



The Jersey Southern Star

"The Best or Nothing" of the South Jersey Section

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Starting the new year

2014 has many outing planned

Come join the fun

A member's view of an outing

Having Fun

What does a recently retired guy do for fun? Some might say move to Florida and enjoy the sun. Others might say travel around the world to places unknown.

Well, this car guy came up with just the thing to do. On September 21, 2013, I attended, along with many other members of the SJ Mercedes-Benz Club, an annual picnic in Hopewell, NJ at the home of John Bleimaier. This event was sponsored by the NNJ Mercedes Benz Section and is always well organized providing good fun for everyone.

While talking with our President, Karen Fisher, she informed me that one of our members, Rob Fini was extending an invitation to several members of our club on a first come first serve basis to attend a driving event at the New Jersey Motorsports Park in Millville, NJ on October 16 & 17, 2013. I immediately emailed Rob Fini, a past president of our section, and indicated that I wanted to attend the event. He gave me more information and I registered for the event on line.

Brief background on the New Jersey Motorsports Park (NJMP) in Millville

This facility has two race tracks located next to the Millville Airport. The names of the two

tracks- Thunderbolt and Lightning came from World War Two fighter planes. The Millville site was a training facility for pilots during the war.

Thunderbolt has a 2.5 mile race track with 14 challenging turns and a 1/2 mile straight to open your car up pressing on the gas but you better have good brakes because there is a right turn at the end of the straight. Amenities include concession, driver training room, event garages, 20 VIP Suites, 3 story timing tower and media center.

Traveling between Thunderbolt and Lightning I found a clubhouse with a bar, and banquet facility. Outside are tennis courts and currently under construction is a swimming pool. I was informed that the NJMP is a country club like a golf course but for car enthusiast. Members who join receive 35-40 track days per year when they can invite their family and friends to join them as guest.

The second track Lightning is a 1.1 mile fast circuit with sweeping elevation changes and sharp turns. Additionally, this area has a skid pad and autocross area, and F1 Karting race course. Other amenities include a concession area, drivers meeting area, timing tower and restroom facilities.

I arrived at the track at 7 am and the weather was not good due to light rain.

The first order of business was registration/payment of \$195 plus an additional \$25 to rent a helmet. After eating breakfast, we assembled in the garage area for the Tech Inspection. Each car is thoroughly inspected from the engine, tires, brakes, interior and trunk to insure that it meets all safety standards including an approved helmet. My EZpass and floor carpets were removed. Once I passed the Tech Inspection, a sticker was placed on my window that allowed me to enter the track.

Next, all drivers had to attend a drivers meeting. Don Fauerbach, Community Affairs Officer welcomed everyone and introduced Rob Fini, President of Performance Information Technologies. Rob gave a brief overview of how he helps drivers improve their lap time with instruments he places in their car and downloads and reviews data with them during the day. Next Pete reviewed track safety procedures and explained what different color flags mean ie: black, yellow, red , checker etc.

After Q and A, we were assigned driving groups bases on driving experience and knowledge on the track. The groups included beginners, intermediate, advanced and open wheel vehicles. Beginners must follow the Pace Car that does not exceed 65-70 mph. All others can drive at their skill level. Now the fun began.

The track was cold and wet and we were warned to take it ease the first 2-3 laps to get adjusted to the track. But just like boys with toys once we got on the track we were going at a brisk pace until turn #2 when I started to slide sideways due to my speed and the rain on the cold track. I slowed down a little; correction I slowed down a lot until the next turn when certain electronic devices started to intervene. The electronic stability control and traction control started giving me the confidence to increase my speed and after 3 laps I felt in control driving around in the rain sliding slightly in curves and going faster on the straight. The first session for my intermediate group lasted 20 minutes and it felt like only 10 minutes.

The instructors were very friendly and gave good advice including ride along in the pace car to learn the proper line to follow around the track for each turn to improve your lap time. All types of cars were present on the member day weekend such as corvette, mustangs, caddy-CTSV, Focus ST, Mercedes, BMW, Porsche, Mazda, Subaru, Audi, Ferrari, Jaguar, Lotus, McLaren, Lamborghini to name a few plus hand built open wheel cars. There were 3 driving sessions of 20 minutes in the morning then lunch and 3 driving sessions in the afternoon.

I had so much fun over the two day period that the following week I decided to become a member of NJMSP. I look forward to many driving days in 2014 and extend an invitation to SJ MB Club members who wish to join me as my guest at the track. This proves that yes senior guys can have Fun too. Happy Holidays

Jerome Johnson- MB Club South Jersey

President Message

President's Message Happy 2014

Wow! What a beginning for the new year. They say we have already have had about 33 inches of snow so far this season and the first storm hit during our holiday party at Scotland Run. Many of our members experienced interesting travels returning home. It took me 45 minutes to reach a 15 minute destination. I also slid three times and was a little nervous, but driving the best made car in the world gave me an assured feeling.

2014 is shaping into an eventful year for the MBCA South Jersey Section. Many ideas have been submitted for new events that will be offered to the members. Dates have been assigned and instructions for participation can be found on our club's website. Please check it often. I personally am excited about a spring driving event to the Hudson Valley. It will take place May 31-June 1 and includes dinner at the Culinary Institute of America. I have enjoyed dining there on several occasions and always enjoy the experiences. Hope you will be available to join this adventure with the club.

Another new event being planned is an evening with dinner in New Brunswick, NJ and attending a show at the NJ Arts Center. More information with a email blast later. Please ensure we have your email address.

Our first event for 2014 is the Philadelphia Car Show. We will attend with early admission to the show on February 15, 2014. Bill Fisher will once again handle this event. Additional information has been emailed to members. For more information read the rest of the newsletter. LOL.

Our calendar is very full, but if there are any suggestions for other activities you would be interested in overseeing, please contact me at kfisher500sel@yahoo.com. We still have dates open and if you want to do things as a club, lets do it!

Stay warm, read the STAR and your email and drive carefully during the winter season.

Warmest wishes,

Karen

2014 South Jersey Section Planned Events

Month	Event
February 15, 2014	<p>Philadelphia Car Show Meet at one of two locations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Woodcrest PATCO station (the high-speed line) at 7:15 AM and take the 7:33 train- Dunkin Donuts at 1113 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA; by the convention center at 7:45 <p>The fee for the outing will be \$10.00 per person (under 12 are free). The section is discounting the price and arranging early admission.</p>
March 15, 2014	<p>This outing will include lunch at the historic King George Inn, then a tour and tasting at the products in the distillery. Lunch is the member's responsibility, but the section is picking up the tour fee for members and asking \$5.00 for non-members. This is an opportunity to do something we just don't do every month, tour a local distillery.</p> <p>Ernie Schirmer is managing this outing, and provided a link, to a web page Ernie is managing, where detailed information is available. Please use the web page and register for this event. http://www.paft-nj.org/WEB_PAGE_MCBA_DADS_HAT_TOUR.htm</p>
April 19, 2014 (Hold This Date)	<p>A day's driving at the New Jersey Motorsport track Saturday - Lightning Circuit Confirmation of the outing was not received before the newsletter went out. A email blast will keep all informed of the changes If you have an interest in attending the outing, please contact BillFisher_560sl@yahoo.com (609-221-2633). Bill is not managing the outing but will be aware of the outing. There will be a fee of approximately \$200 payable to the New Jersey Motorsport track. The car will also be inspected by the track representatives before driving.</p> <p>Beginners are not limited to any particular speeds during Member Day outings; all Novice group sessions are run behind the pace car, with passing not permitted at any time, and the first run session is indeed done at highway speeds, but the speeds build progressively throughout the day as your skills improve, and by the end of the day you will be driving at extra-legal (100+ MPH) speeds. However, there is no reason for concern, as these speeds are only reached on the straight sections and then only if the driver is comfortable doing so.</p>

May 31 to June 1, 2014	<p>This is not so much a tour of the whole valley, as much as it is a planned trip to the Hudson Valley to enjoy some excellent food at a local restaurant; at the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) (The trip is worth this meal); lodging and breakfast the next day with optional activities planned. The South Jersey Section will meet in Bordentown (Mastoris Diner) then caravan up to Poughkeepsie, NY. A price will be set for members with single or doubles rates. The price will include meals and lodging. Cash bar, tolls and gas will be the members responsibility.</p> <p>Ernie Schirmer is managing this outing also. He will have a web site available that provides greater information. (We are inviting other sections to join in this outing, it will be fun and the dinner at the CIA will be excellent)</p> <p>The finalized prices are not complete yet, but the dinner at the CIA is planned to be \$80.00 per person (appetizer to desert), with a cash bar. We are also planning lodging and breakfast, which have not been priced yet http://www.paft-nj.org/WEB_PAGE_HUDSON_VALLEY_MAY_MBCA_TRIP_PAGE.htm</p>
June 28, 2014	<p>Blue Berry Picnic Scotland Run County Park Fee: \$10.00 per car; A people's choice car show http://www.co.gloucester.nj.us/depts/p/parks/parkgolf/scotland/</p>
September 2014	<p>Regional Picnic, Hopewell, NJ</p>
December 14, 2014	<p>Holiday Party; Brunch, juice offered at 11:30 with the buffet available at noon. \$25.00 per person Scotland Run Gold Course (Read the star to prepare for the trivia quiz)</p>



The November Tech Session. Members wonder what's up with the 1998 SL.

How do you get to the spark plugs?

The Jersey Southern Star

“Die besten order nichts”

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