

StarTracks 2012



Volume 8, Issue 1

January-February 2012

HOLIDAY PARTY Sunday, December 4th

Crisp, clear and not as cold as it could be. Certainly not the snowfall we had a couple of years ago. The Deutscher Club in Clark is a great spot for a dinner party, organized, clean as a whistle and ready to provide a great time.

About 70 of us enjoyed great German food – not always easy to find in these parts.

Arriving at noon, drinks at the bar, and appetizers of shrimp, smoked salmon or salad; buffet choices of sauerbraten, goulash, traditional sausages, spaetzel, red cabbage and a bunch of other stuff.

What a nice time. Everyone received a Mercedes Christmas ornament. Lucille was awarded a framed poster, featuring Frank's car, signed by the artist, of the Mercedes Day in Summit held last September.

Valerie received a framed print of 'Registration' taken by Carl several years ago, what a truly representative photo. The 13 Team Leaders received a gigantic Lands' End tote bag and a personalized Santa hat. The Board presented a MB Tourneau watch to Joe Grattan as a farewell gift.

Valerie brought the station wagon, parked near the door so she could haul away the haul of all



Outgoing President, Joe Grattan

the Toys for Tots we brought.

For the second year we spent good money buying beautiful poinsettias for each table; thank you Lucille. Beautiful, but too big, too full, Got in the way of conversation. We will do something different next year.

There was an agreement we should have the 2012 Holiday Party here again next year. Lucille cut a check, on the spot, for \$500, to reserve the date of Sunday December 2, 2012 starting at noon. Ya gotta reserve early if you wanna get a good restaurant for December. Ya can't be earlier than Sunday December 4, 2011.





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Packages for the Troops in Afghanistan

We delivered to Mickey Wagner, Sergeant, USMC 1981-1989, Founder of West Orange Cares, the cash and products we gathered for delivery to the troops in Afghanistan early next year. Thank you to Julie Levine for setting this up.

These items included:

25 magazines donated by Men's / Women's Health

30 Star magazines

25 MB hats donated by Tom Elder and MB of Freehold

25 note books & 60 pens sold to us a significant discount by Staples

50 cigars donated by Famous Cigars in Easton PA

As well as several other items.

And a check for \$300, which is slightly more than we collected at the June Jamboree earlier this year.

We had made this a plan early in 2010 but never really got off the ground. It's not as easy as you have heard. We found it better to align ourselves with folks that already have a system in place. Julie Levine was able to make the connection for us. West Orange Cares is a well-established local group that sends packages to our troops on a regular basis – serving military from this area.

Thank you to all who have contributed cash or spent your good will to get us stuff free or at a reduced price to donate to our young men and women in areas where there is not a Post Exchange to get interesting / needed / useful things easily every day.

Holiday Happiness

A multitude of "Thanks" to all of our members who generously donated to this wonderful cause – **Toys for Tots**. This year we were able to fill the way back of our 1995 E320 wagon and deliver them to the drop-off location at the municipal building. The items were then picked up and sorted by the volunteers from the local PTO and distributed to some of the less fortunate families in the area. **Holiday Happiness** was started 35 years ago and has been distributing toys, clothing, and other household necessities during the Holiday season ever since.

Valerie Cristiano

FOR SALE: 1971 Mercedes-Benz 280SE 3.5 Coupe Metallic blue exterior, blue leather interior. A/C, Good running condition. Three owners, 210,000 miles Needs some TLC. Asking \$9,500.

Andrew Permison thepermitage@comcast.net 973-379-7283



FOR SALE: 1985 380SL – Wonderfully-maintained, garage-kept, dependable car. Red with red hard top, dark brown convertible top, and tan interior. I have had tons of fun driving this vehicle since purchasing it in 1998 from a member of the Mercedes Club, and it has been a very reliable car. 185K miles. \$14,950. Car is garaged in Morristown in case you want to check it out. Contact Joe at 646-245-8926 or joe.stivaletti@gs.com.



FOR SALE: 107 Hardtop Carrier. Very Little Use. Excellent Condition. For use with: 450 SL, 380 SL, 500 SL, 560 SL. (1972-1989) \$125.00. Carrier Cover is included. \$150.00 for both, OBO. Joe Cristiano 908-369-0793

FOR SALE: Mercedes Benz SL removable hard top including stand and cover, \$1000.00 or best offer. This mint condition top (signal red with a palomino headliner) is from a 1991 SL with 34,000 original miles. Located in Northern New Jersey. Carl 201-401-4421 nbehringer@hotmail.com

FOR SALE: Four Mercedes Rims - W140 Chassis. Will fit 92-99-S Class vehicles. \$240 all four re-conditioned and clear coated rims.



Like new. Dave Veith 973-985-6179



FOR SALE: 2005 Mercedes E55 AMG in excellent condition. Low miles (36,800); Pewter w/ black interior and wood grain accents; Original (non-smoking) owner; Leather, carpet and windshield perfect; No mechanical problems; Wheels beautiful and in excellent condition; 8 cylinder / 472HP; Tip-tronic/Automatic; Heated and cooled leather seats; Harmon Kar-don stereo w/ 6 CD changer and iPod doc; Remote keyless 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



FOR SALE: 1971 280 SEL 60,879 Miles. Taupe with Brown upholstery. Repainted 4 yrs. ago. Many renewed mechanical and electrical parts including a new entire muffler system. New Tires. Runs and Drives well. Restoration 85% complete. No Rust. Asking \$4,900.00 or OBO Clear Title
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FOR SALE: 1995 E320 Cabriolet – 98,000 miles - Near showroom condition, inside and out - Car comes in very desirable triple black - Black with Black Leather Interior Black Soft Top - Full AC- Very tight, smooth running engine - No transmission slippage - All accessories in full working order – Only 4500 miles on new tires. W124 Platform Only 6500 built - very good potential to become a Collector's Car - Original MSRP \$77,300 Asking \$15,800 – please contact Peter Jansen 732-416-0023 or peter-jansen@comcast.net



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



PRIVATE PARTY from PA desires Mercedes with <100K (or close) Need to replace my dear 300 which suddenly died with 135K; Gone but not forgotten. Want a 4-dr sedan or you name it in VG+ condition. Reasonable seller will be a fast seller. Write w/ pics to: outfordinner1@yahoo.com

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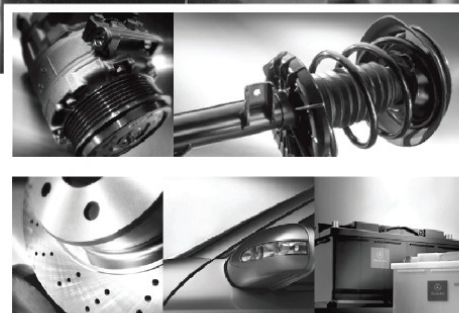
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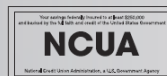
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Antiques Road Show

Sunday, March 18, 2012

If it's March – it must be the Annual NNJS Antiques Road Show. Alan Snyder, our very own certified antiques appraiser, will once again take us on a visual history lesson into the past. If you have never been to one of our Antiques Road Shows now is the time to come on out and enjoy the good time had by all. If you have attended in the past, you know how much fun it is and the stories of what the objects are thought to be and what some of them actually turn out to be are quite different and hilarious. (Remember the 'soup tureen' that was actually a 'slop pot'?)

So - save the date, **Sunday, March 18th** for the Annual NNJS Antiques Road Show to be held at Bella Italia in Orange. Always a good time, Bella Italia has great food, wonderful service and off-street parking. The cost will remain the same as in the past as the Club continues to subsidize our events: Adults - \$35, Children under 12 - \$5. There will also be 2 – yes 2-\$75 gift certificates to Bella Italia given away as door prizes.

For directions please see Bella Italia's website <http://www.bellaitaliarestaurantnj.com> (973) 669-0966.

Annual Antiques Road Show - Sunday, March 18

Please register with Lucille by March 10th so that we can give the restaurant an accurate head count.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ No. Attending ____ @ \$35/person: = \$ _____

Make check payable to MBCA-NNJS and send to:

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High Gear

John Kuhn Bleimaier



When the pagoda top 230SL was introduced in 1963 it was an immediate design sensation. The concave removable hardtop accounted for part of the excitement. But the general form of the Mercedes sports car looked utterly right from every perspective. Furthermore the shape was unaccountably tight, drawn of a piece. It was dimensionally compact, yet broad shouldered and tough: a classic pocket battleship. The 230SL, known in Mercedes circles by its body designation 113, also was one of the first sports cars conceived around wide contact patch, radial tires. Paul Bracq, the French fine artist on the Mercedes design team, took the brilliant styling elements from his 111 and 110 series sedans and scaled them perfectly for a two passenger application. A work of genius.



I personally believe in the concept of objective beauty. If beauty is exclusively in the eye of the beholder, and is thus purely subjective, why do we bother to train artists, or preserve great works in art museums? If beauty was just a matter of personal taste, then nothing would be ugly and aesthetics would be meaningless. While I recognize that we don't always agree, I support Leonardo da Vinci's credo that we are obliged to seek out the universal rules of beauty. He began his quest by studying the principles of balance and proportion. Leonardo would have loved the Mercedes-Benz 230SL.

Now, at last, the model 113, this consummate work of art and engineering, has inspired a book worthy of this exalted subject. MBCA member, Michael Salemi, has conceived, designed and edited a definitive work entitled, *Pagoda Style*. I am a bibliophile and an art collector. I have never seen a volume which blends text, illustration and photography to such a powerful effect. This tome is not merely about the art of design and engineering. It is a work of art in its own right. This is perhaps the first book to fully take advantage of cutting edge developments in digital imaging and lithography in order to create an integrated and completely satisfying biblioplectic creation.

Not only the devotees of the 113 model in its 230SL, 250SL and 280SL iterations must own this new book. Every aficionado of the motorcar and every bibliophile is obliged to acquire *Pagoda Style* for his or her library. Designed in the

United States, printed and bound in Canada, this collectors' edition is available by contacting: pagodamansl@gmail.com. At \$75 a crack it is an unexpected bargain.

The 230SL replaced two iconic starships in the Mercedes lineup when it hit the streets in '63. Both the 300SL and the 190SL had achieved cult status during their production lives. The former as a super-performing competition car tractable enough for road use; and the latter as the ultimate boulevardier with splendid back road capabilities. To take the places of two disparate yet equally successful vehicles represented a seemingly impossible mission. But Paul Bracq and his team managed to achieve their objective in spades.

The 1950s represented the high watermark of the sports racer. That was the last decade when cars were driven to the track under their own power, competed in races, took the checkered flag and then drove home. It was the twilight of a romantic era when competition drivers wore polo shirts or sported bow ties. Silk scarves and leather backed goggles were standard equipment. In that last full decade after the great conflagration the 300SL made its mark. It drove into the sunset as the quintessential sports racing conveyance.



The 230SL never pretended to the 300SL's competition throne. The 113 model body style was a sports car in the 1960s idiom. It provided superb handling, ample power, tactile engagement

and wind in your hair. It was not built to run flat out down the Mulsanne Straight at Le Mans. Rather it was intended to run down to the Riviera with the pedal to the metal and to provide g force grip on the switchbacks of the Alpes Maritimes.

From our perspective five decades down the road, a 1963 230SL appears to be a hairy chested and untamed back roads contender. It is very different from the cossetting capsules of opulence which arrogate unto themselves the sports car moniker in 2012. Ah, yes, some of us will never forget *Pagoda Style*.

From the President Valerie Cristiano



Happy New Year One and All!!! So far this winter we have had some clear weather sailing so let's hope that it continues as we have many wonderful events planned for your enjoyment. At our last event in 2011 – the Holiday Party – we had a huge turnout – some new faces and some that we had not seen in a long time and we hope that we can continue that so that our section can continue to grow and be very active. As you will see by the Calendar of Upcoming Events, we are a very active section. We are trying to appeal to a variety of interests, if you see an event that you like come on out – if you're not sure – come on out anyway – you never know, if you would like to have an event that we are not offering – let me know and let's see if we can make it happen. Remember – it is YOUR section, YOU make it happen, for WE all work together.

Winter Tech Session

Saturday, February 11th 9:30 coffee. Start at 10; End by 2 PM

Five Guest Speakers / Live Presentations and Pizza Lunch.

We will be awarding three \$100 gift certificates.

Contact Lucille LuluChab@aol.com or 973 731 9133

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Guest Speakers

John O'C, Shade Tree Garage

Automotive Myths -

- Do all these long-life fluids matter or is it just oil?
- Are all-season tires the answer?
- What are the extended maintenance intervals?
- To whom should you listen?

JP, Madison Auto Body

- What are these new water-borne paints?
- When to call the dent wizard and when to call a body shop?

Mike Catelle, Alloy Wheel Repair

- Demo on repairing and refinishing alloy wheels

Pankaj Dayal, Insurance

- Basic and advanced suggestions for today's coverage
- Update on the Historical Vehicle Registration Initiative.

Mike W, Morristown Mercedes-Benz

- Original Equipment Parts vs. Aftermarket Parts

- Meeting Concludes by 2:00 pm



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End of the year 2011—Treasurer's report

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Opening balance – 2011 | \$24,022.32 |
| Income - | \$21,199.00 |
| Expenditures - | \$25,931.91 |
| Ending balance - 2011 | \$19,289.41 |

Lucille Chabala, Treasurer

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 Feb 21, 2012. Please email your submissions to Ken Spingarn khs@openix.com

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Colorado Springs, CO 80909
or call 1-800-637-2360



NNJS Upcoming Events

Saturday, February 11, 2012 —

Tech Session—Shade Tree Garage,
Morristown, NJ— See page 14

**Sunday, March 18, 2012 — Annual
Antiques Road Show** — Bella Italia
Restaurant—Orange, NJ— See
page 10

**Sunday, April 22, 2012—Car Control
Clinic** in association with PCA—Met
Life Stadium—Parking Lot E.—See
our [Website](#) for updates.

**Sunday, May 6 — AACA Auto Show
at Automatic Switch**—Mercedes-
Benz Gouping—East Hanover, NJ—
See our [Website](#) for updates.

May 19 or 20 — Spring Rallye

More details in next issue and on
the web

**Saturday, June 16—49th Annual
June Jamboree**—MBUSA Head-
quarters— Montvale, NJ

**Saturday, July 14—Fleetwood All
German Car Show**—Fleetwood, PA

Friday, July 27—Summer Car Show
at the German American Club—
Clark, NJ

**Friday, August 3—Biergartenfest &
Auto Show**—Germania Park, Dover,
NJ



**Saturday, September 22—Annual Re-
gional Picnic at Falconhorst**—Hopewell,
NJ

Sunday, December 2—Holiday Party at
the German American Club—Clark, NJ

