



METRO TRI-STAR

2006 GWS Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

October 22 – American Service Center, Arlington, Va.

It is that bi-annual time—probably the most important for the Greater Washington Section—to select our leaders for two more years. Candidates for the offices of president, vice president, secretary and treasurer are being sought to serve for the 2006-2008 term.

The meeting and elections will be held at the annual membership meeting at Mercedes-Benz of Arlington on October 22, 2006, from 1-3 p.m. What an exciting opportunity for members to work together to “make things happen” for the section—the picnics, driving events, social get-togethers, concours, technical sessions, regional and national multi-day conferences. The rewards are numerous: new friends . . . meeting and working with people who have a common car interest . . . expanding your knowledge of the marque and the industry (U.S.A. and Germany) . . . the opportunity to hone your business, communication and interpersonal skills . . . and the appreciation of your fellow club members.

The nominating committee, consisting of GWS members Tom McQueen, Harry Newman and Barbara Wozney, has sought qualified GWS members who would be interested in serving the section as officers for the 2006-2008 term.

The committee is pleased to present the following candidates for consideration by the GWS membership:

President..... Bill Hopper
Vice President Eric Wagner
Secretary..... Julian Reeves
Treasurer..... Paul Vandenberg

Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor. If there is more than one nominee for a given office, a written ballot will be distributed at the meeting. The results will be determined by a majority vote of those members present at the meeting (refer to Bylaws, Article VIII: Nominations and Elections).

This event is the last one in 2006 at which anniversary membership pins will be awarded, so if you missed the

Continued on page 5



In this Issue:

Calendar of Events	3
GWS Election Information	1, 5, 25
Autocross Results	7, 8
Local Membership Benefits	12
MBCA Loyalty Reward Program	18
The Trading Post	25

The Right Mercedes-Benz At The Right Price At Your Choice Of Two Right Locations.

Whether you prefer our classic original in Arlington, or our brand new, state-of-the-art location in Alexandria, you'll find the same great service and selection, as well as our commitment to giving you the right price on your new or previously owned Mercedes-Benz.



MERCEDES. JUST MERCEDES.

585 North Glebe Road, Arlington, VA 22203 · 703-525-2100 · justmercedes.com

mercedes-benz of alexandria 

200 SOUTH PICKETT STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22304 703-341-2100

MercedesBenzOfAlexandria.com

Calendar of Events

Greater Washington Section Events 2006-2007

- 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,
Arlington, Va.
See pages 1, 5 and 25 for more information.
- Nov. 5 Autocross #8: Winchester, Va.
Contact: Joe Wozney at (703) 437-7866
- Dec. 3 New Members' Reception
HBL, Vienna, Va.
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 along with the latest updates and additions.

Regional and National Events

- Oct. 1-5 StarFest2006, Las Vegas, Nev
(hosted by the Las Vegas Section)
Contact Don Loyd at (702) 253-0407

National Election:

Candidates for this year's MBCA election have been verified, and members should already have received their election ballot (including statements written by the candidates) in the mail.

The MBCA National Board currently consists of eight Directors at Large (DALs) and eleven Regional Directors (RDs).

Please review the election material carefully and mark your ballot for the candidate(s) of your choice. Your participation in the election process is important. Ballots must be completed properly, signed, and received by October 16, 2006 to be counted.

Longtime GWS Member Tom Sheppard Dies at 86

Longtime GWS member Tom Sheppard passed away Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2006 at his home in Silver Spring, Md. after a long illness.

Not only had Tom been a member of the GWS since 1965, he had been an extremely active one until recently. Much of what the section has become today is due to the hard work by Tom and many of the early members.

Tom served as section secretary for the 1968-69 and 1969-70 terms and as treasurer for 1974-75 and 1975-76. He also served as MBCA's Regional Vice President (now Regional Director).

Tom tried to stay active in spite of numerous health problems. He actually drove his last autocross in 1999 at the age of 79. Two years earlier, he took third place in the very large and competitive 16-Valve/500E class in the GWS autocross series.

It was just last year when Tom came to the summer picnic and was presented with his 40-year anniversary pin. That was a bittersweet time for Tom, as he looked back on his years with the club with his wife of 53 years, Roberta, who died in 2003. (She had served as secretary for the 1975-76 term, vice president in 1978-80 and newsletter editor for several years.)

Together, they were a team, preparing their car for driving events and concours, where they won the Daimler-Benz overall trophy twice. They ran numerous section and national driving events, and together they developed a large group of friends across the U.S. They also served as co-chairs of the GWS membership committee.

A celebration of his life was held Aug. 26 in Silver Spring.

From the President . . .

A Parting Shot...

Over the years, there were some great goodbye lines from the famous and infamous. From Edward R. Murrow there was “Good night and good luck.” Jimmy Durante gave us “Good night, Mrs. Calabash, wherever you are.” Julius Caesar left with the words “Et tu, Brute?” Hmm, maybe that’s not a good example of a sign-off. Porky Pig had his signature “Th-th-th-that’s all folks!” Of course Porky had Joe Dougherty and Mel Blanc to say his lines for him. Finally, there was the famous duo of Chet Huntley and David Brinkley who closed with the lines “Good night David.” “Good night Chet.”

Why am I reminiscing about these varied ways of saying goodbye? After four years of serving as your president, I will be finishing my term on October 22 at the annual membership meeting. I realize that I can’t name all of you as Chet and David did—there were only two of them—but I do want to say “so long” to the 1,400 of you out there.

Looking back, I’d have to assess the past four years as pretty darn good both for the club and for me. The club is in a very strong financial position with a great list of regularly scheduled activities and a wonderful group of rising stars—the absolutely most important thing a leader can leave.

These four years have been successful because of people. Volunteers. Hard working volunteers. These people deserve my thanks and yours. So let me name them. There’s Deborah Hirtes (newsletter editor, membership co-chair, and jack of all trades), Bill Hopper (the best and hardest working vice president anyone could have), Jim Glenn (our loyal and hard-working treasurer), Eric Wagner (club secretary, dad, and great event coordinator), Paul Vandenberg and Dave Thompson (our webmasters), Klaus Hirtes (driving instructor, membership co-chair and annual picnic chef), Tom and Harry Newman and Jim Smith

(driving events workers extraordinaire—Harry also was vice president during my first term), Werner Fehlauer (great GWS volunteer—especially at national events—and now South Jersey president), Debbie Repass (for her tireless work on the new GWS Procedures Manual), Janet McFarland (e-mail bulletin honcho and newsletter co-editor), Steve Walters (tech chair), Tom and Mary Kestel (our picnic co-chefs who’ve cooked and served more wursts than anyone in Germany!), Al Angulo, Tracee Glass and Marianne Sener (former club secretaries), Judy and Bruce Roth for their work, especially on concours events. If I’ve missed your name, forgive me!

I also have to thank those folks who served before me. I learned so much from our tireless past presidents, Norbert Lamp and my good friend Chuck Landenberger, who is running for Director at Large.

Finally, I have to thank Bobbie. She has supported me, taught me, counseled me, and worked so very hard over the many years of my (our) club involvement. Every man should be so lucky!

It’s hard to believe that it’s been four years since my first election as president and even harder to believe it’s been twenty years since I first volunteered to work for the club.

So, unlike Chet and David, Jimmy, Porky and Mr. Murrow, I’ll just say: “See you at the next event!”

—Joe



The MBCA Club Store Manager, Richard Disario, unexpectedly passed away August 24. Richard joined the National Business Office (NBO) Team as club store manager in early 2003. Besides being a valuable team member, the entire team will miss Richard’s love for life. Condolences go out to Richard’s family. A memorial tribute will be published in the November/December *Star* magazine.

GWS Annual Meeting — *Cont'd from page 1*

annual holiday party or the recent picnic, this will be the time to get your pin.

After the meeting, members will have an opportunity to visit the showroom and enjoy refreshments compliments of American Service Center. We look forward to seeing you.

Candidates Statements/Biographies

President – Bill Hopper

I am looking for your support as I run for the office of president for the Greater Washington Section of MBCA.

It has been my pleasure to be a part of GWS over the years, getting to know so many members and seeing them benefit from their membership.

I began as the social chair in 2000, and have spent the last two years as your vice president. This has given me a great insight to the club and its members. During that time, I have served on numerous section, regional and national MBCA committees, giving GWS members a strong voice at the national level.

As your president, I would want you to feel free to come and discuss with me issues facing the club. I am always open to new ideas, and I am interested in hearing your views. I feel the best way we can make this club better is by working together to help guide the section and to continue its impressive position within the overall MBCA organization. GWS is the largest section in the country and the most active with a wide variety of events each year. I want to see that continue and improve.

Thank you for your support. Please attend the annual membership meeting this year on October 22 and take part in the election process.

Vice President – Eric Wagner

My name is Eric Wagner, and I am asking you to support my candidacy for vice president of the GWS. I have been an MBCA member since 2002 and have served as secretary for more than a year.

When I bought my 1982 W123 200 four years ago, Mercedes automobiles had long been an integral part of my automotive experience. The origin of my Mercedes-Benz love affair might have been when my parents took me to Sindelfingen to pick up our 240D

and continued when my wife and I drove a 190D. Mercedes have always been around in my family. It was my uncle's 500SLC that perhaps impressed me most, and the image of reliability, luxury and attention to detail left an indelible impression.

Our dynamic section with its great mix of backgrounds in the membership and a full and varied events calendar offers opportunities for all members to enjoy the fellowship unique to car enthusiasts. Should you elect me, I am determined to work with the new board in carrying on the great work of our leadership, continuing the exciting events and programs while integrating new events into the schedule and reversing the decline of the membership numbers.

Secretary – Julian Reeves

I joined Greater Washington Section in 2002 after purchasing a C240. When I found out that we have an autocross program, I switched over from SCCA where I had been driving for about 27 years. We (includes my wife, Deborah) have transitioned through a C320 to our current SL500, which I get to drive on weekends. I thoroughly enjoy being a member of the club and look forward to being a more active participant.

I am a human resources contract consultant and am currently employed at Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), under the Department of Homeland Security.

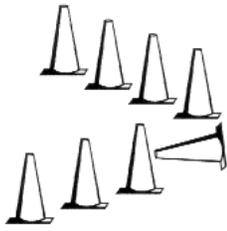
I was born in Nashville, Tenn. and attended schools in Tallahassee, Fla.; Savannah, Ga.; and Forest Hills, N.Y. I graduated from Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H. with a bachelor's degree in Russian Language and Literature.

I worked for the federal government at agencies including the Department of Navy, U.S. Civil Service Commission, Social Security Administration, Department of Army, Department of Defense Dependents Schools, Federal Communications Commission, Interstate Commerce Commission, and Defense Logistics Agency. Recently, as a contract consultant, I have worked at the Transportation Security Administration, Department of Energy, Department of Navy, Environmental Protection Agency, and ICE. My forte is providing human resources and management

Continued on page 25

pylon alley

by
Joe Wozney



Autocross #4

Our July event was notable for its very short course. Drivers had eight runs each. Fastest Time of Day was set by Pete G in his Honda S2000 in just 27.829 seconds. Five other drivers were within one second of the winning time based on raw score.

In the Mercedes-Benz classic ladies' and men's classes, Deborah Hirtes took Greta O'Malley by exactly one second, and Hans O'Malley, who ran unopposed, ran an impressive 30 second time.

After missing two events, Bill Stewart returned to claim the 16-Valve class win over Ted Joseph and Denise Dersin, but all three drivers were within less than two-tenths of a second. Denise had won the two previous contests.

Ben Weber continues to surprise everyone with his little 190 2.3, making it three out of four firsts this year. Jim Smith was second in his 2.6, and Bill Hopper was third in his C280. The top three cars in this class were separated by just eight-tenths.

John Robinson bested Julian Reeves in the V8 class, and John Krahulec ran unopposed in the AMG sedan class. Ted Joseph took the SLK class, beating Denise for the second time that day. He also took Fastest Mercedes-Benz Time of Day. Denise had Fastest Ladies of Day.

In the Ladies non-Mercedes class, Barrie G seems to be catching on to the "new" Miata and eked out a less than four-tenths indexed win over Sharon Payne.

The aforementioned Pete G had FTD and a twenty-thousandths of a second win over John Brubaker in his Golf R32. Tom Newman was third in Wee Asp.

The WRX boys—Ramzey Khoury and François Bru—were fourth and fifth. Bill Lear (Acura) and John Jens (VW GTI) rounded out the top seven.

Autocross #5

Our August event was blessed with near perfect weather—we even had jackets on in the morning! There just aren't many days like that in the dog days of August!

Deborah Hirtes made it 5 for 5 and bested Greta O'Malley by six-tenths to ensure the 2006 series win. Hans O'Malley beat Klaus Hirtes by more than two-tenths. Since Klaus has missed three events—and with only three events—to go, Hans has a commanding lead in the points race.

Denise Dersin was back on the winning track and took Bill Stewart (by nearly seven-tenths) and Ted Joseph (by almost a second) in the 16-Valve class. Ben Weber garnered his 40th point and is taking the 190/C-Class contingent by storm in his 190 2.3.

John Robinson took yet another V8 win, giving him 40 points for the four events he's made. Julian Reeves took another second, giving him 45 points for 5 events. In the AMG class, John Krahulec took the honors with Jim Glenn second. It was Jim's first appearance this year and now John has 40 points.

Denise took another class win over Ted in the SLK along with Ladies Fastest Time of Day—she was within two-tenths of overall fastest time. Ted had Fastest Mercedes Time of Day for Men.

Mike Wirt (Audi S4) was back in a big way! His win in the non-Mercedes class gives him 39 points (4 events) in the race for overall win. Pete G had another FTD and took second place. Pete has 27 points in three events. John Brubaker (R32) was third and now has 35 points in 4 events.

Fourth place went to John Jens (GTI) and fifth to Carl Beveridge in his Boxster S. Jeremy Jens drove his "other" R32 (the stock one) to sixth. Gonzalo Puig drove to 7th place in his "new to him" Miata.

Barrie G drove her Miata to another ladies win and now has 39 points to Sharon Payne's 38. Barrie had Ladies non-Mercedes Fastest Time of Day.

[Correction: In Autocross #3, Ted Joseph had Men's Fastest Time of Day]

2006 Autocross #4 Results

DRIVER	CAR	BEST TIME	POINTS
Deborah Hirtes	67 230SL	32.453	10
Greta O'Malley	72 300SEL 4.5	33.453	9
Hans O'Malley	72 300SEL 4.5	30.638	10
Bill Stewart	86 190E 2.3-16	30.012	10
Ted Joseph	86 190E 2.3-16	30.143	9
Denise Dersin	86 190E 2.3-16	30.185	8
Ben Weber	86 190E2.3	31.013	10
Jim Smith	92 190E 2.6	31.200	9
Bill Hopper	97 C280	31.811	8
Al Angulo	89 190E 2.6	32.523	7
John Robinson	88 560SL	30.573	10
Julian Reeves	03 500SL	31.259	9
John Krahulec	04 E55 AMG	29.808	10
Ted Joseph*	05 SLK350	28.444	10
Denise Dersin**	05 SLK350	28.789	9

* MB-FTD Gentlemen's Fastest Time of Day in a Mercedes
 ** LFTD = Ladies Fastest Time of Day
 *** OM-LFTD Ladies Fastest Time of Day in a non-Mercedes
 **** FTD = Fastest Time of Day

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

Other Marques

DRIVER	CAR	BEST TIME	CLASS	INDEX	INDEX TIME	POINTS
Barrie Gochman***	99 Mazda Miata	30.752	CSPL	0.838	25.770	10
Sharon Payne	99 Saab Viggen	32.940	GSL	0.794	26.154	9
Pete Gochman****	05 Honda S2000	27.829	AS	0.831	23.126	10
John Brubaker	04 VW Golf R32	29.005	DS	0.798	23.146	9
Tom Newman	02 Ford Focus SVT	29.568	GS	0.794	23.477	8
Ramzy Khoury	04 Subaru WRX Sti	28.287	AS	0.831	23.506	7
François Bru	05 Subaru WRX Sti	28.640	AS	0.831	23.800	6
Bill Lear	92 Acura Integra GSR	28.810	DSP	0.829	23.883	5
John Jens	06 VW Golf GTI	30.351	GS	0.794	24.099	4
David Reeves	04 Subaru WRX Sti	29.068	AS	0.831	24.156	3
Harry Newman	97 Subaru SVX	30.946	GS	0.794	24.571	2
Stephen Squires	00 Audi S4	30.992	DS	0.798	24.732	1
Brett Hack	90 Mazda Miata	30.933	STS2	0.802	24.808	1
DeKouti Sayoh	05 Saab 9-2X	31.240	STX	0.804	25.117	1
Joel Watkinson	00 Ford Mustang	31.371	FS	0.805	25.254	1
Don Fitzpatrick	98 Mit. Eclipse GSX	30.036	SM	0.845	25.380	1
Bob Robinson	03 Corvette Z06	30.365	SS	0.840	25.507	1
Matthew Zint	00 Audi S4	31.159	STU	0.820	25.550	1
Gary Travis	06 Mustang	31.987	FS	0.805	25.750	1
Ron Mummert	93 Nissan 240SX	32.974	GS	0.794	26.181	1
Aaron Skeen	99 BMW M Coupe	32.177	BS	0.822	26.449	1
C. Jason Happ	99 Mit. Eclipse GST	34.010	GS	0.794	27.004	1
Chris Higgins	95 BMW 318i	32.682	DSP	0.829	27.093	1
Jay Chandler	03 Mit. EVO VIII	33.116	STU	0.820	27.155	1
Milton Paul	92 Mazda Miata	33.034	CSP	0.838	27.682	1

2006 Autocross #5 Results

DRIVER	CAR	BEST TIME	POINTS
Deborah Hirtes	67 230SL	59.722	10
Greta O'Malley	72 300SEL 4.5	60.351	9
Hans O'Malley	72 300SEL 4.5	57.603	10
Klaus Hirtes	67 230SL	57.842	9
Denise Dersin	86 190E 2.3-16	55.183	10
Bill Stewart	86 190E 2.3-16	55.834	9
Ted Joseph	86 190E 2.3-16	56.071	8
Ben Weber	86 190E2.3	59.357	10
Bill Hopper	97 C280	59.677	9
Mariusz Dymerski	90 300E	62.310	8
Paul D. Vandenberg	90 190E 2.6	69.496	7
John Robinson	88 560SL	57.213	10
Julian Reeves	03 500SL	58.767	9
Bill Repass	93 400E	59.836	8
John Krahulec	04 E55 AMG	55.143	10
Jim Glenn	03 E55 AMG	58.085	9
Denise Dersin*	05 SLK350	53.167	10
Ted Joseph**	05 SLK350	53.381	9

* LFTD = Ladies Fastest Time of Day
 ** MB-GFTD = Gentlemen's Fastest Time of Day in a Mercedes
 *** OM-LFTD Ladies Fastest Time of Day in a non-Mercedes
 **** FTD = Fastest Time of Day

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

Other Marques

DRIVER	CAR	BEST TIME	CLASS	INDEX	INDEX TIME	POINTS
Barrie Gochman***	99 Mazda Miata	58.424	CSPL	0.838	48.959	10
Mike Wirt	00 Audi S4	54.811	DS	0.798	43.739	10
Pete Gochman****	05 Honda S2000	52.941	AS	0.831	43.994	9
John Brubaker	04 VW Golf R32	55.601	DS	0.798	44.370	8
John Jens	06 VW Golf GTI	56.321	GS	0.794	44.719	7
Ramzey Khoury	04 Subaru WRX Sti	54.247	AS	0.831	45.079	6
Carl Beveridge	06 Porsche Boxster S	54.597	AS	0.831	45.370	5
Jeremy Jens	04 VW Golf R32	56.924	DS	0.798	45.425	4
Gonzalo Puig	90 Mazda Miata	56.270	CS	0.813	45.748	3
Eric Stieve	88 Toy. Cel. All Trac	54.451	SM	0.845	46.011	2
Harry Newman	97 Subaru SVX	58.095	GS	0.794	46.127	1
Fernando Puig	02 Subaru WRX Sti	54.816	SM	0.845	46.320	1
Bill Lear	92 Acura Integra GSR	55.965	DSP	0.829	46.395	1
Joseph Brusehaser	00 BMW M Roadster	56.823	BS	0.822	46.709	1
Ritchie Crim	04 Pontiac GTO	59.053	FS	0.805	47.538	1
Bob Robinson	03 Corvette Z06	56.695	SS	0.840	47.624	1
Doc Whitley	05 Volvo S60R	59.862	DS	0.798	47.770	1
Joel Watkinson	00 Ford Mustang	59.468	FS	0.805	47.872	1
Matthew Zint	00 Audi S4	58.502	STU	0.820	47.972	1
Milton Paul	92 Mazda Miata	60.122	CSP	0.838	50.382	1
Chris Higgins	95 BMW 318i	60.952	DSP	0.829	50.529	1
Ron Mummert	93 Nissan 240SX	64.151	GS	0.794	50.936	1

High Gear . . .

Classic cars are important. Many are works of art, and all are historical artifacts. They give us a sense of the evolution of style, and they represent important milestones in the saga of the industrial era. Additionally, some collector vehicles have interesting provenance. They may have been the personal conveyances of notable individuals or may have spent generations in the possession of a single family. Because of the inherently intimate connection between man and motorcar, a historic car tells us something about the long ago personage who originally possessed it. Witness: Woodrow Wilson's frumpy Pierce Arrow; Franklin Roosevelt's egalitarian Ford Phaeton with hand controls; Frank Lloyd Wright's sleek Mercedes 300b.

When we preserve old cars, we preserve history. But we do more than that. Members of the Mercedes Benz Club of America who keep their superannuated starships on the road do a great marketing service for Mercedes-Benz USA. Every time I drive my well maintained 1965 Finback down the byways of New Jersey, I sell new Mercedes automobiles. First of all, proving the legendary durability of the Mercedes automobile represents an invaluable advertisement. But almost as important is the concept that there is something special about the spirit of Mercedes-Benz vehicles which inspires collectors and enthusiasts. When a contemporary buyer drives off the dealer's lot in his new "C class," in his mind's eye he is tooling down the road in a legendary 540K or a Gullwing. This isn't hallucination or self delusion. There is, indeed, a very real thread of common engineering heritage which links today's starships to their illustrious antecedents.

The preservation of historic mechanical objects has an impact on the quality of today's industrial production as well. Let me explain. A few years ago, I visited the Beretta factory in Gardone Valtrumpia, Italy. As you may know, Beretta is one of the world's largest manufacturers of sporting firearms. At the

center of the factory complex consisting of acres of milling machines, lathes, drill presses and kilns is the Beretta restoration shop. This is a haven of painstaking hand work and contemplation, where knowledgeable masters bring classic Beretta shotguns back to their original factory specifications and make them ready for future generations. I asked my host from the Beretta family how it was economically feasible for the factory to maintain an old world restoration shop at the center of its modern manufacturing facility. The answer surprised me, "It's great for employee morale." You see, the Beretta workers who produce today's sporting arms are proud to be a part of a historic continuum. They are positively motivated by the knowledge that some of the shotguns which they build today may come back to the factory a generation or two down the road for loving restoration and cherished preservation.

The Mercedes Classic Centers at Fellbach in Germany and in Newport Beach, California similarly help motivate Mercedes workers in Stuttgart and service personnel across the United States. It's a good feeling to build and maintain something that is not a throw-away trinket with planned obsolescence, but is rather a potential treasured artifact.

We members of MBCA who keep our old starships on the road do our part. In my opinion, that is the real reason why Mercedes-Benz USA is now offering loyalty bonuses for members of our club who purchase a new Mercedes. They are encouraging us in our mission of preservation by easing the financial burden of purchasing a suitable new Mercedes "daily driver." Next time I buy a new Mercedes from the dealership, I look forward to proudly claiming my "loyalty bonus." Hey, I earned it! 'Course I ain't ever goin' to trade in my old Finback on a new starship. My parents bought that 1965 car new back when I was in high school. That's the ultimate provenance as far as I am concerned!

— **John Kuhn Bleimaier**

Mid-Atlantic Concours and Picnic 2006

The rain gods were good to us on Sunday, Aug. 20 for the ever-popular annual GWS Picnic and Mid-Atlantic Concours d'Elegance, held in North Potomac at the lovely estate of GWS members Steve and Barbara Newby.

The prediction of 40 percent rain was a little unsettling at first, but apparently didn't keep too many people away. It turned out to be a hot, humid day (until later in the afternoon)—the perfect kind of weather for a picnic and a splash in the pool.

As the concours entrants arrived, there was a flurry of activity as they did some last-minute cleaning and polishing of their cars. There were some exquisite specimens of Mercedes-Benz craftsmanship displayed on the beautifully manicured lawn—everything from a tiny, economical Smart car to an elegant, soaring Gullwing—with lots of shiny German design and engineering in between.

For those who weren't as interested in the car show, there were plenty of other things to keep them occupied: cold beverages, a silent auction, a club store, an inviting swimming pool, and, of course, the bratwursts and hamburgers.

Many people don't realize the tremendous amount of work that goes into an event such as this—all with volunteers from the section.

GWS Secretary Eric Wagner took on the task of point man for this event, not only overseeing the registration and concours, but also arranging for the rolls and cakes.

A somewhat thankless job is that of a concours judge—but we would like to rectify that by thanking our six teams for doing a really incredible job, especially in the intense heat. The six judges and their scribes were (1) Robby Ackerman and Michael Anthony Smith, (2) Ted Joseph and Dale Dulaney, (3) Tim Brischler and Ted Whitehouse, (4) Andrew Strasfogel and Steve DiGirolamo, (5) Rick Aleshire (who worked alone), and (6) Jodi Zimmerman and the father/son scribe team of Richard and Phillip

Mackey. Eric organized the groups in such a way that the judges did not judge in categories where their own cars were competing.

GWS Vice President Bill Hopper registered guests as they came in. And he also did a lot of the work behind the scenes, including purchasing food and making several trips to the site to drop off needed items (grill, garbage cans, club store items, plates, napkins, drinks, etc.) and helping with set-up and, of course, tear-down.

GWS President Joe Wozney, Membership Co-chairs Klaus and Deborah Hirtes and Bill Hopper were there bright and early, ready for set-up.

Joe also made numerous trips to the local purveyors of ice—not always easy on a Sunday morning.

GWS Secretary Jim Glenn, along with Mid-Atlantic Regional Director Greg Magnus and Joe Wozney manned the bar tent—doing a very brisk business and offering a nice selection of beer and wine as well as soft drinks and thirst-quenching water.

Over the years, Klaus and Deborah Hirtes and Tom and Mary Kestel have the food section down to a science. While Klaus flipped the burgers and Tom grilled the brats, Deborah and Mary kept the trays filled with condiments, potato salad, coleslaw, pickles, sliced rolls and cake. (And speaking of cakes, these were beautiful AND delicious—decorated with the section's logo and that of the 50th anniversary of MBCA. Thank you, Eric!).

Bobbie Wozney, one foot in a cast, took care of the silent auction and club store. Thanks to all those members who brought items to be auctioned off. With the auction, tips and 50/50, we raised \$742.50 for Children's National Medical Center and the Hospital for Sick Children Pediatric Center.

The rain began at around 3 p.m., just as the silent auction closed and the concours awards and member-



Our compliments to the chefs.

Continued on page 13

Food, Fun and Great Cars!



*Martin Stickley and his rare
1967 300SE Cabriolet*



*Jim Glenn, Joe Wozney and Greg Magnus serve a
cold drink to Oliver Mitchell.*

(photos by Janet McFarland)



*David Hay and Dean Turner strategize
on an oil leak.*



Jodi Zimmerman and his 2003 SL500

Local MBCA Membership Does Have Its Benefits

Just recently, MBCA and MBUSA announced a Mercedes-Benz Club of America benefit that has been wanted by members for some time, a cash rebate of up to \$2,500 on the purchase of a new Mercedes-Benz vehicle from a U.S. dealer (with European delivery included in that offer—see page 18).

Many MBCA members may not know, however, that local dealers have been giving discounts to members for a long time—all you have to do is ask for it.

Each dealer offers something different, so when doing business with your local Mercedes-Benz retailer, no matter who they are, talk to your service advisor or sales manager to confirm your membership and the benefit that the dealership offers MBCA members.

We did a recent poll of local dealers to see what discounts and offers they give to GWS-MBCA members. Here is what we found.

- **Mercedes-Benz of Alexandria** (Alexandria, Va.) offers 10 percent off service *and* parts. On new car sales: buyers' club pricing; on pre-owned: the assurance that members buy a certified pre-owned model as well as 10 percent off the extended warranty purchased with that vehicle.
- **American Service Center** (Arlington, Va.) offers 10 percent off service *and* parts (additional discount on parts during GWS DIY tech events.) On new car sales: a discount upon showing your MBCA membership card. On pre-owned: 7 percent off asking price.
- **Euro Motors** (Bethesda, Md.) offers 10 percent off the price of parts. On new car sales: 3 years free service.
- **Mercedes-Benz of Germantown** (Germantown, Md.) offers 10 percent off service *and* parts. On new car sales: show the sales manager your membership card and a discount will be applied, depending on model. On pre-owned cars: your best deal plus \$500 off.
- **Mercedes-Benz of Tyson's Corner/HBL** (Vienna, Va.) offers 10 percent off parts. Internet pricing on new car sales.

As always, it is best to carry your MBCA membership card and show it to your service advisor or

sales manager when doing business with any Mercedes-Benz dealer anywhere in the country. Membership in the Mercedes-Benz Club of America is worth more than you know.

On top of these great deals, being a member of the Greater Washington Section also offers you some other Mercedes-Benz Club benefits. Each month, GWS holds events, be they social, technical, driving or concours. These are all great opportunities for you—the member—to come out and enjoy your Mercedes-Benz automobile even more.

Do you often wonder how well your car will do at high speed? Come out to one of our track events. For less than the cost of a speeding ticket, you and your car will have fun, and you will learn to be a better driver! Ever wish you took one of those driving classes to improve your in-town driving? Come out to an autocross and see how well you and your car do in obstacle avoidance. What about when you take the time to clean your Mercedes-Benz, do you ever wonder if it is an award winner? Come out to a concours and show it off.

As a Greater Washington Section member, you have a lot of opportunities available to you to enhance your Mercedes-Benz ownership experience. All you have to do is take advantage of them.

2006 MBCA Raffle — Part 2

In a few days you'll receive notice of the second MBCA raffle for this year. This one has something very special! First prize is a 2006 MBCA Limited Edition (the only one to be made) SL550. The car has a list price of \$104,800. Second prize is \$44,105, the MSRP equivalent of a 2006 SLK350. Third prize will be \$32,185, the MSRP equivalent of a 2006 C230 Sport Sedan. Fourth prize is \$10,000 cash.

Tickets will be \$60 and sales are limited to 8,500 tickets. With a one-of-a-kind car up for grabs, this promises to be the most exciting raffle in years! It should be noted that GWS members won two of the three prizes in the last raffle.

Mid-Atlantic Concours and Picnic — *Continued from page 10*

ship pins were to be handed out. But that didn't stop the excitement as the winners were announced (see list below) and anniversary pins were awarded.

Anniversary Pins

The picnic/concours is the second event of the year in which anniversary pins are handed out (the other two being the holiday party in January and the annual meeting in October). Receiving their pins were:

Edward Schlichter	20 years
Andrew Strasfogel	20 years
Thomas Kestel	20 years
Roger Facklam	15 years
R. Schissel	15 years
Ted Joseph	10 years
Denise Dersin	5 years

Additionally, Rhonda Brown, who was to receive a 5-year pin, forgot to pick up it after her excitement at having been announced the winner of the 50/50 raffle. We hope to see her at the annual meeting as well as many others who are eligible for 5-, 10-, 15- and 20-year pins, especially W. Griffith, V. Ostrander, Mary Rever, Albert Small, Robert Tantillo and Michael Tynan who are due their 25-year pins.

It was also great seeing MBCA Director-at-Large Robby Ackerman at the event, entertaining members with his tales of driving Mercedes-Benzes around the world.

Many thanks to those who also helped by helping fold up all the tables and chairs. And Tim Brischler is owed much appreciation for taking away all the trash and recyclables in his truck. The importance of volunteers cannot be stressed enough in continuing to hold events such as this. The more, the merrier.....

Concours d'Elegance Winners

107 and 113 SL Class

Chuck Taylor, 1984 280SL (386 pts)
William Gallagher, 1988 560SL (375 pts)
Arnold Weisshaar, 1985 380SL (371 pts)

Sedans and non-SL Cabriolets Class

Brian Armstead, 1994 E320 Cabriolet (398 pts)
John McWilliams, 1985 380SE (397.5 pts)

R129 and R230 SL Class

Jodi Zimmerman, 2003 500SL (378 pts)
Rick Aleshire, 2003 SL500 (362.5 pts)

Best of Show

Ted Joseph/Denise Dersin, 1986 190E 2.6 (407 pts)

Judges' Choice

Andrew Strasfogel, 1970 280SE 3.5 (392 pts)

Hank Harris Award (given to the highest scoring car that is at least 25 years old)

Andrew Strasfogel

A number of cars were not judged but were on display for the guests to vote for their favorite. This Peoples' Choice award was a tie between Martin Stickley's 1967 300SE Cabriolet and Karen Hudson's 1986 560SL.

MERCEDES-BENZ PARTS SPECIALISTS
for 25 YEARS



We Ship Across Town or Around the World

Miller's East 877-226-1870
Local 704-226-1870 or 24 Hr. Fax 704-226-1652
Open Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. EST
1749 Williams Road, Suite C, Monroe, NC 28110 USA

Miller's West 800-338-7787
Local 714-557-0115 or 24 Hr. Fax 714-557-0155
Open Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. PST
17420 Mt. Herrmann #1, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 USA

Shop On Line 24/7 - www.millermbz.com



DRIVE IN. DENTS OUT.

At Dent Wizard we remove dents, dings, creases and hail damage from the exterior of your Mercedes Benz.

Our revolutionary process removes those imperfections quickly and inexpensively.

100% Satisfaction Guarantee • Lifetime Warranty

For an appointment or FREE estimate call
1-800-DENT-WIZ



**DENT
WIZARD**

DENTS AWAY...SAME DAY
www.dentwizard.com

\$25 OFF
Paintless
Dent Removal

Offer good for Mercedes
Club members only. Not
good with any other offer.
One coupon per vehicle.
No cash value.

EMB

Means

Parts

We strive to give you the best possible prices on replacement parts for your Mercedes.

Both Commercial and Individual customers are welcome.

Saturday – walk in
UPS Delivery weekdays
By appointment during the week

Call (703) 425-5380
Fax (703) 425-5330

3827 Pickett Road
Fairfax, Virginia

www.currysauto.com

Check it out!
New location serving
Reston, Great Falls
and Vienna!
New website:
www.currysauto.com

Quality Care for Your Cars

Honest Advice for Our Customers

Chantilly
4003A Westfax Drive
Chantilly, VA 20151
703-502-0400

Falls Church
105 Falls Avenue
Falls Church, VA 22046
703-533-1107

Dulles/Ashburn
1510 Moran Road
Sterling, VA 20166
571-522-1002

Reston / Great Falls
1202 Downey Drive
Vienna, VA 22182
703-759-4610

5% Discount on All Parts & Labor
for All Club Members
GIAC Engine Performance Software
2WD/AWD Dynamometer
Complete Auto Detailing

Toll Free: 1-888-8CURRYS
Visit Our Website at www.currysauto.com

CURRY'S AUTO SERVICE INC.

complete automotive service

Steve and John's Excellent Adventure

If you have been wondering where former GWS Tech Chairman Steve Walters disappeared to; well, here is your answer. He has been up to his elbows in grease, working on his own tech project, rebuilding a 1965 220 SEb from the ground up for the great Mexican Road Race—La Carrera Panamericana, which he plans to run with John Bleimeier.

La Carrera Panamericana is a 7-day, 2,000 mile vintage car road race through Mexico. Yes, a vintage car race. For those of you who know Steve, now you understand why his ears perked up when he learned about the Panamericana. In order to qualify as a vintage car for race purposes, the car needs to be 1965 or older. Admittedly, not all the cars running the race are stock, and some people pour small fortunes in preparing a car for the race, but that wasn't Steve's goal.

This year's race will begin Nov. 9 in Veracruz and will end Nov. 15 in Monterrey, Mexico, just south of the Texas border. The modern race is a revival of the famous international Pan Am that was conducted between 1950-1954. Many of the world's most famous drivers, including world champions like Phil Hill and Juan Manuel Fangio, came to Mexico during these years to test their cars, skill and stamina. The race was started in 1950 by the Mexican government to inform the world that Mexico had a new system of highways that stretched across the country—from north to south—for commerce and tourism.



Steve looks out from the empty engine compartment.

In 1988, a group of Mexican and North American auto enthusiasts revived the Pan Am, which is operated in a "pro-rally" format. Each car is given a route book with detailed instructions to follow for the entire seven days. Every turn along the entire route is listed, and each is rated by degree of difficulty. Warnings are given about dangerous conditions, and even speed bumps and special attractions are noted. But there can always be a surprise lurking around each blind corner.



Dropping in the engine is a one-person job!

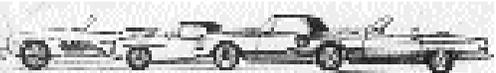
Continued on page 24


Automotive Metal Performance, Inc.

Specializing in 113 and 107 Chassis

- Full Sheet Metal Fabrication, Modification and Reconstruction
- Top Quality Coach Refinishing Top to Bottom, Inside and Out
- Interior, Electrical and Hydraulic Work and Minor Mechanical Services
- Suspension and Safety Upgrades and Modifications

Quality and authenticity since 1980



Contact Andy Paza (301) 223-5017
Williamsport, MD

www.amprestorations.com

A Blast at Summit Point

Summit Point Raceway is in some sort of Twilight Zone-type of vortex. There are only three kinds of weather in that part of West Virginia. It's always very cold, very hot, or very cold or very hot with snow or rain. This year's July 29-30 event was no different—it was very, very hot. In two days we went through 25 cases of water, and that does not include water brought by the participants.

But there was something different this year. For the first time, the Greater Washington Section summer track event was on the Shenandoah Circuit. At first glance, this new track looks very intimidating with all its concrete Jersey barricades. But it's a very safe track and there were no incidents.

Sixty drivers and twenty instructors had a blast! Well, the students did, and we hope the instructors did, too. On Saturday, we really over-worked the instructors. It seems that every club we've ever counted on for instructors had an event that weekend, and we could have used more instructors. We owe a great deal of thanks to all our instructors, especially those who worked on Saturday. Many of them instructed for three straight sessions in a row... all day long. Tom Newman did an excellent job in running the instructor and classroom sessions.

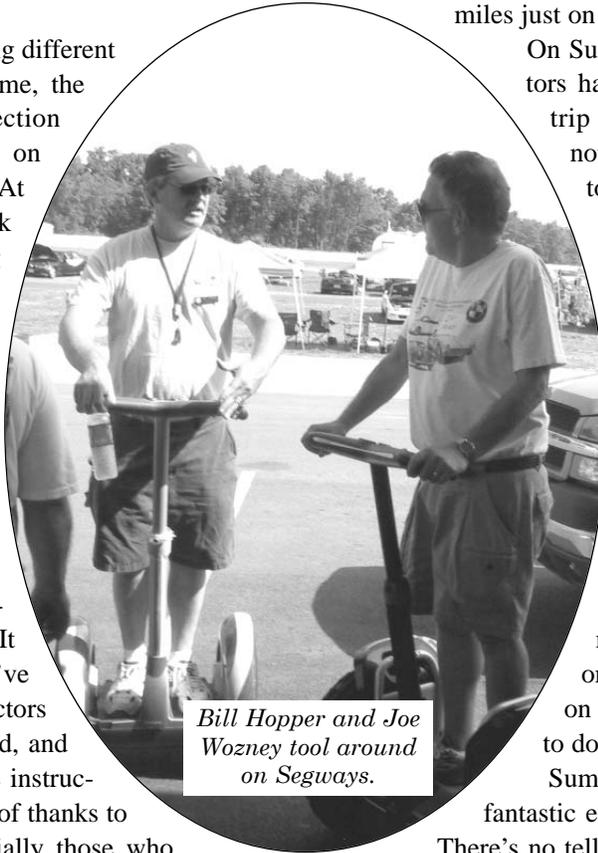
There's always down time at a driving event.

You get 20 minutes of driving time and then 60 minutes of "rest" while the other groups are on the track. There was no resting this year! Hendrik Soewatdy showed us how to turn the water on for the skid pad. Skid control is an important part of driver training and the slick pad at Summit is one of the best! No one got bored. A few of our students, including Hendrik, must have driven 20 miles just on the pad!

On Sunday, one of our instructors had a medical problem (a trip to the hospital found nothing wrong) and we had to close down for about two hours. Instructor Jens Scott saved the day. Jens drove off but in a few minutes brought back a Jeep. For those two hours, he took people, three at a time, to the off-road course for a blast of speed in the dirt and mud! Our folks had mud on their helmets, mud on their pants, mud on their shirts, and smiles on their faces. We have got to do this again!

Summit Point 2006 was a fantastic event in spite of the heat.

There's no telling which track we'll be on next year, but if you want to have absolute fun for two days send in your registration as soon as it's announced!



Bill Hopper and Joe Wozney tool around on Segways.

(photos by Janet McFarland)

*Ladies and
Gentlemen,
start your . . .*



Jim Glenn gets ready for a day of driving fun!



*Under the hoods of their 16-Valves are Virginia
Section President Jim Villars (back) and MBCA
Director at Large Robby Ackerman.*



*Luellyn Leonard, Sharon Payne and Barrie
Gochman took their turns driving the course.*

. . . engines!

MBCA Membership Loyalty Reward Program

Mercedes-Benz Club of America (MBCA) members may be eligible to receive a membership loyalty bonus based on the purchase or lease of a new Mercedes-Benz through an authorized U.S. Mercedes-Benz dealership. A membership in the Mercedes-Benz Club of America of one year or more immediately preceding the purchase date of the vehicle is required in order to take advantage of this program. *A member in good standing cannot have any lapse in membership during the preceding 12-month period.*

Terms and Conditions:

Only those vehicles purchased from authorized Mercedes-Benz dealerships in the United States qualify for the purchase allowance. The MBCA membership allowance is non-transferable and can only be redeemed by an MBCA member.

Sales documents and vehicle title must be in the MBCA member's name or the name of the member's business.

If an MBCA member co-signs for a vehicle with a non-MBCA member or with another MBCA member, both must reside in the same household. And, there can be only one rebate submission per member per year.

This program is available in conjunction with other special purchase programs offered by Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC, including Mercedes-Benz Financial special finance/lease programs.

Vehicles purchased or leased through a third party (brokers, lease companies, etc.) do not qualify.

Mercedes-Benz USA allows one rebate per calendar year per member, and only one member can apply for a rebate if there is joint or multiple ownership of the vehicle.

Mercedes-Benz USA is not responsible for late, lost or misdirected applications.

Eligible Vehicles:

Designated new passenger vehicles (*including European Delivery and Diplomatic sales*), new SUVs and retail demos with fewer than 1,000 miles.

Ineligible Vehicles:

New, non-registered vehicles in excess of 1,000 miles including company vehicles and loaner vehicles. All AMG vehicles are excluded.

Procedures:

Visit an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealership of your choice and negotiate your best deal. Then submit the required paperwork within 60 days of the date of delivery:

- Completed check request form
- Proof of purchase (copy of bill of sale or lease agreement)
- Odometer Statement

Mail these documents to:

MBCA Membership Loyalty Reward Program
P.O. Box 7478
Eden Valley, MN 55329
1-800-784-7452

The check request form may be obtained by contacting MBCA via internet or telephone as follows:

Via the Internet:

Visit www.mbca.org and click under benefits. Print out the one-page MBCA check request form.

Via Telephone:

Telephone MBCA at 1-800-637-2360 and request that the check request form be mailed or faxed to you.

Vehicles delivered between June 1-Dec. 31, 2006 are eligible for the following bonus:

MY 05 (no AMG models)		MY 06 and MY 07 (no AMG models)	
M-Class	\$1,500	R-Class	\$2,000
G-Class	2,500	M-Class	1,500
C-Class	1,500	GL-Class	1,500
E-Class	2,000	G-Class	2,500
CLK-Class	2,000	CLS-Class	2,500
SLK-Class	2,000	C-Class	1,500
SL-Class	2,500	E-Class	2,000
S-Class	2,500	CLK-Class	2,000
CL-Class	2,500	SLK-Class	2,000
MY 06 (no AMG models)		SL-Class	2,500
S-Class	\$2,500		
CL-Class	2,500		

Forty members already have taken advantage of the loyalty program. Regrettably, four more were told they were ineligible for the reward after they had bought their cars because they had let their memberships lapse. For just a \$45 investment in renewing their memberships, they could have saved up to \$2,500.

John Fitch Exhibit at the Saratoga Automobile Museum

by David Saidel

Nestled in the middle of the Saratoga Spa State Park in the lovely and historic city of Saratoga, N.Y., is a gem of an auto museum, the Saratoga Automobile Museum. The museum is housed in the renovated bottling plant that produced the once famous Saratoga Vichy water that tasted of sulphur and was regularly ministered to the youth of upstate New York as a patent cure for various childhood stomach ailments.

The museum has a small permanent collection of autos that have been either built in or raced in New York state. There also are various temporary displays such as the current John Fitch exhibit that will be at the museum through Nov. 15, 2006.

Born in 1917, John Fitch has had a long and fascinating life that includes ocean yachting, World War II fighter pilot, highway safety innovator, automaker, director of Lime Rock Park raceway, internationally acclaimed race car driver, and the first American to drive race cars for Team Mercedes. At 89 years young, John is still driving a 1955 300SL at the Bonneville Salt Flat, vying for a vintage class land speed record. The exhibit is sponsored by Mercedes-Benz and is a tribute to John's long and famous career in racing.

Only a few short years after being shot down in his P51 fighter by the Luftwaffe in 1944, John was invited to become a driver for the Mercedes factory racing team. His first race for Mercedes was in 1952 in an alloy-bodied sleek 300SL (W194) roadster in Mexico's Carrera Panamericana. Like races at

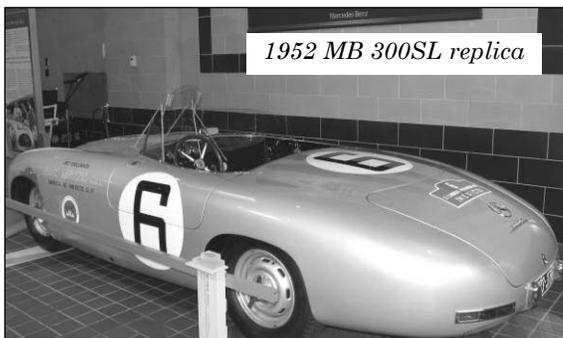


LeMans and Nürburgring that year, the 300SL took the checkered flag in a car driven by Mercedes driver Karl Kling; John finished in fourth place behind him. John continued racing for Mercedes with a "dream team" of drivers including Stirling Moss and Juan Manuel Fangio. One of his Team Mercedes racing highlights was placing fifth overall, and winning his Grand Touring class, at the 1944 Italian Mille Miglia in a 300SL Gullwing. It was the tragic accident later that year at LeMans when his fellow team member Pierre Levegh's vehicle crashed into the crowd and killed 85 people that marked the end of the Mercedes racing program and launched John into designing auto safety crash barriers that are now used at race tracks and on our highways today.

After leaving the Mercedes team in 1955, John went on to race for the GM Corvette team and Briggs Cunningham. Later, in the mid 1960s, he began yet another career modifying and selling Corvairs to driving enthusiasts. John was inducted into the Corvette Hall of Fame in 2000 for his contribution to racing the early Corvettes.

John remains active in racing and racing safety and travels the country promoting the sport.

For more information on the John Fitch exhibit—which runs through Nov. 15—contact the Saratoga Auto Museum at (518) 587-1935, or check their web site at www.saratogaautomuseum.org.



MBUSA Reports Best August Sales Ever

MONTVALE, N.J., Sept. 1/PRNewswire/— Mercedes-Benz USA (MBUSA) today reported its highest August on record with sales of 20,602 new vehicles, an increase of 6.9 percent over last August. This brings MBUSA's year-to-date sales to 157,128 a 13.3 percent increase over year-to-date 2005.

August sales were boosted by the Mercedes-Benz flagship S-Class, which rose by 105.9 percent over August 2005 (2,427 v. 1,179 units). The SLK-Class roadster also proved a strong summer performer with a 7.5 percent increase over August 2005 (834 v. 776).

Sales for Mercedes-Benz vehicles in the luxury light truck segmen—M-Class, R-Class, GL-Class and G-Class—continue to demonstrate impressive gains with a combined 66.2 percent increase over last August and an 86.9 percent increase over year-to-date 2005 (41,394 v. 22,142).

Separately, through the Mercedes-Benz Certified Pre-Owned program, MBUSA sold 4,221 vehicles in August, an increase of 15.3 percent over August 2005, bringing the year-to-date total to 31,482 units, a 2.7 percent increase over year-to-date 2005.

In 2005, MBUSA achieved its twelfth consecutive year of sales growth by setting the highest sales volume in its history with 224,421 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.

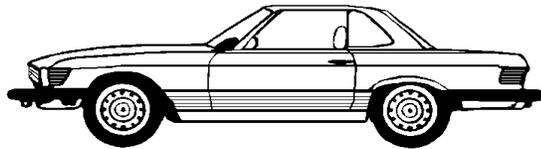
Mercedes-Benz USA Sales—August 2006

Model	Aug. '06	Aug. '05	Monthly %	YTD 2006	YTD 2005	Yearly %
C-CLASS	4,652	5,054	-8.0%	32,533	36,319	-10.4%
E-CLASS	3,955	5,011	-21.1%	29,154	30,951	-5.8%
S-CLASS	2,427	1,179	105.9%	20,244	10,280	96.9%
CL-CLASS	54	88	-38.6%	435	832	-47.7%
SL-CLASS	713	986	-27.7%	6,356	6,694	-5.0%
CLK-CLASS	1,061	1,377	-22.9%	11,878	13,037	-8.9%
SLK-CLASS	834	776	7.5%	7,921	7,647	3.6%
CLS-Class	925	1,198	-22.8%	7,213	10,790	-33.2%
R-CLASS	1,698	n/a	n/a	12,855	n/a	n/a
M-CLASS	2,312	3,455	-33.1%	19,084	21,271	-10.3%
GL-CLASS	1,894	n/a	n/a	9,002	n/a	n/a
G-CLASS	77	143	-46.2%	453	871	-48.0%
TOTAL	20,602	19,267	6.9%	157,128	138,692	13.3%

Star Auto Service, Inc.

The Best Service for the Best Car!

Complete and comprehensive auto service on
Mercedes-Benz, Alfa Romeo, Audi, VW and BMW



(410) 339-STAR
(410) 339-7827
1024 York Road
Towson, MD 21204
(Exit 26A off of 695)

- **MD State Inspections**
- **Free rides to home, work, or lightrail with in the area**
- **All work guaranteed**

How About a European Vacation and a New MB?

For those travelers looking for an adventure in the land where driving was born, the Standard European Delivery Package is a great way to discover the wonders of Europe while driving your very own new Mercedes-Benz. The package includes:

- One night's accommodation, including breakfast, at one of 12 participating first-class hotels;
- Fifteen days of European road insurance;
- A full tank of fuel;
- Two taxi vouchers in Stuttgart to cover expenses from the airport to the hotel and to the European Delivery Center;
- A 90-minute tour of the Mercedes-Benz factory in Sindelfingen, Germany where customers experience first-hand the care, quality, engineering and skill that go into creating every Mercedes-Benz vehicle;
- Breakfast or lunch at the European Delivery Center;
- Inland transportation from 12 European drop-off points to the port of shipment;
- Marine insurance and ocean freight to the U.S.;
- Vehicle Preparation Center processing and transportation to the selling/delivering dealer;
- No handling or shipping charges; and
- Optional two-for-one economy airline tickets available with Lufthansa airlines

While in Stuttgart, travelers also can immerse themselves in automotive history by visiting the Mercedes-Benz Museum in nearby Unterturkheim. The museum traces the company's preeminent role in the evolution of the automobile, and more than 100 vehicles are on display. Also nearby is the Classic Center, which is a working facility dedicated to restoring, repairing and servicing classic Mercedes-Benz vehicles. The Classic Center also features the Classic Collection, a unique body of literature on Mercedes-Benz history, vehicle models, operator manuals, maintenance instructions, advertising signs and posters, clothing, accessories and detailed miniatures of classic Mercedes-Benz vehicles.

The European Delivery Program was created more than 40 years ago as a convenience for Mercedes-

Benz customers. The program allows people to combine the excitement of driving their brand new Mercedes-Benz off the factory floor with an unforgettable European vacation in their new Mercedes-Benz.

European Delivery customers purchase their vehicle through their local dealer. To take advantage of the program—which includes an array of amenities listed above, not the least of which is a 7 percent savings off the total vehicle price on C-Class, E-Class, CLK-Class, CLS-Class, SLK-Class and SL-Class models—that is, the manufacturer's suggested retail price plus all factory options and accessories. About 1,300 people from the United States participate in the program every year.

So, if you think a new car is in your future, how about combining it with a European vacation? For more information regarding the European Delivery Program, contact your local Mercedes-Benz dealership and/or go on-line to www.mbusa.com/edp. The web site has a wealth of details about the program—from travel tips to the ability to let viewers build their own virtual Mercedes-Benz by selecting from a variety of color combinations and options to determine the price of a specific configuration.

In addition, European Delivery customers who are MBCA members can take advantage of the loyalty reward program for even further savings. See page 18 for more information.

GWS member Paul Vandenberg chose the European Delivery Program in July of 2004 to purchase his E500. An account of his experience is on the GWS web site under "Special Features."

We are pleased to welcome Miller's Inc. as a new advertiser in the *Metro Tri-Star* (page 13). Please remember to support our advertisers—they support our club and the *Metro Tri-Star* newsletter.

TireVan

Reminds all our customers to tease their friends about wasting a Saturday morning in a tire shop... "hey, how's that coffee?"

Let TireVan bring the shop to you...

We install at your home or workplace, by appointment. All work is 100% guaranteed, including NO scratches



Unlimited brand selection...winter is coming, get the right tire for you.

Road Force Balancing... your Mercedes suspension deserves it.

Great Prices...you'll be amazed that we don't cost more.

Mobile Installation...don't waste a Saturday, or any day!



What would *you* rather do than spend time in a tire store?

Don't get caught in the winter rush...Call us or go online!

See how we deploy the worlds finest tire equipment from our mobile shop platforms - get the whole story at

www.tirevan.com

877.847.3826

Avon, BF Goodrich, Continental, Cooper Bridgestone, Dunlop, Falken, Fuzion, Firestone, General, Goodyear, Hoosier, Kelly, Kumho, Michelin, Nitto, Pirelli, Sumitomo, Toyo, Uniroyal, Vogue, Yokohama...

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



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.

Michelle M. Bailey
Washington, DC

Mark T Betonti
Haymarket, VA

Phillip H. Blankfeld
Bethesda, MD

Brian Blevins
Vienna, VA

Ezekiel Bloyce
Fort Washington, MD

David L. Bridges
Herndon, VA

Yvette Cashwell
Hyattsville, MD

Gregory P. Cirillo
Rockville, MD

Dylan Clark
Alexandria, VA

Robert L. Cullison, Jr.
Millers, MD

Frank Fitzwater
Oakland, MD

Jorman D. Granger
Ashburn, VA

Brett D. Hack
Falls Church, VA

Lamont S. Hawkins
Upper Marlboro, MD

Gary E. Langston
Washington, DC



Gretchen D. Lofland
Oxon Hill, MD

Ronald D. Neumann
Potomac, MD

Michelle Y. Pinkett
Silver Spring, MD

John B. Porasky
Manassas, VA

Glenn S. Snead
South Riding, VA

Tamara A. Statler
Marshall, VA

Gary M. Travis
Bristow, VA

Owen C. Wilson
Springfield, VA

La Carrera Panamericana – *Cont'd from p. 15*

Steve has been rebuilding a 1965 220 SEb from the ground up for the last six months. Every bolt, wire and bearing has been cleaned and checked. While the work is ostensibly “restoration,” a significant amount of “conversion” has taken place. The car now has a limited slip rear axle from a '69 280 SE; front suspension, steering column (collapsible), fuel tank, ignition and brakes from a '72 280 SE 4.5 (kindly donated by Bill Repass); floor shift manual transmission from a '67 200 D; oil cooler from a '66 250 SE; and seats from a '91 190 E. While the engine block, head and camshaft are original, everything else in the engine

has been replaced with new (pistons, valves, lifters, bearings) or good used (crankshaft, rods, accessory drive, injection pump) parts. The car is really more of a late 20th century Mercedes than a '65 220 SEb.

In little less than a month, Steve Walters and his wife, Janet McFarland, will head off for Mexico and rendezvous with co-driver John Bleimaier and his companion, Marina.

We will be featuring more of Steve and John's adventure in the *Metro Tri-Star*. Additionally, be sure to mark your calendar for Startech 2007 this spring: Steve will give a talk on the rally and what it took to prepare the car.

The Trading Post

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, 1971: Red/cognac interior. Auto, a/c, 2 tops, euro-lights, excellent paint. Michelins, new carpets. \$27,000. Contact Howard at home at (301) 733-7111; at work at (301) 733-0075; or e-mail him at hkaylor@fbw.com.

220SE, 1959: 4-door sedan, light beige, exterior in fairly good condition, beige interior, not running, **FREE**, preferably to someone interested in restoration. Contact Tavi Harwood at (410) 239-2052 or e-mail clearbrookfarm@aol.com for more info.

AMG Wheels: Set of four AMG double-spoke wheels from SLK32/C32. Staggered width (front: 7.5x17, rear: 8.5x17) Set of Kumho Victoracer tired mounted (225/45ZR17 front, 245/45ZR17 rear). Perfect for track/autocross use or could be refinished for extra concours set. \$800 obo. Call Tom at (703) 863-2393 or e-mail Mcqueenre@aol.com.

Car Cover and Auto Bra: Custom car cover and auto bra for E430 (2000-2002). Car cover is Noah fabric made by Covercraft, very little use - \$70. Auto bra is Colgon and is black - \$40. Call Lou at (703) 628-0914 or e-mail louolsen@yahoo.com.

Car Cover: Custom-made car cover for 1983 Jaguar XJ6. Fits many XJ6 model years before and after 1983. Like new. \$50 obo. Call Corinne at (301) 424-7461.

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.

Candidates' Statements

Continued from page 5

advisory services with respect to job analysis, employee and organizational development, and policy analysis and development.

Treasurer – Paul Vandenberg

I was born in Michigan, grew up in New Mexico, joined the Air Force after high school and retired from the Air Force after serving twenty-one years. While on active duty, I took advantage of educational opportunities to earn a BS degree. After retiring from the Air Force, I attended graduate school and accepted a position with the federal government upon completion of my graduate degree.

I bought my first Mercedes-Benz (a pre-owned 190E) in 1997, and used the membership form found in the glove box to join MBCA. In 1998, I volunteered to help create and maintain the GWS web site, and have worked with another volunteer to keep the web site current since that time. I recently took the lead in setting up the online payment system used for recent driving events. I also edited a preliminary draft of the GWS Procedures Manual, and coordinated successive drafts with the GWS Board (the final draft is currently in review and should be published soon).

I have enjoyed participating in two Tri-O-Rama events, and have recently begun participating in the section's autocross series.

If elected, I promise to do my best to abide by the bylaws and the procedures manual to maintain the section's finances and fulfill the other duties expected of a section officer.

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

Technical

Open

Social

Open

Past President

Dick Pedersen

Ad Hoc Committees

Concours

Open

Online Bulletin

Janet McFarland (703) 765-9405

Webmeisters

Dave Thompson (703) 406-1586
Paul Vandenberg (703) 478-2158

Technical Advisors

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

THERE ARE THOSE
WHO SAY THE CAR IS ONLY
A MACHINE.

RIGHT.

SO IS THE HUMAN HEART.


Bethesda


Germantown

www.euromotorcars.com

Chosen by more luxury car makers.

**Radial
Tire Co.**

9101 Brookville Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301.585.2740
www.RadialTire.com



Please call for directions.



- For drivers of luxury vehicles who want powerful handling with plenty of comfort
- A smooth ride and better wet traction due to a European performance profile
- Superior level of handling from Zig Zag Sipes™ Technology



Great Discounts for Club Members!

Comparisons are between Michelin touring tires.

Pilot® MXM4™

The *Metro Tri-Star* is published monthly by the Greater Washington Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc. It is furnished to each of the section members. Please send all materials for publication to the *Metro Tri-Star*, 1307 Warrington Place, Alexandria, VA 22307. For display advertising information, contact Janet McFarland at (703) 765-9405. Explicit permission to copy or republish any articles is given to all sections of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc. The articles in the *Metro Tri-Star* are the opinions of the writers and no authentication is given or implied as to the validity of any expressed opinion.

METRO TRI-STAR
1307 Warrington Place
Alexandria, VA 22307

PR SRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ALEXANDRIA, VA
PERMIT #484