



METRO TRI-STAR

Spring Into Summer . . .

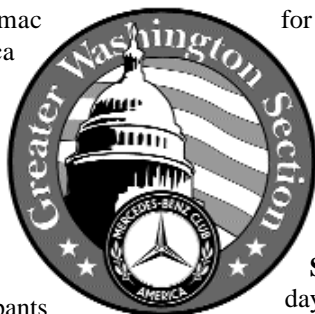
23rd Annual Deutsche Marque Concours d'Elegance

Sunday, May 7 is the date for the concours cosponsored with our fellow Deutsche Marque car clubs—the Potomac Region of the Porsche Club of America (PCA), the National Capital Chapter of the BMW Car Club of America (BMWCCA) and the Potomac-Chesapeake Chapter of the Audi Club of North America (ACNA).

It will be held at Nottoway Park in Vienna, Va.

The grounds open to show participants at 8:30 a.m. The gates open to the public at 9 a.m. Judging begins at 10:30, and scores will be tallied at 3 p.m. A wine and cheese reception will begin at 3:30, at which time the awards for all the clubs will be presented.

The entry fee is \$25 per car (\$30 after April 24 or on site). Registration includes one Wine and Cheese Reception ticket and a commemorative dash plaque. Additional Wine and Cheese Reception tickets are available at \$10 each. There is no charge to attend the concours as a spectator. Since this event is happening very soon, contact Eric Wagner if you would like to enter your car. You may reach him at (703) 549-5261 or e-mail: wag-nerek@comcast.net.



Driving Events

Defensive Driving School and Autocross: The section will offer a defensive driving school for all Mercedes-Benz owners on June 4. See page 7 for additional information.

VIR Drivers' School at VIR: This two-day event (June 15-16) is for those of you who want to learn the basics of car control in a safe environment—or just improve your skills. See page 11 to learn more.

Performance Driving School at Summit Point: Join us for one or two days (July 29-30) on the new Shenandoah Circuit at Summit Point, W. Va. Novice, intermediate and experienced drivers alike are welcome. See page 11.

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Calendar of Events

Greater Washington Section Events 2005-2006

- May 7 Deutsche Marque
Nottoway Park, Vienna, Va.
Contact: Eric Wagner at (703) 549-5261
- May 21 Deutsche Marque rain date
- May 28 Autocross #2: Winchester, Va.
Contact: Joe Wozney at (703) 437-7866
- June 3 DIY Tech Session
American Service Center, Arlington, VA
Contact: Dave Thompson at (703) 406-1586
- June 4 Defensive driving and MB-only autocross
Millbrook HS, Winchester, Va.
Contact: Joe Wozney at (703) 437-7866
- June 15-16 Performance Driving School (combined
event with Audi and BMW Clubs)
Virginia International Raceway (VIR)
South Boston, Va.
Contact: Joe Wozney at (703) 437-7866
- June 25 Autocross #3: Winchester, Va.
Contact: Joe Wozney at (703) 437-7866
- July 23 Autocross #4: Winchester, Va.
Contact: Joe Wozney at (703) 437-7866
- July 29-30 Performance Driving School
Summit Point Raceway, Shenandoah Circuit
Summit Point, W. Va.
Contact: Joe Wozney at (703) 437-7866
- Aug. 13 Autocross #5: Winchester, Va.
Contact: Joe Wozney at (703) 437-7866
- Aug. 20 Annual Picnic and Concours d'Elegance
More information to come
- Sept. 10 Autocross #6: Winchester, Va.
Contact: Joe Wozney at (703) 437-7866
- Oct. 1 Autocross #7: Winchester, Va.
Contact: Joe Wozney at (703) 437-7866
- Oct. 22 Annual GWS Meeting/Election of Officers
More information to come

Nov. 5 Autocross #8: Winchester, Va.
Contact: Joe Wozney at (703) 437-7866

Dec. 3 New Members' Reception
Contact: Bill Hopper at (202) 363-4189

*Be sure to check the web site for more information or
as changes occur.*

**For the latest club news, go to the
GWS web site at:
<http://www.gws-mbca.org>**

Regional and National Events

- June 9-11 June Jamboree
Montvale, N.J.
Contact: JosephGrattan@aol.com
- Sept. 12-15 East Coast Drive to Chicago
for start of Route 66 Tour
Contact: Doug Ochwat at (908) 850-9643
- Oct. 1-5 StarFest2006, Las Vegas, Nev
(hosted by the Las Vegas Section)
Contact Don Loyd at (702) 253-0407

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From the President . . .

Spring Is a Time For Time Travel....

The weather is finally in the “fantastic” stage. Cool mornings and evenings, and warm—but not hot—days are the norm. The days are longer due to the rotation of the sun coupled with the beginning of Daylight Savings Time. Because of the way the sun moves, it is up longer in the sky—it rises earlier and sets later. But man, not the solar system, dictates Daylight Savings Time.

The history of Daylight Savings Time (DST) is fascinating. One of the first Americans to propose a standardized DST was Benjamin Franklin. (Who else! Is there anything this man did not do, think or write!) While he was the United States representative to France, he saw that shifting our measured time to allow the sun to light the earth later would save shops and businesses the cost of turning on lights in their buildings, or would at least allow them to turn them on later.

Let’s pause to look at a small correction here... Webexhibits.org says that the official spelling is Daylight Saving Time. Saving is a participle which modifies time. In this context, it is saving daylight. The examples given to make it clearer are dog walking time and book reading time. Better? However, as the author states, savings with an “s” is in both the dictionary and common usage. And it does, as he says, flow better off the tongue. He does remind us that the phrase Daylight Saving (or Savings) Time is inaccurate since no daylight is actually saved. His offered Daylight Shifting Time just won’t fly.

The United States and most other countries adopted DST during World War I. Ahhh, but the short-sighted President Woodrow Wilson repealed the law for mandatory DST on March 31, 1918. Then there was a time of darkness over the world for more than thirty years.

Daylight Savings Time was reestablished during World War II—again for the energy savings. This time the law was different. DST was, by law, year-round. There was even a period of time during World War II that DST was actually Double Daylight Savings Time! The time shift was two hours instead of one. This was Nirvana for folks like me who hate the early darkness of winter days. Although, as you probably know, I am much too young to remember those good old days of DDST.

Daylight Savings Time was again reestablished by law on a year-round basis during the energy crisis of 1973-74, which was brought on by the Arab Oil Embargo. (Why is it that all that wonderful, extra daylight has to be brought to us only during periods of crisis? Who’s running this place?)

It’s important to note that not all places in the world need or want more sunlight late in the day—they already get enough (or too much). Most tropical counties do not change their clocks. Nor do Arizona and Hawaii.

There’s good news on the horizon (you’ll get the double meaning here in a second or two) for us Americans! In 2007, we will change our clocks to DST earlier. Instead of the first Sunday in April, we will start DST on the second Sunday in March. And instead of ending DST on the last Sunday in October, we will make the change on the first Sunday in November.

If I had my druthers, we would be on DDST year round. Obviously, I’m not an early bird. It’s so dark when I rise to get ready for early spring and late fall autocrosses and driving events, I’m pressed to wonder why I want the change. Then I remember that it’s just a few times and the rest of the days I’ll not worry about the dark mornings and relish the light evenings.

We aim to bring you all sorts of interesting facts—not just “car stuff.” But, hopefully, you did notice I snuck the autocross events in—just a reminder to get up early some Sunday this year and join us for a day of fun in the sun.



DIY Tech Session at ASC

Saturday, June 3, 2006 — Arlington, VA

8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The all-time-best-ever Mercedes enthusiast event is the GWS annual Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Tech Session at American Service Center (ASC) in Arlington, which this year is scheduled for June 3. This is the chance to work on your car yourself in a no-fail environment, with ready advice and tips from the most knowledgeable and experienced Mercedes technicians around—in addition to a well-stocked parts department just a few steps away. This year, for the first time, ASC is offering a double discount on parts—20% instead of the usual 10%—when parts are ordered by May 20 and paid for by check or cash. Call ahead to make sure they have the parts you will need. The ASC Parts Department phone number is (703) 284-2420.

This will be the first DIY session in ASC's completely renovated service area. The floor is new; the

lifts are new; and the workbenches are new. It is truly first class. ASC will provide snacks and lunch. Contact Dave Thompson for more information (jdt@ashtonlabs.com). Mark your calendar and send in your registration form (right now). Nothing tops a DIY tech session at American Service Center.

We also will be performing the pre-event inspection required for all cars that will be driven in the Performance Driving School at Virginia International Raceway on June 15-16, so if you plan to drive at VIR, bring along a copy of the pre-event technical inspection form (available on the GWS web site) and take advantage of the opportunity to get the required inspection economically.

If you plan to attend this event, please fill out the registration form on page 12.

What is a DIY Tech Session?

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 your own car in the comfort and safety of a commercial auto repair facility. There are four 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, the parts department is handy in case you break something or need a part you didn't anticipate. Fourth, 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.

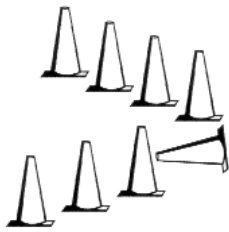
As with any event, there are a few ground rules.

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 and find out as much as you can about how to do it. Make arrangements with the ASC Parts Department ahead of time 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 on all the work that is undertaken. (We just want to be sure all the cars are able to be driven home 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.

pylon alley

by
Deborah
Hirtes



It was not the most perfect day for an autocross. It was, however, the perfect day for approximately 30 past, present and future autocrossers to get together at Il Lupo in Fairfax, Va. and talk about the upcoming autocross season as well as celebrate the victories of the past year.

Following a nice assortment of snacks (chicken wings, meatballs, calamari and bruschetta), some special (funny) awards were presented by Tom Newman.

A screwdriver on a wooden base was given to Bill Lear, whose car broke down a number of times last season. Larry Paulick received a compass to help him find his way around the autocross course. Jim



Autocrossers can never have too many tires. Ben Weber proudly shows off his door prize—a gift certificate from Radial Tires.

Lozoskie, who often gets a bit “squirrely” on the course was awarded an upside-down car. For good natured “whining,” Ted Joseph’s prize was a pacifier and box of tissues, and the slowest car award (a toy tractor) went to Ben Weber (the only diesel during the last season).



Klaus Hirtes models his first-place “trophy.”

The “trophies” for winners in each running group were blue cotton sweaters embellished with “2005 Autocross Series Champion.” (The web site has the full list of 2005 autocross competitors and their final standings.)

Door prizes were also handed out—everything from MB cleaning clothes, Mobil 1 racing jackets, caps and polo shirts—to the coveted “4-for-the-price-of-2” tires from Radial Tires—which was won by Ben Weber.

Mike Wirt was deemed the most improved (male) driver over the past season. Sharon Payne won for the women.

Recipients of the FTD (fastest time of day) awards in a Mercedes were, in the men’s class: Ted Joseph and Bruce Roth (each won four events), and Denise Dersin was the winner in the women’s class.

For drivers of non-Mercedes, the FTD awards went to Pete Gochman and Bobbie Wozney.

Autocross Series Schedule:

May 28	July 23
June 4 (Mercedes-only	August 13
Defensive Driving/ Autocross School)	September 10
June 25	October 1
	November 5

Defensive Driving School and MB Autocross

June 4, 2006 — Winchester, VA

The section will offer a defensive driving school for all Mercedes-Benz owners on June 4. 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 “hands-on” maneuvering (at controlled speeds) 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 registration form on page 12 and send it in with the \$25 per person fee right away. The fee at the gate will be \$30. Teens under age 19 attend at no charge! 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.**

Mercedes-only Autocross

The section also will hold a Mercedes-only autocross on June 4 after the defensive driving school is completed. The start time is planned for 1 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 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.

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 driv-

ing skills. We drive rain or shine . . . except for thunderstorms.

Fill out the registration form on page 12 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. The event is still free for teens under age 19!

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 from the car 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 also 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 will be held at Millbrook High School in Winchester, Virginia. You can find directions to Millbrook High School on the GWS web site. 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).

1st MBCA 50th Anniversary Event: June Jamboree

June 9-11, Northern New Jersey Section

The Northern New Jersey section will kick off the 50th anniversary festivities with their 43rd annual June Jamboree (June 9-11) in Montvale, N.J. and will honor MBCA founder Dr. Milton Allen of Summit, N.J., who began the club on June 6, 1956.

Friday, June 9:

Pre-registration at the Holiday Inn in Saddlebrook, N.J. will take place prior to 7 p.m. at the hotel.

Reception (7 p.m.) and dinner (8 p.m.) at the Holiday Inn (the cost of \$50 per person includes the reception, bar, hors d'oeuvres and dinner).

Saturday, June 10:

On-site registration for the concours will take place at the Mercedes-Benz headquarters in Montvale (just 12 miles up the Garden State Parkway) at 9 a.m. in the lobby of the building. Each person who registers a car for the Jamboree will receive a framed photo of his or her car as a souvenir of the day.

The cost of pre-registration for both the concours d'élégance and the popular vote cars will be \$40 per car (add \$10 for day-of-event registration) and \$5 per person for those who are not registering a car but want to have meals, an opportunity to vote for the popular vote cars, and for a chance to win a door prize.

Judging will begin at 10:30. Luncheon is being graciously provided by MaryAlice Ritzman of MBUSA and will be served once the judging of the concours d'élégance cars is complete. Popular vote ballots should be turned in at the reception table before lunch. Awards will be announced after lunch and when the judges have completed their duties.

Concours Classes

A class needs to have a minimum of three cars. The Concours chairman has the responsibility to group the entries for competition and will inform all competitors prior to 10:30.

There will be a number of car groups: everything from pre-1945 and vintage autos to classic coupes, convertibles and sedans, to limos and early modern coupes and sedans, to moderns sedans, station wagons and coupes. There also will be groups for con-

temporary coupes, roadsters, sedans, station wagons and convertibles as well as for vintage and modern sports cars and off-road vehicles. A popular vote for new, modern, old and vintage classes also will be held.

Sunday, June 11:

A safe driving seminar and Autocross will take place. The location has not yet been firmed up, but an e-mail will go out to all registrants when the location is secured.

Call the Holiday Inn at (201) 843 0600 for hotel reservations. Be sure to mention Mercedes-Benz to get the special rate.

For more information, check the MBCA 50th anniversary web site at www.mbca50th.org



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Historic Route 66 Tour: An MBCA 50th Anniversary Event

by Richard Simonds, Past National President and Tour Organizer

In recognition of our club's 50 years of providing special services and events to our members, we have a full schedule of activities in 2006. The Historic Route 66 Tour is one of these featured celebrations. MBCA members can join this tour for any number of days (1-15) from Chicago to Santa Monica and on to the MBUSA Classic Center in Irvine, Calif. We hope you can find some time to celebrate with us. Remember, section members may join us for a day and an evening meal without having to register for the entire trip.

If you plan to join us for just a day and evening, be sure to register for that day's meal on the MBCA web site! We must have a count and prepayment for all members joining us at dinner.

Here are a few key points to help you plan and register for the Historic Route 66 Tour.

1. Registrants and their guests must be current members of MBCA and must drive a Mercedes-Benz vehicle on the tour. For our special 50th anniversary event, we want to ensure that all participants are members and that no member is excluded because a non-member guest took up a space.

There is no age restriction on the participants or the cars (antique, classic, or modern).

2. Registration is possible by:

■ Using the MBCA web site (www.mbca.org) to get information and download the form. You may print the form and mail or fax it back to the MBCA National Business Office with your check or credit card information, or you may register on-line with your credit card.

■ Calling the MBCA National Business Office at 1-719-633-6427 to request a registration package to complete and mail or fax back to the MBCA NBO with your check or credit card information.

3. The early registration of \$150 becomes \$250 on May 17. Please register as soon as possible so that we can better plan for the number of participants on the trip—and you can save some money. The final deadline to register is July 17, no exceptions!



By the end of July, registrants will receive a Route 66 Travelers Bag that includes several books, planning resources and memorabilia of our tour.

The itinerary includes recommended lodgings and the restaurants where our evening meals have been reserved. Make your lodging reservations as soon as possible, but no later than July 17 to take advantage of our negotiated rates. The evening meals are the only time we plan to have everyone together, so please make a dinner reservation at each stop.

We have targeted a driving day of about 200 miles (ranging from 100 to 400) that varies according to the types of roads and number of interesting points along the way. This translates into approximately 4-10 hours on the road each day depending on your driving speed and number of stops. We are not doing a structured "caravan."

If possible, we plan to accept all requests to participate in the Historic Route 66 Tour. The capacity of lodgings and dinner places along the way may require that we set a limit on the number of participants at some stops. Let us know where you will be participating.

If you have any questions that are not covered on the registration form or in the general information, you may contact Richard Simonds at (650) 592-7613 or e-mail: rsimonds@pacbell.net.

Please check the MBCA web site (if you have access to the internet) for lots of information and resources.

Check out the following web sites for additional information about the MBCA 50th anniversary events:

www/mbca.org

or

www.mbca50th.org

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VIR Drivers' School

June 15-16, 2006 — Virginia International Raceway — Full Course

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 skills, then this two-day event is definitely for you. Registration is open to members of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Audi Club North America, and BMW Car Club of America. To see the track or to learn more about VIR go to <www.virclub.com>

COSTS: Please note. We now accept PayPal! To pay your registration fee just click on the PayPal link on the GWS web site (www.gws-mbca.org).

Registration fee = \$330* (Any registrations received after May 20 will have to pay the Late Registration Rate of \$375.)

*Includes one banquet ticket (guest banquet tickets are \$25 each).

There is a cancellation fee of \$50 for cancellations prior to June 1. A full refund (less the \$50 cancellation fee) will be issued if the spot can be filled. No refunds after June 1 will be given except at the event chair's discretion.

Additionally, you will need to be a member of one of the clubs involved. The annual membership dues are: Mercedes-Benz Club of America \$45; Audi Club North America \$44; BMW CCA \$40.

DRIVERS: Drivers must have a valid driver's license. Student familiarity with the car is essential, and, while car sharing is strongly discouraged, no more than 2 drivers can share a car. All drivers must be 18 years of age or older. Students may not give rides to other stu-

dents or to guests.

CARS: Car must be insured (\$100,000), street-legal, quiet, and must have passenger seats. Functional, securely attached lap and shoulder belts are required for both front seats. The front seats must have equal restraint systems available (e.g., if the driver has a five-point harness, the passenger must have a five-point harness). Performance-enhancing modifications and R-compound (racing) tires are permitted but can inhibit learning for beginners and are discouraged. If roll bars or cages are installed, they must be fully padded above the level of the front door windowsills.

SHARING CARS: Prior approval is required for students intending to share a car. Approval for changes in car type after registration is required from the chief instructor. Car sharing is strongly discouraged. A car cannot be shared with someone in the same run group. While we will try to accommodate car sharing, you may miss some run sessions or may not get your full time on the track if you share your car.

CONVERTIBLES: VIR requires that "all convertible cars must be equipped with a structural, VIR-approved roll bar." Most original equipment/stock "roll hoops" are not approved for events at VIR, including those on the Audi TT Roadster, the Porsche Boxster, or the BMW Z3/Z4/M3 Convertible. Please contact us before registering if your car is one of these mentioned. All Mercedes-Benz SLs and SLKs will have to run with hardtops on or up. Cabriolets will not be permitted to run at all without an approved roll bar.

Continued on page 17

It's Summit Point Time!

July 29-30, 2006, Summit Point Raceway — Shenandoah Circuit

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 29 and 30. If you can't make two days, then join us for one day.

This year we'll be on the new

Shenandoah Circuit. This is from the Summit Point web site: At variable lengths ranging between 1.68 and 2.2 miles, the Shenandoah Circuit is a no-holds-barred technical challenge that will take years to master. Sporting a dimensional replica of Der Nurburgring at 20

degree banking, camber changes (including negative) incorporated with decreasing radius corners positioned on vertical drops, the Shenandoah Circuit is the odds-on favorite to be the most technical track in the country.

Continued on page 22

ASC DIY Tech Session

Saturday, June 3 — American Service Center, Arlington, VA

Name(s) _____ Member # _____

Address _____

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

Email address _____

Number of attendees (\$15 each) _____

Total dollar amount enclosed \$ _____

Make check payable to GWS-MBCA.

Send completed form and check to: Dave Thompson, 12530 Rock Ridge Rd., Herndon, VA 20170

Defensive Driving School/Autocross

Sunday, June 4, 2006 — Winchester, VA

Name _____ Member # _____

Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

No. of drivers for the Defensive Driving School (\$25 each) _____

No. of drivers for the Autocross only (\$25 each) _____

No. of BOTH Defensive Driving and Autocross (still \$25 each) _____

Total \$ enclosed (make check payable to GWS-MBCA) _____

Send completed form and check to: Joe Wozney, 1625 Park Overlook Drive, Reston, VA 20190

Summit Point Drivers' Ed

July 29-30, 2006

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 14 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.

A \$50 administration fee will be assessed for all cancelations before July 10.

Fees after July 10 and at the track are \$385 for 2 days and \$225 for 1 day.

Cancelations after July 10 will not receive a refund, unless there is a replacement for your spot.

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
1625 Park Overlook Dr.
Reston, VA 20190

High Gear – *Variations on a Theme at Amelia Island*

For 2006, Stanley and Doble steam cars were featured at the Amelia Island concours d'élégance. The melodious whistle of gaseous vapor from these unique vehicles gave a musical quality to this year's event. However, from my perspective, the two most interesting cars on the field were gasoline powered and had their roots in Stuttgart. They were, respectively, a 1960 Beutler Porsche 356 and a 1955 Pininfarina Mercedes 300. These two German cars sporting non-German coachwork represent unusual variations on two familiar themes.

I actually spotted the Beutler Porsche during the classic car rallye that takes place on the Friday before the concours d'élégance. When you first see a Beutler Porsche, you do a double take. It's obviously a 356, but some of the dimensions are off. The wheel base is slightly longer; the slope angles of both the bonnet and the boot are more acute; the greenhouse stands a little proud. When I spotted Jim Watson's Beutler Porsche in the car park for the vintage rallye, I first readjusted the glasses on my nose. Then I came to the pleasant realization that my pilgrimage to Amelia Island was going to have been worth the trip to Florida. The Beutler Porsche constitutes a wonderfully harmonious composition.

Jim Watson is the original owner of this classic Porsche. He drove it all the way down from his home in Tennessee for the Amelia Island weekend. Both Jim and the Beutler are originals, unrestored and holding up well. This Porsche is a 2+2 gran turismo coupe; presented in two shades of gray with a red leather interior. The stretched wheel base insures that there actually is room for four adults in this unique 356.

Beutler was a Swiss custom coachbuilder. During the '50s, they built some cabriolets for Porsche. The 2+2 was a short-lived project that resulted in five exemplars being constructed. Further development of the concept of a four-seater Porsche would have to wait for several more decades. The Beutler Porsche was the leitmotif of my Amelia Island weekend. Quite literally. After the classic rallye I discovered that Jim Watson was staying at my hotel. As luck would have it, he parked his Porsche right in front of my window. Like the melody of a Strauss waltz, I couldn't get this special coupe out of my head. I got

up a couple of times during the night to admire this truly unique Porsche through the window.

On Sunday, the Beutler Porsche looked splendid on the green behind the Ritz Carlton during the concours d'élégance. It was there that I spied the '55 Pininfarina Mercedes. It is a one off coupe built on the chassis of the 300 "Adenauer" saloon (not the 300S Sindelfingen coupe). This elegant vehicle manages to combine the stateliness of the period Mercedes with the dash of a Ferrari barchetta. It's finished in two shades of green. I had admired this vehicle previously at Pebble Beach. Prior to restoration, the Pininfarina Mercedes had been found neglected in a barn in California's San Joaquin Valley. That's like finding the manuscript of a lost symphony by Schubert at a flea market.

Looking at the Swiss Porsche and the Italian Mercedes, I reached the conclusion that it is a shame that custom coachbuilders have all but disappeared from the automotive scene. There is something very special about a new interpretation of a familiar theme. Both the Beutler Porsche and the Pininfarina Mercedes were immediately recognizable as to their marque. Yet they are completely unique, like a Fritz Kreisler variation on a theme by Paganini.

— John Kuhn Bleimaier



The 1955 Pininfarina Mercedes, finished in two shades of green, caught the camera lens of Marina Pushkareva at the Amelia Island event.

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VIR Drivers' School — *Continued from page 11*

MOTEL INFORMATION: There are a number of options available, including the Sleep Inn & Suites—1483 South Boston Road, Danville, VA 24540, (434) 793-6090 (headquarters for the event—we have reserved 30 rooms here). Mention the Mercedes-Benz, BMW or Audi clubs for the special rate of \$74.99 including breakfast.) Others include the Best Western Windsor Inn & Suites (434) 483-5000; Comfort Inn & Suites (434) 793-2000; Courtyard by Marriott (434) 791-2661, (800) 321- 2211; Days Inn (434) 836-6745; Hampton Inn (434) 793-1111; Holiday Inn Express (434) 793-4000; and the Stratford Inn & Conference Center (434) 793-2500, (800) 326-8455 (pet friendly).

HELMETS: Helmets must be certified to Snell M- or SA-standard, 1995 or later. The Snell Memorial Foundation's certification will be found on a sticker inside the helmet.

You can rent helmets from OG Racing, 22585D Markey Court, Sterling, VA 20166, (800) 934-9112.

TECH INSPECTION: 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. You can use the form from your own car club. We will have a grid tech on both Thursday and Friday mornings—no Wednesday night tech.

FOOD: Food is available at the track at the Pagoda Restaurant. There also are places along Route 58 to buy food and water.

Wednesday: There is a dinner buffet at the Oak Tree Tavern at VIR. Participants pay for this themselves (not included in registration). The food is excellent!

Thursday: Registration includes (1) banquet ticket for the Thursday evening banquet, which is located on the top floor of the Pagoda Restaurant (at the track) and is for all participants. Guests may purchase a meal ticket separately for \$25.

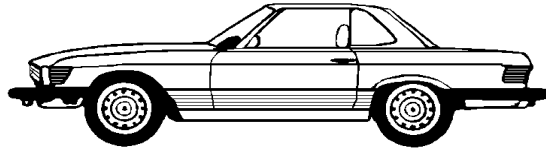
FUEL: Self-serve fuel is available at the track with a credit card, but is expensive. We suggest filling up in

Continued on page 18

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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.

Rick Aleshire
Severn, MD

Charles A. Costa
Waldorf, MD

Michael Snyder
Vienna, VA

Danielle Bakos
District Heights, MD

Mark Dubin
Potomac, MD

Mary Jo Stephens
Odenton, MD

Yuri M. Boguslavsky
Woodbridge, VA

Tim Fields
Kennedyville, MD

Si Thu
McLean, VA

Rebecca L. Britt-Laughery
Hanover, MD

Sean Finnell
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George W. Tolson
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John Brubaker
Winchester, VA

Steve Garrison
Baltimore, MD

Keith D. Webster
Vienna, VA

David S. Cammack
Alexandria, VA

Paul R. Scheer
Mechanicsville, MD

Chris Wilson
Vienna, VA

Catherine Burris-Gladney
Baltimore, MD

Leonard B. Sese
Silver Spring, MD

Calvin A. Young
Fairfax Station, VA

Seymour Slatkin
Potomac, MD

VIR Drivers' School — *Continued from page 17*

Danville the night before.

CAR NUMBERS: Car numbers will be assigned at registration. However, if you want to reserve a number you can request it on the registration form, first-come-first-served.

WAIVERS: An insurance waiver will need to be signed at the gate and at registration. Driver School participants may sign the gate waiver and bring a car for drop off Wednesday evening from 5:30-7:00 p.m.; the gate

will be locked at 7:30 p.m. The Sleep Inn (our headquarters) is just 8 miles from the track and has a rig-accessible parking lot adjacent to the regular parking lot.

HOW TO REGISTER: Registration forms are available on the Mercedes-Benz Club web site (www.gws-mbca.org). For registration information, contact Joe Wozney at (703) 437-7866, or e-mail him at JoeWozney@aol.com.

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.

Maryland Greater Washington Section Tags

Name _____ Member # _____

Address _____

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

Send this form and two checks payable to
GWS-MBCA for \$10 and MVA for \$25 to:

Ed Hainke
10755 Sawpit Cove Road
Lusby, MD 20657



The Trading Post

560 SEC Coupe, 1989: Black and tan beauty. \$87,000 when new. Fuel injected, dual air bags, anti-lock brakes, sunroof, plus every option. 117K carefully driven miles. Great shape. Only selling because I was given another auto. \$7,500. Call Hugh at (202) 216-2229, or e-mail honeill@jwidc.com.

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E320 Wagon 4-matic, 1999: Midnight blue/beige interior. Third-row seat, heated seats, 39K. Sunroof, perfect condition. Asking \$22,000/bo. Contact Joe at (410) 788-1551 or e-mail Corbittjl@comcast.net.

240D, 1979: Blue. Original owner. All records available. 228K miles. Rebuilt engine and clutch have 16K miles. Looks good and runs well, but aging owner needs to be replaced by new caretaker. Can be adopted for \$2,700. Call Bob at (703) 435-0366.

450SL, 1977: Bronze/tan leather, mint condition. 106K miles, 2 tops, V-8. Garage kept, original owner. Asking \$10,900. Call Judy at (703) 620-9091.

250C, 1972: White with red interior and sunroof. 145,000 miles. Very good condition inside and out. Runs great. Located in Davidsonville, Md., near Annapolis. \$4,500. Call Kevin at (410) 798-0456 or leave message on voice-mail at (301) 651-4946.

300 SEL 3.5, 1971: Excellent correct red leather interior, very good drive train and suspension. Light body rust. 117K miles. \$4,300. 280 SE parts car available. Call Tom at (540) 987-9466.

280SL, 1970: Silver/red leather, 93K original miles, auto, 6-cyl. fuel injected, hard & soft top, jumpseat, AC, Original tool kit, owners & parts manuals. \$30,000.00 call Tom@ (410) 414-8014 or e-mail sdhyatt15@aol.com.

280 SEC, 1968: 111 coupe, original silver with black roof. Correct black interior. Automatic on floor, A/C, very good to excellent overall. \$14,000. 111 and 108 parts also available. Call Tom at (540) 987-9466.

230SL, 1966: White with red interior, auto, AC, new black canvas top, white hardtop. Stainless steel exhaust, 57K original miles. New tires, perfect condition. Asking \$23,000 obo. Contact Joe at (410) 788-1551 or e-mail Corbittjl@comcast.net.

Trading Post Advertising Information

Any GWS member may place an ad of up to six lines in length free of charge in the *Metro Tri-Star*. Include your name, membership number, address and phone number(s) with area codes on your hand-printed or typed copy. Personal ads will appear for two issues. Ads should be sent to: *Metro Tri-Star*, 1307 Warrington Place, Alexandria, VA 22307; telephone (703) 765-9405; or e-mail:janetmcfarland@earthlink.net.

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.

Wheels: Four 500E wheels (knockoffs) with BF Goodrich Comp T/A R1 tires. 245/45R16. Asking \$150 (or best offer). Bought from another MB-GWS member to use for autocross but decided to autocross with my other car instead. I never used them. Was told they have a few events left of rubber. Wheels in good shape, minor rash. Call Brian at (202) 276-8141 or e-mail bjmark@yahoo.com.

Lambskin front seat covers: Gray, for 560SEC. Bought at MB dealer for almost \$600. Very limited use. Mint condition. Best offer. Call John at (301) 493-5064 or e-mail kermomd@comcast.net.

Tires: Four 205/55R16 ContiTouring Contact tires removed from a 1999 CLK320. Three are fair; one is nearly new — \$100; Eight “**Bundt Cake**” alloy wheels, 14/6.5” ET 30 — \$23 each. These wheels have a W126 part number but fit a W123; **Headlights** for a W116 — \$125. Contact Ted at (703) 893-3030.

FREE: 220, 1971. Was running when it was parked 20 years ago. Not much to look at now, but could be useful for parts or as a “project.” You can have it if you take it away. It is located in McLean. Contact Kenny at klenherr@verizon.net.

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Summit Point Drivers' School — *Continued from page 11*

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 is available for download on the club's web site.

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! Good news! We now accept PayPal. If you register on the web site, there is a link for PayPal payment.

Registration after July 10 and 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 Beltway and try performance driving. Plan now on joining us! If you have any questions, please call Joe Wozney at (703) 437-7866.



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