



GREATER WASHINGTON SECTION MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA

METRO TRI-STAR

www.gws-mbca.org

June 2005

Mid-Atlantic Concours and Picnic

August 21, 2005
North Potomac, MD

Who doesn't enjoy a picnic? Add a concours d'élégance, swimming and a silent auction, and you've got a perfect day—providing the weather cooperates!

This year, GWS member Steve Newby has once again offered to open the grounds of his lovely estate in North Potomac for our event on Sunday, August 21.

Your fellow club members, officers and board members will be in charge of the cooking—hamburgers and bratwurst. There also will be “Bier und Wein” as well as soft drinks and water on ice. And maybe some watermelon and cake for dessert!

Be sure to have your swimsuits with you so you can enjoy a dip in the pool. And don't forget to bring along blankets or chairs if you want to sprawl out on the lawn.

There is no fee to enter the concours d'élégance. But we do need to know in advance how many cars to expect, so **please fill out the registration form on page 14** and send it in as soon as possible.

Additionally, we will hold a silent auction for the benefit of The Hospital for Sick Children and Children's Hospital. Both local and national merchants will be contributing items for this worthy cause, and we ask that you contribute a “treasure”



as well (no white elephants, please). Add something nice to the list of goodies! All items will be sold to the highest bidder. Please indicate your contribution on the centerfold registration form.

Membership anniversary pins will be presented to those section members who are celebrating five-year multiple (5, 10, 20, etc.) anniversaries. (See the article on page 9 for more information about these pins.)

Times

Members with cars in the concours should plan to arrive between 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. We will have a clean car/display class that is **not** judged. Folks attending the picnic will vote for their favorites. All you need to do is wash your car and bring it out!

The street and show class cars **will** be judged. Show class cars will have their undercarriages included in the judging, which begins at 11:00 a.m. Awards will be presented around 3:30 p.m.

Food “judging” begins at approximately 11:30 a.m., and drinks will be served all day. The silent auction will end at 3:00 p.m.

Directions:

From I-495 (the Beltway), take I-270 north. Take

Continued on page 9

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Calendar of Events

Greater Washington Section Events 2005

June 4	First Saturday Tech Session 8 a.m. - 10 a.m., \$10 Contact: Steve Walters — (703) 765-9405	Sept. 25	Autocross #6: Winchester, VA Contact: Joe Wozney — (703) 437-7866
June 4	Newsletter Volunteers Meeting 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Contact: Janet McFarland — (703) 765-9405	October 1	First Saturday Tech Session 8 a.m. - 10 a.m., \$10 Contact: Steve Walters — (703) 765-9405
June 11	Dyno Day and Tech Inspections 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Curry's Auto Service, Dulles location Contact: Steve Walters — (703) 765-9405	October 16	Autocross #7: Winchester, VA Contact: Joe Wozney — (703) 437-7866
June 12	Mercedes-only Defensive Driving School and Autocross Winchester, VA Contact: Joe Wozney — (703) 437-7866	October 22	Dent Wizard - Rockville, MD
June 16-17	Drivers Ed Event VA International Raceway (VIR) Contact: Joe Wozney — (703) 437-7866	Nov. 5	First Saturday Tech Session 8 a.m. - 10 a.m., \$10 Contact: Steve Walters — (703) 765-9405
June 26	Autocross #3: Winchester, VA Contact: Joe Wozney — (703) 437-7866	Nov. 6	Autocross #8: Winchester, VA Contact: Joe Wozney — (703) 437-7866
July 10	Autocross #4: Winchester, VA Contact: Joe Wozney — (703) 437-7866	Nov. 12	Junkyard School, 107 SL Windows & Heat Potomac German Auto, Frederick, MD
July 30-31	Drivers Ed Event Summit Point Raceway Contact: Joe Wozney — (703) 437-7866	Dec. 3	First Saturday Tech Session 8 a.m. - 10 a.m., \$10 Contact: Steve Walters — (703) 765-9405
August 20	DIY Tech Session American Service Center Contact: Steve Walters — (703) 765-9405	<hr/> <i>Regional and National Events 2005</i>	
August 21	GWS Picnic and Mid-Atlantic Concours d'Elegance — Potomac, MD Contact: Bill Hopper — (202) 363-4189 or Phillip Alexander — (703) 718-0128	June 19	Sulley Plantation Car Show Chantilly, VA
August 28	Autocross #5: Winchester, VA Contact: Joe Wozney — (703) 437-7866	June 27-28	Gemütlichkeit 2005 Troy, Michigan Contact: Phil Trupiano phil@auto-enterprises.com
Sept. 10-13	Tri-O-Rama VA International Raceway (VIR) Contact: Joe Wozney — (703) 437-7866	July 16-19	StarTrack 2005 Pittsburgh, PA Contact: Bob Speer respeer@attbi.com
Sept. 14	Open Defensive Driving Day at VIR Contact: Joe Wozney — (703) 437-7866	Sept. 10-14	Tri-O-Rama 2005 Danville, VA Hosted by GWS Contact: Joe Wozney — (703) 437-7866

From the President . . .

The Ball's Back in My Court!



To the 10 or 12 members who responded to my call for comments on the club's loss of members and what we in our section are doing right and wrong, I offer my thanks. If I haven't gotten back to you personally yet, I will do so shortly.

You offered some thought-provoking ideas and suggestions. All of your comments were incorporated in my input to the attendees at the section presidents' meeting—a part of the national board meeting in Cary, N.C. The board meeting was followed by the first StarTech ever held in the East.

The truly big surprise at the meeting was the fantastic turnout of section presidents and section officers. By my count, approximately 25 sections were represented. That's an incredible number, and nearly one-third of all sections nationally. Representatives came from as far away as Canada, California and the "other" Washington.

We were scheduled to meet for two hours but met for almost four. We could have used twice that time. That is not criticism of the folks who suggested and ran the event. As a first effort, it was exemplary. Now that the national board knows that section leaders have a need for this type of gathering, there will, hopefully, be an impetus to continue and, maybe, expand such meetings.

The Triangle Section put on a great event! The hotel was perfect, the "Funcours" was filled with great cars, and the list of StarTech speakers and topics was the largest I've seen.

Moving back a bit further north . . . because of rain the night before and early morning of the Deutsche Marque, the park grounds were so wet we had to

postpone. All four clubs are trying to come up with a new date that works for all of us. The event will be rescheduled as soon as possible. Please watch the web site for the specifics.

— Joe

Mount Vernon-Lee Enterprises, Inc.

Many of you might have noticed that the *Metro-Tri-Star* has taken on a slightly different appearance. Part of this is due to our new mailhouse provider, Mount Vernon-Lee Enterprises, Inc. (MVLE).

MVLE is a private, not-for-profit 501 (C) 3 c tax-exempt organization founded in 1971. Its mission is to provide opportunities for people living with disabilities and help them develop to their fullest potential by participating in community life through valued work and support services. One way they achieve their mission is by offering skills and mailroom training while at the same time giving a quality service to companies and organizations. Their mailroom services include document preparation, mail preparation, packaging and fulfillment services. The mailroom at MVLE employs more than 50 individuals who are being trained for future employment in our community.

MVLE has been able to assist the GWS by streamlining our production process in several ways. First, we no longer need to hand deliver a hard-copy proof, but can now send a PDF file via e-mail. The PDF file is then used to create our newsletter digitally. Second, you might have noticed that our mailing labels look a little different. This is because MVLE is able to custom print our labels to not only include your mailing address but also your membership number, the year you joined the club, and the date your subscription expires. A barcode at the bottom of the label has been added which represents your ZIP code and allows the section to take advantage of cheaper bulk rates.

If you think your organization could benefit from MVLE services, please feel free to contact Bill De Mattia at (703) 569-3900, ext. 152 or bill@mvle.org.

For the latest club news, go to the GWS web site at:

<http://www.gws-mbca.org>

Dyno + DIY + Tech Inspections

Saturday, June 11 – 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Curry's Auto Service, Dulles Location

THERE IS STILL TIME TO SIGN UP FOR THE DYNODAY AT Curry's Auto Service. Curry's will host the section to a Dyno Day at their Dulles store on Saturday, June 11.

In addition to the dyno "rides," there will be pre-event vehicle tech inspections for those planning to attend the driving schools at either Summit Point or VIR later in the summer.

Last, but not least, they also will be hosting a "Fluid-Only" DIY session at the same time

The fee for two runs on the dyno will be \$65, while the tech inspection and DIY will be \$15. As a one-time special good deal, the \$15 will cover both the inspection and the DIY. As always, Curry's will provide refreshments, snacks and lots of car fun.

Since June 11 is almost here, there may not be time to send in a registration form. So if you plan to attend the event or have any questions, please contact the Tech Chair at (703) 765-9405 or e-mail him at gwsTech@earthlink.net.

ASC DIY Tech Session - Don't Miss It

Saturday, August 20, 2005 — Arlington, VA

The all-time-best-ever Mercedes enthusiast event will be held at American Service Center in Arlington on August 20. This is the chance to work on your car yourself with advice and tips from the most knowledgeable and experienced Mercedes technicians around. ASC will have snacks and lunch for us, and make available to us their newly expanded and improved service area. Watch this space for more information, contact your Tech Chair for more information (gwsTech@earthlink.net), mark your calendar, and send in your registration form (right now). Nothing tops a DIY tech session at American Service Center.

If you plan to attend this event, *please fill out the registration form on page 13.*

What Is a DIY?

One of the very popular events offered by the Greater Washington Section is the DIY (Do-It-Yourself) tech session. For those of you who have never attended one—here's a brief explanation of what it's all about.

The DIY is an opportunity to work on you own car in the comfort and safety of a commercial auto repair facility. There are three major benefits of a do-it-yourself tech session. First, vehicle lifts are available. That means that you can work on the top, the middle and the bottom of your car like a "pro." Second, experienced technicians are standing by to provide troubleshooting advice and repair tips. Third, it's a great chance to meet other club members with similar interests (it's car talk at its very finest).

A typical DIY session runs about four hours, but lift time is limited by the number of participants and the number of lifts available. (The events are planned

to ensure everyone two hours to get their work accomplished.) Our generous hosts provide coffee to get us started and refreshments to keep us going, so the work can proceed at full pace.

As with any event, there are a few ground rules. Lifts are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, so be prepared to show up early. Make your "to do" list a reasonable one. Bring all the tools you'll need to get the work done. Make arrangements to have all the repair parts and supplies on hand as well. Dress appropriately (no sandals, for example). And finally, remember that the event chair and the shop foreman have the final word in the work that is undertaken. (We just want to be sure everyone is able to drive home in their own car after the event.)

A DIY tech session is an exceptional opportunity and a great way to have fun and to work on your car. Just ask anybody who's attended one.

Defensive Driving School and MB Autocross

June 12, 2005 — Winchester, VA

The section will offer a defensive driving school for our Mercedes-Benz owners on June 12. The school will be an excellent opportunity to “improve” and “brush-up” on your driving skills, especially as we head toward summer vacation driving. The driving school is also the perfect opportunity for your household’s young drivers to improve their driving skills in a controlled environment.

The school will provide an overview of safe driving techniques followed by a “hands-on” maneuvering (at controlled speeds) of the school’s driving course in your own Mercedes. By driving your own Mercedes, you will become more comfortable and better acquainted with your car in challenging situations. We will have experienced instructors on hand to “walk” you through the exercises.

Teens under age 19 will be permitted to use the car they would normally drive, even if it is not a Mercedes-Benz. If possible, we would prefer that teens be accompanied by a parent or guardian. So bring your Mercedes and your young drivers to the school.

Complete the centerfold registration form on page 13 with the \$25 per person fee and mail it today. The fee at the gate will be \$30. Remember, this is the only local defensive driving school to be offered this year, so make plans to attend today! If you have questions or desire additional information, please **contact Joe Wozney at (703) 437-7866**. See the next two articles for event directions, the autocross part of the day, and what you’ll have to do to prepare for the event.

Mercedes-Only Autocross

The section will also hold a Mercedes-only autocross on June 12 after the defensive driving school is completed. The start time is planned for 1:00 p.m. The only exception to the Mercedes-only rule will be for those teens who will have driven another car in the defensive driving school.

Many Mercedes owners have requested that we offer this type of autocross, so tune-up your Benz and dust off those race tires (if you have them) and come to your autocross ready to show your stuff.

The event is open to all Mercedes drivers with a special invitation to our former Mercedes autocrossers

who have not attended an event for some time. We look forward to renewing friendships and reestablishing good-natured challenges on the course. Even if you have never attended an autocross, bring your Mercedes out and see the great fun associated with this event and how it improves your driving skills. We drive rain or shine . . . except for thunderstorms.

Fill out the registration form on page 13 and identify yourself as an autocrosser and mail the coupon and \$25 fee today. The cost will be \$30 at the gate. There is only one fee per person, whether you attend only the defensive driving school, only the autocross, or both. If you have questions or desire additional information, **contact Joe Wozney at (703) 437-7866**.

Defensive Driving Prep

Do I need race tires for defensive driving or autocross? No! But to make your car handle better for these events, add 10 pounds of air over the Mercedes recommended pressure (not what it says on the tire). You can find the recommended pressure on a sticker in the glove box or on the back of the fuel filler flap. The same still applies if it’s raining. We suggest you add the air before coming to the school. Drive on a full-to-nearly-full gas tank.

Remove everything from the car you won’t need and leave it at home. Bring plastic trash bags to store the items you do bring along. You will have to remove all items before running the course. No leather-soled shoes or sandals. Wear sneakers. Bring a rain jacket, an umbrella, and something warm to wear if it turns cool. Bring folding chairs. Bring a camera! Don’t forget sunscreen if it’s a hot day.

Loaner helmets will be available. They are required for autocross and are optional, but recommended for defensive driving.

We’ll have water and soft drinks. Drink lots of water . . . especially if it’s a warm day. You’d be amazed at how fast you become dehydrated.

The Place!

Both the Autocross and Defensive Driving School are scheduled to be held at Millbrook High School in Winchester, Virginia (see instructions on next page).

VIR Drivers' School

June 16-17, 2005, Virginia International Raceway

If you have never driven on a track before, but would like to try . . . or if you have no idea what an apex is, but would like to learn how to corner better . . . or if you want to learn the basics of car control in a safe environment . . . or if you just want to come out and improve your driving skills, then this two-day event is definitely for you.

Registration is open to members of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America - Greater Washington Section, Audi Club North America and National Capital Chapter BMW CCA.

Drivers must have a valid driver's license. Student familiarity with the car is essential, and car-sharing is strongly discouraged. All drivers must be 18 years of age or older. Students may not give rides to other students or to guests.

Cars must be insured, street-legal, quiet, and must have passenger seats. Functional, securely attached lap and shoulder belts are required for both front seats. Performance-enhancing modifications and R-

compounds (racing) tires are discouraged. If roll bars or cages are installed, they must be fully padded above the level of the front door windowsills.

VIR requires that "all convertible cars must be equipped with a structural, VIR-approved roll bar."

Cars must be inspected by a qualified service facility *before* the event. A properly completed tech inspection form must be presented at the track. It is your responsibility to ensure that your car is safe and roadworthy.

Late registration began May 2 (at a cost of \$340). That includes one banquet ticket. Guest banquet tickets are \$25 each.

A complete description of the event was in last month's *Metro Tri-Star*, including information about motels, helmets, food, fuel, car numbers and waivers. If you have any questions about the drivers' school, please call **Joe Wozney at (703) 437-7866** or e-mail him at JoeWozney@aol.com.

Directions to the Defensive Driving and Autocross Site

From the Beltway: Take the Dulles Toll Road, which becomes the Greenway Expressway. At the end of the Greenway, proceed West on Route 7 from Leesburg toward Winchester. Go approximately 5.1 miles past the Summit Point turn-off (Route 632 / Triple L Road) to the very next stoplight and take a right onto First Woods Drive. You will see the school zone warning signs as an indicator. After driving uphill, you will see the high school on your left and the elementary school on your right. The autocross lot will be straight ahead. Expect to travel approximately one hour from the Beltway.

From Interstate 81: Take EXIT 315 (Route 7). Go East on Route 7 toward Berryville (West will take you into Winchester proper). Proceed approximately 1.2 miles East on Route 7 to the third stoplight. You will begin to see the school zone warning signs as an indicator. Take a LEFT up the hill to the school on First Woods Drive. You will be able to see a school building up on the hill from Route 7. The high school will be on the left, the elementary school will be on your right. The autocross lot will be straight ahead.

From Route 7/Leesburg area: Proceed West on Route 7 from Leesburg, VA toward Winchester, VA. Go approximately 5.1 miles past the Summit Point turn-off (Route 632/Triple L Road) to the very next stoplight and take a right onto First Woods Drive. You will see the school zone warning signs as an indicator. After driving uphill, you will see the high school on your left and the elementary school on your right. The autocross lot will be straight ahead.

For maps and a trip plan, try MapQuest and select "Directions" or "Maps." Enter your city and state (street address not necessary) in the "from" box. Enter Winchester and VA in the "to" box. MapQuest's suggested routes are not always the best, so double check their recommendation(s).

Tri-O-Rama 2005

September 10-13, 2005, Virginia International Raceway

The Greater Washington Section will host the last Mercedes-Benz Club of America national event to be held this year on September 10-13, 2005. The headquarters hotel will be the Marriott Courtyard in Danville, Virginia.

Tri-O-Rama opens with early registration on Friday and a concours d'élégance on Saturday. We hope to attract beautiful and exciting cars from all over the East. On Saturday evening, everyone will celebrate the concours and our coming together with a welcome reception.

Sunday is a busy day! There will be a defensive driving school, an autocross and a rallye.

The concours d'élégance is a showing of cars. The cars are prepared and cleaned to appear as close to "showroom original" as possible. Cars are classed in accordance with rules established by the National Events Committee. The event is judged and trophies are awarded for Best of Class, Best of Show, Judges' Choice, and People's Choice (Display Class). Display cars are not judged.

Defensive driving is a non-competitive series of small specific courses, marked by pylons, which are designed to improve driving skills and assist the driver in better understanding how his/her car will react during turning and threshold braking. Most of the courses are low-speed events and are recommended for all drivers even if they will not be entering the autocross or track events. Drivers entering track events (other than acceleration runs) are required to take the defensive driving school.

An autocross is a low-to-moderate-speed driving event held on a parking lot or similar area. The course of gates, straightaways and turns is designated by pylons. The object is to traverse the course as quickly as possible without striking the cones or going "off course." Drivers are permitted to walk the course beforehand to become familiar with the layout, the track surface, the turns and any unusual conditions. Trophies are awarded for all classes as established under the National Event Rules.

A rallye is a competitive drive on local highways and roads. A driver and navigator drive a selected route and answer questions from information gathered on the rallye (and occasionally some brain

teasers). Mileage, time and answers to the questions all count toward the final score. Trophies are awarded for the best placings and are presented to both driver and navigator.

Since the concours, welcome reception, rallye and autocross all take place on the weekend, there's no excuse for not joining us in Danville!

On Monday and Tuesday, we'll be at Virginia International Raceway for a performance driving school, acceleration runs and time trials. (Paul Newman has called VIR the most beautiful track in America!)

The performance driving school is a noncompetitive and instructional school on a racetrack with a trained in-car instructor. Emphasis is on handling, control, braking and proper use of the hands and eyes. There are established rules for one car passing another. With 10 or more cars on the track at one time, safety is a primary concern, and drivers must attend a classroom session before beginning the school.

The acceleration run is an approximate quarter-mile race from a standing start. The object is to complete the distance in the shortest possible time. Cars are on the track one at a time and are given a minimum of three runs. Trophies are awarded for all classes as established under the National Event Rules.

Continued on page 10

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Concours/Picnic

Continued from page 1

the local I-270 lanes toward Montrose Road. Take Exit 6B - Montgomery Ave/MD 28 west toward Darnestown. Turn left onto Darnestown Road. Turn left onto Travilah Road. Turn right onto Split Creek Court. The house is at 12716 Split Creek Court.

If you have any questions about the concours, call **Bill Hopper at (202) 363-4189**.

For questions about the registration or silent auction, call **Phillip Alexander at (703) 718-0128**.

Cost:

The cost for the picnic is \$15 per person. (For children 12-17, the cost will be \$10 each; for children younger than 12, there is no charge.)

If you just show up without having registered, the cost at the gate will be \$20. Food will be served until 1:30 p.m. or until it runs out. It's always helpful to know how many people to expect so that we may order food accordingly—and not run short. Therefore, please send in your registration form early.

The rain date is August 28 . . . but as you know, it never rains at one of our events!

Please fill out the registration form on p. 14 if you plan to attend this event.

Membership Longevity Pins

One of the most widely attended events is our annual Mid-Atlantic Concours and Picnic. It also happens to be the second event of the year (the first was the holiday party and the third will be the annual meeting in the fall) in which longevity pins are awarded to members based on the number of years they have been in the club (in increments of five years).

This year, August 21 is the date scheduled for the concours/picnic.

Since pins are awarded in increments of five years, that means that if you joined the club in 2000,

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you are eligible for a 5-year pin this year. If you joined in 1995, you will get a 10-year pin, and so on.

If you are unsure what year you joined the MBCA, check the mailing label of this copy of the *Metro Tri-Star*. The year following your membership number is the year you first joined the club.

There is one catch. Since we'd like to have an opportunity to meet our members in person, you must be present at one of the three events at which the pins are awarded. Invariably, eligible members attend one or all of the above events but leave before the pins are given out. We do not mail pins. So, if for some reason, you must leave before the event is over, please see Klaus or Deborah Hirtes to get your pin. Otherwise, you'll have to wait five more years before you are again eligible!

Members eligible for pins in 2005:

40 Years

Tom Sheppard

30 Years

Kurt Darr
M. Edelstein
Thomas Robertson
Alan Whelihan

25 Years

Frederic Schwartz
Jaan Born
Eckhard Liptau
Margarite Steelnack

There are also:

24 twenty-year members
30 fifteen-year members
42 ten-year members
86 five-year members

The section offers many different events for its 1,500 members, so we hope you'll join us for one that interests you. See for yourself what the officers and event chairs are working on for you. Check out our web site for the latest update of scheduled events at <http://www.gws-mbca.org>.

And always try to recruit new members at every opportunity. If you need applications, please e-mail us with your address or give us a call. We are the largest section in MBCA and strive to keep it that way.

— **Klaus and Deborah Hirtes**

National Board Meeting Notes

GWS President Joe Wozney and I [Vice President Bill Hopper] attended the MBCA National Board Meeting in Cary, N.C. in mid-April prior to StarTech.

Taking part in the working committee sessions gives sections a chance to see the National Board in action, as well as provide input from the front lines.

A discussion was held about membership and what can be done to increase it. A vote was held to hire an outside consultant to beef up the marketing and public relations for the club, as a start. We also were informed that the Club now has an Ombudsman within MBUSA.

For those members who have had continuing problems that their dealership or MBUSA zone representative have been unable to fix: MBCA members should send to MBCA Executive Director David Cummings a detailed summary of the problems, and a list of times and places that the M-B dealer network has worked on trying to fix it. David will then relay this to the Ombudsman for you. David indicated only a very few problems have had to go through this process, but that all of them were resolved quickly.

For the first time in recent memory, MBCA held a Section Presidents' Meeting where more than 35 sections were represented. This gave us a chance to exchange first-hand information between the local and national leadership of the club. It was a very beneficial event that will, no doubt, be repeated in the coming years.

Plans for MBCA's 50th Anniversary are well under way for next year. Fifty years ago, almost simultaneously, a section in both New Jersey and Chicago were started that combined in later years to become what MBCA is today. Many regions and sections are planning their own events in 2006 to celebrate this occasion. Nationally, several big events are in the works. The biggest is the upcoming Route 66 Drive in September. It will start in Chicago and end in Santa Monica, Calif. two weeks later, with a reception at the new MBUSA Classic Center in Irvine. GWS member Douglas DeBoard's German Auto Tours will be running several specialized tours to Germany to the new Mercedes-Benz Museum in Stuttgart. This new museum will open in the spring

of 2006, and there is a very good chance of a pre-opening tour. These excursions can also be combined with European delivery of a new Mercedes-Benz vehicle. As part of the celebration, a 50th anniversary commemorative book will be produced to celebrate the Mercedes-Benz Club and all that has been accomplished in its first 50 years. And everyone can be a part of that. (See page 22 for more information.).

All MBCA members are welcome and encouraged to attend National Board Meetings. The next one will be in November at the National Business Office in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

— Bill Hopper

Tri-O-Rama — *(con't from page 8)*

Time trials are competitive laps on the full race-course. No more than two or three cars are on the track at one time, usually separated by 45-50 seconds. The procedure consists of a warm-up lap, three consecutive timed laps, and a cool-down lap. To participate in time trials, drivers must have completed the defensive driving and performance driving schools. Trophies are awarded for all classes as established under the National Event Rules.

And, if that's not enough, there will be an optional extra day of track time on Wednesday, September 14. No competition. No pressure. Just hours of driving time.

We've planned four (or five) fun-filled days for you. However, this is a great opportunity for those members who cannot take off during the week to join us for at least two days of action on the weekend. Whether you come to one, two or all of the events, Tri-O-Rama 2005 promises to be an exciting affair and our best yet. And Danville is only a four-and-a-half-hour drive from Washington. Plan to attend what has become the club's premier national event. Check the section's web site <www.gws-mbca.org> for more information, as it becomes available, and a registration packet. Packets will be ready in early June.

It's Summit Point Time!

July 30-31, 2005, Summit Point Raceway

Want to have some real fun this summer? Why not plan on coming to our two-day performance driving school at Summit Point Raceway on July 30 and 31. If you can't make two days, then join us for one day.

The Point is a two-mile long track with a half-mile straight and 10 turns. It's a safe and fun track to drive with lots of runoff room. For a good look at what it's like doing a hot lap, look up the Summit Point page on the Internet at: <<http://www.summitpoint-raceway.com>>.

Are you a novice with no previous track or performance driving experience? No problem! Trained instructors will be on hand both days to teach you about handling, turn-in points and proper turning, braking, apexes, track-out points and more. These are all lessons and techniques that will make you a better driver on the street.

You'll love the track and the instructors. And, no one, absolutely no one, will force you to drive any faster than your comfort zone allows. We want you to progress at your own pace.

Don't want to drive the new Benz? Or the old one? You can drive any car you wish, as long as it has \$100,000 liability coverage and passes a mandatory

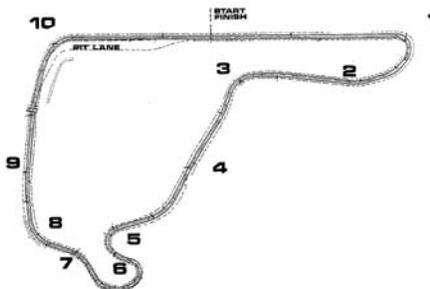
tech inspection. Convertibles require a roll bar or a hard top.

All cars must be inspected before the event at a dealer or independent shop, and you must bring the signed or stamped safety inspection sheet to the event! The safety tech inspection form soon will be available for download on the club's website.

Rates for the event are only \$350 for both days or \$190 for one day. Summit Point's own track days (Friday At The Track or FATT) cost \$225, so you save \$35 for one day and \$100 for two days! Registration at the track will be \$385 for two days and \$225 for one day. To ensure we have small groups on the track, this event is limited to 100 drivers. So don't wait to sign up!

Optional hotel arrangements have been made with the Shoney's Inn in Winchester for Friday and Saturday at a special club rate of \$50, plus tax. The rooms will be held until July 17. Call them now at (540) 665-1700 and tell them you're with the Mercedes-Benz Club. Shoney's is only 15 minutes from the track.

Listen! This stuff is good for your soul and will help eliminate the stress in your life. You won't know what fun is until you get off the *#%ø Beltway and try performance driving. Plan now on joining us! If you have any questions, please call **Joe Wozney at (703) 437-7866**.



Please fill out the two-page registration form on pages 15 and 16 if you plan to attend this event.

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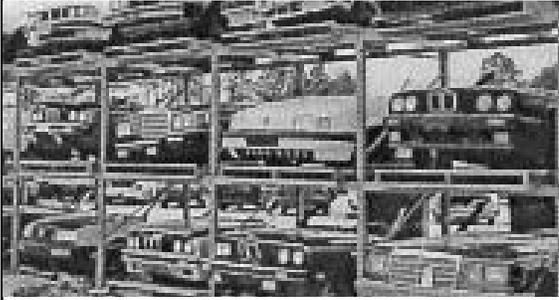
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Saturday, August 20, 2005

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Name _____ Member # _____

Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

Number of persons _____ x \$15 per person = \$ _____

Please make your check payable to: GWS-MBCA

Send to: Steve Walters, 1307 Warrington Place, Alexandria, VA 22307

Mid-Atlantic Concours and Picnic

Sunday, August 21, 2005

North Potomac, MD

Name(s) _____ Member # _____

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City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail Address _____

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

Number of adults (18+) _____ x \$15.00 = _____

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Summit Point Drivers' Ed

July 30-31, 2005

Name (Driver 1): _____ Home Phone _____

Name (Driver 2): _____ Work Phone _____

Email Address _____

Home Address _____

Driver 1 Driver's License # (req'd) _____ State _____

Driver 1: Total # of previous track events _____

Where _____

at Summit Point _____

Driver 1: Rate your track driving skill level (circle one):

Novice (no events) Beginner (1-2 events) Intermediate Advanced

Any other information related to your driving skills: _____

Driver 2 Driver's License # (req'd) _____ State _____

Driver 2: Total # of previous track events _____

Where _____

at Summit Point _____

Driver 2: Rate your track driving skill level (circle one):

Novice (no events) Beginner (1-2 events) Intermediate Advanced

Any other information related to your driving skills: _____

Please turn over to page 16 and complete the second part of the form.

Summit Point Drivers' Ed — page 2

Car you will be driving: Year _____ Make _____

Model _____ Color _____

Insurance Carrier (required) _____

Policy # _____

Car Number(s) preferred (1st come, 1st served) _____

Fee is \$350 per person for both days and \$190 for one day.

Fees at the track are \$385 for 2 days and \$225 for 1 day.

Cancellations within 20 days of the event will not receive a refund.

A \$35 administration fee will be assessed for all cancellations.

Driver 1: Both Days or Saturday or Sunday \$ _____
(Circle one)

Driver 2: Both Days or Saturday or Sunday \$ _____
(Circle one)

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Make check payable to: GWS-MBCA

Send this form and check to: Joe Wozney
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Reston, VA 20190

Deutsche Marque Show a Wash Out!

Rain, rain, go away: Come again another day. But rain it did.

After weeks of preparation on the part of the participants and months of planning by the organizers, April showers ruled the day. It rained all day Saturday, April 30 and into the night and early morning hours of May 1. At 6:00 a.m., organizers called each other and made the decision to cancel the event, since the field was too wet.

By 7:00 a.m., the Fairfax County Park Authority also canceled all athletic and other outdoor activities at its parks, making the date a complete wash out.

But not everyone was deterred. A few brave souls came out with their German automobiles, only to find a canceled sign in the driveway. Some folks drove from far away to participate, only to be turned away at the gate. The BMW club held a mini-concours since anytime you get a lot of car aficionados together in one place, it's a great time to swap stories and hold a car show.

By 9:00 a.m., the sun was shining and the sky was a beautiful May Day blue! Sadly, there was still that squish underfoot that makes any detailer cringe.

Planning is now in the works for a date later in the summer. But when you're dealing with four different clubs—Mercedes-Benz, BMW, Porsche and Audi—it's difficult to get a date acceptable to everyone. Keep an eye on the *Metro Tri-Star* calendar and the GWS website for updates on the rescheduled Deutsche Marque Concours.



Photo by Eric Wagner

Claire Wagner checks out the finely waxed finish on one of the cars that showed up at the canceled event.



June 2005



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Braking to a Stop

The 1st Saturday Tech Talk discussions of Mercedes brakes drew to close in May with the third installment. The spotlight was on the brake actuation system, from pedal through the master cylinder.

The history of modern braking system development was charted for us by Bill Repass. It appears that in the formative years of brakes, American car manufacturers were the innovators. Bill also pointed out that the very popular ATE “Super Blue” brake fluid (often used by autocrossers and driving school participants) is not really DOT-approved. While “DOT4” appears on the can, reading the fine print reveals that it is “better than DOT4,” rather than the important claim of “...meets DOT4.”

We were pleased to have W113 driver Bruce Walls join us. Bruce described to the group an experiment he had tried, driving his car with the brake booster disabled. He found that the car was almost unstoppable without the vacuum assist provided by the booster. It turns out his car had aftermarket “low dust” brake pads, which require more pedal force. (The dusty, dirty soft pads supplied by the factory are designed to make the car easier to stop with a failure such as that simulated by Bruce.)

The last half of our discussion was on brake bleeding methods. Fortunately, windshield washer fluid was used to simulate brake fluid because the Tech Chair managed to demonstrate the second installment of the “spill and clean up” process. Tech Talk regular Jim Glenn asked leading questions, while brake bleeding pros Klaus Hirtes and Stan Goering provided practical advice. The survey of methods spanned the spectrum from the two-person “push down - let up” approach to vacuum and pressure bleeding techniques.

Bill Hopper had arranged for our first Tech Talk “door prize,” a Mercedes cap courtesy of Euromotorcars. Tim Nagle was the lucky winner.



Now knowing all there is to know about Mercedes brakes are (from left) Klaus Hirtes, Steve Walters, Stan Groenig, Jim Glenn, Bruce Walls and Bill Hopper.

Please note that our monthly Tech Talks will not be held in the prime vacation months of July, August and September, but will return October 1.

— Steve Walters

Good Luck, Marianne

Our GWS secretary, Marianne Sener, is leaving us June 1.

A major in the U.S. Air Force, Marianne has accepted a one-year assignment in Baghdad where she will be involved with “knowledge management.”

We wish Marianne the best of luck in this exciting position and look forward to her safe return.

Remembering Hank Harris . . .

I returned home from a trip to Germany late Thursday, April 21. When opening my mail the next day, I noticed a letter from Catherine Harris that turned out to be an invitation to a memorial service for former GWS member Henry “Hank” Harris—which was to be held that same day at 2 p.m. at the U.S. Navy Memorial on Pennsylvania Ave. Hank died February 27, 2005.

Many of us in the club knew Hank because of his generosity in opening up the grounds of his beautiful home for our annual picnic and concours d’élégance. But that was just a small part of the man.

During the service, I learned that Hank, a fifth generation Floridian, had a distinguished Naval career, retiring in 1954 with the rank of lieutenant commander. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal for exceptional service. A 20-year career in the automobile business followed, after which he embarked on a very successful career in the financial market, eventually retiring in 1999. To quote from the memorial service leaflet: “Hank was a man of broad interests and passionate enthusiasm.” He was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Society of Mayflower Descendants. He was also an Anglophile who loved everything British, including membership in the RR club (he owned several models over the years). His favorite plant was the English dwarf boxwood.



June 2005

Throughout the service, all speakers would mention Hank’s generosity, his charm, wit, kindness and what a true gentleman he had been. I believe I can say that I, personally, as well as the club, experienced these qualities in Hank. He was generous in inviting us to Hidden Hill Farm year after year to hold our annual event. He even donated what became known as the “Hank Harris” award for the top-judged car over 25 years old.



I am fortunate and proud to have known Hank Harris. Our condolences go out to his wife, Catherine, and the rest of his family. The pictures on this page show Catherine Harris with a memorial wreath next to the Lone Sailor statue at the Navy Memorial and a 2004 portrait by Loryn Brazier.

— Klaus Hirtes

GWS Logo Merchandise

The new GWS polo shirts and T-shirts are in! Latest colors for the season include yellow and pink.

This year, GWS will be refreshing its stock of merchandise for the GWS club store. We also are looking into offering helmets, high quality air gauges and other automotive-related gifts for you and your Mercedes-Benz.

GWS polo shirts are \$29; the GWS T-shirts are \$15. Photos will soon be up on the web. GWS logo merchandise is always shown at the summer picnic. It also is available by contacting **Bill Hopper at (202) 363-4189**, or e-mailing him at <wwhrestoration@att.net>.

Please let him know what size and color you would like and whether you want the polo or T-shirt.

19

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Maryland Greater Washington Section License Tags

Maryland license tags with the section logo and the words "Mercedes-Benz Club" on them are still available. These plates will not be available through the MVA. You can purchase them only through the club, and they can only be put on a Mercedes-Benz. Please send the form below to Ed Hainke, coordinator of the program, with two checks: one payable to GWS-MBCA in the amount of \$10, and the second check payable to MVA in the amount of \$25. Ed will then contact you for the required MVA information.

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Coming Soon: Mercedes-Benz Club of America Commemorative 50th Anniversary Edition History & Pictorial

MBCA will be celebrating its 50th anniversary throughout 2006. In addition to a number of events in the founding sections (New Jersey and Chicago), a National Route 66 Tour, a possible new StarFest, and a European Tour of key places around Stuttgart—such as the DaimlerChrysler factory and new museum (opening in 2006)—MBCA is producing a 50th anniversary commemorative book about the club.

You can be part of the 50th anniversary book by:

- Submitting information, historical records, stories and photos from the earliest days of MBCA to more recent special activities that have defined MBCA.

- Looking through your files for interesting information that might be part of this limited edition, custom-made book about MBCA.

- Making a commitment now to purchase a copy of the book prior to its release in June 2006.

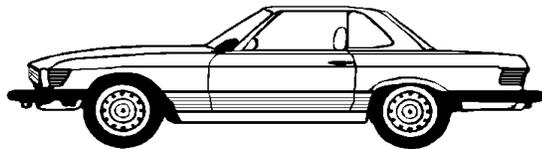
The cost for each copy is \$57.95. A leather collector's edition is available for \$84.95. If you would like your name embossed on the front cover, that will be an additional \$6 per book. Shipping and handling for the first book comes to \$6.95 and \$3 for each additional copy.

If you would like to submit photos and stories for consideration, send them to: MBCA, 1907 Lelaray Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80909-2872, Attn: MBCA History Book. For more information or to order with Visa or MasterCard, call Turner Publishing Company at 1-800-788-3350. Orders also may be placed online at www.turnerpublishing.com.

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New Members

The Greater Washington Section welcomes all its new members. We hope that you will join us soon at one of our upcoming events. Please feel free to call any officer for information on our activities and what you can do to get involved.

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Mercedes-Benz USA Records Highest April on Record

MONTVALE, N.J., May 3/PRNewswire—Mercedes-Benz USA (MBUSA) today reported its highest April on record with sales of 18,805 new vehicles, up 2.3 percent compared to last April.

“With the April launch of the new-generation 2006 M-Class and the fall introduction of the 2006 R-Class boosting our representation in the luxury light truck segment, we are expecting yet another record sales year for MBUSA,” said Paul Halata, president and CEO of MBUSA.

Boosting the April volume was the launch of the all-new 2006 M-Class which recorded 3,248 units—a 60.2 percent increase over April 2004. Highlights for the month also included SLK-Class at 972 units (up 108.6 percent) and a 22.2 percent increase in G-Class sales (143 vs. 117 units). CLK-Class and S-Class were also strong performers with increases of 9.3 percent (1,932 versus 1,767 units) and 4.1 percent (1,457 versus 1,399) respectively.

Separately, the Mercedes-Benz Certified Pre-Owned vehicle program reported April sales of 4,201 units, bringing the YTD total to 15,413.

In 2004, MBUSA achieved its eleventh consecutive year of sales growth by setting the highest sales volume in its history with 221,610 new vehicle sales. Headquartered in Montvale, N.J., MBUSA is responsible for the sales, marketing and service of all Mercedes-Benz products in the United States. More information on MBUSA and its products can be found on the Internet at <http://www.mbusa.com>.



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Nonmembers may submit a single personal ad for \$45. For business ad rates, contact Janet McFarland at the same number.

We will print a photograph (from color or black and white original or from high-resolution digital image) with your ad for \$20. If you would like the photo returned, enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. All checks should be made payable to: GWS-MBCA. Advertising copy must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication or the ad will appear in the following issue. The editor of the *Metro Tri-Star* shall have sole discretion in determining ad acceptability.

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