

Star Tracks 2019



Fourth Quarter 2019

Volume 14 Issue 4

Holiday Party

Our annual **Holiday Party** was held on Sunday, December 8th at the Fox Hollow Golf Club in Branchburg, NJ.

Over 40 members came out to enjoy the festivities and graciously donated to Toys for Tots.

We gathered in our own private room with a beautiful vista of the rolling hills of the golf course bathed in sun and shadows.

Our meal started out with some fresh fruit, breakfast pastries, muffins, and bagels. After whetting our appetites, it was on to the main food selection: French Toast with warm maple syrup; bacon; sausage; home fries; grilled vegetables; Caesar salad; baby greens salad; green beans almandine; grilled vegetables; rosemary roasted potatoes; eggplant rollatini; carving stations with turkey and tenderloin of beef; and a made to order omelet station. As if this weren't enough, it was followed by a delicious dessert selection of pastries and freshly baked cookies.



and they then had their choice of a poinsettia, a snowman plant, or an ivy teacup plant.



This year we had a contest to see who could solve the naming of Christmas carols from the lyrics. There was one winner from each table

A good time was had by all as there was plenty of lively conversation at each table and around the room.



It was good to catch up with old friends and meet some of our new members.

All of the leftovers were packaged up and brought to a local boy's home on Sunday afternoon. They were very appreciative of our section's donation.

This is the same place that the leftover food was donated last year.

Toys for Tots

A great big THANK YOU to all of our members who so generously donated toys, books, stuffed animals, and other items to our 'Toys for Tots' event at our Holiday Party.

The toys filled up the back seat and most of the way back of my GL 450. I dropped them off at MB of Flemington on Monday and they were amazed at the variety of toys, stuffed animals, and books. They were astounded at the generosity of our members.

Check out the photos – we filled 2 Toys for Tots boxes plus the items that you see under the tree.

Well done everyone.

This is something that I have always been passionate about and I sincerely appreciate your generosity.

Valerie Cristiano



Jaime Kopchinski named NNJS Member of the Year

NNNJS is proud to announce that Jaime Kopchinski has been selected as the Member of the Year for our section. Jaime has put in a great deal of hard work behind the scenes this year in order to get our website up and running as well as enabling our section to have online registration for the June Jamboree. Jaime also helps out with the technical issues with the website and is always willing to answer the technical questions that our members may have about their cars.

Following a tradition set by Jan Boop, 2017's Member of the Year, Tom Elder, last year's Member of the Year, presented Jaime with a bottle of wine and a wooden wine holder as a way of passing the torch along.

Congratulations, Jaime, well deserved.

President's Message

Valerie Cristiano

Another year has come to a close and we are already planning events for the next year. I would like to thank everyone who has helped out this past year and hope to have even more help this coming year. Thanks to George Terry for volunteering to organize and run the May 17th rally for us. It will begin in the morning and end with a luncheon, so please save the date of Sunday, May 17th.

Many of our members have so much to offer our club, but seem hesitant to volunteer their expertise, please don't be so shy. We can use new ideas and activities and we can always use more help. The more people participating and helping out with activities and events will encourage others to do the same – the more people we have helping – the more people will attend.

Please make sure that you like us on facebook [MBCA - NNJS Northern New Jersey](#) and follow the events listed. You are always welcome to attend events in other sections as well and I do try to list them along with events that we are hosting.

My sincere best wishes for a wonderful Holiday Season and a very Happy and Healthy New Year.



February 29 – Saturday - Tech Session We will meet at 9:00am at Exoticars, USA 636 Frenchtown Rd Milford, NJ. There is no charge for this event, however, you **MUST** register with Lucille before February 27th.

March 29 – Sunday – Antiques Road Show at the Bridgewater Manor, Bridgewater, NJ

April – TBD – Tech Session at Compact Cars

May 17 – Sunday – Road Rally – George Terry will be our Rallye Master-details to follow



Tech Session at Mercedes-Benz of Flemington

By Valerie Cristiano

Many of our members participated in a Tech Session held at Mercedes-Benz of Flemington on Friday, October 25th and Saturday, October 26th. Our members had the choice of attending either day and set up an appointment that best fit their schedule.

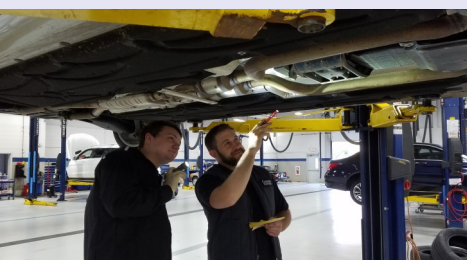
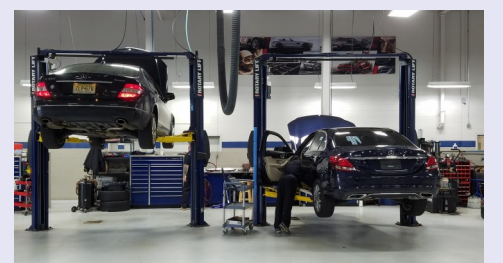


Members with classic cars were able to proudly display in the front of the dealership for the duration of their chosen day. This proved to be a big hit as several people who drove by and saw the classics on display, then turned around and came back to admire them.

All the cars were placed on a lift and were gone over by one of the technicians, who then answered any questions. Personally, I have a great time when I get to see my GL 450 up on a lift and see the parts that are not normally visible. The techs took the time with each and every person who came into the shop area – some of our members decided not to go into the shop and just socialized with others in the Service Waiting area.

On Saturday, breakfast items were there for the enjoyment of those who came early, and later on, delicious sandwiches and cookies were put out for the later crowd. Our Saturday attendees were given Mobil 1 hats as a 'Thank you' from the service manager, Patrick Muhler. All those who brought a car received a 'goody bag' filled with wonderful items, their cars were also washed and when they were returned members found a Baby Benz Bear and a bottle of water as another little 'Thank you' from MB of Flemington.

Thanks to the MB of Flemington and the Ciocca dealership for providing our members with such lovely gifts and the opportunity to have their vehicles given a thorough exam. It was a very informative tech session and a fun day as well.



HIGH GEAR, Indeed

by John Kuhn Bleimaier

After the invention of the camera and photography there was a period when people concluded that the fine art of painting was doomed. Logically, why would an artist spend hours and days creating a rendering of reality when a photochemical process could produce an exact image with the speed of a lens shutter? But the spirit of human creativity soon lead us to realize that photography was a separate art and science unto itself, and the advancement of technology had not rendered Leonardo, Rembrandt, and Constable redundant. When the Impressionists and the pre-Raphaelites started to work their magic on canvas, it became universally obvious that the plastic arts had not been driven from the field by shadow box.



Similarly, with the advent of the quartz watch it did not take long for the naysayers to predict the demise of the mechanical watch industry. Why would anyone spend ten times more for an archaic handmade mechanical timepiece which was actually less accurate than electronic stamped circuitry produced by simple robotics? Yet today, some forty years after the quartz revolution complex Swiss watches built by human hands command big bucks at the top end of the horological market. Once again, something in the human spirit is drawn to a very personal creation seemingly possessed of a ticking heart and a soul, all its own.

Allow me to conjecture that in the brave new world of autonomous locomotion there will be a place for mechanical conveyances powered by internal combustion engines conceived by mechanical engineers and assembled by artisans. We may be destined to be whisked off to work in innocuous capsules of indifferent transport. But there will still be a place for an open roadster with rude tailpipes swirling golden leaves on a winding country road. My guess is that this is the future for the three pointed star. There will be no need for character or heritage in the world of personal mass transport. My homogenous metro-car may as well be a Lexus or an Infiniti. But when it comes time for me to pull on my string back driving gloves, I will set my sights behind the silver star.

As long as the human spirit remains free of genetic modification there will be a place for fine artists, Swiss watchmakers and automotive enthusiasts. Gentlemen & ladies, start your engines.



Winterset 2019

Upcoming Events

Tech Session - Saturday, February 29, 2020

We will meet at 9:00am at
Exoticars, USA
636 Frenchtown Rd
Milford, NJ.

Wil and Sandy DeGroot will be hosting this event for us. There will be coffee and waiting for us when we arrive. Wil plans on discussing how to deal with paint chips. Afterwards, all are invited to take a ride down a country road and gather for lunch. Lunch cost is not included.

There is no charge for this event, however, you MUST register with Lucille before February 27th

Email: luluchab@aol.com 973-731-9133

19th Annual NNJS Antiques Road Show Sunday, March 29, 2020

The Annual NNJS Antiques Road Show will be held on Sunday, March 29, 2020 at the Bridgewater Manor in Bridgewater, NJ. Alan Snyder, our very own certified antiques appraiser, will once again take us on a visual history lesson into the past. If you have never been to one of our Antiques Road Shows now is the time to come on out and enjoy the good time had by all. If you have attended in the past, you know how much fun it is and the stories of what the objects are thought to be and what some of them actually turn out to be are quite different and hilarious. (Remember the 'soup tureen' that was actually a 'slop pot'?) Go through some of the items that have been hiding away in the attic or the basement that Grandma or Grandpa left you, and see if you find anything interesting. Maybe you have something that you are curious about and want to know what it is or how much it might be worth - bring it. You might have something that you picked up at a yard or garage sale and want to know more about it - bring it. You may bring 3 items per person. Over the years we have seen some fabulous items that have turned out to be valuable and some that people have overpaid for - oh well!

We will hold the 19th Annual NNJS Antiques Roadshow at the Bridgewater Manor starting at 12:00 p.m.. So, save the date – Sunday, March 29, 2020 for this wonderful event.

Bridgewater Manor
1251 Route 202 / 206
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Cost per adult: \$40

Cost per child 6 – 12: \$12

Children 5 and under are free with a paying adult

Reservations must be received no later than Monday, March 23, 2020

Please register with Lucille and send your check made payable to NNJS-MBCA to:

Lucille Chabala
6 Brook Way
West Orange, NJ 07052 Email: luluchab@aol.com 973-731-9133

Where Modern America Was Invented

by Julie Ann Morrison



It is the place where modern America was invented and we got the opportunity to see this gem up close and personal. On November 23, 2019, the New Jersey Open Road Thunderbird Club invited us to join them in their venture to tour the Edison Museum, part of the National Historical Park system in West Orange.

The tour started at Glenmont, the prestigious home of the Edison Family in Llewellyn Park. The 29 room Queen Ann Victorian mansion was decked out in all its Christmas trimmings. The majestic 10 ft Christmas tree was lit and presents were ready for the children as if they were about to run down the staircase and unwrap them. Fine china adorned the dining room table ready to greet guests for an elegant dinner. Holiday cards that the family received were also on display for all to read.

The tour continued to the outbuildings of the mansion's grounds which included a barn, a greenhouse and a Gardner's cottage. The focal point of the outer buildings was certainly the garage. Once inside you were able to view the 1922 Model T Ford, two Detroit Electrics and a 1902 Locomobile which Edison adapted to run on his own storage battery. The garage also housed a car wash, a gas pump, an air compressor, a battery charger and a turntable for parking cars. Truly a highlight for all car enthusiasts!

To end the tour, one can head out to the quiet garden and visit the graves of Thomas and Mina Edison who are buried there. To continue on to the second part of our tour, one was able to scour the lab where Edison worked for over 40 years.

Here the first motion picture camera came alive, followed by the improvement in phonographs, sound recordings, and the nickel-iron alkaline electric storage battery. Silent and sound movies were perfected in the first theater called the Black Maria on its turntable. His desk is housed in the library which sits as he left it on the very last day that he went to work. It is a wonderful tribute to a scientist who helped to frame America and bring it to life! He truly is one of the most beloved pioneers of our country. It was a day well spent.

