

STAR TRACKS 2006



Volume 2 Number 1

MBCA 50th Anniversary 1956-2006

January-February 2006

New NNJS officers take office

President

Joe Grattan

JosephGrattan@aol.com

Vice President

Doug Ochwat

DAOCatswamp@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Lucille Chabala

LuluChab@aol.com

Secretary

Claire Wegner

My190SL@verizon.net

WebMaster/Editor

Ken Spingarn

KHS@openix.com

Board Members

John Bleimaier

Bleimaier@aol.com

Greg Calabro

GCal842938@aol.com

Barbaranna Kefalonitis

BJSpecialties@accessgate.net

Committee Chairs Social

Valerie Cristiano, Past President

MercedesLady1@earthlink.net

Driving Event Coordinator

Bob Wegner

My280SL@verizon.net

Technical Advisor

Andreas Molde

AMH86@optonline.net

NNJS Officers Elected for 2006-2007 at the Falkenhorst Picnic take office

Members of NNJS approved revised By-Laws for our Section and also elected new officers.

The following members were elected to office for the 2006-2007 term. They took office on January 1, 2006.

President – Joe Grattan



Vice President- Doug Ochwat



Secretary – Claire Wegner



Treasurer-Lucille Chabala



All of our officers have proven their ability by selflessly volunteering their efforts and have demonstrated their leadership by successfully hosting various club events and functions.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to our newly elected officers!

MBCA 50th Anniversary Celebrations

Historic Route 66 Tour in 2006. An MBCA 50th Anniversary Event.

National past president, Richard Simonds has announced the itinerary of the Historic Route 66 Tour from Chicago, IL to Santa Monica, CA, **September 16 – 30, 2006.**

Many sections along the way are planning activities to welcome tour participants. Entrants must be MBCA members, may drive

any Mercedes-Benz model, and may participate for as many days as they wish (1 day to 15 days).



Participants may leave from each overnight stop when they wish, take any of the Route 66 alternates (or heaven forbid—the Interstate) that they wish between stops, and meet each

evening for dinner at the next stop.

MBUSA plans to have a Service Vehicle and Flat Bed Trailer or Truck for the entire trip. Some of us may choose to "caravan," others may just enjoy the trip without joining a "caravan" of Mercedes-Benz vehicles.

Whatever way we choose to drive, there are many, many points of interest along the way.

East Coast to Chicago Trip on Highway 6 to 66

Our VP, Doug Ochwat is organizing a trip for any members on the East Coast who want to make this a special experience.

He has devised plans to leave Northern New Jersey on Tuesday September 12 and take Highway 6 through Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana, meeting other sections along the way, to Route 66 in Chicago.

The plan is to meet up on Friday, September 15 for the Chicagoland event and the beginning of the Route 66 trip. Doug's plans will bring together the two clubs that represent the beginnings of MBCA that we have today: The Northern New Jersey Section and The Chicagoland Section.

For further information please contact Doug Ochwat at 908-850-9643 or daocatswamp@yahoo.com.

A dedicated website providing information on all aspects of this special **50th Anniversary** event and other special events may be accessed on the Internet using the following link:

www.mbca50th.org

In addition to Doug Ochwat's plans for the Route 6 East Coast Trip, **NNJS** is planning special celebrations to coincide with our annual **June Jamboree** at Mercedes-Benz, NA headquarters in Montvale, New Jersey.

Details will be provided in subsequent issues of STAR TRACKS 2006 and on our Web site.

In Memoriam

Dick Barber, a member since 1970, passed away this year. Dick had been a very active member over the years and could always be seen wearing his Mercedes-Benz Membership card around his neck.

He had served as Club Treasurer and his wife, Anne, had been the Social Chairman for many years as well. Dick was also a judge at the June Jamboree for many years.

Anne said that Dick was very proud of his involvement in the Club and that some of his most cherished possessions were his membership year pins and the crystal Mercedes Benz cube he was presented with at June Jamboree

Table of Contents:	
<i>New Officers for 2006—50th Anniversary Celebrations</i>	1
<i>Route 66 & 6 Anniversary Tour—Dick Barber passing</i>	2
<i>Want Ads—NNJS Treasurers Report</i>	3
<i>Ray Catena Tech Session— 2005 Holiday Party</i>	4
<i>Anything & Everything about Mercedes-Benz By Andres Molde</i>	5
<i>Jan 8th Meeting— Presidents and Editors Messages</i>	7
<i>Feb 12th Sweetheart Brunch— Feb 25th Atlantic City Car Show—High Gear by John Bleimaier</i>	8-9
<i>Joy Ride by G. Calabro—DaimlerChrysler Information March 25th Concours Judging Seminar with Pete Lesler</i>	10-11

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Mercedes-Benz

For Sale: 2000 C230 Kompressor Sedan Sport Package, Special Edition, Brilliant Silver. Two tone leather seats and interior (black and gray), 6 air bags, full power seats, Bose stereo, 6 pack CD changer. Two sets of wheels and tires including Sport Package wheels and AMG wheels, both 17". All original books, manuals and keys. Excellent condition, always garaged. A very special car. \$17,900. Doug Ochwat (908) 850-9643 daocatswamp@yahoo.com.

Parts For Sale: Four slightly used KUMHO ECSTA SUPRA tires 205 50 ZR 16. These tires are like new! They were used by a little old man from NJ to go to drive-n-dine section events. I bought the tires for the wheels they were on. \$100.00, firm, plus the cost of shipping. Contact Greg Calabro at gcal842938@aol.com (347)-723-6951

For Sale: 1997 SL500 40th Anniversary Edition of Mercedes Roadster Crimson Red Metallic, 13,000 miles, 40th Anniversary Edition, Only 500 made, Parchment Leather, Chestnut Wood Trim, Wood/Leather Steering Wheel & Shift Knob, CD Changer/Cassette, Two Tops, Heated Seats, LoJack Retrieval System, Built-in Trickle Charger, Hands Free Phone, Stored Winters, Concours Winner, \$35,000. Bob Donnelly, 46 Chesapeake Drive, Holmdel, NJ 07733, (732)-275-1140, bobdon1@comcast.net

Mercedes Benz Club Treasury Report for 2005

Reminder:
All submissions for the next Star Tracks 2006 Newsletter must be received by the editor at khs@openix.com by March 20, 2006.

Thank you

Opening Balance	\$4904.50
Income	23800.22
Expenses	23876.76
Balance	4827.96
Savings	3566.09

Respectively Submitted,
Lucille Chabala, Treasurer

Tech Session at Ray Catena Mercedes-Benz

On Saturday, November 5, 2005 members of NNJS and other sections gathered at Ray Catena's Mercedes-Benz second floor for a delicious catered breakfast and a private viewing of classic cars.

There was also a Maybach for us to admire and the new owner was gracious enough to allow our members to sit in the car and admire its unparalleled luxury.

If you leaned your head back the headrest cradled your head in cloudlike softness and it was difficult not to immediately fall asleep as the tension drained out of your neck and shoulders.

We were greeted by Leigh Farrell,

who was instrumental in setting up the Tech Session for us. Leigh also provided us with "Goody Bags" which contained the new magazine put out by Ray Catena, a Mercedes Benz pen, and a Mercedes Benz coffee mug or umbrella. Leigh also arranged for our members to receive a discount at the Parts Department and many of our members took full advantage, buying items for themselves or loved ones.

Jim Buchanan also spoke to our group and told us about the direction that Mercedes is going in under the new leadership of Dr. Deiter Zetsche. Jim also answered many questions about the newer models and what to look forward to in the

future. Don Dorr also greeted our group and lead the caravan to the Service Center where we were shown the differences between changing oil and filters on newer models vs. older models (Nick Ford was the proud owner of the older model used for the demonstration). John T (the tech) was very patient with our group as he answered many questions posed by our members.

We enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of Ray Catena and his staff and learned many things in the process. We have been invited back again next year for a Tech Session at the Union facility and are looking forward to it.

NNJS Stars Shine at Holiday Party

The annual NNJS Holiday Party was held on Saturday, December 10th at the Fairmount Country Club in Chatham Township, NJ. Members arrived in their elegant finery carrying an unwrapped gift for a child.

The gifts were placed on the fireplace during the evening and then they were donated to Toys for Tots. The group who were collecting the toys was overwhelmed by the gener-

osity of our members. We enjoyed a wonderful Cocktail Hour with delicious food and lively conversation. People moved around from one group to another renewing old friendships and making new ones.

After the Cocktail Hour we adjourned to the main dining room for a sumptuous dinner and dancing.

Members from many different sections were in attendance including

Northeast Pennsylvania, Delaware Valley, and Sea Level.

Pete Limone once again provided music for our listening and dancing pleasure.

Five year pins were presented to Ron and Nancy Gossow and Ten-year pins were presented to Chris and Andrew Bater.

Outgoing NNJS President **Valerie Cristiano** was presented with a Mercedes-Benz watch and an engraved crystal vase for her years of service and dedication to the club.

She was also given a standing ovation by those in attendance.

*Outgoing President, Valerie Cristiano Receives Awards.
Doug Ochwat Receives Member of the Year Award.*

Doug Ochwat – NNJS Member of the Year

This year's recipient of the NNJS Member of the Year award was Doug Ochwat.

Doug has been an enthusiastic member for seven years.

He is very involved with the 50th Anniversary and is organizing a Route 6 caravan from New Jersey to Chicago where they will meet up with the rest of the Route 66 tour.



Anything and Everything about Mercedes-Benz

I would like to talk a little bit about MB's Sales designations, those are the numbers and letters on the trunk lid, which most of us would refer to as the "Model".

In the 60's, 70's, 80's and early 90's it was fairly simple and mostly unchanged.

It gave you a pretty good idea about the car you were looking at, for example, a 1986 420**SEL** had a 4.2 liter engine, the body was the **S**= Super Class, the engine was **E**=Einspritzer (Fuel Injection) and **L** was the **L**= Luxurious Version, (no, **L** did **not** stand for "Long" or "Light") which had a longer wheel base. If you ever have the chance to see an **SE** and **SEL** side by side, you will notice that the rear door is longer on the **SEL**.

In later years, when the 140 chassis appeared, a **S 400** designation would tell you only that it was the **S** body, but it still had a 4.2 liter engine, not a 4.0ltr., and there was no way of knowing if it was a long or short wheel base.

Going back to the earlier years, the

number would indicate the size of the engine, in liters, for example: 230 = 2.3 ltr., 280 = 2.8 ltr., 350 = 3.5 ltr. and so on.

Of course there were exceptions to that rule, like the '68 to '72' 250 which had a 2.8ltr. engine, and the 1972 350 **SL**, which came with a 4.5ltr. engine, here in the US.

One of the reasons was, that MB lowered the compression, due to the lack of high grade (octane) fuel in the US and the added emission control systems stripped the engines of a lot of power, which could be somewhat compensated for by a larger displacement engine.

The letters would indicate the body style, etc., as mentioned before.

So, if you see a 280 **SEL** you know that it has a 2.8 liter engine, Super Class body style, fuel injection and the longer wheel base.

To confuse matters a bit, you could come across a 280 **SEL** 4.5, which has a (you guessed it) 4.5 ltr. engine, not a 2.8.

Before I end this confusing article, I would like to bring back the 350 **SL** or any **SL** for that matter, where the **SL** stands for "Sport" and "Light". Also in the later years, the **E** no longer meant

"Einspritzer" (which they all are by now), but rather identified the "Executive" Class. Hey, nobody said this is easy!

I hope that this article has shed some light on this subject, at least for some of you and in closing I will add a list of the current sales designations.

C = Compact Class

E = Executive Class

S= Super Class

SL = Sport Light

SLK = Sport Light Kurz (short)

CL = Coupe Light

CLK = Coupe Light Kurz (short)

ML = Multi Purpose Light

G = Gelaende (Terrain) Wagon

Enjoy you Mercedes Benz!

Andreas Molde, Tech. Advisor

Editors Note: *Andreas Molde* has accepted the position of NNJS Technical Advisor for 2006. *Bob Wegner* has accepted the position of NNJS Driving Event Coordinator for 2006.

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Ray Catena has graciously hosted several Mercedes-Benz Tech-Sessions for NNJS over the years. We particularly appreciate their support in this, our 50th Anniversary Year.





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NNJS Begins New Year with January 8th Meeting

NNJS Off to a Winning Start

Sunday, January 8th began a winning season for NNJS as members gathered for the first meeting of the year at Café Villa in Chatham, NJ. We began with delicious appetizers followed by delectable entrees and sweet desserts.

Vice-President Doug Ochwat led the meeting and outlined some of the upcoming events scheduled for our section. He also introduced the Officers, Board Members, and Committee Chairs.

The June Jamboree will be held on Saturday, June 10th. It is a very spe-

cial Jamboree as it is the 50th Anniversary of MBCA and NNJS was the Founding Section.

The Route 66 and the Route 6 Tours were also discussed and more details will be provided in subsequent issues, on our website, and in The STAR.

We are also looking forward to Oktoberfest in Chubb Park in Chester, the Princeton Rotary Show, Rallyes, a Tech Session at Ray Catena's new facility in Union in November, our annual Holiday Party, and other fun and exciting events.



Message from The Editor

Our newly elected president, Joe Grattan, has asked me to remain on as editor of Star Tracks. I took over the job last August. In addition to my function as NNJS Webmeister, I will be putting together five more Star Tracks issues in the coming year. I ask for your help in this undertaking

This is a milestone year for MBCA. It is our 50th Anniversary and NNJS was the very first section of the newly formed club in 1956. Our section is hosting special 50th Anniversary events including an expanded 43rd June Jamboree and our section's Route 6 to Route 66 tour enabling a thrilling Mercedes-Benz journey cross country. Don't miss out on all of our special events this 50th Anniversary year. Continued |

Presidents Message Joe Grattan

Let me start my first 'Presidents Message' by introducing myself. **Happy 2006!**

I have retired after 38 years in the non-commercial (schools, colleges, office cafeterias etc) food service business. I formed a small food service consulting business which keeps me busy part of the year.

I have two Mercedes. One is a 1989 560SL which won third in class at Star Fest in Ohio in 2004. The second is a newly acquired 1992 600 SEL V12 which I bought from the President of the newly formed Tulsa Section of the Mercedes Benz Club of America.

I flew to Tulsa and drove it back (1,350 miles) in a day and a half.

I thank you for your support at the picnic at John Bleimaiers country estate last September. Our new team has a fun year planned. Lunch, tech session, concours judging seminar, the 50th anniversary Jamboree in June, the several day journey to Chicago along Route 6, the September picnic, car shows in several places around the state and a bunch of other fun events.

I would like it very much if you would contact any of us with other ideas for events you think would be interesting.

Have a great driving year. See you at some of these great events.



The success of our club depends in large part on the volunteer efforts of our officers, committee members & regular members. They act in many capacities. From the planning and execution of Membership functions, Driving Events, Tech Sessions and Car Shows to the communication and business tasks which must meet deadlines. I encourage you to participate in club events at whichever level you desire. Please feel free to submit appropriate arti-

cles, photos, stories and of course, *free* member "want ads" for publication in STAR TRACKS 2006. All material should be submitted to khs@openix.com, preferably in Microsoft Word by the deadline which will be clearly indicated in this and every subsequent issue of STAR TRACKS 2006.

Producing the club newsletter and website requires both planning and coordination, with crucial help from our contributing members. Deadlines are im-

portant. The next STAR TRACKS submission deadline is March 20. I ask for your cooperation when submitting material for publication.

I urge members to communicate with me, submit articles, photos, etc. preferably by email, but not excluding the telephone, to discuss any matter relating to the newsletter or club events.

I look forward to an historic, exciting and fun filled 2006. *Ken Spingarn, Editor/Webmaster*

Sweetheart Champagne Brunch Feb. 12, 2006

Our members are cordially invited to a Valentine's Day-brunch and get together on Sunday, February 12, 2006 at the **Bethwood** in Totowa, NJ. 07512

We will meet at 11:30 am. The Thunderbird Club will also be attending. This is a great opportunity to meet other car enthusiasts while visiting with Mercedes-Benz Club familiar faces.



The cost is \$40.00 per person which includes a full course brunch, champagne and roses for our fair ladies. Please RSVP to Lucille Chabala with your check made payable to NNJS-MBCA by February 6, 2006.

Directions to the Bethwood 38 Lackawanna Ave. Totowa, NJ 07512 (973-256-8316)

Garden State Parkway / South Exit 159 to Route 80 west. (approximately 8 miles) to exit 55A, to first traffic light, make a left onto Lackawanna Ave.

Garden State Parkway / North Take exit 153B to Route 3 west to Route 46 west (approximately 2 1/2 miles) to Union Boulevard, Totowa, Paterson exit, to second traffic light, make right onto Lackawanna Ave.

Route 80 West To exit 55A (Little Falls / Totowa, Union Blvd.) to first light make a left onto Lackawanna Ave.

Route 80 East To exit 54 (Minisink Road) to stop sign make right, to first left (Furler Street) to traffic light, make left onto Union Blvd, right at light onto Lackawanna Ave.

Route 46 West Union Blvd., Totowa exit, to second light make a right onto Lackawanna Ave.

Route 46 East Union Blvd Totowa Exit to second light, turn right onto Lackawanna Ave.

See coupon below for the Feb. 12 Brunch.

Atlantic City Car Show and Auction Saturday, Feb. 25

NNJS is planning a bus trip to the Trump Casino and the Atlantic City Convention Center on Saturday, February 25, 2006 for the Atlantic City Car Show and Auction.

This is an established major car show and auction which includes various displays and sales of classic and vintage automobiles as well as numerous vendors selling car parts and automobilia.

A chartered bus will be provided and will leave from the Wayne, NJ Municipal Building at 8:00 am and arrive at Trump Casino at 11:00 am. The return bus leaves from Trump Casino at 5:00 pm and arrives back in Wayne at 8:00 pm. On the way back a sandwich and drink will be provided.

At the casino, a food voucher will be supplied as well as a coin voucher for \$10-15. The cost is \$47.00/person if you are attending both the car show and casino or \$34.00/person if you are just going to the casino.

Space on the bus is limited, so please contact *Lucille Chabala* at 973-731-9133 or luluchab@aol.com **as soon as possible for more information and to reserve your tickets.**

Coupon for Sweetheart Brunch Sunday, February 12 at 11:30 am

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Please make check payable to NNJS-MBCA and mail to Lucille Chabala 6 Brook Way West Orange, NJ 07052 by February 6, 2006. Email: luluchab@aol.com Telephone: 973-731-9133

High Gear by John Kuhn Bleimaier

2006 is the 50th anniversary year for the Mercedes Benz Club of America. Personally it has been 49 years since I first became acquainted with the three pointed star.

The first time that I ever drove in a Mercedes-Benz automobile was in June of 1957. I



was six years old at the time. It was a memorable experience. It took place in a context likely to impress itself on the consciousness of a recent veteran of Miss Fellow's first grade class.

Here's the story.

Back in '57 my grandmother, my mother and I set off to visit our relatives in Switzerland over the summer. I remember how my father drove us to the docks in Hoboken, New Jersey in "Black Beauty," our '49 Packard straight eight, with her cavernous trunk filled with luggage for a long journey.

We boarded the "Noordam," a passenger ship of the Holland-America Line for the trip across the Atlantic to Rotterdam. This was my first ocean voyage.

What I recollect most vividly was the "Noordam's" diesel propulsion system. She was a comfortable liner but under way you could always feel the slight underlying vibration emanating from somewhere deep in the bowels of the ship. At some point during the voyage I was fortunate enough to have been taken down to the engine room where I got my first glimpse of a compression ignition engine. The enormous Sultzer diesels were as big as houses

and generated a monstrous din, in addition to enough power and torque to launch a small floating city across the rolling seas.

It was a passage full of adventure. I remember eating yogurt for breakfast from glass jars using elegant long spoons.

I also recall being told that the Noordam had served with valor as a troop ship during the Second World War.

The Dutch stewards pointed with pride to the places where American GIs had carved their initials in the ship's railing during "Noordam's" daring dashes across U boat wolf pack infested North Atlantic waters.

When the "Noordam" arrived in Rotterdam we were met quayside by Swiss cousin, Albert Kuhn, in a bright red, new 190D pontoon body Mercedes. It was a good deal smaller than our Packard, even more diminutive than the Fords and Chevys which I knew from back-home. However, the Mercedes had a stately, dignified quality all its own.

My positive impression was enhanced when my grandmother told me that my grandfather had owned a type "S" Mercedes back in 1929. Cousin Albert and his wife, Julia, had driven up from Graubuenden in Switzerland in order to pick us up for our pilgrimage to the alpine redoubt of our ancestors.

They were actually waiving a Swiss flag as they greeted us. I was waiving a little American flag, which went over very well in an age before Yankees were being universally told to go home.

After an interval of kissing and hugging and my first intensive exposure to the Swiss-German dialect, we loaded the surprisingly comical trunk of the starship and headed south down the Rhine.

I impressed cousin Albert when I observed, "sounds like a diesel!" Upon hearing the engine at start up I had noted the characteristic clatter of the Mercedes oil burner and had recognized its kinship with the giant power plants which had propelled the Noordam. Once underway the diesel engine quieted down to a reassuring hum.

Our trip following the Rhine to Basel and then striking off into the Alps was very beautiful. We stopped off for tours of two of the myriad castles which we passed along the way. From the perspective of a six year old, it doesn't get any better than this!

Onward and upward into the Alps. When negotiating the switchbacks of steep mountain pass roads further virtues of the diesel engine became



apparent. In those days almost all other cars had to stop and readjust their carburetors before ascending into the high altitudes. The fuel injected diesel did not demand such special attention. It compensated for the more rarefied atmosphere with just a trace of rich, black smoke puffing out of the tail pipe.

Ah, yes, the ocean voyage, the castles, the alpine scenery and particularly the robust little Mercedes diesel. All this impressed itself strongly on my six year old consciousness.

Shortly after our return from Europe, before the start of the second grade academic year, it was decided to put "Black Beauty," the old Packard, out to pasture.

I lobbied with all the force I could muster for us to purchase a Mercedes diesel like the one owned by cousin Albert in Switzerland. But other considerations took priority and my parents bought an Oldsmobile with a "Starfire Rocket" V8 engine and three speed manual transmission on the steering column. She was painted "champagne mist with Victorian white" and we named her "Blondie."

It was destined to be another eight years until our family would renew its relationship with the Mercedes marque. In 1965 a fourteen year old budding enthusiast was able to exercise a bit more concerted influence on the automotive selection process in our household.

The Mercedes heritage, Finback good looks, robustness and outstanding handling characteristics made my job of selling the idea to my parents a push over. It also didn't hurt that in '65 diesel fuel could be purchased for 16.9 cents per gallon whereas gasoline retailed for an exorbitant 21.9 cents per gallon.

The purchase of that white 190Dc Finback way back in 1965 has never been regretted. She resides in my barn to this day. In fact she just won the first place trophy in the sedan class at last year's Octoberfest Car Show of the Northern New Jersey Section, Mercedes Benz Club of America.

John Kuhn Bleimaier
January, 2006

JOY RIDE

Have you ever wanted to drive just a little bit faster than you do? Floor it? Take a curve and hear the tires screech? Do it all legally and safely? Do you have a desire to improve your driving skills in a safe and fun environment? You may think that I am talking about an MBCA event, and you would ordinarily be right;

however, this time I am describing an event with The Sports Car Driving Association. At any given Sports Car Driving Association event, there is a broad selection of automobiles represented: BMW, Porsche, Volkswagen, Ford, Audi, Corvette, Alfa Romeo, Mazda, Mercedes and Ferrari.

The Sports Car Driving Association event starts at 7:30 AM June 26, 2006. Registrations are handled, and each student is assigned to a specific run group. There is a novice group for people with limited or no track driving experience. There are two intermediate groups. Also, there is an advanced group for the seasoned track driver.

There is a drivers meeting at 8:30 AM which will provide an introduction for the days events. Then, the various run groups rotate throughout the day, and close to two hours of on track driving can be expected. Also, there are several "chalk talks" and classroom sessions throughout the day covering different aspects of high performance track driving. They claim that safety is their first priority. These events are for educational purposes. This is NOT a race. Wheel to wheel racing is not permitted. Helmets are required. All novice students are required to drive with an instructor in the passenger seat.



A few of us are committed to meeting at the Interlaken Inn on Friday night June 23, 2006, for the June 24, 2006 event at **Limerock Raceway**. If you would like to join us, just let me know that you are coming. You need to make your own hotel reservations and register with SCDA by postmarking the envelope on April 1, 2006.

For more information go to www.scdal.com and www.interlakeninn.com.

You should also contact me at www.gcal842938@aol.com.

Thank you, Greg Calabro

As Mercedes-Benz owners and enthusiasts we should be familiar with the operations of our favorite automobile brand. Here is a description of DaimlerChrysler's organization as well as their latest annualized stock performance chart from Yahoo! Inc.

DaimlerChrysler AG engages in the development, manufacture, distribution, and sale of various automotive products, primarily passenger cars, light trucks, and commercial vehicles worldwide. The company operates in four segments: Mercedes Car Group, Chrysler Group, Com-



mercial Vehicles, and Services. Mercedes Car Group segment designs, produces, and sells Mercedes-Benz passenger cars, including S-Class, E-Class, C-Class, A-Class, M-Class, and G-Class; Maybach luxury sedans; and 'smart' compact passenger cars. Chrysler Group segment provides vehicles under the Chrysler, Jeep, and Dodge brand names. The Chrysler and Dodge brands offer cars and minivans. In addition, the Chrysler brand offers the Pacifica and the PT Cruiser. The Dodge brand also includes pick-up trucks, a sport-utility vehicle, and vans. Under the Jeep brand, the Chrysler Group sells sport utility vehicles. Commercial Vehicles segment offers vehicles, including vans, trucks, buses, off-highway buses, Hyundai Motor Company (HMC) vehicles, and Mitsubishi Fuso Truck and Bus Corporation (MFTBC) vehicles. The Services segment offers customized financing and leasing packages for retail and wholesale customers in the automotive sector. The company also provides financing to dealers for property, plant, and equipment purchases, and vehicle inventory. DaimlerChrysler markets its products and services through dealers and wholesale distributors. The company has strategic partnerships with MFTBC, Mitsubishi Motors Corporation, General Motors Corp., BMW Group, and HMC. DaimlerChrysler was founded in 1883 and is headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany.

Concours Judging Seminar

Saturday March 25th, 10am

Globe Motors in Fairfield, NJ

Want to learn what the judges really look for when judging your car at a Concours Event?

Pete Lesler, from the Western Reserve (Ohio) Section has offered to conduct a concours judging seminar for us. Pete is a judging expert and conducts several of these seminars around the country each year.

Globe Motors has graciously volunteered their service area for this event. We will be warm and dry.

Do I really need to clean the hood pad? What about wiping down the area behind the headlights? Should I use Armor All on my tires? Do I need to vacuum under the floor mats? Should I remove the change from the ashtray? These are just a few of the questions you might ask yourself when preparing a car for judging.

You can find the answers to these and many other questions at the **Judges Seminar** to be held on

Saturday, March 25 at Globe Motors in Fairfield, NJ.

So--- why don't you come join us for a very informative Tech Session ???

There will be three hours of classroom time, a break for lunch and then we will practice judge on our own cars with different body styles from different eras. Certificates will be issued to all people who complete the Seminar.

A continental breakfast will be available at 10am. A catered sandwich lunch will be served about 1pm. The cost of \$25 per attendee includes all of the above.

Directions to Globe Motors and more information may be obtained from Lucille Chabala and the NNJS Web Site at:

www.mbca.org/northern_new_jersey/njmbca.html



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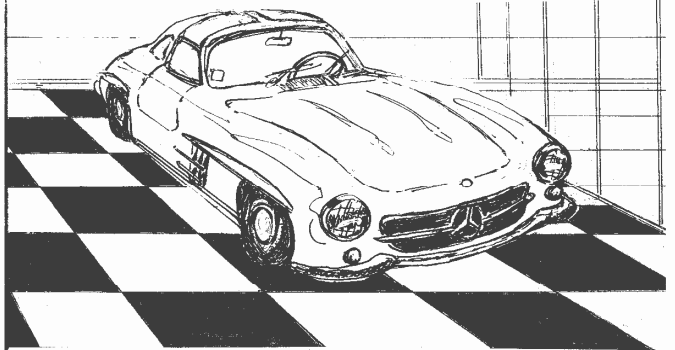
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www.mbca.org/northern_new_jersey/nnjmbca.html

NNJS Upcoming Events



- **Sunday, February 12**—Sweetheart Brunch at the Bethwood Totowa, NJ
- **Saturday, February 25**—Atlantic City Car Show Bus Trip. Leaves from-Wayne, NJ
- **Saturday, March 25** —Concours Judging Seminar at Globe Motors, Fairfield, NJ with Pete Lesler.
- **April 14-23, 2006**— NY Auto Show—Date & Time to be announced.
- **April 2006**—Tech Session—Date & Time to be announced.
- **Saturday, May 14**—Car Care Clinic—Beverly Hills Auto—Basking Ridge, NJ
- **Sunday, May 21**—Car Show at Carnegie Center—Princeton, NJ
- **Saturday, June 10** —43rd Annual June Jamboree—Mercedes-Benz HQ—Montvale, NJ

The annual NNJS June Jamboree at Mercedes-Benz North American Headquarters will be a really special event this year as we will be celebrating the Mercedes-Benz Club of America's 50th Anniversary.

NNJS, as host section will enhance this year's June Jamboree with additional activities marking the milestone. Watch for additional details on the NNJS Website and in our next edition of STAR TRACKS 2006.