



METRO TRI-STAR

Greater Washington Section
www.gws.mbca.org Winter 2014 / 2015

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GWS member and Section Vice-President Greg Burks walked along with friends to raise funds for Alzheimer's Research. Photo by Micalya

New Year is a Time to Reflect

Normally you see members and their cars as our headline photo. We thought this issue would be good to reflect on our lives beyond the iron, and acknowledge how important it is that we not take our wellbeing or the wellbeing of those around us for granted.

The coming of the new year is a great time to think about the many benefits we have, that each of us takes for granted. We should not forget that there are those who suffer illness, poverty, and much more, how lucky we are, even as we deal with our own life burdens.

This fall, GWS Vice-President Greg Burks put together a group of friends to walk as part of a fund-raiser for Alzheimer's Research. Why would a young person care so much about a disease that is considered an old person's illness?

Greg and his family have been caregivers for his grandfather who suffered from Alzheimer's. Greg attributes his love of

cars, as well as learning how to fix them to his Grandfather. This is the person who, in his spare time, fixed VWs and thus handed down invaluable technical skills to his grandson. Greg shares that this bond with his grandfather is the main reason he is an auto enthusiast to this day.

Greg is not the only GWS member who takes the time out to help others. We want to thank everyone, who gives of themselves by giving back to the community in the many ways our members do.

What is it that each of us could do to help others in need? A financial donation to a cause, giving of your time and talents to a program? Whatever it is, know that by doing something like this, you are helping someone else and, as in Greg's case, honoring those that shared a passion with you that then lives on through generations.



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Kathryn (Katie) Gleeson
GWS Section President
President@gws-mbca.org

Winter 2014 / 2015

It is an honor and a privilege to have been elected your president!

Shortly after being elected, I had the opportunity to represent our club at the National MBCA Board Meeting in Atlanta. What a wonderful experience to meet so many decision makers from around the country, and Canada too! In attending the meetings, I got a better understanding of the operation of the National Board and the current challenges that are facing it. Also while there, I got the opportunity to meet other section officers and discuss with them various club events. There is definitely nothing like sharing ideas.

The Peachtree Section hosted the National Board Meeting in Atlanta. The MBCA Enthusiast Group put on an elegant afternoon tea for the Ladies of Mercedes! The Board Meetings concluded with a banquet celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Peachtree Section, and those MBCA members who have continued to be active in their section and throughout the club.

As we move forward with our events for the Greater Washington Section, I want to encourage all of you to make 2015 a great year! Please let me hear from you. Please be involved in those events that you truly enjoy! If everyone could volunteer to help for just one activity a year, our Club could reach new heights!

With that said, our first big event of the New Year is our Holiday Party on January 10th. It is a week earlier than last year so PLEASE register right away! Our cutoff date is earlier and once our final list is turned into the restaurant, we cannot take any more registrations. This year we are returning to the Dutch's Daughter in Frederick and have an even larger room. Please mark your calendars and bring your family and friends. Let's have a great evening together! See you on January 10th!



Katie

2014 MBCA | GWS Member of the Year

We are pleased to announce the Greater Washington Section's Member of the Year for 2014: Pete Engel.

Pete is always helping out at club events, and is an avid enthusiast with a collection of great cars. Next time you see Pete, congratulate him on this national MBCA honor.



Pete Engel, 2014 MBCA | GWS Member of the Year at a Mercedes-Benz of Tysons Corner DIY Event with other club members. Photo by William West Hopper

Club Meet-Up to attend the Washington DC Auto Show

February 1 2015 @ 1:00 pm

Washington DC Convention Center

Each year, a group of MBCA members enjoys getting together to do the DC Auto Show as a club. Again this year, we will meet-up on Sunday afternoon, February 1, the last day of the show, to tour the show and have fun with our fellow members.

Even if you have done the show before, it is always fun to go back to see things you may have missed. Members have found that it pays to sign up for test drives and other promotions. Getting gift cards for taking test drives always seems like getting paid to have fun doing what we all like to do, play with cars!.

The group will gather afterwards for a bite to eat and some libations at a local restaurant to talk cars and enjoy each other's company.

Buy your tickets prior to the event or at the show, and spend some time kicking tires with fellow club members.

For more information on the show go to:
<http://www.washingtonautoshow.com/>

For more information on the club meet-up contact Bill Hopper, wwhrestoration@att.net or 202365.0672

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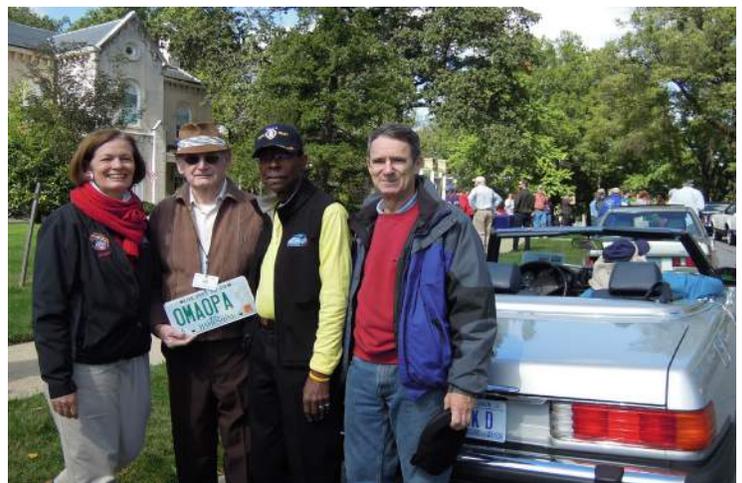
Comparisons are between Michelin touring tires.

MBCA Members Enjoy the Armed Forces Retirement Home Antique Auto Show



Dennis DeNio displayed his 1969 Mercedes Benz 280 SL at the Armed Forces Retirement Home Antique Auto Show in October.

Photo: Janet McFarland



Janet McFarland, Charles Daniels, Lou Baskerville, and Steve Walters. Charles Daniels, a resident of the Armed Forces Retirement Home, displayed his 1988 Mercedes Benz 560 SL. He purchased it in New Hampshire and is the original owner.

Photo by: J.Walter Thompson.

GWS Holiday Party

**Saturday, January 10, 2014
6 to 10 pm**

**Dutch's Daughter Restaurant
581 Himes Avenue, Frederick, MD. 21703**

You are cordially invited to attend the MBCA Greater Washington Section Holiday Party at the Dutch's Daughter. The GWS Holiday Party is all about good food, good cheer, and time spent with old and new friends. This year we'll meet at the Dutch's Daughter in Frederick, MD to celebrate the holidays. As a little bonus, we will hold drawings for door prizes (provided by our sponsors) throughout the evening.

While we celebrate the holiday spirit at this event, we also take the opportunity to recognize two groups of members: (1) those whose autocross performance during the preceding year has earned them a season award; and (2) those who are eligible for a membership anniversary pin. This year, members who joined the club during a year ending in four (4) or nine (9) are eligible.

A highlight of the evening is the announcement of the GWS Member of the Year. This prestigious award goes to a member deemed to have made an exceptional contribution to section activities during the past year. The name of the member of the year is added to the *Hank Sloane Memorial Trophy*, and the member keeps the trophy until the next member of the year is selected. As a reward for contributions to the section, the Member of the Year also gets a free pass for most section events during the upcoming year.

Please Note: Registration is through Motporsportreg. If you do not have an existing account, you can create one (it's free). Having a Motorsportreg account will prove useful for GWS and other MBCA events. You can use the "Register Now" or QR code at right to register. Please Note: we cannot provide refunds for cancellations received after January 5, 2015.

For more information, contact: Katie Gleeson 240.381.2286 president@gws-mbca.org

To Register! <http://msreg.com/2015GWSHolidayParty>

Tour of Automotive Collision Specialists

Sunday, March 22, 1 to 4 pm

Auto Collision Specialists, Inc.

"Mercedes-Benz Certified Collision Facility"

12918 Gores Mill Road, Reisterstown MD 21136

www.acs-md.com - (410) 833-5697

There's nothing like starting the year learning more about how to correctly repair body work on a Mercedes-Benz.

Automotive Collision Specialists will host MBCA members for an interesting and educational afternoon. The staff of this authorized Mercedes-Benz (not every body shop is) will show members some interesting aspects of the craft and art of working on automotive bodies. You will quickly find it is not just a matter of a quick smear of bondo followed by a sanding and some paint!

This is a free event hosted by ACS, but we encourage members to RSVP so we know how many to expect. When we last held this event, it was quite well attended!

All MBCA members are welcome to attend, no matter your Section!

**RSVP to GWS Tech Chairman Pete Engel,
harrdware@gmail.com 540.848.5000**



MBCA members will get lots of technical information at the tour of Auto Collision Specialists in Reisterstown MD on March 22.

Photo by Lee Emmons

New Members - Please welcome our newest GWS members to the Club.



**GWS Membership Chairman
George Marountas 703.966.3665
mbenz7222@gmail.com**

David Powers
The Plains VA

Phillip Williams
Washington DC

Clive Blackwell
Oakton VA

Yared Tucho
Hyattsville MD

Kevin Murphy
Washington DC

Rick Patrick
Fairfax VA

Tiarra Leverett
Baltimore MD

Joseph & Linda Ensor
Finksburg MD

Thomas Park
Front Royal VA

Sherry Dougherty
Alexandria VA

Steven Bowman
Fairfax VA

Ted Jefferies
Capitol Heights MD

Diana Sable
St Michaels MD

Michael Krauss
North Potomac MD

Brian Jones
Potomac MD

James Nagel
Towson MD

Barry Luciani
Owings Mills MD

Williams and Sally Meadows
Washington DC

Beth Gibble
Alexandria VA

Carl David Feske
Washington DC

Steven Kreiss
Washington DC

Neda Bolourchi
Roslyn VA

Fletcher & Lindsay Gill
Rockville MD

Barbara Cotton
Jarrettsville MD

Gary Broom
Arlington VA

Michelle Goss
Alexandria VA

Michael and Rebecca Strecher
Chesapeake MD

Peter Radakovic
Fairfax VA

Young Lee
Highland MD

Jiri Masser
Serverna Park MD

Lewis Irving
Middleton VA

William Inman IV
Leesburg VA

John Koutsoumpas
Chevy Chase MD

Phillip Nicolas
Columbia MD

Joshua Soven
Washington DC

Kenneth W. Higgins
Washington DC

Donald Harris
Beltsville MD

James Bennett
Midland VA

Donald Zugby
Vienna VA

Marques Samuda
Frederick MD

Pamela Cerritelli
Falls Church VA

Davis Buckley
Washington DC

Paul Gasparides
Annandale VA

Chris Coronado
Frederick MD

John Dickie
Arlington VA

Andrew Inglis
Washington DC

Amako Ahaghotu
Washington DC

Stephen Storrie
Ruxton MD

Lynn Harris
Triangle VA

J. McIlvain
White Marsh MD

Hilaro Diaz
Fairfax VA

Nicholas Terris
Washington DC

Welcome Airstream Interstate Owners

In 2014, MBCA joined forces with Airstream to celebrate their Interstate and Autobahn vans built on the Mercedes-Benz Sprinter chassis. Airstream has provided each new Airstream Sprinter purchaser a one-year membership in MBCA.

We are happy to welcome, Michael and Rebecca, Williams and Sally, Lynn, Jay, Young, and Thomas to the MBCA family with their new Airstream Interstate vans.

We encourage you to join with the rest of our Mercedes-Benz enthusiast family and come out and celebrate your enthusiasm for a great vehicle.



GWS Annual Meeting Report

GWS's annual Member's Meeting on October 26, held at a new location, included a display of member's cars. For 2014, we moved the event to the site of last Fall's successful Display and Dine, just south of Alexandria VA, near Mount Vernon.

Under a bright Fall sky with the reflection of the Potomac, we had a great display of member's Mercedes-Benz vehicles. During the meeting, members were able to hear more about the club and how it has been managed, as well elect Section Officers to run the club for the next two years. They are:

- GWS President - Katie Gleeson**
- GWS Vice-President - Greg Burks**
- GWS Treasurer - C. David Feske**
- GWS Secretary - Carol Fineman**

This event is also a chance for members to volunteer and give input for the upcoming year. The club is always changing as event chairpersons move on. We are looking for some volunteers to fill empty chair openings on the board. Please let us know if you have an interest. We look forward to repeating this event next year.

GWS Secretary - Carol Fineman



Cedar Knoll, a new venue for the GWS Annual Meeting included a display of member's Mercedes-Benzs.

Photo by William West Hopper

Tea for the Ladies of Mercedes

Could there be any better example of southern charm than a Ladies Tea in Atlanta? The Ladies of Mercedes, a program of the MBCA Enthusiasts Group, hosted an exquisite afternoon at Neiman Marcus Lenox Square for the ladies attending the Fall MBCA National Board Meetings.

Beauty abounded as we were treated to makeovers by Ricky Wilson, a celebrity Dior makeup artist. We were shown Dior cosmetics designed to go with our individual skin type. Ricky was flown in from New York, and we were treated to an afternoon of his expertise as he made his way to every chair, spending time with each of us.

Once the makeovers were complete, we were treated to afternoon tea with an array of delicious tea sandwiches, served in a gorgeous setting on the finest china. As the Ladies of Mercedes were enjoying the afternoon, Neiman Marcus hosted a beautiful Fashion Show!

Top designers; Bruno Cuccinelli, Vince, Isabel Murat, Alexander McQueen, and Helmut Lang were featured with the latest in styles and colors. Each outfit was described in detail along with a trunk show of exquisite Armenta jewelry and shoes. The afternoon ended with all the ladies receiving gift bags filled with the finest from Neiman Marcus.

What a lovely afternoon! Thank you Anne Holdgraferter, for creating such a wonderful experience for the Ladies of Mercedes!

GWS President - Katie Gleeson

Ladies of Mercedes Tea at Nieman Marcus Lenox Square during the MBCA Fall Board Meeting in Atlanta GA. (L to R) Maureen Walker, Peachtree Section; Katie Gleeson, GWS; Julie Levinthal; MBUSA, at Tea. (Right) Designer fashions being modeled.

Photo by: Anne Holdgraferter





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1988 560 SL 88k org mi. Black/Grey. Super Condition, garaged with custom dust cover. Custom sound system. New soft top, hardtop with hand cart. \$24,990 Offered to collector. Call. Randy 301.758.0768

1967 230 SL 68k mi. Silver/Blue. Garaged kept, minor chips and wear, excellent condition, owned, since '01. Both tops included, Asking \$40K, Gary 302.270.9161

1967 230 SL 157k mi. White/Red. Two owner, since '76. Auto, PS, original interior & drive train, runs - excellent, Hard/Soft tops, refinished with no rust. Priced to Sell \$25K, Davis 410.442.2255

1959 220S, Blue/Tan. Vintage super example of classic high end Mercedes. Well worth a serious restoration. Unibody frame is sound/engine has been run off a remote can w/o problem. Car almost totally original/numerous spare parts/ stored in temp controlled garage for 25+ yrs. Daniel 804.432.3806

Tires Wheels & Parts:

190D M-B 4 cylinder Diesel engine and transmission. Price: Best offer. Steve 301.606.0687

1972 250C Parts left over from long ago restoration: - Rear windshield - Both doors with glass - Front and rear bumpers (see photo) - Two trunks with misc. parts, Steve 703.980.5958

Four 16" First Gen SLK Rims, Staggered width, clean, with nicks and scratches. Fits many M-B's great look. Best Offer. Bill 202.363.4189 wwhopper@gmail.com

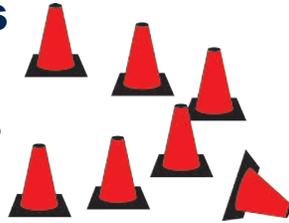
Four 16" C Class (W203) Rims, Great for snow or track tires, clean, with nicks and scratches. Fits many M-B models great look. Best Offer. Bill 202.363.4189 wwhopper@gmail.com

CLK W208 16" Light Weight OEM Wheels mounted with Toyo RA1 competition tires. Non-staggered complete with short lugs. Used at GWS track & A/X events. These are the much sought after wheels for driving events due to their light weight. \$650 per set. Bill 202.363.4189 wwhopper@gmail.com

ORIGINAL Mercedes-Benz Porcelain, 18 carat gold plate from the M-B VIP Guest Restaurant and Executive Dining Room, Stuttgart, Germany. Includes: Coffee Sets, Dinner Plates, Serving Bowls, Soup Cups, Salad Bowls & Oval Serving Platters, etc. Douglas 410-544 2225, tourmeister@germanautotours.com

For Up-To-Date Listings see:
<http://mbca.org/classified-ads>

2014 Autocross Series Award Winners



Mercedes-Benz:

First Place AMG Class:
John Heflin. 2001 CLK55 AMG – Autocross Season FTD
Second Place AMG Class: Aaron Streater. 1997 C36 AMG

Other Marques:

Alek Ternovski. 2007 Miata MX-5, First Place STR Class
Harry Newman. 1988 Porsche 924S, First Place GS Class
Diane LeGore. 1995 BMW M3, Second Place AS Class
Eric LeGore. 1995 BMW M3, First Place AS Class

Congratulations 2014 Autocross Drivers



John Heflin driving his 2001 CLK55AMG this Fall, to a top Autocross and fastest time of Day Award for 2015.
Photo by Harry Newman

Attention MBCA Members: Are You Getting all the Club News and Information?

Make sure you renew your membership to continue to receive the benefits of being in the club.

Keep your membership information updated with the MBCA National Business Office (NBO) in Colorado Springs CO. This is the best way to guarantee you will receive all the latest information on club activities and mailings. Make sure your current e-mail is on file as well

By keeping your information up-to-date on the club's database, you will be connected with interesting opportunities.

Go to mbca.org and review your membership profile. This is where you can download your MBCA Member Loyalty certificate for \$500 combinable with other discounts towards the purchase of a new Mercedes-Benz.

In 2014 The Greater Washington Section will be using Constant Contact to distribute our newsletter and other membership information to you via e-mail. If you have not registered, or have stated you do not want information from this source, you will miss out on much of the information the Section sends out.

www.mbca.org



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Mercedes-Benz S-Class W222 First Drive Report

Many think of a vehicle as simply a machine designed to move people or objects from one place to another. Well, the Mercedes-Benz S550 is hardly a simple machine. More like an intelligent, safe, and extremely good looking people mover, though at first, it may not appear to be a cheap one! After, driving the W222 for a weekend, there is no question that this is a vehicle of very high value, and one that proves that the saying; "You get what you pay for," applies in more ways than just cost.

The largest in Mercedes-Benz's line, S-Class models have been known as the flagship sedans for the marque. Elegant in design this S-Class has many features that make driving safer and more enjoyable.

This one came equipped with a sun roof to provide a view to the heavens; ambient lighting to sooth you during a late night drive; leather upholstery and a wood and leather steering wheel to comfort your hands. Magic Vision Control, to see what you cannot see; illuminated door sills, so you know you are entering a Mercedes-Benz, Command[®] with navigation, CD/DVD audio video player, so you know where you are going, Burmester[®] surround sound system, for your listening pleasure, including Sirius XM[®] radio traffic weather, so you know what you will face on the roads, Attention Assist - PRE-SAFE[®] to protect you in case of accident, full LED headlights with active cure illumination, to see what's ahead of you, and a rear view camera to see what's behind you.

The advanced safety on the vehicle is amazing, with the cameras knowing where the car was all the time, letting the driver know if something needed to be attend to. The Eco-Start/Stop feature that turned off the engine at full stop, which has been very noticeable on other models, not so on this vehicle. The starting and stopping of the engine was less intrusive. Extras like the Air Balance Package and the ambient lighting became downright necessary luxuries. It felt natural to have the ventilated seats upgraded in Napa Leather. The option we found most useful was the Night View Assist PLUS. Usable during the day or night, the center of the dashboard displayed a black and white image, reminiscent of a 1950's television display, of what was in front of the car. When it perceived a human figure it would show that in red.

This vehicle came with no-cost metallic paint in Ruby Black, which garnered a lot of attention as folks debated the actual color the car was depending on the light or what direction they were looking at it from. The W222 S-Class appears smaller than previous generations due to its flowing lines, but in reality the size is not much different than the models that have preceded it. The design allows for excellent visibility of the outside world due to the large window glass, even with the integrated camera boxes at the top center of the windshield.

Indeed, this car is a people mover, designed to move four people in an enormous amount of comfort, and those people can be substantial in size. Moving objects or items is not its strong suit. With an ample-size trunk, not cavernous, and the back seats do not fold down if you want to load beyond a few bags. If you need space to haul stuff, think along the lines of a GL-Class or Sprinter van, but for moving people in comfort, this is the beast of burden to choose.

The doors are large, when you open them you feel their weight. When you close them, they pull themselves in with the Soft-Close feature, latching and locking with precision. No longer do you feel awkward, as if you might break the mechanism, as you go to close the door. The car gives a little resistance, and then performs the task correctly.



The instrument panel turned into the nightview display screen with black and white imagery, except human figures showed up in RED when they came into view.

Photo by William West Hopper



MBUSA provided GWS with a 2014 S550 to display at this Fall's Maryland Public Television's CARNIVAL.

Photo by William West Hopper

This was a pleasure to drive with plenty of power from the 4.6 liter V8 biturbo direct injection engine with 449 hp 5166 lb-ft torque, with a 7-Speed Auto transmission with shift paddles, and 4MATIC[®] permanent all-wheel drive. Even fuel economy was not painful when it came to time to refuel, getting just under 20 mpg during our weekend of mixed driving.

The price of this vehicle would seem like that of a modest apartment, this S550 4MATIC, totaled out at \$122,895, with all the options. But it would be hard to find an apartment that is as well designed or provide as much technology and comfort as this vehicle does.

It is interesting to note that the C-Class we drove this summer follows very closely with all the sophistication and technology as the S-Class, just without the size and at half the price.

- William West Hopper



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Calendar of Events

Visit the *GWS-MBCA* website or Facebook Group for the latest updates and activities:
<http://GWS.MBCA.ORG/UPCOMINGEVENTS> - All dates are subject to change.

January

- 10** **GWS 2015 Holiday Party**, Dutch's Daughters, Frederick MD. Katie Gleeson 240.381.2286
president@gws-mbca.org

February

- 1** **GWS Members Visit the DC Auto Show**
Bill Hopper 202.365.0672
wwhrestoration@att.net

March

- 14-15** **Amelia Island Concours**, Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island FL.
Bill Hopper 202.365.067
wwhrestoration@att.net

- 22** **GWS Board Meeting & Automotive Collision Specialists Tour**, ACS, Reisterstown, MD.
Pete Engel 540.848.5000
harrdware@gmail.com

May

- 3** **Deutsche Marque Concours d'Elegance**, Nottoway Park, Vienna VA. 5/17 Rain Date
Omar Abou-Zied 662.729.1001
Omar@carconnoisseur.com

June

- 6** **June Jamboree**, MBUSA Hqtrs, Montvale NJ.
Matt Huda mercedesmattnnj@gmail.com

TBD

- GWS Board Meeting**
Carol Fineman 301.503.3869
secretary@gws-mbca.org

- 12-15** **StarTech 2015**, Cincinnati OH.
startech2015.mbca.org for more information

- 15** **SummerFest at the Track**, NCCAR, Garysburg, NC. Don Labar 757.620.6772
dlabar3@verizon.net

July

- 12** **GWS Summer Picnic**
Carol Fineman 301.503.3869
secretary@gws-mbca.org