the January/February issue of The Star® magazine for details or visit www.mbca.org/member-benefits for a complete list of benefits
5. We want to ensure that MBCA can continue to meet its promise/value proposition: To be an enduring and sustainable Mercedes-Benz enthusiast organization known for nurturing and inspiring the Mercedes-Benz experience

Special Incentives for MBCA Members, Effective NOW!

Members who RENEW their membership beginning 1/1/12 or AFTER will receive:

3 additional months of membership FREE when they renew for 3 years (at the 2012 rate)

2 additional months of membership FREE when they renew for 2 years (at the 2012 rate)

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Mercedes Benz Club of America South Jersey Section—Financial Report 2011

Cash balance 1/1/11 10,925.86

Receipts

National 1,711.00

Total Receipts 1,711.00

Expenses

News Letter 864.44

Outings 70.00

Web Site 79.60

Postage 8.80

Holiday Party 585.09

Total Expenses 1,607.93

Cash Balance 12/4/11 11,028.93

Members:

How would YOU like to spend
YOUR money this year?
Contact your E-Board with
suggestions today!

C 63 AMG Wagon...A Look Ahead to 2013

So far shown only as a coupe, the 2012 Mercedes-Benz C 63 AMG Black Series is one vicious yet surprisingly compliant factory special; we know, as we recently spent a day thrashing one around Laguna Seca (more to come on that soon). Now, however, the boffins at AMG appear to be working on an Estate, or wagon, version of the ultimate C-Class.



That skips right over the sedan version, which is also likely being tested but has not yet been spied. Nevertheless, we're glad to see the wagon version in process, as it lends an extra degree of utility to what is already a brilliant car.

The C 63 AMG Black Series wagon is likely to share its specs with the coupe version, though it will certainly get unique suspension tuning and perhaps a few unique wagon-specific options. That means power output for the wagon should be right at 510 horsepower and 457 pound-feet of torque from the venerable 6.2-liter V-8 engine, good for 0-62 mph runs in the coupe of 4.2 seconds.

The AMG Speedshift MCT seven-speed clutched automatic transmission is also a shoo-in, as are the concomitant Race Start launch control mode, adjustable sport driving modes, and manual-mode paddle shifters.

We also expect the Track and Aerodynamics packages to be available on the wagon, though they may take slightly different form to better maximize performance of the wagon.

We'll keep our ears to the ground on the development progress, including any word of a coming sedan, but for now, feast your eyes on the wagon--and warm up those check books. The E 63 AMG wagon is coming to America, so there's at least a possibility the C 63 AMG Black Series might follow the same path, particularly if the very limited-volume coupe sells out quickly.

Nelson Ireson, *MotorAuthority.com*



Fill 'Er Up!

Longtime MB fan and SJS member Danny Goldberg recently clicked into a treasure-trove of photos chronicling America's love for the automobile...or at least gassing it up.

Have a favorite memory from the road that you'd like to share?

Send the story, picture, or link to jerseysouthernstareditor@yahoo.com.



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