

StarTracks 2014



Volume 10, Issue 1

January-February 2014



BENZEL-BUSCH HOSTS A SUPER EVENT

We all arrived about 8:30am for registration and continental breakfast. Upon arrival each of us received a letter from BB offering us a 10% discount (on top of the usual Benzel-Busch MBCA discount of 15%). The discount can be used for the cost of any upcoming service visit including labor and parts.

Benzel Busch was the featured dealer in the May / June issue of The Star magazine and section president Matt Huda presented a plaque including that article.

After the presentation some of us went to a waiting fleet of the new CLA and the 2014 S Class.

All members had the opportunity of a test drive of each of the models. We were escorted by a BB delivery specialist who explained the features / benefits of each car.

The other half went to the shop where Andreas Molde (Shop Foreman) and Louis Buonomo (Group Leader) had the same models on lifts ready for closer inspection and providing detail on the workings of the features we experienced during the test drives.

I left at 12:30 with Andreas and Louis still answering questions about the two models and anything else that came up.

Clearly, BB put a lot of thought into this. The greeters in the front all knew we were coming.

The staff came in early to take us on the drive and two young women stayed with us the whole time answering any questions and providing directions. *Joe Grattan*



13th Annual Antiques Road Show Sunday, April 27, 2014

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, April 27, 2014** 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 - \$25, Children under 12 - \$5. There will also be 3 - yes 3-\$50.00 gift certificates given away as door prizes. Please arrive at 11:30 am.

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

For your convenience, a coupon is included on page 2.

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Carl Ian Schwartz

Carlianschwartz@mac.com

Antiques Road Show Sunday, April 27, 2014

Please register with Lucille by April 22 so that we can give the restaurant an accurate head count.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

No. Attending ____ @ \$25/person: = \$ _____

Children under 12 ____ @ \$5/child: = \$ _____

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

Please make check payable to MBCA-NNJS and send to:
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LuLuChab@aol.com 973-731-9133

GOLF IN AUGUST?

I know we just moved into daylight savings time and there is still 5" or 6" of global warming on the lawn, but now is the time to think about GOLF.

Actually, anytime is a good time to think about golf.

We would like to put together a couple of foursomes for some weekday in August at a course that will be convenient to everyone who is interested.

If you would like to be included in the information – no decision now – let me know.
JosephGrattan@aol.com.

We will figure out date/location once we get the replies.

Joe Grattan



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. \$7985. Andrew Permison thepermitage@comcast.net 973-379-7283



FOR SALE: 2009 E320 Bluetec 104,000 miles. Package 1 & Package 2, Navigation, Keyless-Go, Bi-Xenon, Bluetooth NTG 2.5 (The newer COMMAND was only available in 2009+), Indium Grey on Ash. Serviced regularly at MB Manhattan. Gets over 40mpg highway. \$21,900 Matt Huda 973-941-3285 mercedesmattnnj@gmail.com



FOR SALE: Two New Bridgestone Potenza 265/40 R18 97Y MO Spare Tires. Tread wear 140, Traction A, Temperature A. Other numbers: T0150, E050PZ, E4. Originally for 2004 CL 55 AMG. \$200.00 per pair Mike Esposito 908 213 1396 (h) 908 507 7754 (c) mesposito@verizon.net

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: 2002 SLK320 66,000 miles, one owner, magma red with charcoal/sienna (light beige) and birds eye maple interior; CD changer in trunk, four snow tires on wheels. Excellent paint and interior, Bose stereo, power seats, seat heaters. Always garaged and serviced at Globe since new in August 2001. Winner of popular vote at June Jamboree. Asking \$12,500. Contact carlianschwartz@mac.com; 973- 523-4239 (home) 551- 427-4959 (mobile)

FOR SALE: 1973 280 SE 4.5 Green with Ivory Interior 117,000 Miles Garage Kept/ Non Smoker. Good Chrome and Glass. Four Extra Wheels and Tires Included.

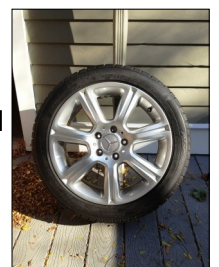
Can be used as a daily driver. guntherbil@GMAIL.COM 917 848 7209



FOR SALE: 1985 Mercedes 380 SL 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: Just in time for winter driving conditions. A slightly used set of four Michelin 225/45R17 91H Pilot M+S winter tires including stylish 7 spoke Mercedes logo'd wheels. Approximately 15K miles driven and has plenty of tread life left & wheels are like new. Original price from Mercedes dealer \$2000. Asking \$600. Located in Morristown. 973-449-9962 or mikeparent39@yahoo.com



Concours of America

July 25-27, 2014 — Experience a world-class exhibit of classic, rare & majestic automobiles at Concours of America at St. John's in Plymouth, Michigan!

MBCA's International Stars Section welcomes you to this 36th annual spectacular. Enjoy dozens of activities throughout the weekend:

Friday, July 25: Follow a motoring tour of vintage vehicles as they wind through rural roads ending at the renowned Roush Automotive Collection (<http://www.roushcollection.com>). Enjoy a Concert in the Park or join MBCA & Porsche Club members for an evening cruise-in & BBQ.

Saturday, July 26: Attend a Concours "preview party"; check out the famous RM Auction & mingle with MBCA Members from across the country at a fun, come-as-you-are dinner party, hosted by International Stars

Sunday, July 27: The coveted Concours kicks off with retro displays of The Sports Car, Super Cars, Drag Bikes, Pick-ups of the Jet Age plus traditional American & European car classes. MBCA Concours Committee Chair Pete Lesler will judge.

Welcome New Members

Nick Androulidakis
 Silvestro D'urso
 Carmine D'urso
 Joseph Dimaria
 Michael Gianetti Jr
 Jack Granowitz
 Sheila Granowitz
 Arthur Jackson
 Paul Lapenna
 Caroline Mossip
 Douglas Nemec
 Jose Perez
 Joseph Quirolo
 David Starbuck
 Richard Weldon
 Paul Werner
 Jianjia Yao



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From the President Matt Huda



I'm very excited to take on the role of President of MBCA NNJ! I have been an avid Mercedes-Benz enthusiast for as far back as I can remember. It started as a child being fascinated with the brand's image, heritage and allure. I have been the proud owner of a few absolutely stunning examples of Mercedes, my current daily driver is a 2009 E320 Bluetec in Indium Grey.



I have had the opportunity to get to know our past president, Valerie, over the past few years over our shared love of Mercedes-Benz vehicles and know I have some big shoes to fill! I am enthusiastic about 2014, the snow we have had has given me a chance to begin working on some of our most exciting events, especially the June Jamboree.

I look forward to get to know as many members as possible, hoping to see all of you at events throughout the next year. Our events are always a good time, and I openly welcome suggestions for new things to do!

I was recently contacted by an enthusiastic gentleman who had just purchased a brand new Mercedes-Benz C-class. Nat asked all about the club and very quickly decided he wanted to be a part of our group after learning about all the great members and events we have.

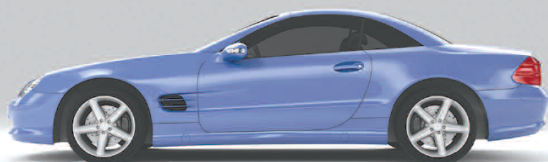
Nat told me about how impressed he is with the ride quality, craftsmanship and visibility from his new Mercedes-Benz. Like any of our elite club members, he now enjoys the feeling of confidence and safety that comes with owning one of these fine automobiles.

A brief history on Nat is that he was a loyal Cadillac driver for many years before finally calling it quits after a lemon El Dorado. He changed gears to Toyota's luxury brand, (Lexus) and just found his ES300 to be mechanically unsound with 80,000 miles on the odometer. He traded it for the new Mercedes-Benz C class. Welcome to the club Nat!

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MBCA Fast Facts

By Lisa A. Juhl, Director of Marketing



My brother-in-law Tom *loves* to drive. Throughout his 40-year career, Tom drove 10 hours a day through parts of Connecticut and New York as a route salesman for a national bakery company. Today, in quasi-retirement, Tom is a part-time driver for a local auto dealership.

This year, MBCA will ramp-up its love of driving, too. Look for exciting autocross and defensive driving events as well as more Safe Drivers, Safe Families instructional driving throughout the U.S. and Canada.

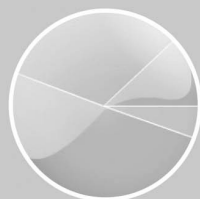
In keeping with my commitment to provide unique Club *Fast Facts*, did you know?

In a survey to a sampling of Members in July 2013:

- 65.5% of MBCA Members are employed either full- or part-time



- The majority of MBCA Members own more than one Mercedes-Benz:



- 5.1% own one
- 47.2% own two
- 30.2% own three
- 11.2% own four (or more)

- 22.5% lease a Mercedes-Benz. Of those, 39.9% lease (up to) three Mercedes-Benz concurrently



Want to learn more? Email me with the themes or factoids you'd like to see in future issues of *Fast Facts* at lisa@mbca.org.

Take Advantage of ALL Your Member Benefits



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Price

- | What Your Low-Cost Membership Fee Buys | Price |
|---|----------------------------|
| ✓ 12-month membership in MBCA (2 and 3 year memberships also available) | Included |
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| ✓ Receive one month FREE membership for every new Member you recruit | Included |
| ✓ Time to renew your membership? Renew for 3 years, get 3 months FREE. Renew for 2 years, get two months FREE | Free Months Included |
| ✓ NEW! 40% off plus FREE ground shipping on car, boat and furniture covers from empirecovers.com | Included |
| ✓ Subscription to our award-winning bi-monthly magazine, <i>The Star</i> ® | Included |
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| ✓ Instant savings on parts, service and accessories at participating Mercedes-Benz Dealerships and independent shops | Included |
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| ✓ Access to local, regional & national car shows & events | Included |
| ✓ Defensive driving classes, performance driving schools & technical seminars for every level of driver — beginner to advanced | Registration fee may apply |
| ✓ "Safe Drivers, Safe Families" driver education for teens and novice drivers taught by experienced members of MBCA's Educational Foundation | Registration fee may apply |
| ✓ Resources for enthusiasts, including: an email directory to pre- and post-war brand experts; a calendar of car shows and auctions; access to Mercedes-Benz book authors; a listing of automotive museums and more | Included |



See postcard inserts in this issue for details.

*\$49/year U.S. Members; \$59/year Canadian & International Members

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There are no postcard inserts included in this issue.

You may call 800-637-2360 or go to www.mbca.org to join or renew membership.

Membership fee is only \$49.00 in the USA.



Sunday, May 4, 2014

AACA Car Show - Florham Park, NJ

The show begins at 9:00 am on Sunday, May 4, 2014 at Automatic Switch Co. 50 Hanover Road, Florham Park, NJ 07932 - rain or shine. In order to enter the AACA show, your car must be 25 years or older.

If you are showing your car you must register with the AACA - see the registration link below.

There will be a special grouping for Mercedes-Benz vehicles.

If you are bringing a car less than 25 years old or would just like to come and enjoy the show, please register with Lucille at luluchab@aol.com or 973-731-9133

There will be a group of us with younger cars in a designated area outside of the show. Come on over and say "Hello" and enjoy some great NNJS fellowship and fun.

If you are entering your car in the show you must register your car with the AACA by completing the registration form which is available on our Website at [AACA CAR REG](#). When you enter the show please remember to enter via the south entrance off of Hanover Road. Please do not drive your car into the show car entrance.

Should you have any questions about the event or registration, please contact Claire Wegner at my190sl@verizon.net or 973-515-0052

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In July of 1967 a New Jersey learners' permit was issued to a tussle-haired high school boy who already considered himself to be a motorcar aficionado. Back then my first official driving lesson took place behind the wheel of a 1965 Mercedes-Benz Finback.

Over the ensuing decades I have had the pleasure of driving many fine starships from a 1963 300SL to a 2014 CLA. These Daimler-Benz products all share some common characteristics; bloodlines, if you will. The driving position is upright providing a commanding view of the road ahead. The controls have positive engagement with no vagueness or sloppiness. Instrumentation is serious, complete and precise. Most importantly, the points of contact between man and machine: steering wheel, accelerator, brake, clutch and drivers seat – all provide direct feedback. Mercedes automobiles are built by and for enthusiasts.

Back in the '60s driving behind the three-pointed star made you feel pretty special. A Mercedes was never a default purchase. People went out of their way to buy a Benz because they appreciated the tactile pleasures of operating a connoisseur vehicle. For them driving was a cherished avocation, a compelling hobby, a sport. Yes, there were also those who purchased the extended wheelbase Schwabian saloons intended to be driven by professionals chauffeuring dignitaries. That end of the market required the solidity, comfort and appointments associated with the cars of royalty, the princes of the Church and the occasional dictator.

The proud Mercedes-Benz radiator was the external feature universally recognized on seven continents. Note that the name, "Mercedes-Benz," is virtually nowhere to be seen on these motorcars. Yet the proud radiator and the star were sufficient so as to leave no doubt as to the identity of the marque.

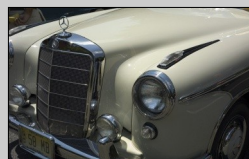
Originally the Mercedes grill was indeed the radiator, the repository and heat exchanger for coolant; filled via a knurled cap surmounted by the star. The 540K of the late '30s was, to my knowledge, the last Mercedes whose prow was actually a radiator. Subsequently, the grill has been a decorative radiator-shaped enclosure with the actual radiator located beneath and under the bonnet.

Other grand marques have had characteristic, readily-identifiable grills: Rolls-Royce, Bentley, Bugatti, Alfa-Romeo and Packard... to name a few. The BMW double kidneys are a related brand-recognition design phenomenon. The size of the Mercedes grill has diminished over the years since the 1970s in response to aerodynamic and styling considerations. A vestigial radiatorette with diminutive twinkle-star are all that remain of a once imposing presence. And this radiatorette is only to be found on selected models. Most present day Mercedes-Benz automobiles are identified exclusively by the silver star logo in the front air intake orifice. Obviously this has no impact on the fundamental virtues that make a Mercedes a Mercedes.

However, in my opinion, the abandonment of the old Mercedes radiator enclosure is an unfortunate styling decision. Daimler-Benz is entitled to pride of heritage. Indeed, Mercedes marketing justifiably touts the historic achievements of the company formed by the union of the two co-inventors of the automobile. The traditional radiator symbolized that proud past. In my opinion the form of the Mercedes radiator could have been integrated into modern front end styling by way of a vertical air intake area starting above the bumper and extending beneath it, with a color coordinated integration into the bumper itself. This would constitute a modern faux radiator with a stellar device at the top. That would have paid visual homage to the past while not offending the dictates of modern aerodynamic science.



I suppose it was really very sporting of Daimler-Benz to have leveled the playing field by phasing out their radiator grill. Now the star is just another front-and-center logo like the lazy 'L' of Lexus, the pierced infinity symbol of Infiniti or the winged 'M' of Mazda. And that's OK. Mercedes is still the engineering front-runner. But personally I do enjoy riding behind the proud, massive, vertical grill. And I do so every time I drive my 1965 Finback... Yup, that same Finback from way back when.



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Saturday, March 29, 2014—Tech
Session—Becker of North America—
Saddle Brook, NJ—Watch your email
for details.

Sunday, April 27, 2014—13th An-
nual Antiques Road Show—Bella
Italia Ristorante—Orange, NJ—
Please see page 1&2 for more
information

Sunday, May 4, 2014—AACA Car
Show—Automatic Switch—Florham
Park, NJ—Please see page 8 for
more information

Saturday, June 7, 2014—51st June
Jamboree—MBCA Headquarters—
Montvale, NJ—Detail to follow



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