



Mercedes Benz Club of America



Delaware Valley Section

June / July 2014

August 23, 2014

Simeone Auto Museum

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Delaware Valley Section will gather at the renowned Simeone Automotive Foundation Museum at 10AM, to view 60 - 70 cars from historic international races. The museum offers a wide variety of cars which range from a sexy 1909 American Underslung, to a 21st century NASCAR racecar. The display includes cars from Italy's famous 1,000 mile Mille Miglia endurance race, as well as a number of historic winners of LeMans, which are displayed in a diorama setting. Don't dilly-dally around inside the museum too long, as "Driving Demonstration Days" begins at Noon (sharp), when Simeone takes several cars out of the museum for public demonstration. The featured cars will include a **1955 Mercedes-Benz 300SL Gullwing**, Alpha Romeo Monza, Jaguar D-Type, Ferrari 3-seater, and an Austin Healey. 150+ spectators will be ogling the artwork on wheels up close and personal during a demonstration of the operation of each vehicle on Simeone's 3-acre lot. Upon conclusion, we will depart for an optional late lunch at Popi's (Italian) Restaurant ... about 2 miles away (free, on-site parking). Check out Popi's menu at PopisRestaurant.com.

** Please see registration form on page 5 **

The MBUSA Roadside Assistance program has changed for the second time in recent memory. Please contact MBUSA at 800-222-0100, as no information is available online, or in print.

Events At A Glance

DelawareValley.MBCA.org/upcoming-events

The Delaware Valley Section website provides information about upcoming regional and local section events, including, but not limited to: event description, address, contact & registration information, and more. To access DV Section events, log-in to **DelawareValley.MBCA.org** ... then:

- a) Click on **EVENTS** (top, center)
- b) Find events which interest you
- c) Click on the particular link(s) for additional information

American Endurance Racing: August 1 - 3

Most have heard of Watkins Glen, Daytona or Laguna Seca road course racetracks. With the cost of some race cars exceeding \$500,000+, few have ever experienced the thrill. That's about to change. The *German Endurance of Mercedes-Benz* meets American Endurance Racing (AER), which brings the likes of vehicles such as BMW, Audi, Porsche, and a 1987 Mercedes-Benz 300E, the latter driven by Delaware Valley Section member John Peruto (brother of Jim Peruto, principal owner of Keenan Mercedes). Endurance racing is a form of Motorsports racing which tests the durability of equipment along with its drivers and mechanics. Teams of multiple drivers attempt to cover a large distance in a single event, with a change of drivers occurring during the race.

Though dozens of vehicles will hit the 2-mile track at New Jersey Motorsports Park (NJMP) in Millville, not all will survive the 18-hour endurance race which is held over a three days, in six hour increments. Unlike most televised auto races, most cars generally appear stock in nature, though they will sport a roll-cage, shed their glass and interiors, and have received various safety improvements to braking systems and the like. John's 1987 300E is similar to most other W124 sedans, in that it has over 225,000 miles on the odometer (well, the interior has been removed, so there is no odometer, no speedometer, no power windows, no rear seats ... you get the idea).

Cars race at breakneck speeds for much of the race, while the laws of physics take their toll at a steady attrition rate. Endurance racing packs all of the excitement of shorter races, but adds the drama of catastrophic mechanical breakdowns. Mercedes-Benz engineers their vehicles against the rigors of demanding drivers, while designing cars to last 20+ years of daily driving. John tests the endurance of a 25+ year old Mercedes-Benz in hourly increments; expecting the vintage German engineering in his 300E to complete the venue.

Spectators at NJMP are able to watch portions of the race from just behind a safety fence, or perched atop grandstands. Please join John, as he invites fellow MBCA members (wearing long pants and closed-toe shoes) to watch the race from the pit stall of his #300, where you will also witness pit stops up close and personal. NJMP is located at 8000 Dividing Creek Rd, Millville, NJ, 08332 (near Vineland). Contact NJMP at 856/327-8000 for ticket information and hours of operation. Please bring a lawn chair and cooler with beverages and lunch, if desired.

New Hope Auto Show: August 9 & 10

Over the last 55 years, The New Hope Auto Show has grown into a much-anticipated event, attended by as many as 10,000 people over the two day event. The show has been attracting antique and classic vehicles, of which, Mercedes-Benz models (1985 and older) will be displayed on August 10th. Whether you are a spectator, or displaying a fine automobile, New Hope is for you. Please check DelawareValley.MBCA.org/upcoming-events for the different displays (limited to 250 vehicles per day, with different vehicles on display each day). On Sunday, Mike Parlato and Thrivent Financial will provide bagels and coffee ... watch for the Mercedes-Benz table and MBCA banner. Stop by to say hello!

For those interested in the MBCA vehicle registration discount, please refer to the registration link which was recently sent to members via e-mail, or contact Mike Parlato at m300cab@gmail.com.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Autocross: August 17

MBCA Keystone Section and Delaware Valley Section will host the Mid-Atlantic Regional Autocross, which will be held at Eurofins / Lancaster Labs, 2430 New Holland Pike, Lancaster, PA. The event will commence with a defensive driving clinic starting at 9AM, followed by the Autocross. MBCA Great Lakes Regional Director Frank Cozza and his wife Mary Alice will be assisting with the events.

An autocross consists of a course defined by orange pylons on a parking lot. The location of our Autocross is a large, smooth, flat, blacktop parking lot ... free of any landscape islands and light poles. The goal is to navigate your Mercedes-Benz through the course in the quickest time (though it is not a high speed event). You will learn about the braking and handling characteristic of your Mercedes. The skills you learn will help to make you a better and safer driver. All cars must undergo a short safety inspection on-site. Please remove all floor mats and loose objects from your car. Helmets which meet SNELL 2005 or newer rating (such as SNELL 2010) are required. Loaner helmets MAY be available. You may consider purchasing a new helmet, available at most motorcycle retailers for under \$100.

This is a Mercedes-Benz only event. Trophies will be presented for each class. The cost is only \$25 per driver and \$10 for guests / spectators (includes lunch). **Please see registration form on page 5**

IMPROMPTU - Indoor Go-Karting: September 6

Members looking for a unique twist on car club activities will want to pay close attention to IMPROMPTU events, which require little or no advanced registration or reservation. Most impromptu events will be local, family friendly events. Our first impromptu event brings us to SPEED Raceway, Horsham, PA.

Bring the family for some indoor, four-wheelin' fun at the largest and fastest indoor karting facility in the USA! Two indoor race-tracks are housed within 100,000 square feet of air conditioned space, complete with a video arcade, drivers lounge, and public viewing area. Delaware Valley Section will also benefit from the use of a private meeting room with a floor-to-glass wall, which provides a perfect view of the action. The meeting room provides ample space with tables and chairs, televisions and leather sofas.

Karts are available for Junior drivers 48" and taller, age 6 - 11. Adult racing is available for those who are 56" and taller, age 12+. Juniors race on a track by themselves - no adults will be permitted to race on a track with juniors. FOR SAFETY REASONS, all long hair **must** be pulled back in a pony tail, and all drivers **must** wear closed-toe shoes. Clean, full face helmets are provided. Delaware Valley Section has acquired VIP pricing of \$15 per race, which includes a FREE drivers license. Drivers are able to race as many times as they desire, with no minimum or maximum number of races. Guests are welcome to watch from the open space viewing areas, or from within the glass wall private meeting room.

The single seat OTL Storm Karts will fit those in excess of 6'4", and will accommodate those who are able to fit into a typical airline seat (no double seat karts are available, only one person per kart). Once strapped in, you are given the signal to drive onto the track. Once everyone is on the track, it's non-stop fun! After 10-12 minutes of racing, the race is concluded, typically averaging about 14-15 laps (12 laps for Juniors) on a 1/4 mile road course. Afterwards, each driver is provided with a timing sheet, complete with timing of laps for their race (includes all drivers in the race). Speed Raceway is equipped with live-time scoring on large scoreboards for spectators, as well as a large arcade to keep the party going between races.

In order to plan for our group, drivers are requested but not required to register online by September 2nd:

http://srphiladelphia.clubspeedtiming.com/SP_Center/register.aspx (reference race event #75746)

Upon arrival, drivers will pay Speed Raceway for the number of races desired (cash or credit). All drivers are asked to arrive by 10:30AM. Upon conclusion of the racing activities, members and guests may choose to visit local merchants for cool treats, or lunch (not included with registration). A Dairy Queen is located within walking distance, while Lee's Hoagie House (Horsham) and Cafe Lafontana (a white linen restaurant, in Hatboro) are each 3+/- miles away. Driving instructions will be available at the speedway.

Regional Picnic & Clean Car Show: September 20

MBCA Northern NJ Section and Southern NJ Section will host the 27th Annual Regional Picnic to be held at the home and on the grounds of *Falkenhorst*, John Bleimaier's country estate (41 Moore's Mill / Mount Rose Road, Hopewell, NJ, 609-466-1718). This year, the picnic will be held on Saturday, September 20th, beginning at 11AM, with lunch being served at Noon. NNJS will once again supply hot dogs, hamburgers, beans, sauerkraut, paper products and condiments ... with SJS supplying water. Though the majority of the food and drinks will be supplied by NNJS and SJS, members are asked to bring an appetizer, side dish, salad or dessert to supplement the buffet. Please bring your favorite lawn chairs where possible.

There will also be a "Silent Auction." Please consider bringing a new or gently used item that you would like to donate to the auction table. The proceeds from the auction will be used for a NNJS or SJS charity donation. There is no cost to attend, but your MUST RSVP by 9/15/14 in order for the hosts to prepare their "shopping list!". To RSVP, please contact Lucille at luluchab@aol.com, or call 973-731-9133 ... remember to include the following information:

**Your name - How many will be attending - What car will you be driving?
What food / dish will you bring? (Choose: Appetizer, Salad, Side Dish, Entrée, Dessert)**

Plans Underway for Holiday Party: December 13 & 14

Based upon member feedback, Delaware Valley Section will return to The Union League for its Annual Holiday Party. Conveniently located in the heart of center city Philadelphia, The Union League is an exclusive, private club, reserved for members and their guests. This year, we will expand activities within center city, enabling members to see and do more! Instead of visiting Philadelphia solely for dinner, we anticipate *options* which will enable members to spend a day or two in town, along with the ability to select on-site, overnight accommodations at an affordable rate. Please reserve **December 13th** for the Holiday Party, and plan to spend the night in town. Updated plans will be available in the next newsletter, as well as DelawareValley.MBCA.org/upcoming-events and our Facebook page.

Delaware Valley Section Appointments

Mike Parlato (Delaware Valley Section President) recently appointed Steven Long, as Vice-President, and Ellin Mang as Secretary of Delaware Valley Section. Each appointment will fill the current term, which expires in April 2015. In addition, each of the following Delaware Valley Section Members have been named to the following volunteer positions: Ralf Weiser – Rallye Master, Norm Ricker – Driving Events Advisor, Ellin Mang – Social Director, Steven Long – Webmaster. *If you would like to assist with an event, or perhaps take photographs at an event*, please contact Mike Parlato m300cab@gmail.com, or Steven Long at MBCAnewsletter@aol.com.

Newsletter Update

Delaware Valley Section sends our newsletter and other communications to all members who have an e-mail address listed with MBCA National Business Office (NBO). We do NOT maintain a membership database; rather, we obtain current contact information from MBCA NBO immediately prior to all communications. Accordingly, if you change your physical or e-mail address, please remember to contact MBCA NBO as follows:

a) **Telephone:** Contact 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 and physical address as required ... it is never shared or made public.

MBCA Delaware Valley Registration:

DelawareValley.MBCA.org/upcoming-events

August 17, 2014 – Mid-Atlantic Regional Autocross

Driver #1 _____ MB Year & Model _____

Driver #2 _____ MB Year & Model _____

Driver #3 _____ MB Year & Model _____

*A maximum of two drivers are permitted to use the same car during the Autocross

Number of guests attending: _____ Total Number of drivers & guests attending: _____

Check enclosed for \$ _____ @ \$25 per driver and \$10 for spectators (each includes lunch)

Contact Phone: (____) _____ e-mail: _____

Please RSVP by August 13th, submitting registration with payment made payable to Keystone Section MBCA, attn: Larry Taylor, 6 Star Lite Drive, Lititz, PA, 17543, 717/627-1423.

August 23, 2014 - Simeone Museum / Popi's

Names of attendees: _____

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

Check enclosed for \$ _____ @ \$15 per person (includes Simeone Museum DEMO DAYS only)

Number of attendees going to Popi's restaurant (not included in registration fee) _____

Please RSVP by August 20th, submitting registration with payment made payable to Steven Long, PO Box 815, Montgomeryville, PA, 18936, 215/368-9585.

Club Communications

There has never been an easier way to find information about a Delaware Valley Section event, view a newsletter, contact a Section officer, read a review of a section event, or renew your membership. DelawareValley.MBCA.org is the first place to look for information about anything related to MBCA.

Mercedes Minute (MM) is a mostly-monthly e-mail blast sent to our membership. MM provides members with a glimpse at some of the latest information about Mercedes-Benz, derived from 3rd parties. Should you change your e-mail address, please remember to contact MBCA national Business Office at 719/633-6427 (M-F, 8AM-4PM Mountain Time) to update your address.

Facebook is similar to an electronic bulletin board, which enables the club to post general information, events, and notices for *immediate dissemination*. Club members are invited to post a Mercedes-Benz related question ... comment on an event ... talk about a new, pre-owned, classic or antique Mercedes-Benz ... ask about a new feature on a vehicle or post a WANT AD without having to share any personal information. There are three ways to find our page: **1)** Once logged on to Facebook, search for **Delaware Valley Section – Mercedes Benz Club of America** **2)** Enter www.facebook.com/groups/62557860825 in your web browser **3)** Access Facebook from DelawareValley.MBCA.org ... click on the blue Facebook icon in the upper/left. *Remember to LIKE our page, then sign up for notifications (GET NOTIFICATIONS) ... you will receive Facebook notices of posts and comments.*

Mercedes Benz Club of America

DelawareValley.MBCA.org/upcoming-events

Aug 1-3: American Endurance Racing **
NJ Motorsports Park, Millville, NJ
AmericanEnduranceRacing.com
NJMP.com

Aug 9 & 10: New Hope Auto Show
NewHopeAutoShow.com

Aug 17: Mid-Atlantic Defensive Driving & Autocross
2425 New Holland Pike, Lancaster, PA

Aug 23: Simeone Museum DEMO DAY
SimeoneMuseum.org & PopisRestaurant.com

Sep 6: Indoor Karting at SPEED Raceway
SpeedRaceway.com

Sep 14: 18th Annual Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance
RadnorConcours.org

Sep 14: Buckingham Concours d'Elegance
BuckinghamAutoShow.org

Sep 14: 51st Annual Das Awkscht Fescht
Awkscht.com

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

Oct 24: *Trunk or Treat* Cruise Night @ **NJMP**
www.NJMP.com/events-at-njmp

Oct 24: NASA NE at NJMP **
Nat'l Auto Sport Assn, NE Region
NJ Motorsports Park, Millville, NJ
www.NASANE.com & www.NJMP.com

Nov 1: Simeone Museum
C7 Corvette Race Team

Nov 8: Boyertown Museum **
1939 Railroad Car Diner Days
BoyertownMuseum.org

Nov 16: Family Fun Festival, WXTU 92.5
3rd Annual Open House @ **NJMP**

Dec 13-14: Annual Holiday Party
The Union League, Philadelphia

** This impromptu event takes place without planning or organization by MBCA, and is not listed on MBCA.org

this area reserved for address label