



# Old Dominion Star



Old Dominion Star ★ MBCA Central Virginia Section ★ Volume 10 ★ Issue 4 ★ Oct./Nov. 2005

## President's Message

This fall is packed with club events, car shows, and parties! Our section V.P., Richard Schwartz, has organized an outstanding photo rallye and dinner party that will take us to historic Fredericksburg (Oct. 8). Richard is a Fredericksburg tour guide and this event promises to be both enjoyable and educational.

On October 9, we're heading to Shirley Plantation for the Colonial Polo Cup. This event needs little promotion; dozens of members have already signed up so register today if you care to join us.

New this year for our section, we're participating in the Super Tuner Show at the Richmond Raceway Complex (Nov. 12). Geared toward those interested in customizing their ride, this is a show you don't want to miss. We need MBs to display at our booth.

If you're a new member please come along with us, meet new friends, and enjoy one of these great events.

Happy Motoring,

*Greg Magnus*

President

MBCA Central Virginia Section  
greg@eoecho.com



[www.supertunershow.com](http://www.supertunershow.com)

## Welcome New Members

The Central Virginia Section welcomes all its new members. We hope you will join us soon at one of our upcoming events. Please call any officer for information on our activities and what you can do to get involved.

- John Grove
- Brian Jackson
- Michael Scherr
- Michel & Deborah Van Eersel
- Edmund & Jean Fording
- Charles Johnson
- Roger & Barbara Sethmann
- William & Carol Smith
- Andrew Surwilo
- George Thompson
- Wilton Clements
- Rey & Gimmer Barry
- Laverne & Jeffrey Budd
- Lessie & Rodney Clark

## Cruising the Web

### MBCA Club Forums

<http://mbca.cartama.net>  
Tech Help, Vintage Talk, Club Events, etc. (*Editor's Pick*)

**Mercedes-Benz Club of Am.**  
[www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org)

**Greater Washington Section**  
[www.gws-mbca.org](http://www.gws-mbca.org)

**International 190SL Group**  
<http://190slgroup.com>

**M-B Classic Ctr USA**  
[www.mbusa.com/classic](http://www.mbusa.com/classic)

**Mercedes Shop**  
[www.mercedesshop.com](http://www.mercedesshop.com)



President's Message . . . . .	1
Cruising the Web . . . . .	2
Events . . . . .	2
Classified Ads . . . . .	3
Change of Address . . . . .	3
Central VA Section Officers . . . . .	3

## Event Reminder

### October 8 Historical Photo Rallye & Dinner Party Fredericksburg, VA

The history and the scenery are two great reasons to join us for this rallye event. But we'll also enjoy dinner at a colonial restaurant, event prizes, and more. Details & registration info inside.

### October 9 Colonial Polo Cup Shirley Plantation, VA

Join us at the Mercedes-Benz tent for an event you don't want to miss. Parade, polo and post match party! VIP parking passes are limited, register NOW (details inside).

**Please note:** We publish an enhanced version of this newsletter electronically (more articles, links, etc.). Please make sure MBCA has your email address: 800-637-2360 or [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org). Members receive the email newsletter usually a week or so before the snail mail arrives. You'll also receive last minute event updates and notices.

## Oct. 8 Historic Photo Rallye Registration Form

**When:** Saturday, October 8  
**Meet at:** Fredericksburg City Parking Lot (Rallye starts at 2:00 P.M.)  
**Dinner:** Pre-Civil War Colonial Fair

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mem.#** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Members** (\$15 / person by Oct. 1; includes dinner): \_\_\_\_\_ (\$25 / person after Oct. 1)

Select for each person attending: Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ or Beef \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to** "MBCA Central VA Section" and mail registrations to:  
 Richard Schwartz, 5215 Calvert Court, Fredericksburg, VA 22407  
 Phone: 540-891-5334, email: richtraveler@earthlink.net

**Directions:** The photo rally will begin and end in Fredericksburg at the city parking lot. In order to reach the parking lot, take I-95 to exit 130, follow Route 3 (business) into the city. Follow William Street, which is Route 3. You must make a left hand turn after crossing under Route 1. After 5 traffic lights turn right on Sophia Street (street just before crossing the river, do not cross the river). After you go under the railroad tracks (about five blocks) turn right into the parking lot. Please call Richard Schwartz if you have any questions: 540-891-5334.

## Central Virginia Section Events

### October 8 Photo Rallye & Dinner Party Fredericksburg, VA

Come join us for a 50 mile road rallye through picturesque countryside. You'll enjoy the challenge of identifying a series of photos. Even if you can't identify all of the photos, you will experience a very pleasant rallye drive through historic Fredericksburg.

Dine in a pre-Civil War building and enjoy unique colonial dishes. (See registration form above).

### October 9 Colonial Polo Cup (Party) Shirley Plantation, VA

Join us at the Mercedes-Benz tent for an event you don't want to miss. Parade, polo and post match party! VIP parking passes are limited, register ASAP.

Cost is \$10 per person if registration & payment is rec'd by October 1 (no exceptions, \$30 at the door). Contact Therese Dodge at 804-285-2138 or email:

Therese.Dodge@owens-minor.com

Additional details can be found at: [www.colonialpolocup.org](http://www.colonialpolocup.org)

### November 12

**Super Tuner Show**  
Richmond Raceway Complex  
 New this year for our section, we're participating in the Super Tuner Show at the Richmond Raceway Complex. Geared toward those interested in customizing their ride or displaying, this is a show you don't want to miss. We need MBs to display at the event; Team Mercedes.

Contact Greg Magnus at 804-752-4667 or [greg@eoecho.com](mailto:greg@eoecho.com) for registration details. Visit [www.supertunershow.com](http://www.supertunershow.com)

### November 15

**Member & Board Meeting**  
Bull & Bear Club, Richmond, VA  
 All members are welcome to join us for our meetings. We have a new slate of board members and a few open positions for those interested in getting more involved with the club. Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. Directions to the Bull & Bear at: [www.bullandbearclub.com](http://www.bullandbearclub.com) Please contact Justin Sarafin if you plan to join us: 434-825-9617 or email: [jas2wa@yahoo.com](mailto:jas2wa@yahoo.com)

### January 15, 2006

**Holiday Gala & Member Party**  
 [Details TBD]

### March 11, 2006

**Tech Session - Brown Mercedes**  
 Charlottesville, VA  
 [Details TBD]

### May 14, 2006

**Agecroft Hall to Urbana**  
 Agecroft Hall & rallye to a crab picnic and water sports on the river near Urbana. [Details TBD]

## Mid-Atlantic & National Events

### October 16

**Autocross**  
Winchester, VA  
 Call Joe Wozney: 703-437-7866

### October 29-30

**DE Valley Mystery Tour**  
Lederlach, PA  
 Bay Pony Inn, contact Donna Mang at: [donlee819@hotmail.com](mailto:donlee819@hotmail.com)

### November 5

**GWS Tech Talk**  
Alexandria, VA  
 Call Joe Wozney: 703-437-7866

### November 10-12

**National Board Meeting**  
Colorado Springs, CO  
 National Office: 719-633-6427  
 Details: [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org)

## Classified Ads

**CL55, 2002:** White/parchment. 22K one owner, one driver miles. New tires, all records. Balance of factory warranty. \$61,500 OBO. Call Joe at (301) 996-5574.

**C43, 1999:** Black on black. Every option. Clarion Sirius head unit, custom-made HRE wheels. Original AMGs with snow tires. Spoiler, car cover. One owner, flawless. Asking \$22,000. Contact Robert at 410-409-8000 or e-mail rpaul@completeofficesource.com

**E300 Diesel, 1996:** Brilliant silver/ash (gray) leather. 148k highway miles. 6CD. 30+ mpg, bio-diesel compatible. Recent brake service & glow plugs. New OEM alloys. All service records. Performance chip. Well maintained & garaged. Asking \$13,300. Call Chris at 301-379-9996 or teutonik63@aol.com

**560SL, 1989:** White/tan. Hard top & cradle. Brown soft top. CD. 65K miles. Exceptional overall. Best '89 in DC area according to my MB mechanic. Asking \$18,000. Contact Judd at 703-296-5956 or juddsquittier@yahoo.com

**560SL, 1988:** Red/beige leather. 92K miles, auto. Burl wood trim with burl shift knob. New Kenwood CD, Sirius satellite radio, new rear speakers. Chrome alloy wheels, car cover, 2 tops with top cart,

Australian 1" sheepskin seat covers. All manuals, garage kept. Excellent condition. Asking \$17,500. Call Bruce at (410) 913-8739 or brobtson@hotmail.com

**500SL Euro, 1985:** Silver/blue. Excellent condition. Arguably, best of 107s. Many items replaced, i.e., conv. top, interior leather, converted A/C, much more. 136,000 miles. Asking \$12,500. Price includes upgraded 16" MB wheels with new Michelins (\$11,000 with stock wheels and tires). Car is in MD, MVA emission control waiver. Contact Rick at (410) 758-1129; fax (410) 758-1308; or rfsailor@aol.com

**450 SEL, 1978:** Well maintained U.S. car. Great trans, new timing chain. Stripped & repainted mid '90s. Sheepskins front and rear. New A/C, 134a Freon. Stainless steel exhaust. Really nice alloy wheels, plus original alloys and snow tires. 172K miles. Driven regularly. All manuals/records. Asking \$4,500 (OBO). Contact Bill at 703-759-9186 or 703-501-2082 or wcarpent@mitre.org

**280SL, 1970:** Silver/red leather. 93K original miles, auto, 6-cyl. fuel injected, hard and soft tops, jumper seat. AC, original tool kit, owners & parts manuals. \$30,000. Call Tom at (410) 573-1528 or sdhyatt15@aol.com

### Address Changed?

MBCA headquarters manages all member addresses. Please do not send address changes to the *Old Dominion Star*. Your contact information for address changes is:

MBCA National Business Office  
1907 Lelaray Street  
Colorado Springs, CO 80909  
Phone: 800-637-2360  
www.mbca.org

Update your email address with MBCA and receive enhanced email copies of this newsletter.

### MBCA National Bus. Office Needs Your Email Address

Over the last few years, we have been able to add "extra," last-minute events to our schedule. The newsletter is not the most timely method of notifying you of something new or updates.

MBCA rules are very clear: your addresses will not be sold or otherwise distributed. The National Business Office (NBO) currently maintains a list of members' email addresses. The list is only used to send notices, electronic copies of the newsletter and reminders. Don't miss a single event, call 800-637-2360.

## Officers

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## Emissions Standards for Gray Market Vehicles

I drive a gray market 1982 Mercedes 200, a W123 model with the 2-liter M102 engine with a Stromberg carburetor. When it was time for the dreaded emissions inspection in August, the emissions testing facility informed me that there was a Virginia law stating that gray market vehicles do not need to undergo the emissions test (*Section 46.2-1177 sub-paragraph 3 of the Air Pollution Control Law of Virginia, link below*) because of an exemption for any "vehicle which, at the time of its manufacture, was not designed to meet emissions standards set or approved by the federal government." That was good news.

I called the emissions officer on duty at the Northern Virginia Regional Office of the Department of Environmental Control at (703) 583-3800, and he explained that he either needed to see the EPA import documentation or check the car himself at his office in Woodbridge, Va. So I made the drive down over lunch and met with a very nice representative of the office who took down my VIN

number and visually inspected the car while I explained some of the history of my 200 to him.

The next day he called me and confirmed that I did not need to undergo the emissions test and that he would send me a memo to take to the DMV for the registration renewal. At the DMV, I needed the assistance of a supervisor to finalize the registration, but things went smooth overall.

My research suggests that this law has probably been in effect since at least 1995. I would not have had to take the test in 2003 (the original owner always underwent the test as well), but I was only aware of the waiver for cars older than 25 model years. This experience serves as a reminder that there is no perfect information no matter how much we think we know about a subject.

*(Article contributed by Eric Wagner of the MBCA Greater Washington Section)*

Air Pollution Control Law at DEQ: [www.deq.state.va.us/regulations/pdf/airlaw2003.pdf](http://www.deq.state.va.us/regulations/pdf/airlaw2003.pdf)

## Public TV Pledge Drive for MotorWeek

Come help Maryland Public Television (MPT) promote one of its great programs, MotorWeek.

MBCA members have been asked to man the phone lines on Thursday, Oct. 27, from 7-10 p.m. at the Maryland Public Television studios in Owings Mills, Md.

This is a very special one-time event, as we will be filmed for the December pledge drive. John Davis and the cast of MotorWeek will be with us promoting the pledge drive. We'll be filmed with them. So here is your chance at 15 minutes of fame!

If you love MotorWeek, television's original automotive magazine, show your support for the show, meet the cast, and help MPT all at the same time.

MPT makes volunteering for this event very easy. They provide a nice spread of food, so don't eat dinner before hand. MPT has a modern, up-to-date computer system that makes it easy to plug in the pledge information.

When the real pledge drive comes out in December, this segment will be shown all across the country and many other MBCA sections will be volunteering at that time as well—in their own local stations and towns—but they will not have the benefits we had by being in MotorWeek's home studio right here in our backyard.

The studios are in Owings Mills, Md., just off 795 north of Baltimore, MD. The address is 11767 Owings Mills Blvd., Owings Mills, MD 21117.

*Interested in helping us out? Please call Bill Hopper at: 202-363-4189, or contact Bill via email: [WWHRestoration@att.net](mailto:WWHRestoration@att.net)*

### It's your newsletter, get involved!

The *Old Dominion Star* is a volunteer effort. How can you get involved?

- Reporter — As a reporter, you would be asked to report on section events or write articles on car topics that interest you.
- Photographer — Take pictures at section events and write short captions that include members' names and car types, if appropriate
- Contributing reporter — Have you had a fun experience with your Benz or have you overcome a technical problem that you would like to share? Write about it! Some past examples include Paul Vandenberg's article on picking up his Benz in Germany, buying a Benz on eBay, etc.
- Letters to the Editor — We welcome opinion pieces related to the marque or the section.

So, are you interested? Please contact Greg Magnus at 804-752-4667 or [greg@eoecho.com](mailto:greg@eoecho.com) to let us know how you would like to get involved.

## Greetings & Tales from Iraq

Former secretary for the MBCA Greater Washington Section, Marianne Sener, left the Washington area last June. A major in the U.S. Air Force, she accepted a one-year assignment in Baghdad, where she is involved with "knowledge management."

Here are photos from her album as well as a brief description of what's been happening there.



This collection [of photos] includes the gradients of dust storms from heavy to clear, and our office cook-out by the pool. We get our cook-out food from the Dining Facility (DFAC). For health code reasons, the DFAC doesn't give us raw food to cook, they just cater cooked food. We put their cooked hamburgers on our little charcoal grill to warm them up, just to add the BBQ feel and flavor! The pool was dry for our pool party BBQ, but we made the best of it!

Coalition contractors are still hard at work to bring Iraq infrastructure up to code. Iraq has about 14 hours of electric power

per day, on average. That number varies from city to city and day to day, depending on local capability. The insurgents are still hard at work to hinder progress, so sometimes some cities have fewer hours of power. Some areas are getting electricity for the first time. The military installations run on generators since local power is not reliable. The generators that we use in the trailer park were Saddam's. I guess he used generators too! I included a couple photos of these truck-sized generators with exhaust pipes as big as a culvert. The next time you walk behind an industrial-sized exhaust like that, you'll have an idea of

how a breeze feels in Iraq in the summertime!

High temps average around 115-120 degrees Fahrenheit. Lows are about 85 degrees. Thank the Lord for air conditioning and power generators!

I went from Camp Victory to the International Zone a couple of weeks ago, about a 10-mile trip. We flew up on a Black Hawk helicopter in the morning and returned via Humvee convoy in the afternoon. While there, our counterpart took us to see the Iraqi Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Crossed Swords that you see on TV sometimes. The Crossed Swords are over a parade route. The nets at the bottom of the arms holding swords are full of Iranian soldiers' helmets. Saddam had these monuments built to commemorate Iraq's "victory over Iran."

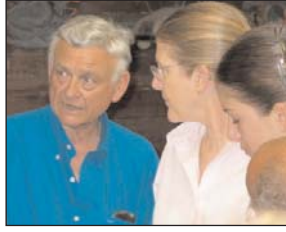
I bought a bicycle! I have a long commute between my trailer lodging and the Palace offices; about .75 mile—a good 13-minute walk in the blazing heat. It just goes faster on a bike—five minutes!

I looked at the draft Iraqi Constitution this week. It is quite different from America's Constitution! I would like to edit it for them! The framers have some disagreements to work out this week. They'll finish drafting the constitution by 15 Aug.

Ten months to go in Iraq!  
(Marianne Sener)



Marianne and her new bicycle.



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Address change: MBCA, 1907 Lelaray Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80909, Ph: 800-637-2360; [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org)  
- David Cummings, MBCA Executive Director; Judy Faass, Office Manager

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### **November 15 - MBCA Central Virginia Member & Board Meeting**

Bull & Bear Club, Richmond, VA

All members and prospective members are welcome to join us for our meetings. We have a new slate of board members and a few open positions for those interested in getting more involved with the club.

Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. Directions to the Bull & Bear at: [www.bullandbearclub.com](http://www.bullandbearclub.com)

Please contact Justin Sarafin if you plan to join us: 434-825-9617 or email: [jas2wa@yahoo.com](mailto:jas2wa@yahoo.com)

(Member/Board Meetings are also held immediately following section events; next event is October 8)

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*Your MBCA section newsletter, The Old Dominion Star, is prepared by club volunteers. This is an expanded email version. The printed edition (limited to four pages; two pages beginning with our next issue) is mailed to members that have not provided their email address to the MBCA National Business Office and those that do not use email.*

*Given the reduced cost associated with email delivery, we are able to provide significantly more information in this version. We hope you enjoy it. Please make sure your email address remains current with the MBCA office to continue receiving the additional information provided by your club volunteers. Thanks! - Greg Magnus, Editor*

*Updates: MBCA National Business Office, Ph: 800-637-2360 or [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org)*