



Mercedes-Benz  
Club of America

**Greater Washington  
Section  
Summer 2017  
Newsletter**



**Benz on the Lawn: Picnic, Concours & Flea Market**  
MBCA-GWS Members Brought Family and Friends to Celebrate Summer in Style

More than 130 members, family, and friends gathered around BBQ provided by Big Mook's BBQ to celebrate their shared passion for Mercedes. The picnic, concours, and flea market was hosted by Steve and Barbara Newby in North Potomac, Maryland, and truly epitomized summer with perfect weather.



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2017 Officers

**Welcome to Our  
New Members!**

**Gail Shapkin**  
Fairfax Station, VA



**James Vargo**  
Keswick, VA

**Ariana Stubbs**  
Sterling, VA

**Holly O'Reilly**  
Ashton, MD

**Rex LeGore**  
Hagerstown, MD

**Michael Rejda**  
Reston, VA

**Jeff Noyes**  
North Beach, MD

**Michael Parent**  
Sterling, VA

**Jeremy Park**  
Winchester, VA

**2017 Calendar of Events**

**August**

- 13** Autocross
- 20** Wine & Dine at Big Cork Vineyards (1 - 4:30pm)

**September**

- 10** Odds & Ends Detailing Workshop
- 17** Autocross
- 27** Fall Officer's Meeting
- 30** Smithsonian Institution | National Museum of American History Hosts MBCA-GWS

**October**

- 8** Old Soldiers Home Show
- 14** Rockville Auto Show
- 20** Autocross
- 22** Annual Membership Meeting
- 29** Summit Point

**November**

- 12** Autocross

Visit the [MBCA-GWS website](#) for more information!

**A Photo Round-Up**

A few recent events that made for a great summer with MBCA-GWS!

**Drivers Fight Domestic Violence-Help Local Center**

Michelle LaPorte, President of the Board of Directors for **The Laurel Center** accepts over \$1300 in checks from **R. Ben Weber**, Autocross Chairman for the Greater Washington Section of the Mercedes Benz Club of America.

"The club is honored to be able to help fight domestic violence as well to provide drivers with defensive driving skills, both of which help save lives," said Weber.

The GWS Section hosted "**Spring-Fling-Your-Car Autocross**" in which 100% of all proceeds were donated to the Center. The funds are destined to the Laurel Center's Capital Campaign on finishing their new facility in Winchester, Virginia. To learn more about the Center, visit [TheLaurelCenter.org](http://TheLaurelCenter.org).



## What's Next: Register for Upcoming Events

### Smithsonian Institution | National Museum of American History

8:45 - 10:30 AM, Saturday September 30

Fee: \$10 per person

8:45 - 9:00 a.m.: Coffee and light breakfast in Reception Suite

9:00 - 10 a.m.: Tour of American Enterprise, led by Docent

10:00 - 10:30 a.m.: Return to suite for refreshments and mingling

[Register at http://msreg.com/Smithsonian](http://msreg.com/Smithsonian)



The National Museum of American History cordially invites the Mercedes-Benz Club of Greater Washington to an exclusive tour of American Enterprise before Museum opening hours. Light breakfast and coffee will be served. This event is hosted by Club members, Bob and Marilyn Haroutunian, who are members of the Smithsonian Council for American History.

American Enterprise chronicles the tumultuous interaction of capitalism and democracy that resulted in the continual remaking of American business-and American life. Visitors will be immersed in the dramatic arc of labor, power, wealth, success, and failure in America in an 8,000-square-foot space focused on the role of business and innovation from the mid-1700s to the present. Through captivating objects and engaging interactive displays, visitors can trace the country's development from a small, dependent agricultural nation to one of the world's most vibrant economies.

For more information on the exhibition, [visit the website!](#)

*\*Parking is not provided by the Smithsonian*

### Drive, Display, Wine & Dine

12 - 3 p.m., Sunday, August 20

[Big Cork Vineyards](#)

4236 Main Street Rohrersville, MD 21779

Fee: \$60 per person

[Register Now at msreg.com/BigCork](#)



There are variety of routes to the winery including some pleasant backroads and they have ample parking. We will also feature member cars around the circle drive at the entrance to the main building. Upon arrival check to see if we can fit your car on the drive for display. The program will start promptly just after 1:00 PM.

The Catered Lunch will include a selection of gourmet sandwiches, Belgian endive & bistro salad endive, caprese bites, fruit kebabs and assorted friandese.

The special tasting will include a barrel tasting of wines from the latest vintage maturing in the winery.

Lunch will be served on the lower pad outside or in the Production Room inside weather permitting.

### Shenandoah Circuit Track Event

9 a.m., Sunday, October 29

Summit Point Raceway - Shenandoah, Summit Point, West Virginia

Fee before Sept 1: \$165; after Sept. 1: \$185; on-site: \$200 cash

[Register Now](#)

[at msreg.com/MBCAGWS2017SHEN](http://msreg.com/MBCAGWS2017SHEN)

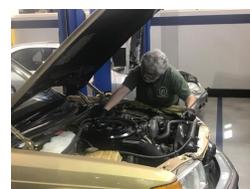


Come out and join us for an educational day of fun driving on Summit Point's Shenandoah Circuit - a 2.2-mile (3.5 km) road course that first opened in 2005 - a no-holds-barred technical challenge that will take years for drivers to master. If you are truly up for a challenge to your car handling abilities, the Shenandoah Circuit is

## Deutsche Marque Concours



## DIY at Tysons



## July's Autocross



truly one of the most technical tracks in the country. [Read more about the course here.](#)

MBCA-GWS is offering both Instructed and non-Instructed run groups at this event. Any certified instructors will drive for free and be provided lunch for their time.

Please note the registration fee increase for on-site cash entries and know that your car MUST be tech-inspected prior to the event by a reputable shop. This is about as cheap as track events get, so what are you waiting for?



## President's Letter

Rugger Smith

With such a full summer slate, I am reminded that none of this could take place without our dedicated members working hard in volunteer capacities. They deserve the spotlight this (and every) month, and I wanted to take a moment to recognize just a few of them!

**Katie Gleeson** - we are very fortunate to have Katie still guiding us in heading up the annual GWS-MBCA Members Picnic at the Newby Estate. Great food, great music, and of course, the cars abounded. Katie worked hard to prepare for a great gathering on the lawn in Potomac.

**Omar Abou-Zeid** has been working hard on another Display and Dine on July 23, to take place in Georgetown at BreadSoda Bar, Deli & Billiards - with room to display the cars in a truly unique venue.

**Ben Weber**, as always, is champion of the Autocross during the summer. The club has purchased new timing equipment that utilizes updated technology to better deliver driver times. This should make the event run even smoother for Ben, his crew, and all involved.

**Fraser Dachille** is working hard to put together the club's Summit Point Raceway - Shenandoah in Summit Point, WV on October 29. This is a can't-miss event. We have commitment from National Headquarters that the National President and our Regional Director will be there to race and support.

More of an unsung hero, **Sean Shavkat Safaev** has been an amazing job of keeping the MBCA-GWS website and social media posts up-to-date and informative. This is no small task - please check out his hard work and pull out your calendars while you're at it.

Speaking of summer calendars - cool off with refreshments at MBCA-GWS' Wine Tasting and Lunch on August 20 at Big Cork Vineyards in Rohrersville, MD. It makes for a beautiful drive and I hope to see you all there, representing - especially the Maryland Club members. In September, we will be back and busy at Odds & Ends Detailing as they provide another car care workshop. Later in the month, join us for an exclusive American Enterprise Tour at the National Museum of American History. Club members Bob and Marilyn Haroutunian are championing this must-attend gathering as they will open early for MBCA-GWS members and offer an exclusive insider's view of the exhibit.

I hope you can attend at least one of the bevy of events lined up for you. Remember -you are always welcome to bring a friend to any MBCA-GWS event! I love seeing our members actively participating and they never seem to forget their passion for Mercedes. Here's to you enjoying the summer cruising the roads!

**Rugger Smith**  
MBCA-GWS President

## Summer in Review

### Deutsche Marque Concours, DIY Mercedes Benz Tysons, Autocross, and More!

#### German Marque Concours - Sunday, May 7

At Nottoway Park in Vienna, Mercedes, Porsche, and BMW appreciators attended the Concours, including MBCA National President Terry Kiwala and MBCA Eastern Regional Director Dr. Jim Roberts. An array of food trucks



were on hand to provide food and beverages, and the event concluded with an Awards Reception where all marques received awards.



### DIY Mercedes Benz Tysons - Saturday, May 20

Between continental breakfast and lunch, members worked on their cars. Mercedes Benz Tysons is a state-of-the-art facility - its technicians happily stepped in to instruct when needed and the Parts Department assisted with any purchases for DIYers. Several members came to show support and brought their cars which were placed for all to view on the show room floor and in the repair area



### Autocross - Sunday, July 16

One highlight of July's Autocross was utilizing the new **wireless AX timing equipment** from Solo Performance Specialties for the first time! The new digital display board at the finish point gave drivers an instant view of their times - a rewarding new feature enjoyed by more than 50 cars and their drivers. Local law enforcement attended to view the new equipment and observe its precision. The new equipment has raised the MBCA-GWS profile and even attracted a couple Porsches to come run the course. Perfect racing weather and low humidity made for the an ideal summer Autocross.



## TECH CORNER: Best Mercedes-Benz for a Road Trip in the Summertime

MBCA-GWS Tech Chair Pete Engel is ready to take you on five different summer drives, with the perfect Mercedes selected for each!

Well it's summertime, and with the typical DC summer heat fulfilling all 3 Hs - hazy, hot and humid - my thoughts stray towards making an escape in one of our beloved Star cars, on a road trip somewhere far away from here. Whether to the shore or on some two-lane back roads to the mountains, isn't it best to go in some sort of Mercedes? The best model for any trip depends on who - and what - is going with me, and where we're headed. So, let's create some trip scenarios, and within each, my suggestion for the best Mercedes model for the journey.

### Trip #1: Two of us want to cruise in comfort & style to the beach, and put the top down at some point:

Let's take an SL: no earlier than an R107 (450SL or 560SL from the 70s-80s), no later than the R230 (2001-2012), and of course the R129 (1990-2000). Older ones are too valuable and a bit less roomy, let alone the air conditioning is barely adequate. Heck, any SL would probably be great. The newer models with folding hardtops are particularly practical. If I took a R107 or R129 I would leave the hardtop at home - the soft top seals very well against unexpected rain squalls (ask me how I know). V8 power in any of these is more than adequate for traffic on the freeway. We have enough trunk room and behind the seat room to stow our things. Let's go!

### Trip #2: Two couples want to go a long distance in a hurry, and not look conspicuous to the constables as we exceed the recommended speed limits:

Let's pack the 500E (aka E500, the W124, made from 1992-1995. The definition of a Q Ship, a stealth package with a power package underneath. Here was a unique proposition - Porsche collaborates with Mercedes to modify the standard mid-size E Class 4 door, to drop in the 322 HP V8 from the 500SL (R129 model, see above), lower the suspension, add larger brakes, rims, tires, self-leveling suspension, the early traction control system known as ASR, and more, but with very little externally to advertise to the average onlooker, the rocket ship within. No boy-racer stripes, no hood scoops, no wing spoilers - but we know better, as we hustle along at up to 160 miles per hour (factory governed) to our destination. If we can't find any 500E/E500s for the task (they are quite scarce), perhaps an early post-merger AMG sedan (C36, C43, E55, or similar) is available: the ones with little external badging, but quite powerful, and a large trunk to hold our gear.

### Trip #3: We are a family, with a large dog, and lots of stuff to haul to our cabin or rental cottage:

We must follow the herd and select a big, roomy SUV. Fortunately, Mercedes-Benz has offered several over the past decades. While other models have their merits, the best overall family hauler would have to be the good old, made-in-the-USA, ML Class: the newer the better, but whatever we can afford. Preferably the car has a V8, but the V6 has plenty of torque as well. The 4Matic would be a natural as it's so trouble-free now and Mercedes has perfected the technology.



### Trip #4: My car buddy and I are going on a vintage rally, maybe on gravel roads, and want the most reliable car, new or old:

We find an old Ponton or Fintail - a 4-door, 4- or 6-cylinder (early version of the E-Class) from the late 50s or early to mid 60s - a Diesel would be extremely slow in any sort of stop-and-go, heavy traffic, so we hold out for a gas

engine, but either way, the engines are nigh on indestructible, as is the chassis. Take some time to read up on the glorious successes these models had in famous rallies back in their heyday, or even nowadays. For example, the 2014 Nov-Dec issue of The Star tells the story of Fred & Elisabeth Smits, who are driving their 1957 220S Ponton around the world, and have now covered over 15,000 miles in their car.

**Trip #5: We want the best overall car for a road trip - roomy, comfortable, powerful, and dependable:**

How can we pass up an E-Class wagon? I won't even narrow it down, because Mercedes has made factory mid-size wagons for decades now. There is something for everyone here - I include the W123s (from late 70s-1985), especially the thrifty and rugged Turbo-Diesels, the handsome W124s (from 1986-95- except the 4Matic versions of these, they were troublesome), the W210s, W211s, W212s, W213s. Something for everyone here: Bonus points for later 4Matics (for those who need to take gravel roads to their destinations), also don't forget the later AMG versions (for those who want a rocket ship to get to the hotel, pronto!). The E-Class Wagon is hard to beat as a perfect all around choice for a Road Trip.

Let's hear about your Summer Road Trip! What Mercedes model did you take, and why?

Forward this email

STAY CONNECTED



**2017 Officers**

<a href="#"><u>Rugger Smith</u></a>	President	703-861-0402
<a href="#"><u>Omar Abou-Zied</u></a>	Vice President	703-309-0995
<a href="#"><u>David Feske</u></a>	Treasurer	202-363-4189
<a href="#"><u>Anthony Androsky</u></a>	Secretary	202-320-3373
<a href="#"><u>Ben Weber</u></a>	Autocross/Co-Driver Chair	703-606-5002
<a href="#"><u>Pete Engle</u></a>	Technical Chair	540-848-5200
<a href="#"><u>Sean Shavkat Safaev</u></a>	Web & Social Media Chair	571-297-5535
<a href="#"><u>Dennis Jones</u></a>	Membership Chair	703-220-2682
<a href="#"><u>Fraser Dachillie</u></a>	Co-Driver Chair	443-465-6430

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