



STAR-GAZER

NYC-LONG ISLAND SECTION

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB of AMERICA, Inc.

Volume 49, Issue 1

www.mbca.org/NYC-Long_Island

1st Quarter, 2011

NYC-LONG ISLAND CLUB HAPPENINGS

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS:

Roger Blank, Max Butler, Brian Chipetine, Richard Cullmer, Mathieu DeGenot, Richard Galvagni, Vincent Gaudiello, David Goodnight, Andrew Gusman, Gregory Hosty, Florentina Ion, Thomas Kanzler, Lynn Mayer, Chris Oghoanina, Paul Paternoster, Budi Santosa, Amar Sider, Kiran Vohra, Augustine Xavier

COMING EVENTS for 2011

March 26 - Tech Session at Gullwing - Spring and Summer Preparations - Lou Palumbo

May 1 - Southampton Road Rally - Andy Monahan

- National Event -

June 18 - MBCA - June Jamboree - Montvale, New Jersey

July 10 - Belmont Park – A Day at the Races- Vinny Milo

**Sept. 25 - Old Westbury Gardens – Concours d'Elegance
Jerry Shapiro**

**Sept. or Oct - Alternatives for Children Road Rally
Vinny Milo**

Dec. 4 - Annual Meeting/Annual Party - Vinny Milo

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EVENTS

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MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

**JOHN ANAISCHIK, VINNY MILO, ANDY MONAHAN, LOU PALUMBO, OLIVER SELIGMAN,
JERRY SHAPIRO, JAN VAN DER BAAN, DR. JOHN WEIGAL**

President's Message

Dear Fellow Members:

As the new President of the NYC-LI section, I would like to outline some upcoming events we have planned for the first half of 2011.

Our first event will be a Tech Session/Spring Check List at Gullwing Motors. It will take place on Saturday, March 26th. Lou Palumbo, the section's Tech Advisor, has once again consented to host us. Lou will review what you'll need to do to get your car ready for warmer weather. This will include car detailing. Be sure to bring any questions or problems you might have, and Lou will be happy to cover them. This is invariably a very popular event, so please mark your calendars.

Our second event will be our annual Spring Rally on Sunday, May 1. It will both begin and end at the Driver's Seat restaurant in Southampton. For those who have never participated, a Rally is an event in which a two person team follows a carefully planned route. On that route they will be looking for answers to a list of detailed questions. They will be evaluated on the number of questions they answer correctly, as well as completion time (too fast is penalized as well as too slow) and mileage. There will be plaques awarded to the top four drivers and navigators. In the past, we have had complete novices take first place so it isn't nearly as hard as it sounds, and is actually a great deal of fun. We'll have our awards ceremony after the Rally at the Driver's Seat. There is no charge for the Rally, but members are responsible for their own meals. The food is excellent. We'll finish by 2 PM so there will be plenty of time to explore. So please, come join us for a beautiful Sunday morning in the Hamptons.

Our third event will be the annual June Jamboree in Montvale, NJ. It will occur on Saturday, June 18th. This event is a regional club event run by the Northern New Jersey section. This is a well attended event that features a Concours held at MBUSA's headquarters. A Concours is essentially a competition for the most pristine car. You will see some extraordinary and rare Mercedes, and it is worth the trip.

That covers the first half of the year, but we have some great plans for the rest of year, so be sure to check your next newsletter. Until then, pleasant journeys.

Andy Monahan
President

HELP WANTED

We need a volunteer to assume the duties of Editor for the Star Gazer, our Section newsletter. Please contact Jerry (718) 637-7234) or Andy (516) 432-3154 if interested.

TIRE TICKING SESSION

Tech Session 3/26/11 10AM to 1PM Gullwing Motors, 100 Windsor Ave, Mineola, NY. The session will focus on preparing our cars for the driving season. We will be going over the suspension as it has had a hard winter, potholes and all. In addition we will be give out detailing tips. A light breakfast will be available. Contact Lou or Steve 516-742-3320

NYC-Long Island Section member of the Year 2010 Award was presented to Lou Palumbo, for the outstanding contributions that he made to benefit our Section members.

GULLWING MOTORS, INC. EST. 1977
516-742-3320
100 Windsor Avenue
Mineola
(1 Block North Of Jericho Turnpike,
Off Roslyn Rd.)
Hours:
Mon-Fri 8am-6pm
Sat 9am-3pm

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Letter to the Editor

I have a 126 series Mercedes Benz that is serviced at Gullwing Motors. I have been going to this excellent shop for almost ten years. The service and Lou & Steve's affiliation with the MBCA clearly warrants my writing to you. Their work is Excellent in all respects. The caliber of their work would clearly equal Mercedes Benz Dealer service and maybe it's superior to that. Their work on the Mechanicals and their Body and Cosmetic Work would rival the Dealer and some top flight restoration facilities. There are other good repair shops, but the work done by Lou & Steve etal are excellent and I would not go anywhere else. I learned about this Excellent Shop through the MBCA and I am so glad I found them. Simply put, they are the best, bar none. Further, I Love that place it's like my second home; totally awesome.

Sincerely yours,

Frank Saglimbeni

2010 HOLIDAY PARTY. THE INN at NEW HYDE PARK





President Jerry Shapiro and Section Member of the Year Lou Palumbo



Photos courtesy of Bob Lieberman



John Theissen Children's Foundation

A non-profit, tax-deductible 501(c) 3 organization
1881 Wantagh Avenue, Wantagh, New York 11793
(516) 679-5098
www.jtcf.org

January 11, 2011

To the Members of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc.:

We greatly appreciate your support to the John Theissen Children's Foundation. Thank you for contributing to our 19th Annual Toy Drive. During the month of December, we donated over 60,000 new toys to sick and underprivileged children on Long Island..

This organization is dedicated to helping sick and underprivileged children. We provide area hospitals and childcare facilities with recreational and therapeutic equipment throughout the year. In addition, we provide assistance to individual families in need.

We are truly grateful for your thoughtful and generous donation.

On behalf of the John Theissen Children's Foundation, we thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Theissen".

John Theissen
Executive Director

~Sometimes a smile is the best medicine~

Hamptons Rally

Starting at 10 AM, on Sunday, May 1st, at the Driver's Seat Restaurant, 62 Jobs Lane, Southampton, please join fellow members for our annual Spring Rally.

For those who have never participated, a Rally is an event where members drive through a well planned course of streets/landmarks, looking for answers to a series of questions. The criteria for winning includes time (too fast is actually penalized as well as too slow), mileage, and of course answers to the provided questions. Plaques will be awarded to the top four drivers and navigators.

NOTE: This event requires both a driver and a navigator. If possible, we will try to pair solo members. Also a street map of Suffolk County is required. There is no cost to participate. However, we will meet after the Rally for lunch at the Driver's Seat and members are responsible for the cost of their own meals. The food is excellent and the prices are reasonable. The event promises to be memorable. During our last Rally, two plaques were awarded to teams that had never run before, so please come out for a nice morning in the country. We will finish by 2 PM, so there will be plenty of time to explore Southampton.

Please contact Andy Monahan at 516-432-3154 no later than April 25th.

Directions:

Take Sunrise Highway (27) to North Sea Road (CR-38), head South on North Sea Road, in about .8 miles it will become Main Street. About .2 miles later make a right onto Job's Lane. The Driver's Seat will be on your left at 62 Job's Lane. Drive past and make a left at the first driveway to park directly behind the restaurant.

Concours Judging School

National Concours Chairman, Pete Lesser will be conducting a Concours judging school in New Jersey on Saturday, May 7th. Pete will be unveiling the new 100 point scoring system, making the task of judging our Starships simpler and much easier for first time judges and entrants to understand. After completing the school, you will be a certified Concours judge. If you are a serious Concours participant, you will find this school beneficial, as you will learn what judges look for, when evaluating cars entered and displayed on the show field. There is a small fee charged for attending this school, which will be held at an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer in NJ. A light breakfast and Lunch will be provided at this all day event. If interested, contact:

Northern NJ Section President, Joe Grattan (973) 628-1781
josephgrattan@aol.com

National Concours Chair, Pete Lesser (330) 562-2841. w113sl@aol.com

Roadside Assistance Enhancement

As of Jan. 1, 2011, the Roadside Assistance Program of Mercedes-Benz (still considered the best program in the business) has undergone some changes. In the past, ANY Mercedes Benz was eligible to receive —Roadside, regardless of age of the vehicle, in/out of warranty or if you were the original owner or not. —Roadside would provide a jump start, install your spare if you had a flat tire and even provide 2-3 gallons of fuel if you ran out SIGN&DRIVE, FREE OF CHARGE!

You are still able to receive Roadside Assistance if YOUR VEHICLE IS ELIGIBLE, with the added bonus of FREE TOWING to the nearest Dealer. Of course now you are wondering what makes you (actually your MB) —ELIGIBLE. The short version is that if your MB is still under (Factory) New, Extended or Certified Pre-Owned warranty, it's eligible.

If your MB is out of warranty, but you purchased it, new or used, prior to Jan. 4, 2011 from an MB Dealer and still own it, you are eligible. If your MB is out of warranty and you are not the original owner, but you serviced your MB at a dealership (a single transaction of at least \$100, within the last 18 month—must be service related, (buying parts or accessories over the counter does not count), you are eligible.

You can still receive Roadside Assistance, even if your MB does not fall within the —Eligible Categories, just not for free. The —SIGN&DRIVE is available for a \$ 75 Flat Rate and —Towing is \$135 to the nearest MB Dealer. I like to point out that it is YOUR MB, NOT YOU, that needs to be eligible, which is determined by MBUSA's Call Center at the time of the Roadside Assistance Call and VIN specific.

So, let's say you own several MB's but one of them is not eligible for free Roadside and you need a jump start on that particular vehicle, you would have to pay a \$75 flat rate for the Sign&Drive service, it does not matter that you own other, eligible MB's. On the other hand you receive the added bonus of free towing (within limits) on all your eligible MB's. Lastly, if you need Roadside Assistance you can use the —Wrench Button on your Teleaid/MBRACE System (if so equipped and you are a subscriber) or call: 1-800-FOR-MERCEdes (1-800-367-6372)

For further info on MBUSA Roadside Assistance Enhancement go to:
www.mercedesroadside.com

Courtesy of,

Andreas Molde

Technical Advisor, NNJS

JUNE JAMBOREE

June 18th is the date for the 48th consecutive June Jamboree. NNJS will host this MBCA regional event at MBUSA corporate headquarters in Montvale, NJ. I think that this is one of the best regional events of the year, don't miss attending this year!
Contact: Northern NJ Section President, Joe Grattan (973) 628-1781
josephgrattan@aol.com

Newsday "In the Garage" Photo and Story

With the weather getting warmer (hopefully!) and collectible cars coming out of hibernation, I want to encourage all owners and club members to submit their rides for possible placement in Newsday's "In the Garage" column appearing every Friday. We're interested in a wide range of vehicles, including antique, classic, street rod, rat rod, customs, exotics, domestic and foreign, future collectibles, military, and even motorcycles. (If I've left out any category, please ask about it.)

Submitting your car for the column is easy. It takes just three steps:

1. Send a sharp, good quality photo by e-mail to thegarage@optonline.net. To see the quality of the photos we need, please take a look at the online version of the column at <http://www.newsday.com/classifieds/cars/in-the-garage-1.215769>.
2. Review the attached submission form and, along with the photo, send me answers to each question in the same e-mail. The more information you can provide, the better the presentation of your vehicle and the quicker it is likely to appear. (Both the photo and answers should be sent directly to me at thegarage@optonline.net and should not be faxed or mailed to Newsday's office.)
3. Complete and sign the attached photo consent form and fax or mail it directly to Newsday. Once you've sent the consent form, shoot me a confirming e-mail since I don't work in the Newsday office where the form is received.

We look forward to featuring some interesting cars this spring and summer. I also look forward to seeing you at the shows. Thanks, and have a great show season!

Best,

David

David Fluhrer
Newsday's "In the Garage"
thegarage@optonline.net

Now, there are three ways for you and your club members to link up with others interested in classic and collectible cars:

1. If you have a car suitable for presentation in Newsday's "In the Garage" column or want to let me know about an upcoming show, send the information to thegarage@optonline.net.
2. Visit my personal Facebook page, "in the Driveway classic cars," to post photos and information on your cars, as well as show news. While you're there, click the "like" button to become a fan.
3. Follow my Facebook posts and other classic car news on Twitter @inthedriveway1.