

STAR TRACKS 2005



Volume 1 Number 3

November-December 2005

NNJS Officers

President: Valerie Cristiano

973-377-2882
mercedslady1@earthlink.net

VP-Webmaster-Newsletter Editor:
Ken Spingarn

973-377-1997 khs@openix.com

Treasurer: Lucille Chabala

973-731-9133
luluchab@aol.com

Secretary: Pauline Longosz

973-635-2136
pmlrncas2@aol.com

Technical Advisor: David Veith

973-731-5871 dlvsbenz@aol.com

Mid-Atlantic Regional Director:
Robby Ackerman

robby@ackerman.net

Ray Catena Tech Session Saturday, November 5th

Ray Catena has graciously invited us back again for another visit. This year we will gather at 10 am at Ray Catena's Mercedes Benz Dealership located at 910 Route 1, Edison, NJ (732-549-6600) for coffee and some light refreshments.

In addition to viewing Ray's incomparable collection, we will be able to see examples of the *Maybach, SLR, CLS, and the new R class* before departing for the Service Center.

We will then caravan to the Service Center where we will have the formal Tech Session. Leigh Farrell has arranged for some of their mechanics to talk to us about the differences in servicing new cars and older models.

She has also arranged for us to receive a **20% discount** on all items purchased in the Parts Department/Boutique.

Pre-registration is a MUST. Leigh has requested us to register by

November 1, so that she may have everything in place and ready for our arrival.

Please call or email Lucille (973-731-9133) [lulu-chab@aol.com](mailto:luluchab@aol.com) BEFORE November 1, 2005.

Last year, those of us who stayed to the very end of the event were also treated to a tour of the Vehicle Prep Center.



Inside this issue:

Nov. Tech Session-Nov. 5 Ray Catena Dealership	1
Oktoberfest-Oct. 1	2
Picnic & NNJS Election Sept. 17	3
January Kick-off Meeting January 8, 2006	5
New Members Holiday Party Dec 10	6
High Gear by John Bleimaier	9
Hurricane Katrina experi- ence-Robby Ackerman	10 11

Oktoberfest — NNJS Style

One could not have asked for a better weather as 25 Mercedes basked in the beautiful sun of an Autumn day on the field of Chubb Park in Chester, NJ. We began gathering at 9:30 in the morning and were greeted by Phil

Savell and John Lefand of the Chester Lions Club as we began to set up our tent and tables. As soon as the tablecloths were placed on the tables, we were entranced by the aroma of fresh brewed coffee and pastries. After

the pastries and the coffee, we began serving the fresh fruit, pies, water, and soda. Needless to say with all of the food in our area and the food for sale at the food tent, no one went hungry or thirsty.

Oktoberfest... NNJS Style

Members drove onto the private field and parked their cars in a big horseshoe for all to admire.

We were regaled with German music and a roving accordionist. We also had visits from Belle and the Beast, Paddington Bear, and other adorable characters. Some of our members even arrived in full Oktoberfest attire including Lederhosen.

We partook of some delicious German food including bratwurst, sauerkraut, and potato salad. There were also different types of "Adult Beverages" for those over the age of 21 to enjoy.

Attendees of the Oktoberfest really seemed to enjoy the display of our vehicles as over 125 of them cast ballots in the Popular Vote.

Our members also were able to vote for the car of their choice in each of the four categories. Trophies were awarded in four categories: 2 door Coupes; Convertibles/Roadsters; Wagons/SUV's; and Sedans.

This was also one of our charity events. Members paid \$20 per car and received \$20 worth of coupons to be used at the Oktoberfest. In

return, NNJS donated \$10 per car to the Lions Club for their relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina victims.

NNJS proudly donated \$250 to help the Lions Club aid victims of Hurricane Katrina.

The day proved to be enjoyable for all those who attended and as many of us drove off into the gorgeous sunset; many of our members stayed to enjoy the Oktoberfest as the sun went down and the lights came on.

Check out photos by member, Ed Longosz on page 11.

WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

If you have not received NNJS notifications via email, or if you have recently changed your email address — Please send your email address to mercedeslady1@earthlink.net



WWW.GRIOTSGARAGE.COM

MOVING: Send Address Changes to: MBCA
1907 LeLaray Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
or call 1-800-637-2360

Oktoberfest Car Show Results

Most Votes:

Hans Karl 1957 220S cab

Convertible/Roadster:

1st-Claire Wegner 1956 190SL

2nd-Phin Suy 2005 SL65 AMG

Sedan:

1st-John Bleimaier 1965 190Dc

2nd-Bob Wegner 1996 E320

Two Door Coupe:

1st-Alvin Martz 1968 250SL

Wagon/SUV:

1st-Joe Cristiano 2002 E320 4-Matic SW

Mid-Atlantic Regional Picnic a Sunny Success

Over 200 MBCA members and friends gathered at Falkenhorst, the country estate of John Bleimaier. The early morning was overcast as the worker bees began setting up tents, laying out the field for the cars, and getting the kitchen and barbeque areas organized in anticipation of yet another festive and fun-filled STAR CAR event.



bers from Delaware Valley, Northeastern PA, Central VA, and GWS in attendance. Chuck Landenberger from the Desert Stars Section also joined us for the festivities.

There were over 50 fine examples of Mercedes-Benz craftsmanship spanning 55 years on the field from a 1960 190SL to a 2005 SL65 AMG. As members mingled, enjoying the burgers and hot dogs grilled to perfection by Bob Wegner and other tasty delights provided by the attendees, they also managed to take the time to bid on the items of our Silent Auction generously donated by

our members. The proceeds of the Silent Auction and the Hurricane Katrina Donation Jar amounted to \$325 which will be sent to the American Red Cross and marked for Hurricane Relief Efforts.

There was also a Popular Vote Contest with the winners receiving appropriate prizes for the fall season.

The 1st Place winners took home a sitting scarecrow, the 2nd Place winners walked away with a beautiful ceramic jack-o-lantern, and the 3rd Place winners were awarded either a pumpkin spice or candy corn scented jar candle.

The Mid-Atlantic Region was well represented at the picnic co-hosted by the South Jersey and the Northern New Jersey Sections with mem-

“STAR CAR” at Falkenhorst Results

New

1st – Phin Suy
2005 SL65 AMG

2nd – John Donnangelo 2001 C320

3rd – Loni Spingarn
2005 C240

Modern Sedan

1st – Joe Grattan
1992 600SEL

2nd – Ellen Ruck 1993 190e 2.6LE

3rd – Walter Merkh
1991 300SD

Old Sedan

1st – Nick Ford
1986 420SEL

2nd – Werner Fehlauer

Modern Sport

1st – Grant Somerville
2000 CLK 430 convertible

2nd – PJ Buzzi
1999 CLK 320 convertible

3rd – Rosalind Weldon 1991
500SL

Old Sport

1st – Claire Wegner
1987 560SL

2nd – Richard Tynes
1990 500SL

3rd – Bill & Ellie Ryan 1982
380SL

Vintage

1st – Alvin Martz
1964 230SL

2nd – Bob Platz 1960
190SL

3rd – Danny Goldberg
1968 200D

Read your STAR TRACKS 2005 online:
http://www.mbcas.com/northern_new_jersey/NNJMBCA.html

Northern New Jersey Section Election Results

NNJS Officers Elected for 2006-2007 at Falkenhorst Picnic

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 will take office on January 1, 2006.

**President –
Joe Grattan**



**Secretary –
Claire
Wegner**



**Vice-President –
Doug Ochwat**



Treasurer – Lucille Chabala



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

Congratulations and Best Wishes to our newly elected officers!

Continuing a NNJS tradition

NNJS has been making charity donations for many years. This year we have been very active in that respect.

We collected money at the September picnic from a donation jar and from the proceeds of our Silent Auction. These monies were sent to the American Red Cross and specified for Hurricane Katrina Relief.

Last month, Robby Ackerman, our Regional Director, had the opportunity to go and help out with Relief Efforts near Biloxi, Mississippi. Our Section made a

\$1000 donation to help him in his efforts as he assured us that 100% of the donation would go directly to the victims.

*Northern NJ Section
Donates \$1000 for
Hurricane Katrina relief
efforts.*



Following is a letter from Susan Ackerman, Robby's wife, to members of NNJS:

Dear Valerie and all the rest of the Northern New Jersey Section of the MBCA,

Robby was overwhelmed first by your generous donation of \$1000 to help him in providing relief for those whammed by such a colossal force as Hurricane Katrina – and then overwhelmed a second time by

the total destruction he has encountered in Mississippi. While he thought he'd be chain-sawing limbs off houses, he has found himself scouting around for food to purchase and then serve from a ballpark concession stand at an elementary school. (He sleeps there, too!) People in the city of 10,000 have no governmental help as yet – everyone from the mayor to the prisoners are getting an egg sandwich for brunch – till they run out of eggs! Your help

has been a godsend.

So again, our deepest thanks! I'm sure Robby will be in touch with you when he returns, to tell you how your gift was put to the use intended.

Warmly,

Susan Ackerman

E-mail from Robby Ackerman, Mid-Atlantic Regional Director to Valerie Cristiano, NNJS President.

Valerie,

There are a few pictures posted on the MBCA website at <http://mbca.cartama.net/showthread.php?t=8251>

Again thanks so much for your contribution. You helped feed a lot of people.

Club members and friends gave me about \$4000 which I carried down and I distributed about \$6000. I never was very good at accounting.

I have attached a story which I've submitted to Frank Barrett for consideration in the Nov/Dec STAR.

It answers your question, How did it go in the South.

Thanks again for your Section's help with the relief effort.

It was so good to get there and have some resources to do something with.

Robby

Editors note: Full story may be read on page 10 .

STAN'S AUTO TOP



A FAMILY BUSINESS SINCE 1957
SPECIALIZING IN GERMAN CARS
973-635-3443
CHATHAM, NEW JERSEY
PETER SERBANICA

Sunday, January 8, 2006 — New Year Kick-off Meeting

Our first meeting of the New Year with our New Officers will be held on Sunday, January 8th at the Capo Vaticano Restaurant in Florham Park, New Jersey. We will meet at noon for a sit down dinner and meeting. The cost will be \$30 per person, children under 12 may order off the children's menu and will pay accordingly.

The menu will consist of
Antipasto
Salad
Penne with vodka sauce
Tableside choice of:
Salmon
Chicken Marsalla

Veal Parmigian
Coffee, Tea, Soda
Dessert tray
Please choose your entrée choice of Chicken, Salmon, or Veal and send your check for \$30 per person to Lucille Chabala, 6 Brook Way, West Orange, NJ 07052 973-731-9133

Capo Vaticano (973-301-9660) is located in the back of a small strip mall at 184 Columbia Turnpike in Florham Park, NJ.

There is ample parking in front of the restaurant, which is located next to Drug Fair, and in the mall behind Trader Joe's.



Directions to Capo Vaticano:

I-287 North or South:

Take exit #37 Route 24 East towards Springfield. Merge onto NJ 24 then take CR 510 East (exit 2B) towards Florham Park. Merge onto Columbia Turnpike.

When you come to two sets of strip malls (Treasure Island will be on your right) make a left at the light onto James Street.

Turn left at the second entrance to the parking lot (past Kings). **Capo Vaticano** is in the rear set of stores next to Drug Fair.



January Kick-Off Meeting Reservation Form

Welcome New NNJS Members

January Kick-Off Dinner

Please Register by January 4, 2006

Names(s) of Attendees:

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address:

_____ # Adults @ \$30 each _____
 Children (Child's Menu) = \$ _____

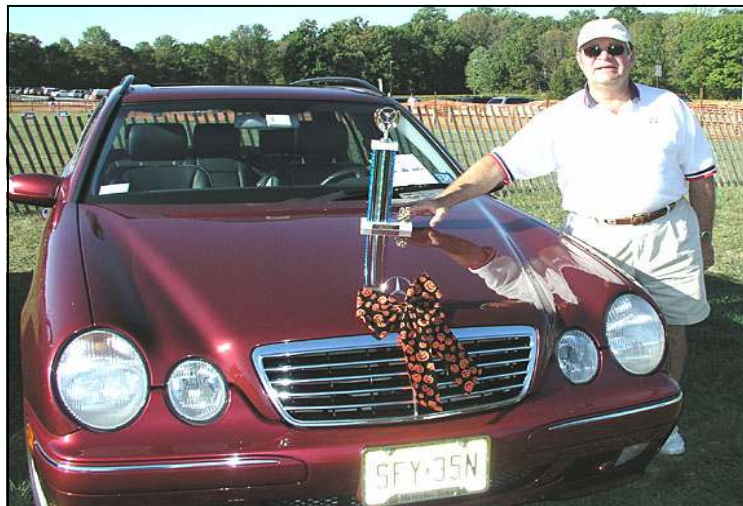
Send form to: Lucille Chabala, 6
 Brook Way, West Orange, NJ 07052
 973-731-9133

**Welcome New Members of
 NNJS-MBCA**

- Antonio Artazu West Orange
- Arnold Aubee Dayton
- Adolf Bahnsen Hackensack
- Ani Banyan Norwood
- Thomas Batton Sparta
- Scott Bisig Dumont
- Matthew Caracappa Jersey City
- Quintin Castillo Monroe

- Donald Close Gladstone
- Maureen Cray New York, NY
- Dana Conley Newfoundland
- Joan Cure Oldwick
- Kevin Fields Montclair
- Richard Heyderman Carlstadt
- James Hutchinson Little Silver
- George Krzyzanowski Mahwah
- Matthew Lane Bloomfield
- Jeff Leonard Bedminster

- Nancy Little Roselle
- Joseph LoFaro Fort Lee
- George Mahoney Lincroft
- Ellen Mayer Midland Park
- Rene Mortara Flemington
- Joe Turci Long Valley
- Robert West Basking Ridge
- Alex Wieselmann Randolph



Get ready for the NNJS Holiday Party on Dec. 10th

The Annual NNJS Holiday Party will be held at the **Fairmount Country Club in Chatham Township, NJ. On Saturday, December 10, 2005**

The Stellar evening will begin at 6:00 pm in our own private room with a cocktail hour followed by dinner and dancing. It will be a

time for the STARS to shine as our members arrive dressed in their elegant finery. Ladies, put on your dancing shoes and your best dress or gown and have your Gentleman put on his Tux or best suit and take you out for a magnificent evening.

This is also one of our Charity Events so please bring a new unwrapped toy

for a child to be placed underneath the Holiday Tree. The toys will then be donated to Toys for Tots as we have done for the past several years.



MERCEDES-BENZ PARTS SPECIALISTS SINCE 1981

Vintage 50's 60's 70's & 80's Parts Specialists



Order On Line



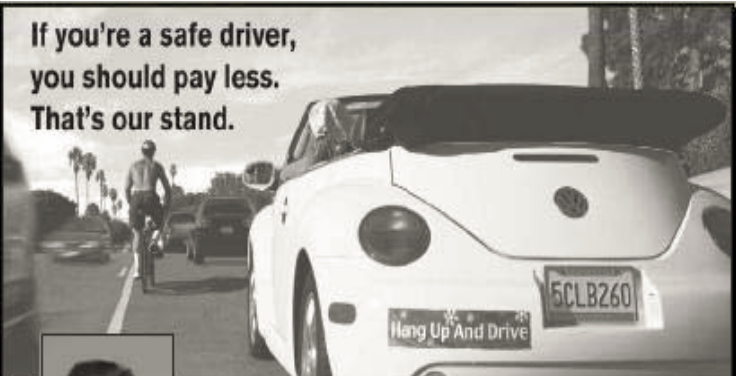
Miller's East 877 226 1870
Local 704-226-1870 or 24 Hr. Fax 704-226-1652
Open Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. EST
1749 Williams Road, Unit C, Monroe, NC 28110 USA

Miller's West 800-338-7787
Local 714-577-0115 or 24 Hr. Fax 714-557-0155
Open Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. PST
17420 Mt. Hermann, Unit I, Fountain Vly, CA 92708


Visit Our On Line Store - www.millermbz.com




If you're a safe driver, you should pay less. That's our stand.



Call me today. If you're a safe driver, I can help you save money on your car insurance.
(973) 822-1331



Mark Olson CLU, ChFC
12 Main Street
Madison
markolson@allstate.com



Allstate.
You're in good hands.

Appointments to fit your schedule.

Discount and insurance subject to availability and qualifications. Discount amount may be lower and applies to most major coverages. Allstate New Jersey Insurance Company, Home Office, Bridgewater, NJ ©2004 Allstate Insurance Company.

December 10th NNJS Holiday Party Menu

The **Cocktail Hour** will be from 6:00 to 7:30 in the Oak Room which will be festively decorated in the spirit of the Season. We will be tempted by the following delicious appetizers:

- Fresh Sliced Fruit
- Imported and Domestic Cheeses
- Crudités with Dipping Sauce
- Dim Sum with Duck Sauce

- Scallops Wrapped in Bacon
- Beef Kabobs
- Mozzarella en Corroza
- Brochette of Chicken Sesame
- Salmon Mousse
- Baby Lamb Chops
- Shrimp Cocktail

- Dinner will begin at 7:30 in the Conservatory with a magnificent fireplace and view of the grounds.
- Fresh Melon and Seasonal Berries
- Tossed Green Salad with a Bleu Cheese Dressing or Champagne Dressing

Choice of Entrée

- Sliced Tenderloin of Beef & Chicken Duxelle
- Duet of Grilled Jumbo Shrimp & Seared Sirloin Strip Steak
- Duet of Grilled Jumbo Shrimp & Chicken
- Grilled Vegetarian Platter

Dessert and coffee will follow the meal with a combo plate consisting of :

- Chocolate Surprise
- Cheese
- Fruit Delight

There will be an **Open Bar** for the entire evening as well as white glove service.

\$65.00 per person



Holiday Party Reservation Form

Holiday Party, Saturday, December 10, 2005 – Fairmount Country Club

Please register by December 1, 2005

Number Attending _____ Email Address _____

First and Last Names of Attendees _____

Address : _____ Phone: _____

\$65.00/person

Choice of Entrée:

___ Tenderloin/Chicken ___ Shrimp/Beef ___ Shrimp/Chicken ___ Vegetarian

Send form to: Lucille Chabala, 6 Brook Way, West Orange, NJ 07052

973-731-9133

Directions to Fairmount Country Club

From North, Traveling Garden State Parkway

- Parkway to Exit 142, take I-78
- Travel Rt. 78W. to Rt. 24W. Stay right and follow West 24(Springfield-Morristown).
- Stay on Rt. 24/124 West to Chatham exit only.
- Go approx. 4 traffic lights and turn left onto Fairmount Avenue.
- Go 2 traffic lights, turn right onto Southern Boulevard (Church of Christ on your right at corner).
- Go approx. 1.5 miles to Fairmount Country Club on your right.

From South, traveling on Garden State Parkway

- Take Parkway exist 142 to the right immediately past Union toll.
- Proceed 0.6 miles(stay on your right) on I-78
- East to Exit 54.
- Turn right, go over highway and turn right again to get back on highway going West Follow signs to I-78 West.
- Stay on Rt. 24/124West to Chatham exit only.
- Go approx. 4 traffic lights, and turn left onto Fairmount Avenue.
- Go 2 traffic lights, and turn onto Southern Boulevard. (Church of Christ on your right, at corner).
- Go approx. 1.5 miles to Fairmount Country Club on your right.

From West, traveling on I-78

- I-78E. to Exit 44 (Berkeley Heights/ New Providence)
- At the end of exit ramp, turn left onto Glenside Avenue
- Travel approx. 0.5 miles, make left onto Glenside Road.
- Go straight, pass lights. Glenside Road becomes South Street

- Continue on South Street crossing Springfield Ave.
- South Street becomes Passiac Street.
- Bear right onto River Road.
- Turn left at the light, Southern Blvd. (Steep Hill)
- Stay on Southern Blvd. Approx. 1.5 miles to Fairmount Country Club on your right

From East, traveling on I-78

- Take I-78W. to Exit 43
- Turn right at top of exit ramp onto Diamond Hill Road
- travel 0.4 miles to first light turning right onto Mountain Avenue.
- Turn left on to South Street (you will pass Bell labs on your right before coming to the Light).
- Continue on South Street crossing over Springfield Avenue. South Street will become Passaic Street.
- Bear right onto River Road (going over small bridge).
- Turn left at light onto Southern Blvd.
- Continue approx. 2.8 miles to Fairmount Country Club on your right

From New York City

- Take Lincoln/Holland Tunnel.
- New Jersey Turnpike South
- Exit 14 (Newark Airport).
- I-78 West(Express) to Rt. 24/124 West
- Stay on Rt.24/124 West to Chatham exit only.
- Go approx. 4 traffic lights and turn left onto Fairmount Ave.
- Go 2 traffic lights, turn right onto Southern Blvd. (Church of Christ on your right at the corner).
- Go approx. 1.5 miles to Fairmount Country Club is on your right.

High Gear by John Kuhn Bleimaier

There are two 300SLs in Moscow. I saw them last week. One is a gullwing, the other is a roadster. You see, I was in the Russian capitol in connection with delivering a lecture at Moscow University. It's always a hoot to visit the largest country on the planet. It stretches across twelve time zones, you know. Furthermore, the Russian Federation is the most exotic travel destination where you can still drink the water.

It's a car culture out there in what used to be the "evil empire." The Russian people are very passionate about there automobiles and there are probably more amateur mechanics per capita in Russia than in any other country. The new capitalist class is totally enamored of four wheeled excess, a.k.a. Ferraris and Maybachs; while the average Russian spends an appreciable amount of time tinkering under the hood of his Lada or Volga. My visit to Russia just happened to coincide with the Moscow International Automobile Show. The show has three components. There is a lavish display of new cars presented by manufacturers from around the world. There is also an enormous exhibit of spare parts and tuning upgrades for the aftermarket. In addition this year, for the first time, there was a classic car show. At the new car introduction I enjoyed the opportunity to look at marques and models which are not sold in the States. Peugeot and Citroen

had some very attractive Gallic designs with rather innovative, sporting mechanicals. It was fun to examine the "1 series" (sic) BMWs with their diminutive dimensions. The contemporary Russian cars are intriguing and appear to present good value for the money. You can purchase a Volga for under US\$10,000. This is a four door sedan about the size of an E class Mercedes with a 2.5 liter engine. The engineering is rudimentary but the Volgas seem to hold up pretty well on the poor quality roads from Vitebsk to Khabarovsk.

Of course the classic car show was the highlight for me. That's where I saw the two 300SLs. There are still some W.W.II trophy Mercedes, BMW, Adler, DKW and Horch autos in Russia. The examples of these vehicles at the Moscow show were restored to varying degrees of authenticity. A 1937 Mercedes 380 was presented in very fine condition. Mechanical and trim items were obviously restored to near original specification. On the other hand there was a '38 DKW which had been reupholstered in beige suede and was riding on modern wheels with low profile tires.

The old Soviet cars were local crowd pleasers. The Packard based ZIL limousines which had been used by high level aparatchiks are great take-offs on their American cousins. A Pobeda cabriolet from 1954 which now belongs to the Russian movie star, Leonid Yarmolnik, was the center of attention at the

show. It had just completed a year long restoration and appeared to have been prepared to a near Pebble Beach standard of perfection. And that got me thinking...Well, the Moscow Auto Show opened just a fortnight after I had gotten back from this year's Pebble Beach weekend. From Quail Lodge to the Historic Races at Laguna Seca; from the Christies' auction to the Concorso Italiano; the 72 hour extravaganza on California's Monterey peninsula had been the ultimate car junkie high, as usual. On the lawn at Pebble Hermann Goering's 540K was displayed for the first time. The historic association with that World War I flying ace, who ended up a convicted war criminal after World War II, made this Mercedes a center of attention. A couple of weeks later in Moscow a concept began to jell in my mind. Every year some new classic car class is featured on the green at Pebble Beach. In 2004 there was a class for 300SLs in honor of the 50th anniversary of the gullwing.

This year there was a class for '50s hot rods (that raised some eyebrows!). So now I'm thinking, why not a class for the vintage cars from the other side of the Iron Curtain at the next Pebble Beach Concours d' Elegance? I can see it now, sleek, dark, enigmatic vehicles with provenance from the likes of Derzhinsky, Beria, Kaganovich, Kamev, and Trotsky. On the other hand perhaps we should purge that idea.

John Kuhn Bleimaier October 2005

Article by Robby Ackerman provides a more detailed account of his time in Mississippi. See page 5

I had been looking forward to Tri-O-Rama 2005 all year. My modified Cosworth Mercedes-Benz was prepped and ready for three days of driving at the extremely fast 3.27 mile 20-turn Virginia International Raceway. The day before I expected to leave for Danville I called my partner in crime, Tim Kidder, whose company K & K Manufacturing in Sparta, Michigan, had completed the 25-month body-off restoration of my infamous 190SL (Pea Soup) years ago. I'd last seen him on the track at StarFest 2003, and I asked if I'd see him with his 560SEC at VIR.

Tim said no, that he was headed to D'Iberville, Mississippi to assist with Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. D'Iberville, now that was a city I'd never heard of. Tim went on to say that he had called FEMA "for 3 days off and on even into the night until 1:00 a.m. and never got an answer. I guess I called them more than 50 times. The Red Cross is not sending anyone from this area until later, and I'd have to take a 4-day training class and pay for it. I called many other groups and they only wanted money. I finally typed in Christian relief services and got several names including Christian Disaster Relief." When Tim called CDR, Dr. Ron Paterson, their Executive Director, was very willing to have him come down and faxed an authorization that would get Tim and his son Steve past the National Guard roadblocks. An hour later I called Tim back to say that I'd unpacked my helmet and tailored FIA Momocorse driving suit and would meet him in D'Iberville. Fifteen minutes later my travel authorization rolled out of my fax machine.

Tim had his Ford F350 and three-car trailer loaded with tools, fuel, chain saws, a tractor, 4-wheelers and donated supplies. When MBCA members heard Tim and I were headed to D'Iberville, I received over \$3,000 in cash and was told to use it where we saw a need. Within 24 hours the Northern New Jersey Section had sent me a check for \$1,000 and checks were forth-

coming from Frank Barrett, Dave Cashour, Walt Puryear and others. Joe Wozney passed the hat at the Tri-O-Rama banquet where one of the instructors contributed his entire check.

I chose to drive my 1983 300 turbodiesel, which I knew was well suited for the unexpected travails of the trip. Little did I realize that later in the week I'd be driving my car on the oil we'd used to cook catfish for 390 people. As I entered the city of D'Iberville I was greeted with a large sign that read "Residents and Emergency Relief Workers ONLY" and Missouri State Police manning the roadblock.

We thought we might remove trees from houses and use the blue tarps we brought along to cover roofs. But when we got there, to sum it up, it was total devastation. Self-sufficiency was required. Steve and I slept on the floor of a room above a concession stand at the D'Iberville Elementary School while Tim slept on the table that the Mayor used as his command post. The Military Police used the adjacent building whose roof was open to the night sky. People in this town of 10,000 had been watching for weeks as trucks rolled by towards New Orleans, leaving Mississippians to wait...and wait. Bulldozers had been through the streets, with the result that some houses had ended up half on the right side of the street, half on the left. Water rose to a height of 30 feet in this town two miles from the Gulf. One man described how water rose so fast that it poured into his attic vents and crashed through the ceilings. Another said he had a casino barge sitting on his house and car. A shrimp processing plant had its putrid contents spread over the land rotting, though Deputy Sheriff Scott Henning found four 20-pound frozen boxes intact, which made for some good meals for two days. One woman had just invested a million dollars in a gas station and mini-mart, and had been told she didn't need flood insurance. It's gone. Big X's on many houses signified death and demolition.

The immediate need was something I was totally unprepared for. When we arrived I heard that the popular three-term mayor Rusty Quave drove his truck through the wall of the D'Iberville

WIC grocery store so he could get some food to his residents. People either had no way of cooking, or no way of buying food even if it were available.

We found ourselves manning a Little League concession stand at the D'Iberville Elementary School and fixing meals by any means possible for people who had lost everything or almost everything. This included everyone -- the mayor, out-of-town doctors, Vietnamese seafood workers, black, whites, rich, poor, even prisoners who got "take-out."

Tim and I bought a second-hand 14-foot U-Haul truck in Florida and used it to find food wherever we could, buying it ourselves if necessary. The F350 diesel had a recently rebuilt transmission, new tires, u-joints, overhead door and more. The transmission had a severe leak so we pulled the toolbox out of the 300D and Tim repaired the leaky transmission on the spot. I had no idea that later in the week that truck would be filled with chili, canned celery from France, tents from China, mattresses with magnets in them from Mexico, MREs, Clorox, size 4, 5 & 6 diapers and more. We started serving coffee and cereal at seven in the morning, and at 10 a.m. offered a brunch, then at five another meal. One morning I purchased 35 dozen eggs and 35 loaves of bread for breakfast. At the meat counter I had started loading my cart with the best buy in sausage, when Rusty, the manager walked by. He put my sausage back on the shelf, and filled the cart with his premium brand. "This is on me," he said. The evening menus included rice and beans, a local favorite, which Gene Dasher prepared with rice, pinto beans, cayenne pepper, chocolate, zatarin seasoning, sugar, garlic and onion powder. Another evening it was catfish, fries and hush puppies.

While Tim Kidder, Gene Dasher, Dave Gardner and I were cooking, Tim's son Steve was out in the neighborhood removing trees from those houses that were not marked for demolition. His was the only chain saw I heard the entire time I was there. One evening a tearful lady implored him to pass her thanks on to everyone who was helping her and her D'Iberville community.

The day we left Tim Kidder and Don Shaffer were sifting through the remains of Don 's life. I asked Don 's wife Elizabeth how she was doing. She said she was fortunate because all their belongings were on their property. Her home, in the close-knit community of St. Martin, Mississippi a mile north of Biloxi, had been lifted off its foundation, rotated 90 degrees, moved 150 feet and settled back down. The eaves of the roof are flat against the ground with the house and their belongings under it. Their neighbor's home from across the street was lifted up and over Elizabeth's home and lies in a debris field behind Elizabeth's property along with the homes of several other neighbors. Her neighbors can't distinguish whose stuff is whose.

As she retrieved a string of antique pearls from the oily residue that covered the entire neighborhood she remarked that FEMA would not provide her with a temporary 27 ' trailer, and no trailers can be found in the area. She and her husband are living in a pop-up camper with an ice chest and no electricity. She is in the minority 10% or so of people in and around Biloxi that have flood insurance.

Three weeks after the Hurricane twenty-five fresh volunteers arrived, and we packed up to head back to Michigan and Virginia. As we left Tim said " There is so much disaster here that we could have spent the rest of the year and more in D 'Iberville. "

IS YOUR VEHICLE PROPERLY INSURED?

Are you protected in case of Fire, Theft, Collision, or Flood Damage?
 What kind of parts will be used?
 Do you have a choice of Repair Shops?
 What is the true & fair amount of coverage if you should have a claim?

Buying an antique, classic, special interest, or muscle car...

BUYER BEWARE !

Seller Misrepresentation? Odometer Fraud? Prior Collision?
 True Mechanical Condition? Actual Value?

These and many more questions will be answered when you have East Coast Antique and Classic Auto Appraisers INSPECT, ROAD TEST, and EVALUATE your possible purchase or currently owned vehicle.



LICENSED and BONDED with
 NYS INSURANCE DEPARTMENT
 N.Y. STATE CERTIFIED MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTOR
 AUTO APPRAISERS & BODY DAMAGE ESTIMATORS
 Our Appraisals Accepted by ALL Insurance Companies



East Coast
 Antique & Classic Auto Appraisers

P.O. Box 1189
 (845) 988-0359
 MONROE, NEW YORK 10950
 (845) 568-8878

ASE Certified and I-CAR Trained

FAX (845) 988-0411 Pager

OKTOBERFEST - NNJS STYLE



PHIN SOY'S 2005 SL65 AMG



HANS KARL 'S 1957 220S



VALERIE CRISTIANO & ALVIN MARTZ



CLAIRE & JOE- OKTOBER FEST HOSTS



Chester Lions Club
 Oktoberfest - Oct. 1, 2005
 MBCA - NNJS



**NORTHERN NEW JERSEY SECTION —
MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA**

223 Noe Avenue
Chatham Township, NJ 07928

We're on the Web!

www.mbca.org/northern_new_jersey/nnjmbca.html

NNJS Upcoming Events



**FINE AUTOMOTIVE ELECTRONICS,
DETAILING AND ACCESSORIES**



Complete Detailing Packages
Concours Prep • Paintless Dent Removal
Symphony Sound Systems

19 E. HENRY STREET • BASKING RIDGE • NJ • 07920

908•766•7115

- **Saturday, November 5th**—
Tech Session -Ray Catena 's
Edison, NJ
- **Saturday, December 10th**—
Holiday Party-Fairmount CC
Chatham Twp., NJ
- **Sunday, January 8th 2006** -
January Kick-off Meeting—Capo
Vaticano Florham Park, NJ
- **February 2006** —
Sweetheart Brunch—
Date & Time to be an-
nounced.
- **March 2006**—
Antiques Roadshow—

Date & Time to be An-
nounced.

- **April 2006**—Tech Session—
Date & Time to be an-
nounced.



International Vehicle Appraisers Network

John Kefalonitis
Certified Appraiser

(908)459-4201 www.i-van.org
Fax: (908)459-9868 bjspecialties@accessgate.net

2 La Barre Road, Blairstown, NJ 07825