



Mercedes Benz Club of America



Delaware Valley Section

April 2014

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Summer Road Rallye

Saturday, June 7, 2014

Mercedes Benz of West Chester

1260 Wilmington Pike, West Chester, PA, 19382
(484) 313-1100

Summer is almost upon us, and the time for our annual (most years) road rallye is just around the corner. Mark your calendars for June 7th to "do" the rallye! This year we will be meeting at Mercedes Benz of West Chester's superb facility. Rich Strickland, the Service Director, has graciously offered to host our gathering and will provide coffee and pastries starting at 9:00AM. Each car will get a set of cryptic directions which will take you for a circuitous drive in the beautiful Delaware Valley countryside. The end of the course will find a rustic establishment where we will have lunch and camaraderie. The total cost for all this is a mere \$30 per person.

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** Please see registration form on page 4 **

Has your e-mail or contact information changed in the past 24 months? Update your information online at MBCA.org, or contact the National Business Office at 719/633-6427, M-F, 8a-4p MT

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Members! Let's get ready to RUMBLE! It's Spring, and we have plenty of events to look forward to. Additionally we are now using Constant Contact, an email service to communicate club events as well as the newsletter.

I would like everyone to keep me updated with your email addresses. There are opportunities with neighboring club events that we can join. These would be impromptu events that we can attend on short notice.

Ask not what your club can do for you, but what you can do for your club! Come out and enjoy the various events we have planned.

TECH TIP

Have you been considering the purchase of a new(er) Mercedes-Benz, but weren't sure what impact the **ECO** mode will have on your starter or engine? Does it *really* shut off and turn on the engine every time you stop the car? Does the oil drain from the moving components before your engine re-starts? I asked **Euro Motorcars Devon** technicians for assistance. Read on ...

When the engine is turned off via ECO mode, the engine control module knows the position of the crankshaft, and whether a piston is in a proper position to be fired. If so, the injector squirts and the plug is fired in that cylinder, with no starter engagement. If there is no piston in optimal position, the starter will engage just enough to move to the next appropriate piston, and fire (the starter is engaged for less than second). Also, since the engine was just running, it is still well oiled, so there is minimal wear on the starter and engine (compared to starting an engine after it has been sitting overnight).

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Currently, most MBCA sections distribute their newsletter via e-mail, which eliminates the cost of postage, labor, printing, AND TIME! Sections sending their newsletter by e-mail save an estimated \$1 - \$2 per member, per issue on hard costs alone. With approximately 350 members, DV Section stands to save hundred\$ per issue, depending on the size of the newsletter. This equates to a sizeable annual savings, which can be put to use by reducing costs for members to attend events, including the possibility of subsidizing the Annual Holiday Party. In essence, if **WE** e-mail the newsletter to you ... **YOU** will save money!

In the past, the size of our newsletter was cut back, due to increasing costs. By sending the newsletter via e-mail, we have the ability to increase the size of the newsletter AT NO COST ... providing you with more content in each newsletter! By sending the newsletter via e-mail, we will also have the ability to create and send additional issues on a more regular basis.

Earlier this year, we instituted monthly communications with our members. MONTHLY MERCEDES MINUTE (or, MMM) is an e-mail based communication (text and links only, no PDF), containing only Mercedes-Benz content of general interest to Mercedes-Benz owners and aficionados. The idea of MMM is to provide MONTHLY communications with MERCEDES-content ... which should take a MINUTE or two to peruse. MMM will also be the new home for Delaware Valley Section TRADING POST, where FOR SALE or WANT TO BUY ads for MB cars, parts, memorabilia, and literature (etc) can be posted at no cost to members.

When sending communications to our members, DV Section obtains current membership contact information from MBCA when, and as needed. Accordingly, if you are not receiving MMM, or, if you are receiving the newsletter in PRINTED format, PLEASE update your e-mail address as follows:

a) **Telephone:** Contact the NBO at 719/633-6427 (8AM -4PM Mountain Time, 2 hours behind Eastern Time)

b) **Online:** Log on to MBCA.ORG. On the left, under MY PROFILE, click EDIT MY PROFILE. The page will refresh to your ACCOUNT INFORMATION. The MEMBER E-MAIL ADDRESS block is located under MEMBER USERNAME. Update your e-mail address as required ... it is never shared or made public.

Has your e-mail or contact information changed in the past 24 months? Update your information online at MBCA.org, or contact the National Business Office at 719/633-6427, M-F, 8AM-4PM

WHAT'S IN A LEASE?

Advertisements for cars tend to tout a specific lease payment, rarely referencing MSRP. How do you know if the terms of the lease are beneficial? There are five main components to consider in a lease ...

Money Factor is an auto leasing industry term for expressing the interest rate used to calculate the monthly lease payment. Quite simply, the money factor equates to the APR (annual percentage rate) of a lease, divided by 2,400 ... regardless of the vehicle or term of the lease. To calculate the APR on any lease, ask your sales representative to provide you with the money factor, then multiply by 2400. As an example, a money factor of 0.00125 would equate to a 3.0% interest rate ($0.00125 \times 2400 = 3.0$). The money factor is typically set by the lender and MAY be negotiable.

Residual is a vehicle leasing company's assumption of what a vehicle will be worth at the end of the lease, expressed as a fraction of the percentage of MSRP. The higher the residual value, the lower the monthly payment, and vice-versa. Edmunds.com suggests many cars will have a residual value of between 50% and 58% after just 36 months. Accordingly, a vehicle with a 58% residual value will have a higher residual (pay-off) value at the end of the lease, as compared to a vehicle with a residual value of 50%, meaning, you pay less depreciation on a vehicle with a higher residual value. If you plan to walk away from the vehicle at the end of the lease, you will want the highest residual available, as you will be paying for less depreciation. A recent National Lease offered through MBUSA provided a 50% residual on a new C-Class, after 48 months. This equates to a slower depreciation as compared to the example provided by Edmunds.com. In this example, the value of the C-Class depreciates slower, requiring you to pay less on a monthly basis - but means you will pay more for the car if you buy the car at lease end.

Down Payment: Ads for leased vehicles typically include a large down payment. In retrospect, putting money down on a lease is using current dollars to pay future depreciation, and can be considered upfront / prepaid interest.

Acquisition Fee: Leases typically impose acquisition fees at the inception of a lease (which can vary from dealer to dealer, even when dealing with the same manufacturer). An acquisition fee can typically range from \$595 - \$1,095 (+/-), and is alleged to cover a wide variety of administrative costs ... obtaining credit report, verifying insurance coverage, completing documentation, etc. One might ask, doesn't a dealer perform these same tasks when I purchase? Why, then, is an acquisition fee so much higher than what many dealers would charge as a "Documentation Prep Fee" on a purchase ... with, or without a loan? Some suggest the leasing company demands their own form of "Doc Prep Fee," which ultimately costs the buyer more money.

Disposition / Disposal Fee: Leases typically impose disposition fees typically ranging from \$395 - \$795 (+/-) at the end of a lease, purportedly to cover the cost of turning the car back to the leasing company. If you purchase the vehicle, you likely will not be required to pay the fee. Conversely, many leasing companies will waive the fee if you lease another vehicle through them (generally, within a prescribed portion of the lease term).

15th Annual FatherFest – June 15, 2014

Dad's Day is just around the corner. Why not take Dad to a good 'ole fashioned car show!? FatherFest is held every year on Fathers Day (10AM till 2PM), and routinely displays up to 200 vehicles depending on the weather. Fatherfest has expanded over the years, and includes antique, hot-rods, motorcycles, and just about anything else. If your car is show worthy, you are welcome to enter it into FatherFest. Registration is \$7.00 per show car, with general admission to the public at \$7.00 per person. To make Dad's day MORE EXCITING ... why not consider a helicopter ride for just \$40 per person? The show and helicopter rides are on the grounds of American Helicopter Museum & Education Center, 1220 American Boulevard, West Chester, PA, 19380. Registration information: strio@americanhelicopter.museum

REGISTRATION:

MBCA Delaware Valley Section - Summer Road Rallye June 7, 2014 - Mercedes Benz of West Chester

Names of attendees: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Number of people attending: _____

Check enclosed for \$_____ (@ \$30 per person, include rallye and lunch)

Please RSVP by May 22nd by submitting registration with payment made payable to Norm Ricker, 1175 Princeton Lane, West Chester, PA, 19380.

NEW MODEL RELEASES

Delaware Valley Section is currently working with several Mercedes-Benz dealers, in an effort to bring a perpetual private showing of new Mercedes-Benz models ...exclusively for our members. With the debut of many new Mercedes-Benz models approaching, including, but not limited to the 2015 S500 Coupe, 2015 GLA-Class, 2015 C-Class, 2015 S63 AMG 4matic, and the extra-long-wheelbase S-Class personal limousine ... you simply must see, feel, and drive them ... to appreciate the ever-changing Mercedes-Benz line-up. Watch for continuing information to be disseminated in the newsletter, as well as the Monthly Mercedes Minute.

WARM WEATHER CRUISING

Stress is not good for you, OR your car. Why not relieve stress for both on a warm weather drive through scenic areas of interest? DV Section is currently putting together plans for members to meet once per month ... for the sole purpose of a leisurely drive in their Mercedes-Benz ... either along a scenic route, or to places of special interest. Keep an eye open in future issues of **MMM** (see *Newsletter Update, page 2*) for more information.

YES, WE HAVE A FACEBOOK PAGE!

No, I do not play Angry Birds, or any of the other games on Facebook, but I *do* use the Social Media website to follow several companies and product lines (including Mercedes-Benz). In today's world of techno-gadgetry, we need multiple outlets in which to share information about or club, and activities ... Facebook is one of those options. Our DV Section group is a CLOSED GROUP, which means you must ask the administrator for permission to join (this keeps spammers away). Remember to LIKE our page, then sign up for notifications (GET NOTIFICATIONS) ... you will receive notices of upcoming events and activities on your wall.

www.facebook.com/groups/62557860825

“GET THE LEAD OUT!”

The warm weather season is finally upon us! Whether your automobile uses unleaded, leaded, diesel, bio-diesel, or electric ... why not make a point to visit one of the upcoming regional car shows. Most of these shows feature 100 – 500+ cars of all ages, shapes, sizes, marques and manufacturers.
(see car show's website for admission fee(s), if any)

24 Hours of Lemons, May 10-11, 2014

New Jersey Motorsports Park, Millville NJ

<http://www.njmp.com/>

<http://www.24hoursoflemons.com/events-results/2014/article/126-the-real-hoopies-of-new-jersey>

Bucks County Exotics (display), **Saturday, May 17, 2014: 11AM – 1PM**

Parking lot of Blair Mill Mall (*this is not noted to be a regional show*)

200 Blair Mill Road, Horsham, PA, 19044

BucksCountyExotics.com

15th Annual FatherFest, **Sunday, June 15, 2014: 10AM – 2PM**

American Helicopter Museum, 1220 American Blvd, West Chester, PA, 19380

Helicopter rides available @ \$40

AmericanHelicopter.Museum/events/current-events

44th Annual Cavalcade of Corvettes, **Saturday, June 21, 2014; 10AM – 3PM**

Katie O'Donnells Irish Pub, 4501 Woodhaven Rd, Philadelphia (near Franklin Mills Mall)

www.CCDV.com

Lansdale Under the Lights Car Show, **Saturday, June 21, 2014; 7:00PM**

Main Street, Lansdale, PA, 19446; live entertainment; 500+ cars on display

FairmountFireCo.com/htm-docs/carshow.htm

Doylestown at Dusk, **Saturday, July 19, 2014**

Streets of Doylestown, 18901 (Bucks County)

Live entertainment starts at 5:00 PM, free general admission

DoylestownCarShow.com

21st Annual Moonlight Memories, **Sunday, July 27, 2014; 5:00 – 10:00PM**

York Road, Hatboro, 19040; live entertainment, free general admission

500 – 600 specialty cars and trucks typically draw 75,000 – 100,000 visitors

Bring your walking shoes ... and don't forget to bring a stroller or wagon for the kids!

MoonlightMemories.org

24 Hours of Lemons, **Aug 9-10, 2014**

New Jersey Motorsports Park, Millville NJ

<http://www.njmp.com/>

<http://www.24hoursoflemons.com/events-results/2014/article/132-there-goes-the-neighborhood>

New Hope Auto Show, **August 9 & 10, 2014**

Magnificent antique and classic automobiles; display limited to 250 automobiles per day

NewHopeAutoShow.com

“Get The Lead Out!” (continued)

18th Annual Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance, Sunday, September 14, 2014
RadnorConcours.org

Buckingham Concours d'Elegance, Sunday, September 14, 2014
BuckinghamAutoShow.org

51st Annual Das Awkscht Fescht / Macungie, Sunday, September 14, 2014
awkscht.com

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CHICAGO TO KEY WEST – 2015*

The Chicagoland Section Invites You on a Road Trip Adventure!

- Trip includes hotel accommodations for 10 days
 - Catamaran sailing at sunset in Key West
 - Unique dinner parties every evening
 - Guided trolley tours
 - Private museum tours & entertainment packages
 - Plus fun, sun & sightseeing along the way!
- All taxes, gratuities & service charges included

Space is limited to first 50 Vehicles/100 Guests \$3,975/couple; \$2,927/single
\$400/pp deposit MUST be received by 8/1/14

Questions? Contact Renee Welsch at rrwelsch@yahoo.com or (847) 344-1153
*See attached PDF file

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MBCA HIGH MILEAGE AWARD*

Who do you know who has a Mercedes-Benz with more than 155,000 miles (uh, on the car ... not the person)? Did you know MBUSA offers a distinctive grille badge for owners whose vehicle(s) have **155,000 miles** (250,000 km), **312,000 miles** (500,000 km), **466,000 miles** (750,000 km), **625,000 miles** (1,000,000 km) and/or 1,000,000 miles (1,610,000 km)?

Mercedes-Benz first introduced the High Mileage Award in the 1960's to recognize Mercedes-Benz vehicles still on the roads which reach well over 100,000 miles, with some even passing the 1 million miles. The program continues on today. If your Mercedes-Benz qualifies for a high mileage award, a Mercedes-Benz dealer will verify the mileage on the vehicle (download the attached application (PDF format)). Afterwards, send in the application, then sit back and wait for your certificate and grille badge to be shipped from the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center.

*See attached PDF file

Mercedes Benz Club of America

Delaware Valley Section Events / 2014

Jun 7: Summer Road Rallye
MB of West Chester
SimeoneMuseum.org

TBD: F1 Karting
NJ Motorsports Park
Millville, NJ

Jul 19: Electric Indoor Karting
Speed Raceway, Horsham, PA

TBD: Cruising Delaware River / Canal

Aug 9: Simeone Museum
Demo Days – includes 300SL Gullwing
SimeoneMuseum.org

TBD: Lancaster County Ice Cream Run
Tour of Sturgis Pretzel Factory
Option to tour Wilbur Chocolate
Option to shop at Outlets

Sep 20: Annual Regional Picnic
John Bleimaier's *Falkenhorst Estate*
Hopewell, NJ

TBD: Tour Battleship New Jersey
Camden Waterfront

**this area reserved for address
label for copies which are mailed**