



# **STAR-GAZER**

**NYC-LONG ISLAND SECTION**

**MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB of AMERICA, Inc.**

**Volume 49, Issue 2**

**[www.mbca.org/NYC-Long\\_Island](http://www.mbca.org/NYC-Long_Island)**

**2nd Quarter, 2011**

## **NYC-LONG ISLAND CLUB HAPPENINGS**

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Fred Barone, Donald Epstein, Larry Eslin, Steve Goldmen, Jay Goldstein, Lawrence Gorden, Kurt Jaklitsch, Richard Levy, Robert Paty, Anton Sinishtaj, Viva Somri, Jim Supple, Juan Pablo Vazquez, Scott Boodram, Charles Carr, John Castoro, Rolf Giest, Matthew Gutmajer, Michael O'Neill, Michael Senders, Alfred Weider

### **COMING EVENTS for 2011**

**11 September '11 (Sun) 'CRUIZIN FOR A CURE**

A car show that raises funds to find a cure for prostate cancer. A free blood test is offered to all men to check their PSA. Sears Auto Center, Route 106/107 Hicksville. Please contact the event organizer directly: Sandy Kane 888-LICRUIZ

**17-18 September '11 (Sat & Sun) FAIRFIELD COUNTY CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE**

Please join us for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Club Day at the Fairfield Hunt Club in Westport. Saturday is club day. Each club selects the best car to represent the marque and that car is invited to return Sunday to have their car parked on the Concours show field. These cars will not be judged, they simply represent their respective Marques. Contact Jan Van der Baan 631-584-5655

**25 September '11 (Sun) LEGENDS OF THE AUTOBAHN AT OLD WESTBURY GARDENS**

This will be an all-German car show featuring Mercedes, BMW, and Porsche. The venue is magnificent, and it alone is worth the trip. Contact Jerry Shapiro 718-423-0107

**22 October '11 (Sat) ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN ROAD RALLY**

15<sup>th</sup> Annual classic and sports car rally to raise funds for programs and services for children with special needs. \$135. Per car includes both the Rally and lunch. Please contact the event organizers directly at 631-331-6400

**04 December '11 (Sun) HOLIDAY PARTY** our biggest social event of the year. Lunch will once again be at the Inn at New Hyde Park. Please join us for food and gifts. More info to follow.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

So far this year we have had a number of great events. In March, Lou Palumbo hosted a Tech Session at Gullwing Motors. As always, Lou did a fantastic job. In May, I hosted our annual Spring Rally in Southampton. Once again, complete novices took home plaques. Hence, I hope to see more new faces next year. And although not our section's event, the Northern New Jersey Section's Annual June Jamboree in Montvale was memorable to say the least.

As to the future, on July 10<sup>th</sup>, we will once again return to Belmont for a day at the races. This is always a popular event. On September 11<sup>th</sup>, members will join Sandy Kane for his annual Cruizin' for a Cure. This event helps to promote awareness and raise funds to fight prostate cancer.

If you have an interest in vintage cars of all Marques, we will be participating in the annual Fairfield County Concours d'Elegance. If you enjoyed the cars at the June Jamboree, you will love this event. This is an all weekend event beginning on September 17<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>. If you have a particular interest in German cars, we will be joining BMW and Porsche for the Legends of the Autobahn car show on September 25<sup>th</sup>. It will take place at Old Westbury Gardens. The house alone is magnificent, and the gardens are among the best on the East Coast.

On October 22<sup>nd</sup> we will once again participate in the Alternatives for Children Rally. This charity raises funds for children with special needs, and we have a long association with them. Lastly will be our Holiday Party on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

As you can see, our calendar is quite full. If you are new member, I encourage you to try as many different types of events as possible. If you've never attended an event, I think you will be pleasantly surprised. Hope to see you soon and pleasant journeys.

Andy

## HELP WANTED

We need a volunteer to assume the duties of Editor for the *Star Gazer*, our Section newsletter. Please contact Jerry (718) 637-7234 or Andy (516) 432-3154 if interested.

**GULLWING MOTORS, INC.** EST. 1977  
516-742-3320  
100 Windsor Avenue  
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Sat 9am-3pm

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## **TIRE KICKING SESSION AT GULLWING MOTORS**

On a cold but bright Saturday morning more than 25 members of the NYC-LI section showed up to learn about their front suspensions and how to detail their automobiles for the warm months ahead. Of course we also had a chance to talk about our Mercedes' and enjoy the bagels, cake, and coffee that Lou Palumbo and his son Steve generously provided.

Andy Monahan, our section president led off giving us a demonstration of how to wash our cars. Inside the garage and without getting anyone wet he sprayed the trunk of a 1975 230 sedan. Then he added a dollop of orange flavored P21 to his bucket of water. Rinsing the sponge frequently, he began to get the trunk clean. He used long strokes beginning at the trunk's lip moving toward the edge of the rear window. He, then, thoroughly rinsed until no more soap bubbles appeared. Using a fifty cent sized amount of cleaner polish, he began to remove any minor scratches. Again he used long strokes. Finally he placed a small amount of polish on a piece of terry cloth using long strokes. The left half of the 35 year old Mercedes looked like a new car. As he worked he entertained the crowd with his college professor humor. He answered our questions and told us that Larry Reynolds of Car Care Specialties in Lodi, New Jersey (877-796-8300) was an excellent source of information and products. Andy's demonstration should help all of us get a better shine.

Another source of information and product is Paul's Distributors (516-379-7070) right here on Long Island. A final source for supplies is PDQ Supply Company in Lindenhurst. The contact there is Noelle Detweiler (516-606-7921)

Then Lou Palumbo began checking the suspension of a 1986 560 SL. Lou began by checking the tires examining the tread, and side walls for damage. He then spun the wheels to make sure they spun straight. If there were any damage to a wheel it can be straightened and refinished to look like new. Refinishing is much less expensive than purchasing a new one and unless it is an OEM wheel the original is much stronger than an aftermarket one. Continuing, he checked for wheel bearing play, the ball joints for tightness, then upper and lower control arms, and the tie rods. This is important so that the car is tracking smooth and straight. Next he checked the front and rear shock absorbers and the wheel alignment. Do not forget to check the tire inflation (especially if the car has been sitting) and that the wheels are properly balanced.

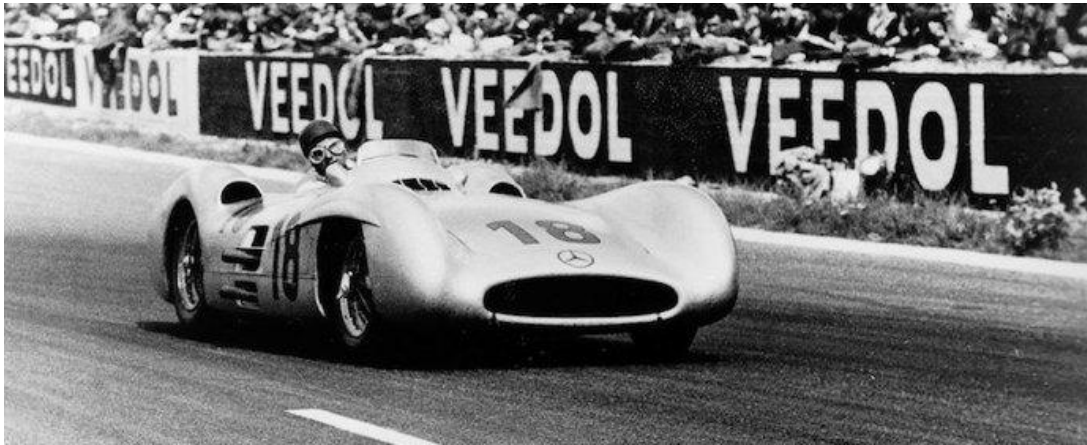
Lou and Steve will check your front and rear suspension free of charge. Should you need anything your MBCA membership will get you a 10% discount on both parts and labor. Give them a call at 516-742-3320. If you have any questions about your Mercedes Benz give Lou or Steve a call. Not only is Lou a board member but he is also our section's technical advisor.

*Oliver Seligman*

## **SPRING RALLY**

On Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, the section held its annual Spring Rally. The weather could only be described as perfect. So much so, that members did not want to go inside for lunch, particularly because there were so many new people to meet and so many exceptional cars to admire. The Rally began at 10 AM and followed a route from Southampton to Sag Harbor, out to Amagansett, and returned through East Hampton. Once again, first place went to a driver who had never run a Rally before. Congratulations to Mark Hoffman and Howard Zimmerman. Second place went to Rich and Kelly Galvagni. Third place to George and Martina Gates. And fourth place to Jeff Munzing and Pat Wright. It is also important to recognize Florian Pontani, a young man who did an exceptional job as a navigator. Once again the Driver's Seat Restaurant on Jobs Lane was chosen as the venue for our luncheon. And the food was once again wonderful. As any of our participants will tell you, this event is a lot of fun. So we hope to see more new faces next year.

*Andy Monahan*



**Juan Manuel Fangio (June 24, 1911 – July 17, 1995)**

**JUNE JAMBOREE-MONTVALE, NJ**



**Jay Goldstein**

**1957 190SL**



**Jay Goldstein      1957 190SL**



**Oliver Seligman    1995 E 320 coupe**



**1<sup>st</sup> John Anaischik 2004 E320 wagon**



**1<sup>st</sup> Dominick Citera 1998 S500**

**OUR SECTION MEMBERS WHO PARTICIPATED AT THE JUNE JAMBOREE**

Jay Goldstein	1957	190SL
Oliver Seligman	1995	E 320 coupe
Andrew Syracuse	2009	C300
Dominick Citera	1998	S500
John Anaischik	2004	E320 wagon
Vinny Milo	1987	560SL
Dennis Damascus	1990	560SEC
Robert Midura	1985	300CD

**SPECIAL THANKS TO CARL IAN SCHWARTZ FOR THE FINE PHOTOGRAPHY**

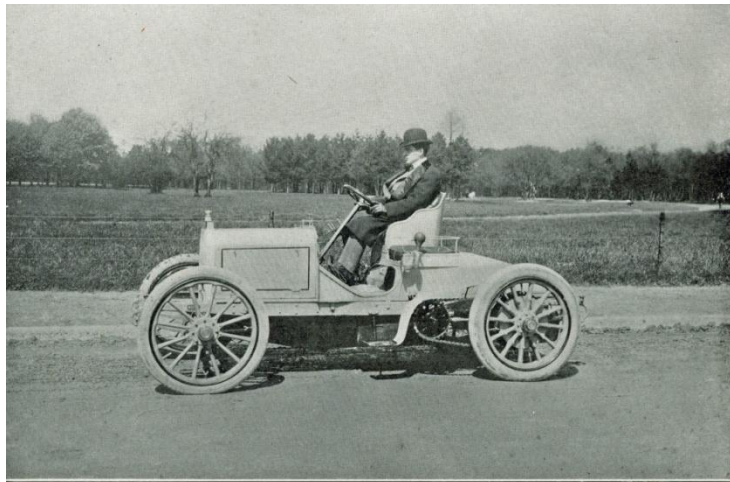
## A Day at the Races



The fifth annual outing at the famous "Triple Crown," Belmont raceway on Sunday, 10 July was a great success. Over fifty members and friends of the NYC-LONG ISLAND Section watched the races from the garden terrace clubhouse, while enjoying a huge buffet with many food choices including the ever popular omelet bar. A great "your choice" raffle was held. Board members, Vinny Milo, Jerry Shapiro, Lou Palumbo, and John Weigel hosted the giveaway.

## Willie K's Cars #3: The 1902 40-HP Mercedes Simplex- The Oldest Surviving Mercedes

POSTED ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27 2011 BY [HOWARD KROPLICK](#), REMEMBER TO CLICK ON THE IMAGE TO ENLARGE IT.



VIEW OF 40 H.-P. MERCEDES. W. K. V. JR., AT THE HELM

The Mercedes Simplex was designed by Wilhelm Maybach in Stuttgart, Germany and produced by Daimler Motoren Gesellschaft from 1902 to 1909. DMG's intention was to improve on the car's predecessor, the 35-HP Mercedes, by providing "comfort by means of simplicity," according to 1902 standards, hence the Simplex name.



Although William K. Vanderbilt Jr. already owned the Red Devil, a very fast 35-HP Mercedes, he was always looking for the newest and fastest automobile and immediately placed an order for the Mercedes Simplex. On March 12, 1902, Willie K. and his friend D.W. Bishop picked up the fifth Mercedes Simplex ever made at the DMG plant in Cannstatt, Germany. Vanderbilt and Bishop then set off on a 375-mile trip to Paris, France and then to Nice. Not surprisingly, Vanderbilt was accused of speeding in Luc-en-Dios and was told to stay overnight to await a trial. As described in his 1908 book *Log of My Motor*, Willie K. decided to skip town on a cold March night:

About three a.m., finding it impossible to stand our suffering any longer, I told Bishop that I would go across the way and start the machine, and when I would blow the horn. He was to push the man aside who had been placed to watch us, jump into the car, and we would proceed on our way.

As luck would have it, these 40 Mercedes were absolutely noiseless, so the starting of the car caused no excitement. A few minutes later the door was reached, and the horn blown. Bishop as agreed pushed the Frenchman aside, jumped in, and we were off.



On his way to participate in the Circuit du Nord race, on May 2, 1902, Vanderbilt challenged Bishop and Baron Henri de Rothschild to a kilometer match race between Ablis and Chartres. Willie K. not only won the race but established a one kilometer "flying start" speed record of 111.8 kilometers per hour (69.5 mph). Vanderbilt was hailed by the French as "Un Milliardaire Recordman."

On May 15, 1902, Vanderbilt was leading the 537-mile Circuit du Nord Race (Paris-Arras-Paris) when his 40-HP Mercedes broke down due to a broken sprocket wheel.



He described the breakdown in his book *Log of My Motor*:

"...everything went well for a short time; but it being impossible to control the speed of the car, it was only a question of time before the inevitable break would occur. It took place on leaving one of the controls, at which time by letting the clutch in too quickly the sprocket wheel snapped in two, an accident that I never thought possible, and, therefore, an extra part had not been supplied...The records show that I was first at the time of the breakdown, having two minutes to spare on Henri Farman (the eventual winner), who was following up in a Panhard."



After Willie K's ownership, the car was bought in 1923 by a German race car mechanic who had emigrated to the USA and serviced the cars of movie stars. In 1930, the car was sold to the Scripps family, the San Diego newspaper publishers. The Simplex was used by the Scripps as a learners' car until the 1940s before being placed in a barn for storage. In 1950, the Scripps sold the car to Bill Evans, Sr., who displayed it in his San Diego Bahia Hotel.



As [noted](#) by Stephanie Gress, Director of Curatorial Affairs at the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum, in March 2008, Willie K's 40-HP Mercedes Simplex was eventually acquired by the Mercedes-Benz Museum where it is displayed today. Note the

number "508-M" on the front of the car that matches the photo when it broke the kilometer speed record in 1902.



The car is considered the oldest existing Mercedes and one of the few surviving cars of the Simplex series.



As part of the Mercedes centennial celebration in 2000, Jurgen Hubbert, then head of the Mercedes passenger car division, took the Mercedes Simplex on the road. Willie K. would have been proud!

Courtesy of Howard Kroplick  
[VanderbiltCupRaces.com](http://VanderbiltCupRaces.com)

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### ***Join the Fun with Mercedes-Benz Club of America!***

**July 30-31** - Plymouth, MI. **The prestigious Concours d'Elegance of America at St. John's is days away and our July 14<sup>th</sup> registration deadline is fast approaching!** Join us July 30<sup>th</sup> for an exciting day of defensive driving and autocross. Just \$30 in advance/\$40 cash at the event. On July 31<sup>st</sup> view hundreds of exceptional cars from the world's finest collections. \$30 admission fee includes lunch on the field. Enjoy a VIP tour, RM auction, gala, special display parking for MBCA members and more. Mention MBCA to reserve a room at Towne Place Suites, 734.542.7400. **Book by July 15 for special pricing.** For more information contact Pete at 586.293.0935 or [pwmbsca@aol.com](mailto:pwmbsca@aol.com) or visit <http://internationalstars.mbsca.org/125th-mercedes-benz-concours-celebration>  
MBCA members and non-members welcome. Bring a friend!

**August 17- 20** - Ouray, CO. Bring your zest for adventure to **StarTrails 2011** in Ouray - known as the "Little Switzerland" of the Rocky Mountains. Join certified driving instructors through the spectacular San Juan Mountains back country touring with MLs, GLs, and G-Wagens. Roadster, sedan, and coupe drivers will enjoy the breathtaking beauty of Colorado's "Million Dollar Highway" through Silverton, Telluride, Durango, and the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. An unbeatable escape for all levels of drivers. For more information call Charlie at 719.576.9737 or visit <http://www.mbsca.org/event/2011-08-17/star-trails-2011>  
MBCA members and non-members welcome. Bring a friend!

**August 19** - Carmel Valley, CA. **Legends of the Autobahn: West Coast Summer Concours** brings enthusiasts, owners, and aficionados of distinctive German cars together on the greens of the Rancho Cañada Golf Club to see (and be seen) with some of the finest marques in the world. Also on the same weekend, Mercedes-Benz USA will be honorably featured at the Pebble Beach Concours as it celebrates 125 years of innovation. This year's "Legends," co-hosted by MBCA, the BMW Car Club of America, and Porsche Club of America, has become one of the must-see attractions of the world-renowned Monterey Historic Weekend. For more information call Laura at 650.592.7613 or email [SimondsL@pacbell.net](mailto:SimondsL@pacbell.net) To register vehicles for judging (1991 or older) or corral (any vintage), visit <http://www.legendsoftheautobahn.org/mbca> or [www.motorsportreg.com](http://www.motorsportreg.com)  
MBCA members and non-members welcome. Bring a friend!

**September 17-18** - Westport, CT. Jaw-dropping **Concours d'Elegance at the Fairfield County Hunt Club** returns for its 8<sup>th</sup> annual event with more than 200 of the world's most extraordinary classic automobiles and rare motorcycles. Embark on two full days of unique exhibits and entertainment including the Nutmeg Tour for Autism (to include approximately 50 of the Concours exhibit cars), Art & Automobilia, Bonhams Auction, a Preview Reception and so much more. For more information contact [carclubs@fairfieldcountyconcours.com](mailto:carclubs@fairfieldcountyconcours.com) or visit <http://www.fairfieldcountyconcours.com/aboutus.html>  
MBCA members and non-members welcome. Bring a friend!

**September 24-30** - Lake Huron and surrounding area. Come drive the spectacular **Great Lake Mille**, a majestic tour around Lake Huron including the Bruce Peninsula and Georgian Bay. The five-day tour kicks-off at the St. Claire Inn in St. Claire, Michigan and a visit to the Wills St. Claire Museum. Attend the Lexington Classic Car show (all makes and models welcome); visit Goderich, the "prettiest town in Canada" and ferry to Manitoulin Island to explore the Great Spirit Circle Trail. Elk viewing, wine tastings, gourmet dinners and so much more! For more information call Ron at 218.213.4967 or email [r\\_harshmen1234@msn.com](mailto:r_harshmen1234@msn.com) ([r\\_harshmen1234@msn.com](mailto:r_harshmen1234@msn.com))  
MBCA members and non-members welcome. Bring a friend!

**September 26 - October 1** - Set your sights on an unforgettable **tour of Germany**. Visit AMG, the Classic Center, Sindelfingen Visitor Center, the "new" Mercedes-Benz Museum and so much more. Luxurious accommodations, three meals/day, professional guides, transportation, admission fees, and taxes included in \$2,500/person price. For more information call Jim at 617.879.0017, email [jimo55@comcast.net](mailto:jimo55@comcast.net) or visit <http://www.mbca.org/travel>  
MBCA members and non-members welcome. Bring a friend!

**November 3-5** - Dearborn, MI. **Mercedes-Benz Club of America National Board Meeting**. For schedule and hotel information, please contact Cindy Tumbleson at the National Business Office at 800.637.2360 or [cindy@mbca.org](mailto:cindy@mbca.org)

**Dates Vary - AMG Driving Academy** is a world-renowned Mercedes-Benz driver training program held throughout the year in Europe and the United States. Whether you're an AMG Driving Academy veteran or this is your first time accelerating your heartbeat in an AMG, you'll find a driving program sure to leave you wanting more. Choose from the BASIC, ADVANCED or PRO courses in Georgia, Connecticut, and California. Discounts for MBCA members. To register call 800.217.6916, email [info@amgacademy.com](mailto:info@amgacademy.com) or visit <http://www.amgacademy.com>