



2007 National Award Winner

# METRO TRI-STAR

www.gws-mbca.org

September/October 2008

## Fall into the Mercedes-Benz Club's Activities', the Annual Meeting, Tri-O-Rama and more...

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Many thanks to our GWS picnic chefs, Dudley Ives, Bill Hopper, Susan Ives, Mary Claire Haskin, and Jim Smith.

### **No Fooling with Fall...**

With the crisp fall air coming through your sunroof, it's time to get out and spend a little more quality time in your Mercedes-Benz or other beloved vehicle. With GWS's fall events, you will have plenty to do. If a road trip is your thing, StarTrip 2008 will begin in Gettysburg PA on September 19th and take club members cross country to San Francisco for StarFest, September 26 to October 1.

For those of you who want to stay a little closer to home, Tri-O-Rama is coming up October 24 to 28 at the new New Jersey Motorsports Park in Millville NJ. For a little extra edge on the autocross competitions, Get to both GWS and the Keystone Section autocross events this fall, a great chance to practice before Starfest or TOR! GWS monthly autocrosses will be held September 14, October 12 and November 2 at Millbrook High School. Keystone will hold an autocross on Sunday September 21 at Sun Motor cars in Mechanicsburg PA.

This fall GWS is beginning its Engine

Group (see pg 15) that will continue though the winter to show members the mechanical components of our cars, with a hands-on engine tear down and rebuild event. Later on we are hope to do the same with a transmission and other vital auto components. This is not a repair class, these events are designed to see what exactly makes up our cars. We are working on a few more technical events, so stay tuned for more wrenchy fun.

The New Members Event coming up on December 7, is a great opportunity for new and old members to meet and find out more about the club events and meet the supporters of the club who host the event.

This is the time when members bring a new unwrapped toy for the Toys for Tots program, or canned food to be donated to a local social service organization.

For those of you who are wondering what is coming up. Now is the perfect time to help us plan for 2009. You already know the staples; the driving events, track and autocross If anyone knows of a close-in

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# Calendar of Events

Visit our website for the latest activities: [www.GWS-MBCA.org/event.html](http://www.GWS-MBCA.org/event.html)

## September

- 9/14 Autocross # 6: Millbrook High School  
Winchester, VA (See page 8)
- 9/18 GWS Board Meeting: TBA  
Bill Hopper: wwhrestoration@att.net
- 9/21 Keystone Section Autocross: Sun Motors,  
Mechanicsburg, PA – Keystone Sect.  
(See pg 13)
- 9/19 - 9/26 StarTrip 2008: Gettysburg, PA  
Werner Fehlauer: w.fehlauer@verizon.net
- 9/26-10/1 StarFest 2008: San Francisco, CA

## October

- 10/4 Engine Group Meeting, 10 am  
Gordon Smith: smithgd@maxinter.net
- 10/12 Autocross # 7: Millbrook High School  
Winchester, VA (See page 8)
- 10/19 GWS Annual Meeting: ASC, Arlington, VA  
Bill Hopper: wwhrestoration@att.net

## Tri-O-Rama 2008

[www.sjs-mbca.org/TOR.htm](http://www.sjs-mbca.org/TOR.htm)  
215.735.5874

10/24 - 10/28 Tri-O-Rama:  
Thunderbolt Raceway, Millville, NJ

## November

11/2 Autocross # 8: Millbrook High School  
Winchester, VA (See page 8)

## December

12/7 New Members Reception: TBA  
Jim Glenn: jamesglenn41@gmail.com

## January 2009

TBA Holiday Party  
Planning for 2009 has already begun. Please help us  
as we plan the calendar for next year.

## Fall, continued from page 1

parking lot for autocross, please let us know, as we want to expand our defensive driving and autocross program to locations closer than Winchester VA. Well attended technical events such as the Spring and Summer DIY events are already in the planning stages. If there is something you would like to see the club do, please join in and help us make that happen.

Are you interested in social events, like the Dine and Drive? We can use your help on those too. Our newsletter committee is looking for additional help to produce the Metro Tri-Star.

Whatever your passion, it can be accomplished through the club. Come out and be part of an award winning section.



## Annual Meeting Sunday, October 19, 1 pm American Service Center, Arlington VA

The section is celebrating its 50th year and does so thanks to the time volunteered by its members. Every two years, officers are elected by the membership at the annual meeting as required by the GWS-MBCA bylaws. The offices are: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. On Sunday October 19th at 1 pm at American Service Center, 585 North Glebe Rd, Arlington VA 22203 the election will be held for the officers of the Greater Washington Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America..

Come out and enjoy the wonderful hospitality of American Service Center and meet your candidates. For candidates' statements see page 8.

If you haven't already, be sure to sign up for the GWS eNews at

[www.gws-mbca.org](http://www.gws-mbca.org)

With the eNews, you will receive advance notice of events and the rare weather cancellation along with reminders of upcoming activities.

## From the President



**Bill Hopper**

*wwhrestoration@att.net*

## ***A Brand New Mercedes-Benz and the Tag That Tells Everyone You Are a Member of the Club!***

The day before the Mid-Atlantic Concours and GWS Picnic, I was relaxing for a moment by washing the '09 R Class that Daimler has lent the section for our members to evaluate this summer, my neighbor came up and jokingly told me that it was my fault that another one of our neighbors had gotten a brand spanking new Mercedes-Benz.

Well indeed Michel Robe, fellow GWS member and neighbor did get a new C350 with all the bells and whistles! He later called me to share the news that his wife, Inci, bought it for him. As she knows how much he liked the vehicle and how much he loves his '05 C230 coupe. We all knew the real reason, Inci, just wanted to get rid of her VW Passat so she could drive the C coupe!

What I enjoyed hearing most from Michel was that not only did he get a great deal from one of our section sponsors, Euro Motorcars of Bethesda, but he was especially thrilled that he could also apply for the MBCA/MBUSA loyalty bonus of \$1500. The club offers this to members after a full year of uninterrupted club membership on the purchase of a new Mercedes-Benz. Michel and his son, Emre, have been club members since they got the C230 in 2005. It was good to hear that the loyalty bonus played a part in their new Mercedes-Benz purchase decision.

If you are thinking about buying a new, or even a used Mercedes-Benz, think about buying it from one of our local dealers - of course preferably one that supports the Section. So that you can receive your own loyalty bonus. The basics are simple: you need to be a member of the club for one full year, with no interruptions at the time of purchase and request; your new Mercedes-Benz comes from an authorized US Mercedes-Benz dealer (European delivery

is included in the program - new AMG vehicles are not) or, in the case of a pre-owned M-B, it must have been purchased from either an authorized M-B dealer or a registered used car dealer. However if you do not buy it from a M-B dealer, your rebate is much smaller. (funny how that works when MBUSA is paying you the bonus.)

The bonus comes in the form of a debit card that is usable at US Mercedes-Benz dealers you can use it for parts, service or boutique items, even a down payment on yet another Mercedes-Benz, although you only get one loyalty bonus per membership each year. Michel already has his eyes on wheels and tires for the winter, so he can preserve the AMG wheels that came on his new C350.

Now, once you have that Mercedes-Benz, what's next?

If you live in the state of Maryland, that's easy you can put GWS-MBCA tags on your car, Mercedes-Benz or not! Recently the GWS-MBCA Board voted that members can put club tags on any vehicle they own. So, if you are driving that smart fourtwo or Chrysler Crossfire, you can deck it out with club tags. Put them on your Prius, Chevy Van, Ford F150 or Dodge Ram Pickup. What a great way to show you're a Greater Washington Section member with tags from the Club proudly displayed on your vehicle.

GWS Member Ben Weber is now working on starting a similar club tag program in Virginia. He is working with the Virginia and the Central Virginia Sections to get enough applications (350) to do the initial order. If you are interested in showing off your club spirit with MBCA Tags in the State of Virginia, contact Ben Weber at [ben@mastermediagroup.com](mailto:ben@mastermediagroup.com) to get on his list for a VA Club tag.

# Mid-Atlantic Concours and GWS Annual Picnic Offers Feast of Cars, Food, and Friendship

On August 17, the Greater Washington Section held its annual Mid-Atlantic Concours and Picnic on the beautiful grounds of Steve and Barbara Newby's home in North Potomac. This year, the weather was perfect and GWS members arrived early to get a jump on the day. Members arriving at the picnic were greeted by Jim Glenn at a strategically placed registration table near the well-stocked bar, which was once again in the able hands of Bill Lofquist, assisted by Joe Wozney, Greg Magnus, Henry Harrell and various guest bartenders. Nearby, Laurie Harrell and Bobbie Wozney ran the club store and the silent auction. Besides offering GWS section members a terrific array of apparel and other memorabilia for the car enthusiast, the silent auction proceeds will go to charity. In addition to finding a last-minute replacement for our bratwurst supplier, Binkert's, due to an unfortunate fire, Bill Hopper once again demonstrated his versatility, finding superb replacement bratwurst from Usingers in Milwaukee and expertly manning the grill. As always, many people were ready and willing to help with the cooking and food: Jim Smith, Susan and Dudley Ives and Mary Claire Haskin made sure that our picnic had first-rate food and service. The kids and some adults enjoyed the moonbounce.

We had a very strong turnout of cars for the concours, as well as from other from other sections. David Stitzer traveled from Bucks County, PA to bring his stunning 1953 300S roadster to compete in the Concours. Bob and June Platz drove a 1957 190SL from the Philadelphia area and Robby Ackerman brought "Pea Soup," his 1960 190SL from southern Virginia. We are glad that Keith Morgan also made the trip again, driving from Maine in his 1967 250SE. During the judging, we looked closely for any evidence of Keith, Bob, or Robby's long roadtrips – bug kills, tar, road debris – but as is usually the case with our entrants, the cars were spotless when they arrived at the Newby's.

Our Section produced the usual strong turnout of gorgeous SLs, sedans, wagons and cabrios. Ray Schlicht brought his immaculate

Metro Tri-Star

1967 250SL, Ray's SL was joined by Steve Newby's amazing 300SL roadster, parked alongside Frank Spellman 300SL roadster, a perennial crowd favorite. The modern SLs were well-represented also. Brian Leimbach

displayed his spotless 380SL alongside Steve Spector's terrific SLK350, a car that sees regular driving events. Gary Policastro also showed his special Euro-model R107 280SL with a manual transmission.

We had a strong showing of sedans. Paul Vandenberg's 1986 190E 2.3-16, a car that is proof that cars can be regularly driven at autocross and track events and still look like garage queens. John Heflin brought his W126 500SEC, fresh from our recent high-performance driving school in late July. David Van Duzer brought out his timeless 1959 220S Ponton, and another car I have not seen before (but hope to see again), a 1967 250SE. Andrew Strasfogel brought out a perfect stable-mate, his 1970 280SE 3.5. More recent vintage Mercedes were also well represented by Bill LeVan's virtually spotless W140 S500 and Tim Brischler's W203 C55 AMG. New member Mark Spellman demonstrated that good taste in cars runs in the family, who with his brother Frank, brought out a stunning W126 560SEL. Of course, the picnic would not have been complete without showing off the R320 Bluetec that the Section has for evaluation courtesy of Daimler as well as Joe and Bobbie Wozney's smart fourtwo, both have been reported as a pure blast to drive.

As any of you who have attended or assisted with one of our concours events know, it is absolutely essential that we have volunteers for judging. This year we had a great deal of assistance: John Heflin has a very sharp eye on the exterior judging. Bob Platz and Steve Spector did a wonderful job on trim. Robby Ackerman and Mike Sarco did a very detailed review of engines, and Henry Harrell and Jerry Chenault did a thorough job on the interiors. One of the tweaks we made to the judging this year was to have one team for each category, across all cars, in an effort to improve consistency. (If you have any comments or questions on your judging sheet, please let me know.)

Many thanks go out to our numerous volunteers for helping us organize a successful picnic. We hope to see you all at the next GWS Concours event! - Ray Lombardo

## **Concours d'Elegance Winners:**

### **Hank Harris Award**

David Stitzer, 1953 300S roadster

### **Judge' Choice**

Bob Platz, 1957 190SL

### **Best of Marque**

David Stitzer, 1953 300S roadster

### **People's Choice**

Frank Spellman, 1963 300SL

### **Class Winners**

#### **Classic SLs**

Raymond Schlicht, 1967 250SL

Robby Ackerman, 1960 190SL

Jim Senft, 1965 230SL

#### **Modern SLs**

Jerry Chenault, 1986 560SL

Gary Policastro, 1985 280SL

Brian Leimbach, 1994 SL320

#### **Coupes**

David Van Duzer, 1959 220S

David Van Duzer, 1967 250SE

Andrew Strasfogel, 1970 280SE 3.5

#### **Sedans**

Keith Morgan, 1967 250SE

Paul Vandenberg, 1986 190E 2.3-16

Bill LeVan, 1999 S500

Keith Morgan, 1967 250SE

Paul Vandenberg, 1986 190E 2.3-16

Bill LeVan, 1999 S500

attended with his gleaming 1994 SL320, and Jerry Chenault drove a beautiful 1986 560SL. Our chief Bartender, Bill Lofquist,

## New Members



**Henry & Laurie  
Harrell**

*h\_harrell@mac.com*

Please welcome our newest Greater Washington Section Members into the club.

- Henry and Laurie Harrell

Robert Amey  
Great Falls VA

Sandra Caughlin  
Alexandria VA

Kimberly Madeja  
Eldersburg MD

Beth Augerinos  
Vienna VA

William Davenport  
Bowie MD

Keith Murphy  
Alexandria VA

Guillermo Avellaneda  
Fairfax Station VA

Barbara Fernandez  
Baltimore MD

Andrew Pollner  
Washington DC

Chuck Bailey  
Washington DC

Mark Gottlieb  
Fairfax Station VA

Andy Reho  
Warrenton VA

Anthony Barnes  
Glen Burnie MD

Dionna Green  
Bowie MD

Dean Rosa  
Camp Springs MD

Sam Bloom  
Centreville VA

Lisa Greenberg  
Bethesda MD

Hope Sendra  
Silver Spring MD

Allan Cameron  
Bethesda MD

Andrew Kalweit  
Potomac Falls VA

Mark Spellman  
Silver Spring MD

Everette Campbell  
Lanham MD

Edward Kemmet  
Cumberland MD

Arthur Thompson  
Bozman MD

## Detailing for the Street - At Speed Motorsports

On Saturday, August 2, the Greater Washington Section of the MBCA, in conjunction with the National Capital Chapter of the BMWCCA, organized a detailing seminar at the Hanover, MD performance shop, *At Speed Motorsports*. The detailing session was led by Peggy Becker, professional detailer and owner of Becker's Car Care, located in Reston, Virginia.

The day began bright and early at 9 am and shortly after the approximately 30 students arrived, Bob Miller, the owner of At Speed Motorsports, was kind enough to give us a thorough tour of his shop. The shop is an ultra-modern, surgically clean facility staffed with trained technicians that specialize in Porsche, BMW, Mercedes, and Volvo. We were also very fortunate to have a number of customer Porsches in the shop that day on lifts that appeared to be in the process of being prepared for the track. Bob reassured us that while the shop can certainly handle any high-performance modifications an enthusiast might want to

undertake, his shop is also perfectly capable, and no more expensive, to regular repairs and maintenance on street-driven vehicles as well. Bob also explained that he is planning to offer in the near future, a full array of gear that club drivers need – from helmets to gloves.

Once our tour was complete, the group gathered to hear Peggy present a very detailed and informative presentation on detailing. Peggy's approach uses a multi-step process that allows you to tailor it to the needs of your specific vehicle. For example, neglected vehicles would need the full treatment (washing, clay bar treatment, paint cleaning, clear coat feeding, and sealing); whereas, the owners of well-cared-for vehicles could select the steps that are appropriate for their respective cars. Peggy also took the opportunity to explain the products that her company offers, and how these products fit into the detailing regimen that she uses. The "before" and "after" photos were particularly illustrative of the

excellent results she achieves. At the end of the presentation, Peggy did a brief "hands-on" presentation where the class got to use the clay bar on a National Capital Chapter member's black BMW 7 series. This was a very nice car, but those of you who have had or have black vehicles (I vowed "never again" after my last black car) know that while the color is stunning, it is a challenge to keep it that way. The clay bar, together with the appropriate lubricant spray, made gigantic differences. You could actually feel the smoothness of the paint, and the steps that would follow would only improve it further.

It was a fun and educational day, and the Greater Washington Section would like to thank Bob Miller of *At Speed Imports* for hosting the event, and Peggy Becker for teaching the class. Enthusiasts in the area would be well served to patronize Bob's shop for their car care needs, or Peggy's for their detailing needs. - Ray Lombardo

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# 2008 GWS-MBCA Election of Officers

### President - Bill Hopper

I am looking for your support as I run for a second term as the President of your section, the Greater Washington Section of MBCA.

During my first term, I have had the pleasure to meet with so many of our section members as well as others within the club. This has been a great opportunity for me to work on a wide variety of projects for the section and to improve what we do as a whole for our members.

As the Chairman of StarTech 2007, a very ambitious project this section took on, we hosted MBCA members from around the continent giving our section some great contacts within the club as well as others within the automotive industry. These contacts are still paying dividends today with increased attendance at GWS events as well as providing additional opportunities to us from MBUSA and Daimler.

One of my key goals for the next two years is to increase the "value" our members receive from the club. Expanding on our programming of events has been an ongoing project of mine, making sure that we offer our members what they want from a car club. GWS has long been known as a driver's section, but our concours and technical programs have not kept pace. Over the past two years it has been great to work with some very talented members of our section to bring our section back to being one of the leaders in both of these areas of the Mercedes-Benz marque. I look to continuing this for my second term.

I joined MBCA in 1998 and in 2000 served as the social chair, then in 2004 as your Vice President, then in 2006 as your President. During that time, I have served on numerous section, regional and national MBCA committees, giving GWS members a strong voice at all levels. It was a great honor to be awarded the Mid-Atlantic Region Officer of the Year Award by our Regional Director, as the section officer who has been most beneficial to our region not just our section, in 2007.

Thank you for your support. Please attend the GWS-MBCA Annual Membership Meeting on October 19, and take part in the club's election process.

### Vice President - John Heflin

Just a few notes on myself, John Heflin, as I run for the position of GWS Vice President. I am 26 years old, born in Washington DC and grew up in Damascus, MD.

Last summer I rejoined the MBCA after looking to become more active in MB-related events. I currently am one of the GWS' Technical Advisors and am part of "The Engine Group" which will be tearing down a M117 (560SEL) engine this fall. As a member of the online forums, Benzworld.org and Mercedesshop.com, I have participated in many occasional "get-togethers" and even hosted a few at my home in Frederick MD over the last few years. However these were lacking in the driving events that I really wanted.

I joined the MBCA, planning on trying my 1987 300D out on the autocross after attending one back in 2003 and riding along with Steve Walters in his 300SEL 4.5 at the WSSC grounds. After my first autocross last year, I was hooked, and missed only one due to a clogged tank strainer in the diesel. This year I've brought out my new purchase, a 1983 Euro-Spec 500SEC, and have been having a blast with it at autocross, a weekend at Summit Point and the annual picnic.

My relationship with Mercedes-Benz began with a 1978 240D that my stepfather's parents had bought new. They passed it on to him around the time I was getting my driver's license and I sort of commandeered it from him because it was a much better option than his 1988 Dodge Caravan box-on-wheels I had been learning to drive with! During high school, because I did not have a lot of money to put into it, I learned to do most of my own repairs. I started working on other MB's that some of my friends had as well as other ones in the neighborhood. After two years I serviced and maintained about six 1980's MB diesels for other people.

This self-taught experience was enough to get me an interview with Euro Motorcars in Bethesda, they must have liked what they saw because I was hired in July of 2002 and immediately sent off for training. I spent about two years in Bethesda before transferring to the new dealership in Germantown, which opened just three weeks before I moved into my first house

in Frederick.

My job has definitely had a role in my hobby! Since starting with Euro Motorcars I have owned 22 Mercedes, 10 of which I still have - from a 1969 280SE to a 2006 R350 with many gas and diesel models in between. They take up a large part of my spare time, but its fun for someone my age, I've managed to learn a lot about the older models. Mercedes vehicles have been a big part of my life for the last 10 years and I hope I can expand on that even more by becoming Vice President of this lively ACTIVE(!), driving chapter of MBCA; the Greater Washington Section.

### Treasurer - Paul Vandenberg

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 website, and have worked with another volunteer to keep the website current since that time.

I actively participate in Section events, and have served as Treasurer for the past two years. During my term as Treasurer, I have securely disposed of obsolete Section financial records, reorganized records to make audits easier, instituted a voucher tracking system, expanded the procedures manual to provide more detailed guidance for future treasurers, and upgraded the financial software used to track section finances.

I plan to retire and move away from the Washington DC metro area sometime in the next two years. Since no other member has indicated a willingness to run for the office, I am willing to continue serving as Treasurer for as long as I am still in the local area.

### Secretary - Marianne Lumsden

I am an Information Technology specialist in the US Air Force and have been in the military for 18 years. I've been a member of the GWS since I moved to the area seven years ago and drove my first Benz, especially enjoying events and outings. I have experience as the secretary for the GWS as I held the position in 2004-05 until I deployed to Iraq. I am ready to pick up the reins again!

# Summer Dine & Drive to Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob

Hagerstown Mercedes-Benz was our agreed upon caravan starting point. Thanks to Steve Spector for making the arrangements and to the management of Hagerstown Mercedes-Benz for providing a meeting place where we stayed cool and enjoyed refreshments before we started the drive to western Pennsylvania. Afterwards the group took off for Ohiopyle, PA and a visit to two beautiful homes by Frank Lloyd Wright.

Our first stop was Kentuck Knob, the house commissioned by the Hagan Family in 1953, when Frank Lloyd Wright was in his 80s. The Hagans were friends of wealthy Pittsburgh retailer Edgar J Kaufmann who owned nearby Fallingwater. Originally budgeted for \$60,000, the house was completed in 1956 for a final cost of \$96,000.

The house is set into a hill “Kentuck Knob.”

The area was virtually devoid of trees so the house, with its shiny copper roof, could be seen from a distance. The Hagans planted thousands of trees, and today the house is surrounded by woods that present a peaceful view from the large windows facing the balcony and the road.

Designed in Wright’s Usonian style, Kentuck Knob blended into the countryside and the use of such natural materials as stone quarried on the site, and cypress recovered from a swamp in South Carolina it becomes one with its surroundings. Designed well before passive solar design was a concept, Kentuck Knob is oriented to vary the amount of sunlight that enters the home by the season – less light in summer, more

in winter. The sunlight that penetrates the house in winter helps warm the flagstone flooring, which is also heated using a radiant hot-water system now making a comeback in today’s energy efficient homes.

Patricia, our guide who knows Mrs. Hagan (still alive and well in her ‘90s) was able to provide interesting details on the family as well as the building.



**Rear, left to right:** Paul Vandenberg, Steve Spector, Jim Glenn, Ted Whitehouse, Michael Wasylyszyn, Roger O’Connor. **Front, left to right:** Hwei Vandenberg, Andrea Cuddy, Sharon Whitehouse, Joan Wasylyszyn, Amy McKenna, Shirley Ann O’Connor

Because of health issues the Hagans put Kentuck Knob on the market in 1986 and in 1988 it was purchased by Lord Palumbo, who maintains it as a private residence but uses it only for special occasions and opens it for special tours.

We returned to our hotel to relax and freshen up for the evening’ with dinner at Chez Gerard’s in Hopwood PA as well as prepare for our next days adventure.

The next morning we were the first group of the day to tour Fallingwater. Again we got one of the more experienced guides to show us this fascinating structure. Fallingwater is a simply a fabulous home in a stunning location with a very interesting history.

When Edgar J. Kaufmann purchased the property in the early 1930s, the family built a simple cabin there. The Kaufmann’s son had studied with Frank Lloyd Wright, who visited at the family’s mansion in Pittsburgh. His suggestion that the family should have something more in keeping with their status is the genesis of the design of Fallingwater – what the Kaufmann’s referred to as their “weekend cabin in the woods.”

During the depression with many of the local workmen, out of work, the house was completed in just two years. Errors in setting concrete forms for the structure during construction, including the cantilevers left them subject to more stress and resulted in continuing problems with the building – problems the Conservancy addressed in 2001 when they added (hidden) support to stabilize the cantilevers and preserve the structure. Design details throughout the house show Wright’s genius – windows with disappearing frames, wide-open living spaces that

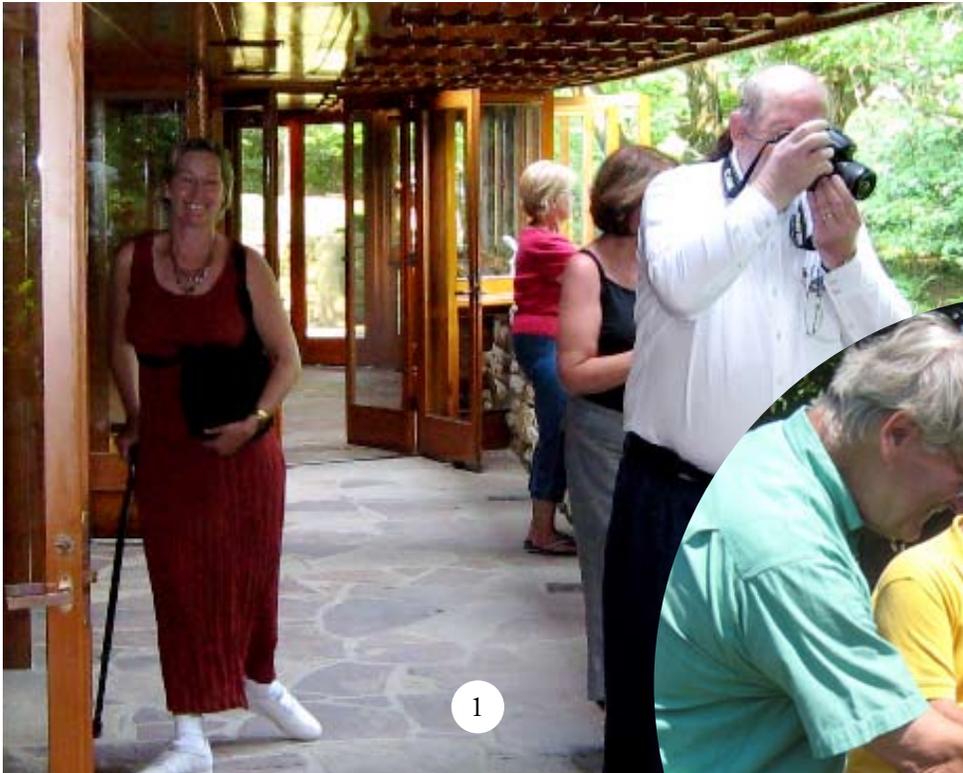
can be compared to today’s “great rooms” make Fallingwater appear as modern as any new house built today.

In 1963 the younger Edgar Kaufmann, who worked at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, deeded the house and the land to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, making it one of the few Frank Lloyd Wright houses that contains all the original furnishings designed by Wright specifically for the house.

This was a fun and fascinating Dine and Drive that all of us thoroughly enjoyed.

-- Jim Glenn

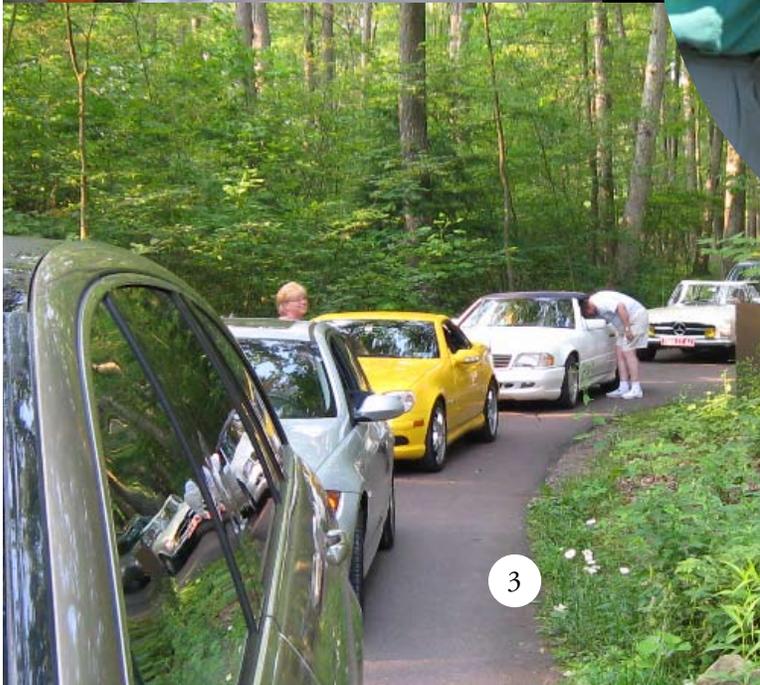
# From Pennsylvania our



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2



3



4

### **Falling Water/Kentuck Knob Dine & Drive:**

1 Amy McKenna, Joan Wasylyszyn, Andrea Cuddy and Paul Vandenberg (w/Camera) on the balcony at Falling Water.

3. MBCA Members line up on the drive into the Frank Lloyd Wright Houses.

### **Mid-Atlantic Concours & GWS Picnic:**

2. Bob Platz and Steve Spector hard at work judging.

5. Doc, waiting for another Picnic treat.

6. Ray Schlicht, Steve Newby and the Newby watchdog on the Concours field.

7. One of two delicious GWS Cakes.

8. Bill Lofquist, Ted Whitehouse and Joe Wozney tending the bar, a good reason to tip generously.

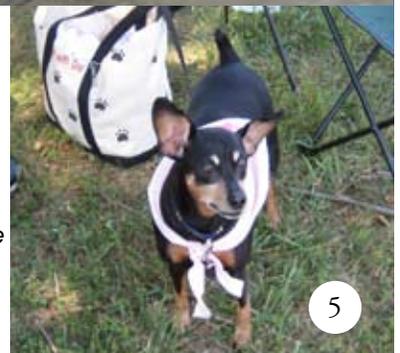
9. New Member Mark Spellman with his 560 SEL.

10. Ray Lombardo and John Heflin Judge Jerry Chenault's '86 560SL.

11 GWS Concours Chair Ray Lombardo tallying the score sheets.

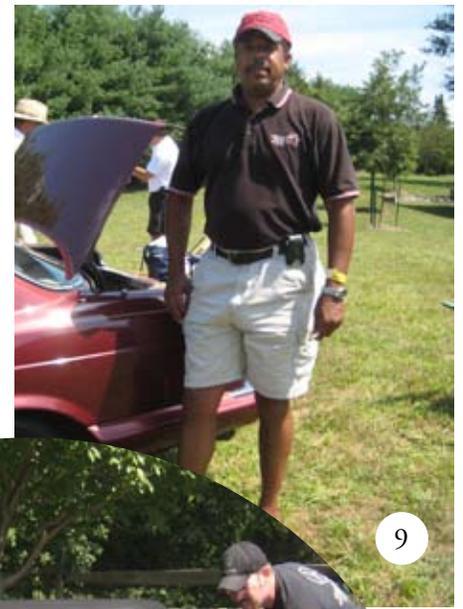
### **GWS Drivers Education Weekend at Summit Point Raceway:**

4. Jean-Marc Rainville, Canadian MBCA Member with his C63 AMG after a track session.



5

# *to Potomac members have been...*



# *...driving, dining...*





12

**Mid-Atlantic Concour and GWS Picnic:**

12 Douglas deBoard, "the Tour Meister" shown in front of the "Bavarian Castle" Moon bounce.

13 Bill LeVan basking in the glow of a winning Concours trophy for his S500.

16 John Heflin and "George Lombardo." John is a 2008 GWS Vice President Candidate, George is the official GWS Summer picnic Bratwurst Tester.

**GWS Summer Do-It-Yourself Event at American Service Center, Arlington VA:**

14. GWS Tech Committee Member Gordon Smith, unnamed ASC Technician, Charmaine Iversen, and Seth Turner discussing the major points of a W202 chassis overhead.

**GWS July Driver's Education Weekend at Summit Point Raceway:**

15. Red Porsche, Unknown Driver, Black M-B 560 SEC, John Heflin, White Honda S2000 Unknown Driver, Red Ford Focus, Tom Newman, White BMW 3 series, Unknown Driver



13



15

**...and tuning.**



14



16

# Keystone Section's Fall Autocross

On Sunday, September 21, at 10 am, the Keystone Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America will hold an autocross at Sun Motor Cars, a Mercedes-Benz dealer in Mechanicsburg PA. What could be more fun than a leisurely drive north into Pennsylvania for "a day of autocross."

Larry Taylor, Keystone Section President, known to many of those who have attended Tri-O-Rama and other regional events, will be the host. The event will be held at Sun Motor Cars' new location, complete with a specially designed autocross track.

This is a great opportunity to reconnect, make new friends and do some A/X skills training, before this year's Tri-O-Rama at Thunderbolt Raceway in New Jersey.

The Keystone Section's Fall Autocross will begin at 10 am and cost \$15 per person. Sun Motor Cars is a short drive north of Baltimore up route 83. It is located at 6677 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg PA. Sun Motor Cars website offers exact driving directions. (www.sunmotor.mercedescenter.com)

For more information, contact: Larry Taylor at larryt543@yahoo.com or 717.627.1423

## GWS Members in the News

Recently some GWS Members have been featured in automotive articles in different publications

**Douglas deBoard – Auto Week**

<http://www.autoweek.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080829/FREE/808279991/1596>

**Klaus Hirtes – Washington Post**

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/28/AR2008082803567.html>

**Bill Hopper – On Wheels**

[http://wmet1160.com/schedule/on\\_wheels/](http://wmet1160.com/schedule/on_wheels/) click on the 20080826 1203.mp3



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Norbert Lamp started his career with Mercedes-Benz in 1960 in Germany working for Daimler-Benz AG. In the factory-owned repair facility he was selected to work on the 300SL Gullwing, 300SL Roadster and later, 230SL and 250SL. He was also one of the first mechanics ever to work on the famous 600 limousine. During the next six years, Norbert became not only proficient in the repair of these vehicles, but also logged more hours on these historic and significant vehicles than probably any other specialist in the world today.

From 1966 to 1968 he worked for Mercedes-Benz of Canada in Toronto as a Mercedes-Benz Contract Technician. In the summer of 1968, on a sightseeing trip to New York and Washington, D.C., he fell in love with the United States and accepted a job at HBL in Fairfax, Virginia. Since 1969, Norbert has been working exclusively for Mercedes-Benz dealers in the Washington area, pleasing thousands of clients in various positions such

as Technician, Quality Control Manager, Shop Foreman and Assistant Service Manager. In addition to his unique professional credentials, Norbert has been a member of the Mercedes Benz Club of America since 1974 and has served as President/Vice President of the Greater Washington Section from 1986-1994.

Norbert Lamp brings his legacy from Mercedes-Benz Germany to you here in Tysons Corner today. As one of the leading experts in the field of Mercedes-Benz mechanical restoration, he has assisted many Mercedes-Benz owners with the full mechanical restoration of their vintage classic Mercedes-Benz automobiles. We can say with confidence that Norbert is the leading authority in the Mid-Atlantic knowing not only the intricacies of your vintage Mercedes-Benz but also having the resources and knowledge to restore your vehicle to an almost new condition.

Mercedes-Benz of Tysons Corner is proud of Norbert Lamp's life-long dedication to customer satisfaction and his outstanding work product. Whether your goal is to keep your classic Mercedes-Benz rolling for your daily driving pleasure or to restore your car for your collection, Norbert will work with you to develop a comprehensive plan to fulfill your dream.

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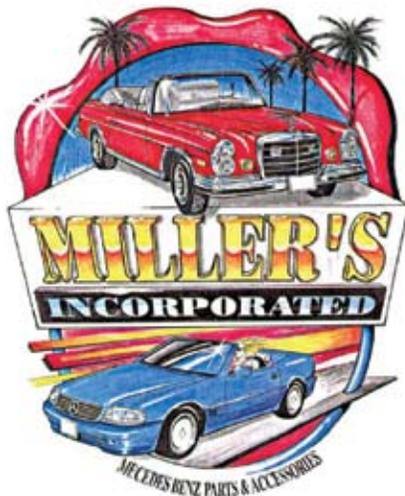
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## The Engine Group

A group is now forming to discover the inner workings  
of a Mercedes-Benz 117 engine. A small group of  
GWS members will be dismantling the engine in  
preparation for an upcoming Tech Time to find out  
more about this workhorse. This tear down group is  
limited due to the size of the space where the engine  
is located, but the upcoming Tech Time event will  
be open to as many interested members as possible.  
For those of you interested in participating in "The  
Engine Group" contact Gordon Smith 301-475-2870  
[smithgd@maxinter.net](mailto:smithgd@maxinter.net)



## High Gear



by  
**Robby Ackerman**  
[robby@ackerman.net](mailto:robby@ackerman.net)

The '83 300D slowed to 35 mph as it struggled up an imperceptible hill on I-85 in Alabama. As my 2-year-old grandson would say, "Oh man, holy cats!" Earlier that evening I had filled the fuel tank with used cooking oil that had been used to prepare a catfish dinner for the community of D'Iberville, MS. The filtering process was literally a sock - one I had worn for several days - stuffed in a funnel, and obviously not very effective.

I was on my way home after having used GWS's generous gift of \$1,000 and other personal contributions to prepare meals for everyone from jail inmates to the mayor in this community that received Katrina's thirty-foot storm surge. This was three years ago.

Dr. Ron Paterson, Executive Director of Christian Disaster Response, recently called and asked where he could get a car like mine, but with fuel prices so high, one they could drive on vegetable oil. CDR is a first responder NGO for natural disasters such as hurricanes and tornadoes that provides food services. When they arrived in D'Iberville, they converted a Little League concession stand into a facility that produced meals for 3,000 people a day. Arriving in areas with inoperable gas stations and having vegetable oil and waste vegetable oil as a fuel source, a pre-'86 Mercedes-Benz diesel is a practical car.

No sooner had I hung up with Dr. Paterson than Doug Quash called saying he had a 300D and a 300SD the he wanted to sell. "Doug, would you like to donate the 300D to CDR?" Doug's solid '81 300D had the patina of concord grapes. Vince Canepa and the men at a Virginia Section Driveway Mechanic Session tackled the body with an orbital buffer, and wow the original deep dark blue paint looked perfect again. The dash was missing a radio, and I felt that at the very least the volunteers using the car should have the benefit of listening to good music. Frank Ren from the NJ Section responded to an MBCA Club Forum request and shipped me an HD Digital Radio, which he had purchased for his 560SL. My niece was at a

charity auction and picked up a \$250 gift certificate for parts at Tysinger Mercedes-Benz in Hampton, VA, which provided a new diesel battery, brake pads, and filters and my next-door neighbor Blair donated a new set of tires. After giving the car a thorough going over; changing belts, fluids, and filters; a valve adjustment, a new water pump, front end bushings and addressing a variety of known issues, I filled her up with vegetable oil, and headed to CDR's headquarters in Florida.

I imagined all sorts of noises, but it was hard to imagine away the "BAM!" that struck along I-526 north of Charlestown, SC and the ensuing cloud of smoke that had all the traffic behind me backing off. It never reoccurred, and I'll attribute it to what we call an Italian tune-up - high speed driving that cleans out the carbon. The car garnered a remarkable 32-mpg on the 1,000 mile trip to Tampa.

Upon my arrival Mrs. Ron Paterson marveled at the sound quality of the 27-year-old Benz speakers. Her favorite song was playing on Frank's CD player. The aroma of grilled chicken was emanating from the exhaust when Ron asked if he really could pour vegetable oil into the fuel tank. Yes! They had a supply of new old oil that couldn't be used for cooking. When he dropped me off at the airport for my return to Virginia someone who had been driving behind us said, "Hey, you made me hungry following you!"



*The 1981 300D with a patina of concord grapes is readied for a trip to help out during natural disasters,*

# The Trading Post

## Up-to-Date Listings:

[www.gws-mbca.org](http://www.gws-mbca.org)

## Trading Post Advertising Information

GWS members may place an ad in the Metro Tri-Star Trading Post free of charge. The rate for nonmembers is \$45. Ads are limited to 50 words. Photos are an additional \$20. Include your name, membership number, and phone number with your ad. Ads will appear for two issues and must be received by the 10th of the month preceding publication. Send your ad to Janet McFarland at [janetmcfarland@earthlink.net](mailto:janetmcfarland@earthlink.net) or call 703-765-9405. The editor has sole discretion in determining ad acceptability.

**1980 450SLC:** Last of the model series. One owner, non-smoker, always garaged. Silver blue metallic paint, factory original rims, stainless steel exhaust system. Excellent condition with perfect interior, no body dents or scratches. All Mercedes-Benz with Becker radio, new M-B battery and Sekurite glass all around. 78,000 miles. Will sell for Blue Book of \$13,350. Email Bob for photos [ssi.bob@verizon.net](mailto:ssi.bob@verizon.net) or call 301.262.2232.

**1984 380SE:** in great running shape well maintained, reliable. Sunroof New: transmission, tires, plugs, wires, radiator, thermostat, headlights, blades, rear axles, fuel pump, gas pedal, brakes, calipers, oxygen sensor, timing chain, cams. \$2,950 Craig: 703.615.5195, [Craig.Spirka@att.net](mailto:Craig.Spirka@att.net), McLean, VA.

**1987 560SLL:** Champagne, burgundy interior, 60k, garage-kept summer car. New OEM soft top, 16" W8 wheels, Kumho Exta tires, steering box. Includes hardtop, all service records. Excellent \$22,500. Paul: 410.885.3104, [paul.a.schiffelbein@usa.dupont.com](mailto:paul.a.schiffelbein@usa.dupont.com).

**1976 450SL:** Dark blue, both tops, new blue leather seats, not running for several years but will run. Complete stainless steel exhaust system (Time Valve). Good for parts or restore? SAVE IT FROM THE CAR CRUSHER! Car cover to hide it, too! \$600.00. Andrew: 301.577.0052 or [callimahos@yahoo.com](mailto:callimahos@yahoo.com).

**Car Cover:** Like-new car cover used for a 1987 300TD (station wagon). \$49. Andy: 703-799-7533

**1971 300 SEL 3.5:** Engine/Tranny runs strong, great chrome, windows, seats, air suspension, but the car has hidden cancer holes. Reliable and always ran great. Brakes started leaking fluid from a cylinder and rusted rear line. It would be a great project or parts car. \$1,500 obo. Dean Rosa 301.899.2208 or cell 301.335.9819

**1994 E500:** Brilliant silver metallic black. 58K. Own the legendary 322hp V8 hand built in conjunction with Porsche. Always garaged, never raced, all original. Fully equipped, silky paint, unblemished wheels, and stunning hand-sewn interior with rear buckets. All records including original window sticker. New ignition control module. \$32,500. Walter: 301.370.2990, or [walterwray@comcast.net](mailto:walterwray@comcast.net).

**Factory Service Manual** for 450SL models (1976) near excellent condition. \$50 plus \$6 postage. Andrew; 301.577.0052 or [callimahos@yahoo.com](mailto:callimahos@yahoo.com)

**Four Yokohama Avid Touring tires** (NEW) 195/70/14 for W123 1977-85 300D sedan, 1979-85 300 TD wagon, and other models, \$200. **Used rear bumper** for 1979-85 300TD station wagon, \$150. **Used front bumper** for 1977-85 W123 sedan, wagon, or coupe, \$75. Located in NW WDC. Andrew; [squasher@starpower.net](mailto:squasher@starpower.net), 202.251.8333

**Four Alloy Wheels.** 8-1/4 Jx17 H2. ET34 inscribed inside. \$800. Julian: 703.625.1878 or [julian.t.reeves.69@dartmouth.org](mailto:julian.t.reeves.69@dartmouth.org).

**Five 14" alloy wheels** - from an '80's vintage SL - wheel number 5084 - 'bundt cake' style. No curb rash, a couple could stand re-painting, complete with center caps and dust shields. Four have tires (not much good), all need a good cleaning. \$50 each obo. [pmissel@comcast.net](mailto:pmissel@comcast.net)

**Near perfect 17" (7-spoke)** original wheels with Michelin Pilot Sport 245/45 x 17 tires mounted. From 2003 SL500, approx 13,500 miles. \$500 for the set. Dave: 703.924.2867 or [davidjestine@cox.net](mailto:davidjestine@cox.net).

**Four OEM alloy wheels** and Pirelli P245/45R-17 P-Zero Nero M&S mounted tires from my 2003 E500. Tires were on vehicle only one year/10,000 miles. In excellent condition except for one wheel which has four small scratches. \$700 obo. Tom: 703.946.4522 or [mcleantmw@aol.com](mailto:mcleantmw@aol.com).

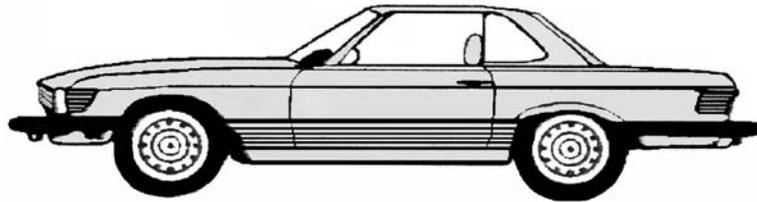
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