

Star Tracks 2019



Second Quarter 2019

Volume 14 Issue 2

56th NNJS June Jamboree “The longest running event in the history of the MBCA”

By Valerie Cristiano

What a day! It doesn't get any better than this! The weather was picture perfect, sunny and warm, with a delightful breeze, and clear blue skies. The venue, the Park Avenue Club, was spectacular, and the number of attendees was fantastic. We had 39 cars in the Concours and 55 cars in the Popular Vote for a total of 94 Starships – our second largest show in my 28 years as a member!

As the Starships queued up to get their registration package, they had their photo taken – unfortunately, the late arrivals missed out on this opportunity. From there it was back down the hill and onto the show field.

The Concours cars were grouped by class (chassis numbers) and located in the upper lot while the Popular Vote cars were located in the lower lot and grouped by category and years. Soon it was time for the judging to begin and all of the owners had to cease detailing their cars. The judges, ably lead by Head Judge, Ed Jahn, began their work of inspecting each car in their specific assigned category.



The Concours cars were judged in four categories: 1 – Interior, Upholstery, Trunk; 2 – Glass, Lights, Rubber, Chrome, Trim; 3 – Engine Compartment; 4 – Paint, Coachwork; and points were also given for mileage and age. Popular Vote cars had colored window signs

indicating the group they were in and attendees were given color coded vote packets in order to vote for the cars of their choice in each group. The Popular Vote cars were divided into two categories (Sedan and Sport) and then further broken down by years – New – 2014 to present; Modern – 2004 – 2013; Old – 1994 – 2003; Vintage – pre 1994.

This year the Best in Show went to Jerry Robinson and his 1964 230 SL and the Judges Choice was awarded to Amy McKenna for her beautiful 1958 220S cab which had belonged to her father.



Members had an enjoyable day wandering around the show field and admiring the vehicles. People met old friends and made new ones during the day. We had members from many different sections attend the event, including: NEPA, CT/Westchester, NYC & LI, South Jersey, DelVal, GWS, Chicagoland, and of course, NNJS. (If I missed mentioning that your section was represented, please accept my apologies).



Then there was the sumptuous lunch buffet – if you left hungry, you have no one to blame but yourself! The food was beautifully presented, bountiful, and delicious. The bratwurst, hamburgers, and chicken tenders were cooked to perfection and the vegetables were delicious as were the desserts.





Thanks to the following dealers for generously donating door prizes: Mercedes Benz of Flemington; Mercedes Benz of Princeton; and Ray Catena of Freehold which helped to make our day even more special.

Once again, Loni Spingarn – Queen of the 50/50, did her magic, This year she was helped by

Nancy Tanner and Bonnie Fancy. Thank you, ladies for all of your efforts and congratulations to our winners: Mike Kahrer and Andrew Syracuse. Special Thanks go to Nicky Starace, one of the youngest attendees, who pulled the winning tickets -Nicky has been attending NNJS events since he was a mere child – now he is a teenager. (I think that he may have his eye on his grandfather's beautiful red 560SL)

Bill Fisher, our RD, was kind enough to say a few words about the goings on of the MB Club in general and informed us of several upcoming events. Oliver Seligman spoke about the Grand Marques which will be held on September 15th at the Old Westbury Gardens in Long Island. Check out the NYC & LI website for more information.

Terry Kiwala once again flew East and judged the Silver Star Preservation cars and helped out in numerous other ways as well.

Special Thanks goes out to all of our judges – Ed Jahn, head judge, Nick Starace; Jay Hirsch; Tom Elder; Tito Krishnamurthy; Rich Tana; Ernie Fancy; Jan Boop; Ed Ebel; Larry Taylor; Robert Taylor; Ray DiMeglio; Terry Kiwala; Mitch Tanner; Oliver Seligman; and Ken Spingarn.

Thanks once again to Carl Schwartz for taking photos of the event. Another Thank you to Jaime Kopchinski for getting the online registration up and running.

A BIG THANK YOU is due to Loni and Ken Spingarn for securing the Park Avenue Club, helping to select the trophies and then picking them up, delivering the

water, the bagels and coffee, and arranging for the lovely floral centerpieces for the tables.

Thanks also to Mary and George Terry for helping to put out the trophies, door prizes, and other items. Also, Thanks to David Verdini of Verdini Studios who took the photos of the cars upon their arrival at the registration table.

A heartfelt Thank you to Lucille Chabala who spent countless hours on the phone with me going over registrations and making sure that everyone was accounted for and in their proper category. Lulu and I have been working together on the June Jamboree for over 25 years and I think that we make a fantastic team. Even when the Jamboree is over, it is not over for Lucille as she then has to reconcile the finances and make sure that all of the checks are deposited and that all of the bills are paid.

Another BIG THANK YOU goes to all those who attended the show and helped to make this a HUGE success and such a memorable event. There is a great deal of hard work and effort that goes into a how like this, but without the members and their participation it would all be for naught.

NNJS – the Northern New Jersey Section, has been proud to host the June Jamboree for the past 56 years and is looking forward to hosting the 57th June Jamboree in 2020!

Concours & Popular Vote results may be viewed at <https://nnj.mbca.org/section-event-reports>

Anyone wishing a copy of their scoresheet, please email me at mercedeslady1@verizon.net with Jamboree Scoresheet in the subject line.



Here are some of the comments regarding the June Jamboree—the names have been omitted

- Thanks for hosting such a fabulous show today- it deserved such nice weather!!
- Great job on putting the event together. Best in many years.
- It was a LOVELY Jamboree. The new room at the Club is perfect.
- My wife and I had a wonderful time yesterday. It was a very well organized event. We were expecting a box lunch and a bottle of water for the price. The breakfast snacks, unlimited water and the outstanding lunch with desert was completely unexpected. The photos of each vehicle was a tremendous idea and surprising. We made a number of new friends as well. Great crowd We're looking forward to next year.
- Thank you for all your hard work in putting together a wonderful June Jamboree. We haven't attended in a few years so it was fun to be back
- Thank you for a wonderful day! Great Mercedes's, wonderful people and terrific weather.
- Happy to say you have not lost your touch! From what I could see everything went off pretty well at the show especially considering the large turnout. The car photos were a real nice touch. Makes us wonder though, what would this club do without you. Don't like to think about what that answer might be..
- A note of thanks to you and your team for all of your organization and effort for a really nice event of Saturday. It was a fun day seeing old friends and making new ones, along with just being around these great German cars!
- Wow, another fantastic June Jamboree! It reminded me of the old days at Montvale.
- Thank you again for the countless hours of work you and your committee put into making this event such a success.
- You did a great job as I think this was the best attended event in a very long time. The facility was a great venue for the cars and the food was good.

- First off thanks for putting on such a wonderful event on Saturday. You and the others involved work very hard to set this up and it is appreciated. This was our first as we have had travel conflicts the last year or two. We had a great time and it was fun to show my car for the first time.





On April 14th Lucille Chabala hosted the 18th Annual NNJS Antique Roadshow at Bella Italia in Orange, NJ. Our very own certified antiques appraiser, Alan Snyder, was once again our Master of Ceremonies. 16 members of our Mercedes club welcomed 2 members from the NJ open Road Thunderbird Club to our event.

Guests brought a variety of items that included jewelry, clocks, pictures, lanterns, books and crystal. Other fun items included a toy firetruck and an old fashioned milk crate complete with milk containers.

We even had a lesson about ivory in that it is against the law to SELL anything that is adorned or made of this precious element. You can give it away but you cannot sell it. How about that?

You learn something new every day! Our afternoon concluded with a delicious lunch served family style. We thank Lucille for hosting our event and Alan for his expertise and wit. It is always a fun event. **Julie Ann Chabala-Morrison**

Upcoming Events

Mercedes Benz Night at the Deutscher Club in Clark, NJ

Come join fellow Benz enthusiasts for a fun filled evening on **Friday, July 26, 2019**. We have graciously been invited back to the Deutscher Club to participate in the German Car night.

The Biergarten will open at 5 pm and you **MUST** tell them that you are with the Mercedes-Benz Club. You will then need to proceed around the building to the right and down the alley between the building and the covered area. Then you will be directed as to where to park your car. This is a display only event – no prizes.

Menu

Bratwurst • & Bauernwurst • Leberkäse • Potato Pancakes • Hamburgers • Cheeseburgers • German Frankfurters • Pork Sandwiches • Goulash • Potato Salad • Gurken Salat (Cucumber Salad) Imported and Domestic Biers on tap – by the glass or by the pitcher. Wine and Full Bar.

Come show off your Benz and admire those belonging to others in the Biergarten at the Deutscher Club on **Friday, July 26, 2019**.

There is no need to register for this event – just show up and join in the fun.

For those of you who had to leave the June Jamboree early and did not pick up the photo of your car, I will be bringing them with me to the Deutscher Club.

New Hope Auto Show

Saturday, August 10th & Sunday, August 11th **Saturday** are mostly domestic automobiles and trucks. The exceptions are Datsun/Nissan and Volkswagon.

Sunday, with the exception of Senior, Antique Motorcycle, Classic, Corvair, DeLorean, Historically Preserved Original, and Viper, the field is primarily foreign. **Any Mercedes Benz models through 1990 are eligible to be judged please check out the website <http://www.newhopeautoshow.com> or call 215-862-5665**

This is not a section run event, however, many of our members like to attend one or more days of the event in order to see the vehicles. There is also a car corral if you are interested in buying or selling a vehicle.

NNJS & SJS September Picnic & Car Show

Saturday, September 14, 2019

NNJS & SJS are once again proud to cosponsor the picnic and popular vote car show to be held at the home and on the grounds of Falkenhorst, John Bleimaier's country estate – 41 Moore's Mill/Mount Rose Road in Hopewell, NJ.

This year the picnic and car show will be held on **Saturday, September 14th beginning at 11 AM with lunch being served at noon.** There is no cost for members 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 the hot dogs, hamburgers, paper products, and condiments and SJS will supply the water, soda, and ice.

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 to make sure that we have enough food. 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 Lucille luluchab@aol.com; on our website, or phone 973-731-9133.

Just please remember to let us know by September 10th – How many? What car? What you will be bringing? Appetizer; side dish, salad, or dessert.

We need an accurate head count – we want to make sure that we have enough food, but we do not want to have an overabundance.

Picnic Registration

Kindly indicate what you will bring to the event. Circle appetizer, side dish, salad or dessert.

Name: _____

Email or Phone No. _____

Number of Guests: _____

Lucille luluchab@aol.com; on our website, or phone 973-731-9133.

Elections to be held at the September Picnic

Once again it is time for our Section Election of officers which will be held at our annual September picnic on Saturday, September 14, 2019.

Anyone wishing to run for office, please submit your letter of intent and the people with whom you are running and the office you are seeking to our

Regional Director, Bill Fisher.

BillFisherMBCA@yahoo.com

Our current slate of officers are willing to serve the club again:

Valerie Cristiano – president;

Ken Spingarn – vice-president;

Lucille Chabala – treasurer/registrar;

Mitch Tanner – secretary



HIGH GEAR

Making Quick Work of a Good Thing

by John Kuhn Bleimaier

To run with the bulls at Pamplona; to thread the switchbacks of the Stelvio pass; to put the pedal to the metal on an open straightaway on the Carrera Panamericana route between Zacatecas and Aguascalientes ... these are the times that gladden men's and women's souls. The summer adventurer and the sunshine tourist will, in this context, shrink from the full measure of their passion; but he or she who stands by their avocation now, deserves joy and gratification of the highest order. Boredom, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this fundamental realization riding shotgun with us, that the harder the hobbyist's objective, the more glorious the triumph upon its attainment. What we obtain too easily, we esteem too lightly: it is dearness only that gives every thing its value.



It has been said that life is too short to drive boring cars. I heartily agree. Mercedes-Benz has constructed an uncommonly large number of diverting, enthusiast motorcars. The world knows about the Blitzen Benz, the SSK, the 300SL and a raft of other legendary starships which are the stuff of legend. But there is a little secret among the members of the fraternity and sorority of the silver star, which is that, many unsung chariots, designed in Stuttgart-Untertuerkheim have provided the warm ardor of a delicate, precision instrument for

those who have nobly sat by the helm of a Mercedes-Benz automobile.

My 1965 compression ignition Finback sedan can keep up with her contemporary MGB sports cars on the back-road twisty bits. This is on account of a very decent power to weight relation; a close ratio manual tranny operated from the steering column; front discs and rear finned drums; and a deftly sprung swing axle suspension which will not quit. Similarly, my 2002 C230K sports coupe will show her heels to a basic Porsche Boxster of even date, because of her supercharged double overhead cam four cylinder engine and perfectly balanced weight distribution on a rear wheel drive platform. The six speed gearbox cum low effort clutch pedal, is just icing on the cake. If you are not a charter member of the gallant cadre of Mercedes aficionados, you may not realize how much fun you are having or the extravagant capabilities of the finely crafted tool under your command.

Yes, I have run with the bulls at Pamplona; have hung my tail out doing a four wheel drift on the Stelvio; have pierced the aerodynamic veil on the Mexican high dessert. But I have had almost as much fun on the backroads of the Garden State. Yup, life is too short not to drive a competent starship... and, once in a while... to take her to the limit.



July 1, 2019