



METRO TRI-STAR

www.gws-mbca.org

July 2006

Summertime With the Greater Washington Section

The metropolitan Washington area is not always the greatest place to spend the summer. Known for its hazy, hot and humid days, it was even considered a hardship post for diplomats in the pre-air-conditioned days.

But the Great Washington Section has a number of events scheduled this summer that will keep you in the area—and help you stay cool at the same time.

The first is the two-day performance driving school at the Shenandoah Circuit at Summit Point Raceway in West Virginia, held July 29-30. The second is the ever-popular Mid-Atlantic concours and picnic on Sunday, Aug. 20 in North Potomac, Md.

SUMMIT POINT: If you can't come for both days, at least come for one. Experienced and novice drivers, alike, are welcomed to attend this event—even those with no previous track or performance driving experience. 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. 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.

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. (See more information on page 22.)



MID-ATLANTIC CONCOURS AND PICNIC:

Whether it's the beautiful cars on display that you want to look at, or the delicious Bratwurst available for lunch, or the refreshing swimming pool in which to take a dip, or the lush lawn of Steve and Barbara Newby's North Potomac estate to relax on, this is a great day to bring the entire family.

There is no fee to enter the concours, but we do need to know in advance how many cars to expect, so *please fill out the registration form on page 12* and send it in as soon as possible. (See more information on page 22.)

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Calendar of Events

Greater Washington Section Events 2006-2007

- 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
Contact: Eric Wagner at (703) 549-5261
See page 1 for more information.
- 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
1 - 3 p.m., American Service Center
- 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
- May 17-20 StarTech 2007
Reston, Va.
Contact: Bill Hopper at (202) 363-4189

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

Regional and National Events

- 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

News and Notes from the MBCA National Business Office

Raffle 2006:

The MBCA Raffle has concluded. The winners were announced June 15. See page 5 to see who from our section took home the money!

MBCA National Election:

Candidates for this year's MBCA election have been verified. Members will be mailed an election ballot in September. Please review the election material carefully and mark your ballot for the candidate(s) of your choice. Your participation in our election process is important. Ballots must be received by October 16, 2006 to be counted.

StarFest 2006:

StarFest 2006 will be held in Las Vegas Oct. 1-5. Registration packets and information are on the Las Vegas web site at www.mbca-lasvegas.org. For more information, contact Don Loyd by phone at (702) 253-0407 or by e-mail at Starfest06@cox.net.

Route 66 Tour Registration:

Registration for the Route 66 tour is available on the MBCA web site (www.mbca.org). The National Business Office (NBO) also has hard copies of the Route 66 worksheet and registration form that can be mailed to members as well.

German Trips Registration:

Registration is now available on the web site (www.mbca.org) for the trips to Germany. The NBO also has hard copies of the registration form as well as terms and conditions that can be mailed to members.

MBCA Club Store:

The Club Store is offering Independence Day specials through July 7. Take this time to stock up on summer merchandise and 50th anniversary memorabilia before it's all gone. See what's available by checking the web site (www.mbca.org).

From the President . . .

From the front...

I'm writing this from the track at Virginia International Raceway. About 105 students and instructors are here, playing with cars. Thirty of the drivers and instructors are members of your Mercedes-Benz Club. The others are friends from the BMW and Audi clubs.

Mercedes-Benz Club members are driving 190Es, SLs and various AMG models. Some of our members are driving their Miatas, Subarus, Fords, Corvettes, Acuras and Porsches—their “other” cars.

All are here to learn to drive their cars quickly and, most importantly, safely at speed. What speed? Whatever speed they can drive within their own comfort zone while maintaining absolute control. No one is racing—it's forbidden. No one is “hotdogging.” It, too, is forbidden. They're all here to learn to be better drivers. That really means better drivers, not better racecar drivers. Everything that is learned here will make us better street drivers, safer street drivers.

The question becomes... Why aren't you here? Okay, we understand that this event is being held on a Thursday/Friday—hard to explain to the boss. But if you had vacation time coming, you've lost one excuse.

Some of you think it's for someone who's older... or younger. Well, as a matter of fact, there are a couple of eighteen-year-olds here. There are some who are over... um... who are receiving Social Security benefits. So, there goes the age excuse.

You have one more opportunity this year to get the “E-ticket” ride. We'll be at Summit Point on July 29-30. Same type event, different location. And, it's a Saturday/Sunday, so the I-can't-do-weekdays reason is out the window. We make an effort to keep the price down so it won't put the school out of your reach. It's only an hour from the Beltway in nearby West Virginia. You do not have to drive your Mercedes. You really can drive your other car—no

SUVs though. We've even made arrangements with Shoney's Inn in Winchester for nearby rooms.

What do you need? A car with the ability to pass a safety inspection. The inspection form is a download on the web site on the Summit Point link. You don't need race tires—just your street tires (with a bit of extra air). Instructors will be present to teach you good driving techniques.

I am so convinced that you will love this event, that I'll offer a challenge. Any member who signs up, attends, and does not have a great time will receive a 50 percent refund! How can you go wrong?

So, it's time to get off the couch! **Fill out the registration form on pp. 13-14** in this newsletter or, even better, on the web, and get it in. We've made it very easy. We even accept PayPal! See you at The Point!

—Joe



The GWS rents a storage unit in which to keep the club's trailer, cones, drinks and other assorted necessities. Occasionally, it needs a thorough cleaning. Helping in this task May 27 are Jim Lozoskie with the hammer, John Jens, Joel Watkinson and Joe Wozney.

Report from the June 4 Defensive Driving School and Mercedes-Only Autocross

Except for a brief thunderstorm with some very “striking” lightning, it was a gorgeous day to play with cars. Twelve folks who have never attended a defensive driving school came to Winchester for our annual event. In addition, a sizable group of our regulars came for both the school and the afternoon autocross.

The defensive driving school consisted of four separate courses—a slalom, a decision gate, an accident avoidance exercise, and a large skid pad. Each driver had plenty of time to drive all the courses. There were instructors on hand to “walk” them through the exercises, which were defined by large orange pylons.

In the afternoon, we combined some of the exercises to create a challenging autocross—a timed activity to make use of the morning’s training. Regrettably, Howard Tag, Karen Shipp, Laura and Mike Pierce, and a few others couldn’t stay for the autocross portion but thoroughly enjoyed the school. We hope they’ll join us at an upcoming autocross!

We owe a great deal of thanks to Bill Stewart, Steve Walters, Deborah and Klaus Hirtes, Bill Hopper, Pete G, Mike Wirt, Richie Crim, Ted Joseph

and Tom Newman for their work in making the school a success.

Entrants

Bill Stewart	35.622
Jim Lozoskie	36.418
Julian Reeves	36.786
Hans O’Malley	37.205
Richard Lipsky	38.710
Bill Repass	39.344
Dean Eversley	39.524*
Keith Welty	39.880*
Robby Ackerman	40.035
Jim Beasley	40.215
Bill Hopper	41.256
Desmond Dawkins	42.223*
Annaka Welty	42.764*
Sherry Shipp	42.891*

* indicates novice

Volunteers and Instructors

Pete G	34.568
Mike Wirt	34.801
Richie Crim	37.240
Tom Newman	39.617

Greater Washington Section Members Clean Out the Vault in the 2006 MBCA Raffle

The Mercedes-Benz Club of America hosted a cash raffle for 2006. The names selected on June 15, 2006 included two Greater Washington Section members.

The MSRP equivalent to a 2006 SLK350 of \$57,210 in cash was won by Ashton Flemmings of Silver Spring, Md., and \$20,000 in cash was won by Kathleen Contillo of Lanham, Md.

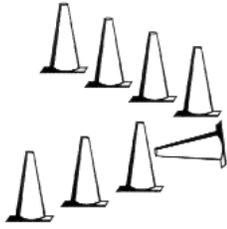
MBCA hosts a raffle each year. For the past few years, the raffle prizes have been new Mercedes-Benz automobiles. This year, the cash equivalent was selected so that people could pay the required taxes and then choose their own vehicles with their own color and option selections.

Congratulations to these two lucky Greater Washington Section members on being raffle winners.

Membership in the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, pays in more ways than dealer discounts and fun events. Just ask Ashton and Kathleen!

pylon alley

by
Joe Wozney



Draw close dear reader and I will tell you a tale so stupendous, so staggering, it will leave you in total disbelief. After searching the parchments—which go back many, many years—I can assure you that it is true. Be strong, for even the witnesses to the event are still in a stupor. Recovery will come slowly. At our second autocross, a girl—no, make that a woman—recorded the fastest time of day! It's true, I assure you. Denise Dersin cleaned the clocks of all the boys. This was no mere squeaky win. Denise drubbed the nearest competitor by more than half a second! That is an eternity in autocross. Hail the champion! Oh, and Ted was second in class a second behind but did produce the fastest Mercedes Men's Time of Day.

Stepping down a few speed notches... In the diesel class, Ben Weber took first and his guest, Gina Miller, drove well for her first-ever outing. I'll sneak this in here... Denise defeated Ted in the 16V class, too—by nearly a full second.

In the geriatric class (cars not drivers), Deborah Hirtes had an easy win over Greta O'Malley, and Hans O'Malley romped to a solo first place while his competitor languished away in cold and cloudy Germany.

In the battle of the sixes (a little play on words there), Bill Hopper took first by eight-tenths over Al Angulo, and Paul Vandenberg by a "bit" more. In the eight-cylinder class, John Robinson had his hands full with Julian Reeves but eked out a half second victory. Bill Repass was a tick behind in third.

Running as a solo, John Krahulec had one of his best-ever drives and moved his E55 to an impressive 43.1 run.

In the battle of Brand-X cars, Sharon Payne took the ladies indexed win but Barrie had the better actu-



Denise Dersin poses beside the '05 SLK350 in which she achieved Fastest Time of Day at the May autocross.

al time. Barrie's "spouse"—Pete—had the Fastest Time of Day for Men. Mike Wirt took another men's class win with a great index time and a pretty fantastic "unaltered" time. However, 79 people have signed a petition to the SCCA to have the Audi S4 reclassified as an illegal weapon.

John Brubaker, in another should-be-illegal D-Stock car, took a close second. Very quick little VW, that! Pete G was third in his AS (hehe) Honda S2000. Carl Beveridge was fourth, just a few ticks back in his 2006 Boxster S. John Jens and his snappy new GTI was fifth. With a strong sixth was Richie Crim in his GTO, but this time it was different. With new race shoes, the car dug in, and Richie was able to control all those ponies.

In seventh through ninth were David Reeves, Harry Newman and Bill Lear. Their times were separated by less than a tenth! Good grouping!

So in the end, the world still spins on its axis and day still follows night, but the times they are a changing'. Way to go Denise. What wonders will the next event bring?

2006 Autocross Schedule

July 23
August 13
September 10

October 1
November 5

2006 Autocross #2 Results

DRIVER	CAR	BEST TIME	POINTS
Ben Weber	82 240D	56.299	10
Gina Miller	82 240D	68.216	9
Denise Dersin*	86 190E 2.3-16	44.711	10
Ted Joseph**	86 190E 2.3-16	45.644	9
Bill Hopper	97 C280	47.052	10
Al Angulo	86 190E 2.6	47.838	9
Paul Vandenberg	90 190E 2.6	53.572	8
Deborah Hirtes	67 230SL	47.660	10
Greta O'Malley	72 300SEL 4.5	49.061	9
Hans O'Malley	72 300SEL 4.5	46.318	10
John Robinson	88 560SL	45.036	10
Julian Reeves	03 500SL	45.552	9
Bill Repass	93 400E	45.685	8
James Beasley	95 SL600	52.972	7
Denise Dersin*	05 SLK350	41.295	10
Ted Joseph**	05 SLK350	42.263	9
John Krahulec	04 E55 AMG	43.106	10

*	FTD - Fastest time of the day
**	MFTD - Men's Fastest Time of the Day in a Mercedes
***	OM-LFTD - Ladies Fastest Time of the Day in a non-MB marque
****	OM-FTD - Men's Fastest Time of the Day in a non-MB marque

Scores also are available
on-line at
www.gws-mbca.org

Other Marques

DRIVER	CAR	BEST TIME	CLASS	INDEX	INDEX TIME	POINTS
Sharon Payne	99 Saab Viggen	48.590	GSL	0.794	38.580	10
Barrie Gochman***	99 Mazda Miata	48.185	CSPL	0.838	40.379	9
Mike Wirt	00 Audi S4	42.745	DS	0.798	34.111	10
John Brubaker	04 VW Golf R32	43.179	DS	0.798	34.457	9
Pete Gochman****	05 Honda S2000	41.829	AS	0.831	34.760	8
Carl Beveridge	06 Porsche Boxster S	42.280	AS	0.831	35.135	7
John Jens	06 VW Golf GTI	44.781	GS	0.794	35.556	6
Richie Crim	04 Pontiac GTO	44.658	FS	0.805	35.950	5
David Reeves	04 Subaru WRX STi	43.328	AS	0.831	36.006	4
Harry Newman	97 Subaru SVX	45.446	GS	0.794	36.084	3
Bill Lear	92 Acura Integra GSR	43.544	DSP	0.829	36.098	2
Bob Robinson	03 Corvette Z06	43.618	SS	0.840	36.639	1
Ramzy Khoury	04 Subaru WRX STi	44.502	AS	0.831	36.981	1
Joe Wozney	85 Porsche 911	45.138	BS	0.822	37.103	1
Eric Stieve	88 Toyota AllTrac	44.064	SM	0.845	37.234	1
Ron Mummert	93 Nissan 240SX	47.275	GS	0.794	37.536	1
Matthew Zint	00 Audi S4	46.889	STX	0.804	37.699	1
Jeremy Jens	04 VW Golf R32	44.971	SM	0.845	38.000	1
Brett Hack	90 Mazda Miata	47.323	ES	0.806	38.142	1
Cary Petrovich	02 Subaru WRX Wag.	46.465	DSP	0.829	38.519	1
Gary Travis	06 Mustang	48.480	FS	0.805	39.026	1
Milton Paul	92 Mazda Miata	48.455	CSP	0.838	40.605	1
Chris Higgins	95 BMW 318i	49.714	DSP	0.829	41.213	1

Looking Ahead: GWS to Host StarTech 2007

May 17 - 20, 2007 — Reston, Va.

Since its inception in 1956, the Greater Washington Section (GWS) has successfully and repeatedly hosted events such as Starfest and Tri-O-Rama, but never a StarTech.

That will change next year, because GWS has been given the opportunity to host the technical event, which will take place from May 17 to 20.

Our section has a vast technical knowledge base from which to draw, both from within the section as well as the MBCA Mid-Atlantic region. GWS members have long benefited from these technical resources and are now looking forward to acquainting other MBCA members who share our enthusiasm for Mercedes-Benz engineering,

StarTech will allow Mercedes-Benz and AMG owners to learn more about their sophisticated automobiles, get to know other enthusiasts and begin to understand their automobiles more fully. The event will focus on all Mercedes-Benz models, expanding under-hood technical education with an understanding of the vehicle as a whole. Included in the technical seminars will be simple solutions and repairs for everyday drivers, to more complex modifications for those MBCA members interested in tuning their cars for competition, as well as information about vintage vehicles.

The Hyatt Regency in Reston, Va. will be the host venue for StarTech 2007. This hotel has a four-diamond rating, awarded every year since the hotel opened in 1990. Major renovations and upgrades will have been completed by the time of the meeting. The hotel is located in the heart of Reston Town Center, and all sorts of amenities are just outside the front door, including shopping, bike trails, restaurants, etc.

Although StarTech is a Mercedes-Benz Club event that focuses on the technical side of the automobile, that does not mean that spouses and guests (who may not be as automotively inclined as others

of us) will not have a good time if they come along. Events have been planned for such activities as a Virginia Hunt Country tour, an excursion to the Washington Design Center, museum hopping, and trips to antiques shops and clothing stores.

Thus far, technical topics scheduled for StarTech 2007 include seminars on:

- Basic performance upgrades (e.g., tires and suspension);
- Myths and facts about diesel and performance driving;
- Bio-diesel, E 85, hybrid and flexible fuel vehicles;
- AMG vs. modifications on non-AMG Mercedes-Benz vehicles;
- Historic racing with Mercedes-Benz vehicles—restoration, upkeep and use;
- Body modifications—cladding, flares and tails;
- Engine modifications (e.g., chips, induction systems and filters)
- Modern shops and their high-tech computer equipment; and
- Tools and equipment that the do-it-yourselfer can buy and use.

It may seem far away, but the months go by quickly. So . . . now is the time to mark your calendars for May 17 to 20, 2007 to attend StarTech 2007. The Greater Washington Section will need plenty of volunteers to help make this event a success; don't hesitate to offer your services.

If you have any questions about StarTech 2007 or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact GWS Vice President William West Hopper at (202) 363-4189, or e-mail him at:

WWHRestoration@att.net

VIR Drivers School



Bill Stewart had a great time at the June 15-16 drivers' school at VIR, which was open to members of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Audi Club North America and BMW Car Club of America. The next issue of the Metro Tri-Star (August/September) will have more coverage of the event.



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2007 Spring National MBCA Board and Committee Meetings to Be Hosted by GWS

May 15-17 — Reston, Va.

The Mercedes-Benz Club of America holds two national board meetings each year. For 2007, the spring meeting will be hosted by GWS on May 17 in conjunction with StarTech 2007. All MBCA members are welcome to attend the meeting and provide input to the National Board from a member's point of view.

The board and committee meetings will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Reston Town Center. This hotel offers ample and gracious meeting space with all the amenities to support the board's needs.

The national board meeting is preceded by two days of committee meetings, May 15-16. This is a time for the board committees to discuss and finalize

items prior to their presentation to the full board. A section presidents' meeting also is being planned for May 16 to offer MBCA section presidents an opportunity to interact with each other in person, and work with the national board on issues facing all sections in the club.

The Greater Washington Section will play host to this national board meeting, and is seeking your help to man the hospitality room and be a part of the welcome committee—as well as help out during StarTech 2007, which follows (May 18-20). Please Contact Bill Hopper (WWHRestoration@att.net) for additional information or to let him know that you'll lend a hand.

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High Gear . . .

It was a long day's journey into Newark. Split to Zagreb; Zagreb to Frankfurt; Frankfurt home to New Jersey. I had spent a week sailing off Croatia's Dalmatian coast with my yachtsman cousin. There are no direct flights back home from that delightful part of the world. I was waiting for my connection at Frankfurt's international airport with ten euros burning a hole in my jeans. I ambled over to a news stand and purchased two German enthusiast magazines, "Mercedes World" and "Auto Zeitung."

Bingo! I hit pay dirt. "Mercedes World" had a feature article about a 1964 190Dc which lives in Berlin and is used as a "special events vehicle." This Finback diesel is virtually identical to the one my parents bought new in 1965, and which now resides in my barn, in a place of honor. "Auto Zeitung" published a comparison test featuring the new BMW 120d, a four-door, "One Series" Bimmer diesel which is not sold in the United States. Juxtaposing the data from the two articles provides some interesting insights into five decades of evolution in diesel technology.

If you placed the 40-year-old Mercedes and the new BMW side by side, it would appear at first blush that they had nothing in common other than both are automobiles. The former sits tall, proud and finny. The latter is low, smooth and aerodynamic. However, examination of the specs reveals that these vehicles have a lot of similarities.

Both German cars are four-door diesel sedans powered by four-cylinder engines. The old Mercedes weighs 1300kg, while the new BMW weighs 1340kg. The old Mercedes has an engine displacement of 1988cc, whereas the new BMW's engine displaces 1995cc. When it comes to economy, once again, the numbers are close. The old Schwabian gets 32 miles per gallon, whereas the Bavarian newcomer gets 36 mpg.

Where the years of technological development have come into play is in the area of power and performance. The 1965 two-liter diesel engine develops 55 horsepower (DIN) and 113 Newton meters of torque. The 2006 two-liter diesel engine pumps out

163 horsepower (DIN) and 340 Newton meters of torque. This disparity on paper translates into a substantial difference at the contact patch between the tires and the road. While the 40-year-old Finback requires 29 seconds to get from zero to 60 miles per hour, the new car gets there in 8.4 seconds. The '65 diesel has a top speed of 80 miles per hour, and the new oil burner tops out at 135 mph.

Now we see in stark contrast the difference between 1965 and 2006 when it comes to diesel-powered automobiles. From the same engine displacement, it has become possible to propel a vehicle of the same weight to much greater speeds in substantially less time. That is progress! Mercedes also currently builds two-liter diesel engines embodying the latest technology and exhibiting sparkling performance.

One more thing has changed materially since 1965. It is the regulatory environment. Back in the sixties, my parents were able to go to their local foreign car dealer and purchase a two-liter diesel automobile with manual transmission and sensible appointments. While it might not have appealed to a broad segment of American car buyers, my folks had free access to the cutting edge compression ignition technology of their day. Today, Americans cannot purchase a new German two-liter diesel vehicle with manual transmission for love or money. No manufacturer has decided to certify such a car for the United States market. You cannot realistically bring one in on your own legally, either. That's a shame, because diesel engines continue to lead the way in fuel economy, safety and environmental friendliness, not to mention performance.

Second to using the power of the wind to travel between the scenic ports of call of the Dalmatian coast, I love to drive the give-and-take back roads of western New Jersey in a straightforward, compression-ignitioned starship. Because of government regulation, I'm compelled to undertake this latter activity in a classic Finback. But, hey, I'm not complaining.

— John Kuhn Bleimaier

Mid-Atlantic Concours and Picnic

Sunday, August 20, 2006 — North Potomac, Maryland

Name(s) _____ Member # _____

Address _____

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

E-mail address _____

No. of adults (18+) x \$15 _____

No. of children (12 - 17) x \$10 _____
(there is no charge for children under 12)

Total dollar amount enclosed \$ _____

Car entered: Model _____ Year _____ (circle one:) show / street / display

Car entered: Model _____ Year _____ (circle one:) show / street / display

Car entered: Model _____ Year _____ (circle one:) show / street / display

We will bring a Silent Auction item (optional) Yes No (please circle one)

Make check payable to GWS-MBCA.

Send completed form and check to:

Eric Wagner

18 West Uhler Avenue

Alexandria, VA 22301

Summit Point Drivers' Education

July 29-30, 2006

Name (Driver 1): _____ Home Phone _____

Name (Driver 2): _____ Work Phone _____

E-mail 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' Education — 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 cancellations before July 10.

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

Cancellations 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

Cruising the Web . . .

Here are some web sites that you may find of interest:

Greater Washington Section
www.gws-mbca.org

Central Virginia Section
www.mbca.org/cva/

MBCA Club Forums
<http://mbca.cartama.net>

Mercedes-Benz Club of America
www.mbca.org

MBCA 50th Anniversary
www.mbca50th.org

International 190SL Group
<http://190slgroup.com>

M-B Classic Center USA
www.mbusa.com/classic

Mercedes-Benz AG
www.mercedes-benz.com

Daimler-Benz AG
www.daimler-benz.com

MB Dealer Network
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send your changes to:

MBCA

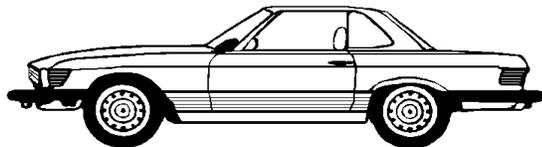
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Driving Smart: Gas-Saving Tips

By Bill Shaw, Curry's Auto Service

The high gas prices we pay at the pump these days affect us all by one degree or another. Unfortunately, we will continue to feel the pinch going forward since even the most optimistic prognosticators predict we will never see pre-Katrina prices again. Interestingly, and despite the high cost of gas, studies have shown that drivers are not changing their driving habits. So where can we find relief?

The most obvious advice is to conserve by driving less, carpooling, taking the bus or metro, or by walking or biking wherever possible. But since these aren't always convenient or practical solutions, the next best answer is to learn to drive smarter. Here are our suggestions towards that end.

Tip #1 – Remove Unnecessary Weight: Extra weight kills fuel efficiency. So lighten the load of your car by taking a good look at what you are carrying in your car—in other words, get the junk out of your trunk. According to the AAA, for every 100 pounds of excess weight that is removed from a vehicle, this will yield an additional mile per gallon. Therefore, we recommend scrutinizing what's in your trunk, behind and under the seats, and even what's in your glove compartment.

Tip #2 – Reduce Wind Resistance: If you're planning on taking a trip, try to fit the luggage inside your car instead of strapping it to the top where it creates wind resistance; i.e., drag. And unless regularly used, remove any luggage carriers, bike racks or ski racks from the top of the car since these, too, can create drag and thus lower your gas mileage.

Tip #3 – Keep your engine tuned: Fixing a car that is noticeably out of tune or has failed an emissions test will significantly improve gas mileage. By simply following the manufacturer's recommended service intervals and maintenance schedules, you can improve your mileage by 10 to 20 percent when compared to an out-of-tune engine. In this regard, use a reliable dealer or reputable independent shop like Curry's which uses the newest diagnostic equipment and has access to the latest information.

Tip #4 – Use the Correct Grade of Gas: One of the easiest things you can do for your car and your wallet is to use the correct grade of gas. Check your

owner's manual and use the gas that it recommends for your car and fill up when you see cheap gas. Also and in this regard, we recommend periodically using a quality fuel additive. Deposits can build up around your fuel injectors over time which block the flow of gas to your engine. Using a proven fuel injector cleaner like BG 44K will allow the engine to run more efficiently.

Tip #5 – Properly Inflate Your Tires: Under-inflated tires waste million gallons of gas per day and can increase fuel consumption by six percent. Be sure to maintain the manufacturer-recommended tire pressure and check the tires every two weeks, preferably in the morning when they are cold. And if this weren't reason enough, properly inflated tires are safer and will last longer.

Tip #6 – Accelerate and brake smoothly: When driving, accelerate gently, break gradually and avoid hard stops. Fast starts can double fuel consumption when compared to gradual acceleration, and driving at lower speeds will get you better mileage. Also, avoid excess idling whenever possible. Idling gets 0 miles per gallon, and cars with larger engines typically waste more gas at idle than cars with smaller engines.

Tip #7 – Use the Cruise Control: Use the cruise control and overdrive gears when driving on the highway. The cruise control will help maintain a constant speed and, in most cases, will save gas. Also keep in mind that for every 5 mph over 60 you go, it is like adding a dime onto the price of a gallon of gas. That alone can improve fuel efficiency by 15 percent. Using overdrive gears will also increase gas mileage and reduce engine wear.

Tip #8 – Keep the Air Filter Clean: A clogged air filter can drop fuel economy by up to 10 percent. Replacing a clogged air filter, much like changing an oil filter, keeps airborne contaminants from damaging the inside of your engine. Not only will replacing a dirty air filter save gas, it will protect your engine.

Tip #9 – Combine Errands: According to the AAA, three out of every five miles are driven to places other than commuting to work. Where you

Continued on page 18

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.

Robert M. Bachman
Poolesville, MD

Everett F. Boyd
Baltimore, MD

Lore L. Chambers
Salisbury, MD

Cary M. Cooper
Columbia, MD

Raymond A. Cuomo
Forest Hill, MD

Richard H. Dianich
Bethesda, MD

Robert A. Dyke
Baltimore, MD

Jason Enrique
Towson, MD

Boris Galitzin
Rockville, MD

William R. Harper
McLean, VA

Robert Irby III
Silver Spring, MD

Knight A. Kiplinger
Washington, DC

John F. Little
Gainesville, VA

Helen Marie Lynch
Alexandria, VA

Jeff Masoner
Upper Marlboro, MD

Michael N. Mitchell
Springfield, VA

J. Patrick Newell
Warrenton, VA

Philip Peel
Alexandria, VA

Gary Smith
Herndon, VA

Robert E. Spence
Herndon, VA

Angel D. Stanislaus
Waldorf, MD

Geoffrey B. Voigt
Upper Marlboro, MD

Skip Walker
Washington, DC

Harold Zint
Manassas, VA

David K. Zirretta
Owings Mills, MD

Gas-Saving Tips — *Cont'd from page 17*

can, plan the most efficient route, pare down the number of errands, and choose shopping areas where you can tackle several errands without moving the car.

Tip #10 – Use the right oil: You can improve your gas mileage by one or two percent by using the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil. For example, using 10W-30 motor oil in an engine designed to use 5W-30 can lower your gas mileage by 1-2 percent. Using 5W-30 in an engine designed

for 5W-20 can lower your gas mileage by 1-1.5 percent. Also, look for motor oil that says "Energy Conserving" on the API performance symbol to be sure it contains friction-reducing additives.

It's important to ensure that your car is able to perform at its most efficient level. But taking it to a dependable shop like Curry's is only half the battle. As pointed out above, changes in driving habits are essential to keeping gas costs in check too. By learning to drive smarter and following these simple guidelines, you will keep cash in your pocket—not putting it in your gas tank—regardless of the kind of car you drive.

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:

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300 SL, 1990: Silver gray/navy leather. 54K miles! One owner/driver for past 11 years. Two tops, CD player, factory phone, perfect paint and interior. Looks new, runs great. Four brand new Michelin Z-rated tires, garaged. \$12,900 (\$3,000 below N.A.D.A. retail). See it at the picnic on Aug. 20. Contact Joe at (703) 256-3930 or fax (703) 658-3556.

380 SL, 1985: Champagne/brown top and interior. 60,200 miles, excellent condition #2, both tops. Always garaged, all original, beautiful. \$21,000. Call Arnie at (443) 262-9176 or e-mail weisshaar@msn.com.

280 SL, 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.

220 S sedan (Ponton), 1958: Rebuilt engine; owned since 1976, last driven 1986 (garaged since then). Many valuable extra parts (e.g., transmission, grille, wood, instrument cluster, heads, manifolds, etc.). MB shop manuals. Minimal rust. Leather upholstery shot. Needs paint. Runs rough on 1986 gas. Best offer. Call Harold at (703) 361-7334 or e-mail devnull2@earthlink.net.

Alloy Wheels: Four Continental tires, very good condition,

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 more information, as well as business ad rates, contact Janet McFarland at the same number.

mounted on 205/75Rx16 alloy wheels in excellent condition. Set came off my 2000 E320 sedan. Best offer over \$600. Call Hugh at (410) 480-3631.

New Deluxe Custom Fit Car Cover for 560 SL: Kimberly Clark's newest film barrier fabric stops dust particles but still allows moisture vapor or heat to escape. Tan. \$150. Also selling dark blue hard top (for '73-'89 560 SL). Mint condition. \$500. Call Jim at (410) 476-5274.

Seeking information: Looking for information on where to obtain a burlwood steering wheel insert for a 1984 380 SL. Most grateful for any assistance! Please contact Bill Lofquist at (703) 860-0377 or by e-mail at bllofquist@comcast.net.

Nominations for Officers

Interested in getting more involved with and learning more about GWS activities? Here is your opportunity. The section's nominating committee is seeking candidates for officers who will serve for the years 2006-2008.

According to our section's bylaws, every two years the membership elects the president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. This year the election will be held during the annual membership meeting on October 22 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the American Service Center in Arlington.

If serving as an officer is more than what you are

interested in, but you still would like to get more involved, please feel free to talk to anyone on the nominating committee or any of the current officers. The section is always looking for "new blood."

If you are interested in serving as an officer or would like more information, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members by July 15.

Harry Newman harry.newman@adelphia.net

Tom McQueen McQueenre@aol.com

Bobbie Wozney bewozney@verizon.net

Section Officers, Board Members

Officers

President

Joe Wozney
1625 Park Overlook Drive
Reston, VA 20190-4920
(703) 437-7866/FAX (703) 481-6222
E-mail: JoeWozney@aol.com

Vice President

Bill Hopper
5455 Broad Branch Road, NW
Washington, DC 20015
(202) 363-4189
E-mail: WWHRestoration@att.net

Secretary

Eric Wagner
18 West Uhler Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301
(703) 549-5261
E-mail: wagnerek@comcast.net

Treasurer

Jim Glenn
9513 Mount Vernon Landing
Alexandria, VA 22309-3222
(703) 360-1669
E-mail: jrjglenn@erols.com

Metro Tri-Star Editors

Deborah Hirtes (703) 521-3120
Janet McFarland (703) 765-9405

Regional Director

Greg Magnus
(804) 915-7379
E-mail: greg@eoecho.com

Board Members – Appointed

Harry Newman (540) 869-4274
Dave Thompson (703) 406-1586

Board Members – Committee Chairs

Driving Events

Joe Wozney (acting chair) (703) 437-7866

Membership

(call 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

Deborah and Klaus Hirtes (703) 521-3120
E-mail: kdhirtes@comcast.net
FAX: (703) 521-0819

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Rick Ellinger, RC Imports (301) 762-4205
Bob Hafenmair
Star Auto Serv (410) 399-7827
Larry Hook, ASC (703) 284-2490

SUMMIT POINT

Continued from page 1

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 *#%ø Beltway and try performance driving. Plan now on joining us! If you have any questions, please call Joe Wozney at (703) 437-7866.

MID-ATLANTIC CONCOURS, PICNIC

Continued from page 1

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). All items will be sold to the highest bidder.

Membership anniversary pins will be presented to those section members who are celebrating five-year multiple (5, 10, 20, etc.) anniversaries.

Members with cars in the concours should plan to arrive between 9 and 10 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 a.m.

The cost for the picnic is \$15 per person. The cost at the gate will be \$20. For questions about registration, call Eric Wagner at (703) 549-5261. The rain date is August 27. **Please fill out the registration form on page 12** so we know how many cars to expect and how much food to plan for.

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

GWS Vice President Bill Hopper (right) and David Feske recently attended June Jamboree in Montvale, N.J. This photo was snapped by the club photographer for that event. June Jamboree was the start of MBCA's 50th anniversary celebration.



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