



Mercedes-Benz Club of America

Keystone Star

Keystone Section of Central PA

November / December 2012

Keystone Section Events 2012

February 19 (Sun.): 2012 Kick-Off dinner at Roosevelt Tavern in York, PA

March 24 (Sat.): Tech Session, Sun Motor Cars, Mechanicsburg, PA.

April 21 (Sat.): Matinee Showing of "The Dixie Swim Club" at Rainbow
Dinner Theater, Lancaster, PA

May 4-6 (Fri. thru Sun.): Annual Kentucky Derby weekend in Cape May, NJ

May 19 (Sat.): Carlisle Import and Kit Car Show, Carlisle, PA

June 16 (Sat.): Tour of Mercedes Benz of State College and other area
attractions in State College, PA.

June 29 (Fri.): Carlisle Summerfair Parade, Carlisle, PA

July 14 (Sat.): Deutsche Classic German Car Show, Fleetwood, PA.

August 19 (Sun): Polo Match at Lancaster Polo Club in Rothsville, PA

September 9 (Sun): Picnic at Allenberry Playhouse, Boiling Springs, PA

September 23 (Sun): Auto Cross at Sun Motor Cars, Mechanicsburg PA

October 14 (Sun): Fall Rally

Current Events

*****November 5 (Mon.):** 2013 Planning Meeting at Culhane's Restaurant 6 PM

Share in the planning of our monthly events/meetings for 2013. Contact Larry Taylor, 717-627-1423 or larryt543@yahoo.com, if you are attending. If you have ideas for events, and can't be present, please contact any Officer or Director with your ideas.

*****December 1 (Sat.):** Holiday Party at Eden Resort Inn, Lancaster, PA

If you wish to reserve a room for the night, contact the Eden Resort (717-569-6444) and mention you are attending the Keystone Section, MBCA party, to receive a special rate of \$89.95. The Eden Resort is located on Oregon Pike (Rt. 272N), off Rt 30 in Lancaster. Contact Jan & John Kitner, kitjan613@aol.com or 717-872-2988, for more information.

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Keystone Section Web Site: <http://www.keystone.mbca.org>

To Contribute to the Keystone Star:

Send material for publication to: Jan Kitner, 613 Crestgate Place, Millersville PA 17551, or email to kitjan613@aol.com. Any articles or "For Sale" ads are free to our members, and definitely encouraged. Publication is bi-monthly.

To advertise in the Keystone Star:

Contact Jan Kitner for rates and ad sizes. Ads must be photo-copy ready.

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From our President~~~~~

We've certainly had a very active last two months. We switched our picnic to September this year and experienced much cooler weather and had a great turnout. We had another great turnout for our autocross at Sun Motors. We ended with a fun but challenging rally through York County. Thanks to Joe and Richel Papapietro for all of the work they put into setting it up.

Our planning session for the 2013 calendar will be November 5th at Culhane's Restaurant at 6:00 pm. If you have an idea for a future event, please share it with us. Some suggestions include drive and dine, restoration shop tours, and winery visits. This is your club and we welcome your ideas and input. If you can't make it to the meeting, please contact me or one of our other officers with your ideas. Please rsvp to me by November 4th at larryt543@yahoo.com or (717) 627-1423.

I was looking for a newer Mercedes to replace my 1993 400E as a daily driver and track car. I did a lot of research and tracked down a 2006 C55 AMG with only 37,000 miles near Louisville, KY. Only 451 were imported in 2006, which is why I had to do a nationwide search. I flew out on a Sunday and drove it back over the next two days. It was rated at 22 mpg when new, but I managed 24 mpg on my return trip. Considering the 362 horsepower V8, it's not too bad. It's like driving a racecar to work every day. I love the way the race inspired seats hold me in place in every turn. I can't wait for a track day or autocross with the club.

Mary and I test drove the new 2013 GL450 at Mercedes-Benz of Lancaster recently. It was named *Motor Trend's* 2013 SUV of the Year. First of all, this is much larger than the ML 350. However, the extra size and weight don't seem to negatively affect the handling and performance. We tested the 4.6 liter bi-turbo V8 with 362 horsepower. A diesel powered GL350 BlueTEC and larger gas powered GL550 are also available. Visibility seemed better than I remember in the ML. The reason to consider the GL over the ML is the extra seating capacity. The GL can easily accommodate 7 passengers with a great pair of 3rd row seats. These fold down or up with the press of a button. With the seats up, the cargo space is limited, so you either have a cargo hauler or a people hauler at any one time. And if you're looking to move even more stuff (up to 7,500 lbs.), be sure to order the tow package for an extra \$550. That's about 1/2 what one of my co-workers paid for his hitch for his Toyota RAV 4. It's also about 1/3 of what it might cost to be installed later.

Here's a list of our favorite features. I liked how easy it is to reconfigure the seating. I also appreciated the many passive safety technologies that have trickled down such as the Active Lane Keeping Assist. The steering wheel will pulsate if you start to drift out of your lane. Mary liked the good visibility. Our 7 year old son, Robert, loved the 3 sunroofs.

If you have a large family or need lots of towing capacity, please be sure to test drive the GL450 for yourselves. I think you will soon realize that *Motor Trend* made a great decision.

Larry

It's an election year for Keystone Section, also!

We will be holding elections for our 2013-14 officers at the Holiday Party on December 1, 2012. If you wish to be placed on the ballot for any office, (president, vice-president, secretary, or treasurer) or, after getting their permission, nominating someone else, please send the information to Mary Taylor, our nominating committee chairperson. Contact Mary at 717-627-1423 or maryt543@yahoo.com. All officers are elected to a 2-year term. Please consider becoming more active in your section by serving as an officer!



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OUR TRIP TO STUTTGART, GERMANY WITH FELLOW CLUB MEMBERS

Donna and Max Copenheaver

We left our home in York on Thursday morning, September 20th, 2012, bound for the Philadelphia airport for our Delta flight to take us to Stuttgart, Germany, to meet up with 28 other MB Club Members from around the US, Canada, and Australia. We arrived three days prior to the tour, so we had some time to explore. What we found was an industrial town, a prosperous factory town (over 4,000 employees work at the Mercedes Benz facilities); very clean, beautiful, quaint, with a somewhat modern feel. The town had a mile long pedestrian walkway with high end shops (expensive). We found everyone to be very friendly. There were bakery and coffee shops everywhere, so delicious! Stuttgart has 72 small "municipalities" surrounding it and very easy to travel by rail. Their rail system is fantastic! The countryside and climate was nearly identical to York County. We felt at home.

Jim O'Sullivan led our tour along with his German tour guide, Wolfram Koerner. This was his 9th trip and to find out all that we saw and did, please go back to your "The Star" issue of March-April 2012. We did and saw everything that is mentioned in that article. It was an exhausting five days but very worthwhile.

This trip was on Max's "bucket list" for some time now, and we thought we'd better do it while we can "still walk & chew gum" at the same time! Our favorites were being on the test track, the museums, the cars, and our visit to Stuttgart October Fest. Now known as the second best, only after Munich. That was an experience!

If you are considering signing up for the trip next year - don't wait - just do it. You won't be sorry!

See you at our next event!

Fall Autocross at Sun Motors by Larry Taylor

On Sunday September 23, 2012 the Keystone Section hosted an autocross at Sun Motors. A big thanks goes to Mike Lombardi, new car sales and parts manager, who secured the autocross lot for our club. Sixteen drivers, other members, and guests attended. The course was fairly tight with a circle, slalom, and u-turns. The old saying that slower is faster was definitely proven by this course.

Thanks to our friends from the Greater Washington Section (GWS) who brought loaner helmets, a big GWS tent, and years of experience to help instruct the drivers. Bill Hopper, Eastern Regional Director, helped out everywhere he could, Steve Spector, instructed and teched all of the cars, and Paul Vandenberg instructed. These guys really helped make the event run smoothly.

We had 5 novice drivers this year. Our times were measured by the automated timing equipment loaned to us by our national MBCA office. There were 4 practice runs to learn the course, and three official runs. Most of the participants improved upon their practice times.

We had 4 classes. Steve Spector set the fastest time of the day in his SLK350, but the drives of the day came from several of our novices. Chris Fletcher nearly beat our president Larry Taylor in his mom's SL500. In the 4/6 cylinder class, Pat Eagan took advantage of the tight course in his smart to post a 2nd place finish. Too bad Max Copenheaver was in Germany or we could have had a battle of the smarts. Just behind Pat in 3rd place was Grant Kobayashi in his E320 wagon, complete with roof mounted cargo box. A member of the Mile High Section, he is attending college in the Allentown area. Jan Kitner set the fastest women's time of the day. Gloria and Brad Oldenburg deserve special recognition. They both did very well, especially considering they are in their 70's. Gloria told me that she has avoided at least one accident thanks to the skills she has learned thorough our autocrosses.

We will be giving out certificates at the Holiday Party in December. We encourage all of members to come out to this event next year. It's a great way to appreciate and learn the handling characteristics of your Benz. Thanks again to everyone who helped out this year.

Final Results

SLK/AMG Class

	<u>Car</u>	<u>Time (seconds)</u>
1 st Steve Spector	2007 SLK350	47.63 * = Fastest men's time
2 nd Paul Vandenberg	2008 SL55 AMG	48.80
3 rd Anthony Collins	2003 E55 AMG	53.07

12/8/6 Cylinder Class

1 st Larry Taylor	1993 400E	48.52
2 nd Chris Fletcher	1999 SL500	48.79 @ = Fastest novice time
3 rd John Kitner	2010 E350 Coupe	50.55
4 th Brad Oldenburg	2008 E350	59.87
5 th Mike Marcantino	1994 SL600	58.47 + = Practice Runs Only

4/6 Cylinder Class

1 st Marty Rexroth	2001 E320 Wagon	50.49
2 nd Pat Eagan	2009 smart for two	52.27
3 rd Grant Kobayashi	1998 E320 Wagon	52.82
4 th Bill Hopper	1998 ML320	54.58

Women's Class

1 st Jan Kitner	2010 E350 Coupe	52.17 # = Fastest women's time
2 nd Michele Fletcher	1999 SL500	55.17
3 rd Gloria Oldenburg	2008 E350	63.99
4 th Mary Taylor	1993 400E	71.43

Fall Rally Great Success!

The MBCA Keystone Section held its annual Fall Road Rally on Sunday, 14 October. We had 10 cars enter...and 10 cars finish...all of whom shared a leisurely drive on a picture perfect day through the beautiful fall colors of southern York County.

The 46-mile course, which took about 2 hours to navigate, began at Leader Heights in York and ran generally south to Glen Rock, PA. We finished up at the Glen Rock Mill Inn for a great dinner.

Congratulations to Jan & Marty Rexroth who had the best overall time and high score on the quiz.

September was Picnic Time!

The pavilion along the Yellow Breeches Creek at Allenberry Playhouse in Boiling Springs was the site for our annual Section picnic on Sunday, September 9. We were served the delicious "BBQ ala Allenberry, plus Pork Ribs" buffet, again, this year. Always a crowd favorite!

Cars were displayed for the "Members Choice Clean Car Show" from 3:00 pm, with judging at 4:00pm. A short business meeting with a recap of past and future events, followed our dinner, winners of the car show voting were announced, and trophies awarded. See the categories and winners below.

SL's and cabriolets

1st- Linda and Michael Shea - 1957 190SL
2nd- Frank and Vicki Alfone - 2005 CLK320 cabriolet

Sedans

1st- John Perry - 1973 280SE 4.5
2nd- Chet Barshinger - 2010 E350

Best Benz for an Autocross

John Magor - 2012 SLK350

Best Color Scheme

Michele & Dan Fletcher - 1999 SL500

Coollest Wheels

Max Copenheaver - 2009 Smart

For Sale

MB for sale in York, PA. -- 1988 420SEL in pristine shape with 138,000 miles. It is listed on eBay and Craigslist. eBay ID # is 290801158648. Please take a look. I am trying to get between \$4,000 and \$5,000 for it. Contact: wbarnes@ycp.edu or 7178704505

1993 400E- Smoke silver, beige leather, 137,000 miles. It was owned by local CEO for 10 years and by the section president for 9 years. No rust, garaged, runs great, 268 HP V8, 300 watt audio system. Extensive service history, clean CarFax, and cold A/C. Maintained by MB of Lancaster and myself. Extra set of wheels w/ snow tires included. Asking \$4,500. Contact Larry Taylor at (717) 627-1423 or larryt543@yahoo.com

4 15" X 7" MB Sportline Wheels with Toyo track tires. These will fit most W124 bodies and 190E 2.3-16V. Asking \$400. Contact Larry Taylor at (717) 627-1423 or larryt543@yahoo.com



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Welcome New Members!

Wicky Barnes of York
David Brzenchek of State College
Russell Collins of Hanover
Christopher Fletcher of Manheim
Andrew Fox of Willow Street
Jack Gardner of Harrisburg
Clyde Horst of Lancaster
Willfried Muller of York
Glenn Reid of Biglerville
Larry Spangler of Lititz
William Terry of Mechanicsburg
Max Tribble of Lancaster
Julie Whitcomb of York

Hope to see you at a future event!

Holiday Party at Eden Resort Inn

The Eden Resort Inn, Lancaster, PA will be the site for our 2012 holiday celebration for the eleventh year. We continue to have wonderful results and good feedback, so we return, again & again! Our party is Saturday, Dec. 1st. at 6:30pm. If you haven't attended in the past, you've been missing a great evening. Come out and see for yourself!

Last year's menu was such a hit; we are choosing the "Festive Prime Rib Buffet" again, which gives us some specialties like butlered hot hors d'oeuvres, vegetables and dip, and cheese trays during our 6:30 to 7:30 social hour. Eggnog will be served for those in the holiday spirit, and a cash bar will be available for the entire evening.

Our dinner includes a served greens salad, buffet "Salad Station" featuring Fruit, Shrimp and Tomato Mozzarella salads, 3 entrees: Stuffed Chicken Boursin with Orange Supreme Sauce, Pistachio Crusted Salmon with Dijon Hollandaise, and Carved Prime Rib of Beef, potato and vegetable, rolls and butter, coffee/hot tea, and iced tea. An assortment of holiday desserts, will round out our dinner.

Following dinner, we will conduct our final business meeting of 2012, which will include election of 2013 officers, and presentation of the "Member of the Year" award. Door prize drawings will follow.

We will be meeting in the **State Room** this year, best accessed by using entrances G or H. Anyone wishing to reserve a room should contact the Eden Resort at 717-569-6444, and mention you are attending the **Keystone Section, MBCA** holiday event. You should receive a special rate of \$89.95 plus taxes, if a room is available.

The Eden Resort is located on Oregon Pike, (Rt. 272N) just off Rt. 30 in Lancaster. Contact Jan or John Kitner (717-872-2988 or kitjan613@aol.com) with any questions, or for directions. Please, also, let them know if you are attending.

Name: _____ Email _____

Phone: _____

Members: #___ @ \$35.00 per person = _____

(each member may bring one guest
at member price)

Non-Members: #___ @ \$45.00 each = _____

Total enclosed = _____

RSVP by Mon, Nov. 26 to:

Donna Copenheaver
1351 Beeler Avenue
West York PA 17408-4502

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– Jodi and Mike Snyder –

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