



Mercedes-Benz Club of America - Minuteman

TRI-ANGLES

DECEMBER 2024

IN THIS ISSUE:

➤ **WELCOME,
NEW MEMBERS!**

➤ **SPONSORS**

➤ **LETTER FROM
THE PRESIDENT**

Updates from Dean
Coclin.

➤ **FEATURED
ARTICLES FROM
MEMBERS**

➤ **RECENT EVENTS**

Images and updates
from our recent
outings.

➤ **UPCOMING
EVENTS**

2024 Calendar

➤ **BOARD OF
DIRECTORS**

➤ **MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL
INFO**



Photo Courtesy of Denton Owen, @denton.drives

The holiday spirit is filling the air! Behind the scenes, we've been busy gathering fresh content, curating photos and information, and organizing our calendar. Your time and engagement mean so much to us, and we're truly grateful for your continued connection.

Have you enjoyed a festive winter drive through snowy landscapes? Do you have helpful tips for winterizing your vehicle, or thoughts on the latest automotive trends? We'd love to feature your contributions in our upcoming issues! Feel free to share your insights and stories with us at hello@leiamowen.com.

Planning or hosting a club event in 2025? Send us a summary and photos—it's a wonderful way to keep our Minuteman Section community connected and inspired for future gatherings.

As we celebrate the warmth and joy of the holidays, we want to thank you for being such an essential part of our community. Wishing you a season filled with happiness, safe travels, and cherished moments. Warm regards and happy holidays!

Leia Owen
EDITOR

Welcome, New Members!

Thank you to all the new and returning members from our region who joined - or renewed their memberships with -the MBCA Minuteman Chapter in October, November, and December! Let's welcome:

Derek Jordan
Jesse Goodman
Larry Moye
Paul Ciriello
Roland Boucher
John Hanscom
John Robison
David Langone
Stephen Sanesi

Are you one of our new members? We're happy to have you! Check out the upcoming events and other chapter information contained in this quarterly publication.

Please contact our team if you have any questions!

Thank you, sponsors!



EUROPEAN AUTO SOLUTIONS

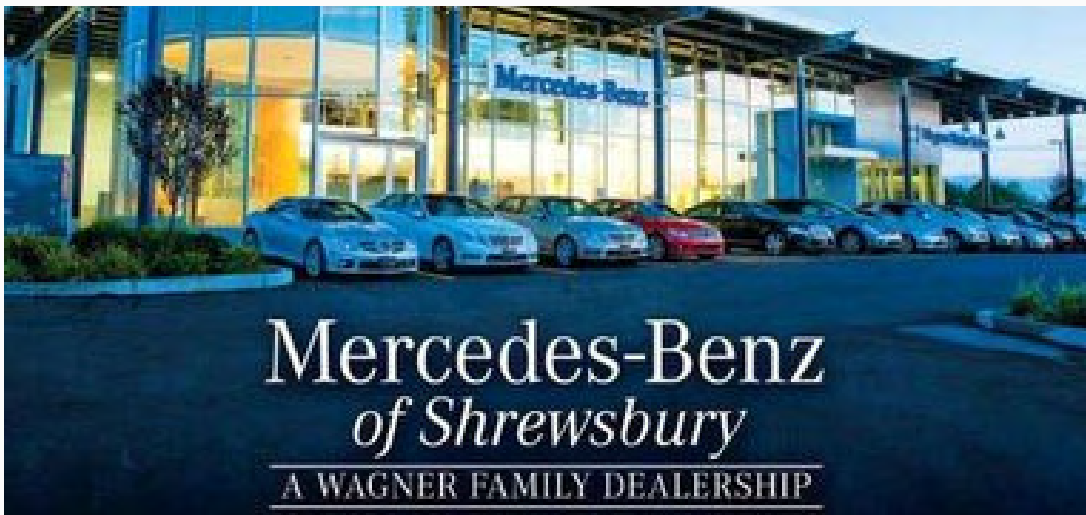
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Letter from the President

It's been an amazing year for the Minuteman Chapter. The calendar was full of events and each one was practically a sell-out. It was great to see a full house at our annual theater and dinner event where we re-elected the current slate of officers for another year. In addition, we presented Heather Renzoni with our Member of the Year award. You can read more about that in this newsletter.

Speaking of members, have you renewed your membership? I found that quite a few people, unbeknownst to them, had let their membership lapse. Once I contacted them, they quickly renewed. I think the new system has caused some confusion and I'll be sending out emails to those whose membership has expired, as it's likely they are unaware.

We have some great people in the club, all with their own cars, stories and preferences. I love the diversity that this club brings to each event. We will be resuming events in April/May and I look forward to joining you again. If you have ideas for future events, please email Ulysses. His email is on the Leadership Team page.

For now, I'm off to Florida to hibernate for the winter. Hopefully my E350 diesel, which has been stored since last May, will start without any issues. I left it on a battery charger and covered it in a garage so I should be ok (famous last words). Ed Owen advised me to overinflate the tires while it was being stored (Good advice!).

If you're down in the Stuart-Port St. Lucie area in the next few months, please reach out!

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dean". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'D' being particularly large and looping.

Dean Coclin
Minuteman Section President

Member of the Year: *Heather Renzoni*



Our Member of the Year for the Minuteman Chapter is Heather Renzoni.

Heather was unanimously approved to join our board a few months ago and has worked tirelessly to help organize events and come up with new ideas for the club.

She recently put together an event at Mercedes Benz of Shrewsbury which attracted many members and included a sponsorship contribution from the dealership.

Heather and Ulysses have proven to be an unstoppable force in creating Minuteman events, and already have some great things planned for the coming year.

We are so proud of Heather and look forward to seeing what she has in store for 2025!

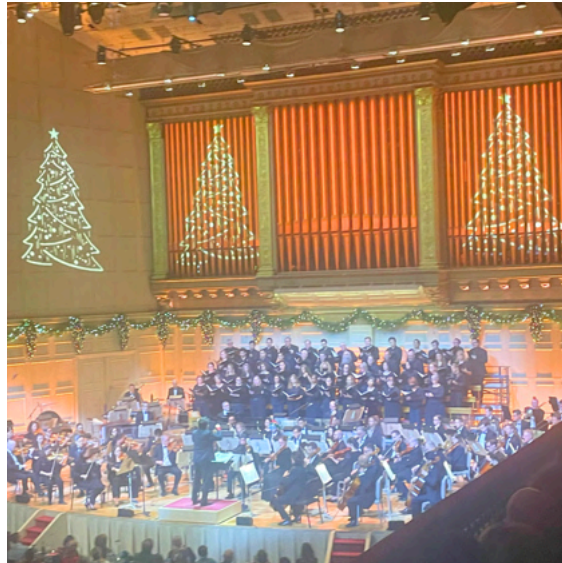


A detailed close-up photograph of a car engine, showing various mechanical components like pistons, rods, and valves. The image is slightly blurred, focusing on the central part of the engine. Overlaid on the image is the text "From Our Members" in a blue, serif font, underlined.

From Our Members

Photo Courtesy of Denton Owen, @denton.drives

Holiday Pops



Annual THEATRE AND DINNER EVENT



Did you capture any photos of this event? We'd love to include in a future newsletter! Please email photos and captions to: hello@leiamowen.com

Holiday Event

MBCA-MINUTEMAN SECTION 37th ANNUAL THEATRE & DINNER MEETING EVENT

On Sunday, December 8, 2024, nearly 50 members of the MBCA-Minuteman Section met at Boston Symphony Hall for the 37th Annual Theatre & Dinner Meeting Event (once again a sold out event). The highlight of the day was the “**Boston Pops Holiday Concert**” featuring the famed “**Boston Pops Orchestra**” under the direction of conductor Keith Lockhart. This year's performance featured outstanding orchestral renditions of “The Adoration of the Magi, from Three Botticelli Pictures”, “A Christmas Prelude: Angels from the Realm of Glory”, “Illumination of Chanukah”, “Let There Be peace on Earth” and the world premiere of “Carol of The Brown King” (including a slide presentation and narration). After intermission “**The Pops**” performed its more traditional holiday songs, including its famous “The Twelve Days of Christmas” with its highly amusing accompaniment by the “**Tanglewood Festival Chorus**”. **Lisa Hughes and David Wade**, co-anchors at WBZ – Boston TV, recited “Twas the Night before Christmas” and a brief visit by Santa, himself followed, with the children in the audience in awe! The show concluded with the crowd participating in the annual Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long.

Following the concert we briskly walked to “**Petit Robert Bistro**” just a few blocks away for cocktails and dinner. The Minuteman Section had the entire dining room to itself, which led to a great deal of comradery. “**Petit Robert Bistro**” served us a unique, French Parisian style dinner with items such as Soupe a L'Oignon Gratinee, Salade De Betteraves, Steak Frites, Salmon Roti, Ravioli A La Citrouille, Creme Brulee, and Sorbet Du Jour.

This event also acts as the election of next year's officers, and the current slate of officers was unanimously approved for re-election.

President Dean Coclin presented a surprised Heather Renzoni a plaque for being named **The Mercedes Benz Club of America - Minuteman Section Member of the year**. Congratulations Heather.

After dinner we all buttoned up and headed in to the cool night as we headed back to the parking garage area to get to our cars (Mercedes-Benz I hope).

Rich Garick
Event Chairman

Holiday Pops



Did you capture any photos of this event? We'd love to include in a future newsletter! Please email photos and captions to: hello@leiamowen.com

PHOTOS FROM FARBERALLYE

Courtesy of Drew Webb



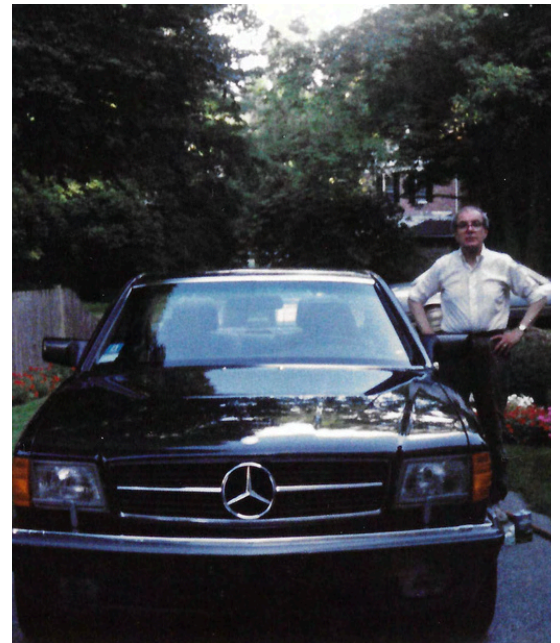
ROAD TRIP TO MONTREAL

By Heather Renzoni

In April 1990, my parents purchased their first and only Mercedes: a 560 SEC. They had always driven Ford Thunderbirds and then moved on to Lincoln Continentals.

They thought a Mercedes for road trips would be nice as a second car. Some of their favorite summer road trips were to Canada; Toronto, Quebec City and my mother's favorite: Montreal. My father kept the car garaged all winter, so that it was never exposed to salt or sand. He loved hand waxing the exterior and used the leather polish for the interior. Under the hood, the engine was so clean - like brand new! When he was no longer driving, I would joyfully drive him out for coffee and errands. He maintained the service and any needed repairs. Since 1999, I have been driving Mercedes cars of my own - and in 2022, my father gave his Mercedes to me.

I now care for the car the same way. Every winter the car is in storage December to April. Routine maintenance when needed, polished and waxed every season. The mileage is only 83,000 original. This past September, along with my son, we drove to Montreal. The 560 SEC glided on the interstate winding through Vermont into Canada, as it did so many times before.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM FCP "AUTOBERFEST" AT LIME ROCK PARK

by Robert & Mary Rose

LAKEVILLE, CT
OCTOBER 27, 2024

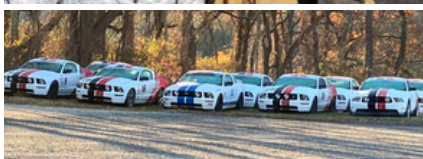
Mercedes was a featured marque and well represented among the many hundreds of German cars at the FCP "Autoberfest" held on Sunday October 27, at Lime Rock Park. And as the event was close to Halloween, many cars were decorated with spooky themes!

The detailed participant instructions said to arrive one hour early if you expected to park on the straightaway. Not knowing what to expect, Mary and I got there 90 minutes in advance and ended up third in queue. Waiting was cold but fun as the great cars just kept coming and coming, and over to our right, parked casually on the gravel under some trees, were at least 9 Skip Barber Mustang GT's, not something you see every day.

At 9:00 AM the gate opened and we were slowly paced out over perhaps two thirds of the track; we drove on curves, ups and downs, against the backdrop of foliage and hills, and my imagination was running wild as we got to "Paul Newman Straight" (not really straight) and eventually out onto the "Sam Posey Straight", as promised.

After settling in to our slot and walking around a bit, we ran into Minuteman members Emma and Al Michaud with their Beagle "Lola", together with Mari-Jo and Howie Jones with their Sheltie "Ruthy". Mary and I had brought 'Lily', our Sheltie, and we were all happy that the canines got along just fine. We soon discovered that the dogs actually attracted more attention and discussion than our cars did because there were, well, hundreds of cars, but only a handful of dogs. We also ran into Barbara and Oscar Hollenbeck of the Hudson-Mohawk section whom we had met just last weekend at Faberallye 46 in Middlebury.

We all had a great time at a well-run and well-attended event; watch for it next year.



Word Search

by Leia Owen

L T A C T W O C L J Z L V X T E C H N O L O G Y G Y X Y S Q
T R G R E O D A H E N G I N E E R I N G N W N Y Q J K G H W
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**BOOK REVIEW:
MERCEDES-BENZ, THE 1960S, W111 TWO- AND FOUR-DOOR:
FROM THE 220B SEDAN TO THE 220SEB CABRIOLET**

by Steve Rankel



Those of us who are fans of a very specific chassis number or model Mercedes often search for detailed information on “our car.” But sometimes shy of getting access to the Mercedes-Benz archives, well-researched and hard-to-find details are — well — hard to find!

Good news for Fintail fans: if you own, are interested in, are considering buying, or just plain like classic Mercedes W111 “heckflosse”(fintails like Goldfinger’s) from the 1960’s you MUST buy this book.

Honestly, I’ve read this book (more like a large format paperback coffee table book with waaaay more detail than a standard hardcover or paperback) cover to cover at least three or four times, and certain chapters like the one on interpreting datacards many more times over.

Backstory: I am a former W111 owner, gearhead, and even read books on Mercedes in German. Ok, a little obsessed =] but we all need hobbies we love!

As a young man, I remember reading in Motor Trend of ‘bank vault solidity’ found in these mostly hand-built Mercedes, and it was true. There is almost nothing like the solid “thunk” sound of a 1960s or 1970’s Mercedes-Benz door closing.

And the interior smell. I used to sit on the black MB Tex seats in my 1964 220S heckflosse and inhale. It was an easy driver, since Onkel Bernhard had swapped in a different engine with an automatic instead of the column shift manual.

BOOK REVIEW: MERCEDES-BENZ, THE 1960S, W111 TWO- AND FOUR-DOOR: FROM THE 220B SEDAN TO THE 220SEB CABRIOLET

by Steve Rankel

Fond memories aside, let's be real: there are other realities of owning a 1960s Mercedes. Rust, for instance. Under the doorsills, under the trunk mats, beneath the chrome trim around the windows. Hard starting in wet weather, depending on the quality of the seal on your distributor cap. If you own one, and it's been sitting outside awhile or raining hard you know what I'm talking about!

The author doesn't shy away from those facts, and offers a pretty detailed "buyers guide" with pictures of trouble areas and what to look for, and what to walk away from when considering a vehicle.

Pictures of pristine restored undercarriages, engine compartments and interiors are like catnip for those of us who wish our cars looked like that. But again - to balance that "ideal" with reality - there are lots of pictures in the buyers guide of what to look out for - real world underbodies and engine bays in conditions much more likely to be seen when considering a classic that isn't a full restoration.

There are chapters on engines, chassis, data cards, interiors, resale value, how to buy a W111, even color pictures of interior fabrics and available velours.

There are chapters of hard-to-find material including interior color codes and paint codes with "paint chip pictures" from the Mercedes Benz archives. The book even describes the difference between the chassis number you find in the painted-over plate on the front crossmember by the radiator, and the stamped steel one.

The data card chapter itself is fascinating. It talks about how to interpret the "cells," what each number means, and how common each one is. To me one of the many interesting "cells" in the data card is "wenig gewünscht," which literally translates as little wished for, or special options. Those familiar with data cards know there are cells identifying items installed like the brand of battery, headlamps or tires.

Of note: options like air-conditioning don't typically appear on the data card, because the vast majority were installed at the dealer - made by either Behr or Kühlmeister in the 60's and early 70's.

The author includes a chapter on how he fell in love with the W111 - like me, his German uncle owned one - black with a wool interior (much more frequently ordered in Europe than for example, MB-Tex in the states).

In fact, he mentions that many were ordered without radios, and that the fuel injected SE was considered somewhat frivolous as long as an S was on the trunk after the model number.

He makes another interesting point: if you were a German private citizen in the early 1960s and you owned a Mercedes Fintail, you were rich. Or you were a taxi driver and drove one of the less expensive, smaller displacement, poorer-optioned diesel versions.

BOOK REVIEW: MERCEDES-BENZ, THE 1960S, W111 TWO- AND FOUR-DOOR: FROM THE 220B SEDAN TO THE 220SEB CABRIOLET

by Steve Rankel

An additional chapter talks about one of the “founding fathers” at Mercedes-Benz who I have written about in the past.

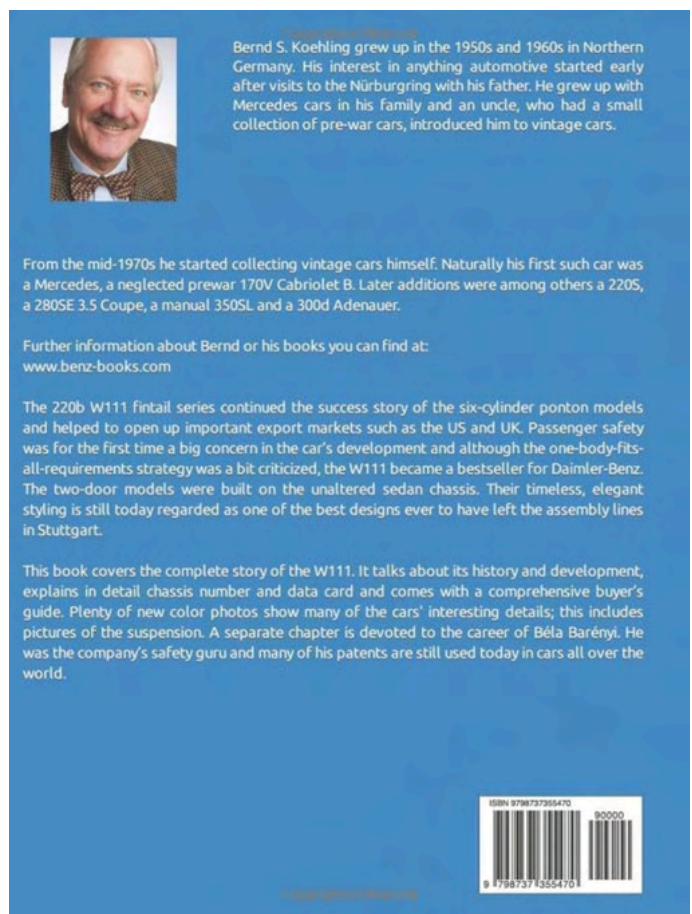
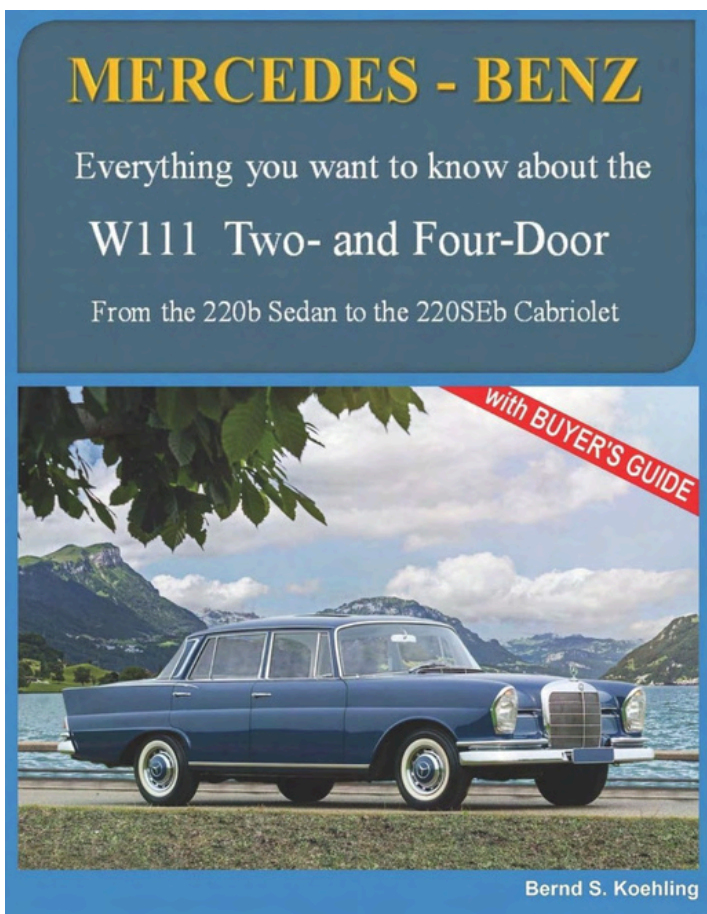
The book is enjoyably written (though obviously translated from native German - which to me gives it even more credibility), utterly binge-worthy, and has great pictures and facts.

The book is not inexpensive, but if you love the W111 Mercedes from the 1960's, you need to buy this book (link below to the coupe & 3.5 Cabrio book as well). Thank God that Bernd Koehling wrote something like it for us classic Mercedes fans. Danke von ganzem Herzen!

PS Buy the print version not the Kindle version; there are way more pictures in print that don't present properly on Kindle - even the author says so.

It's available on Amazon at the following links:

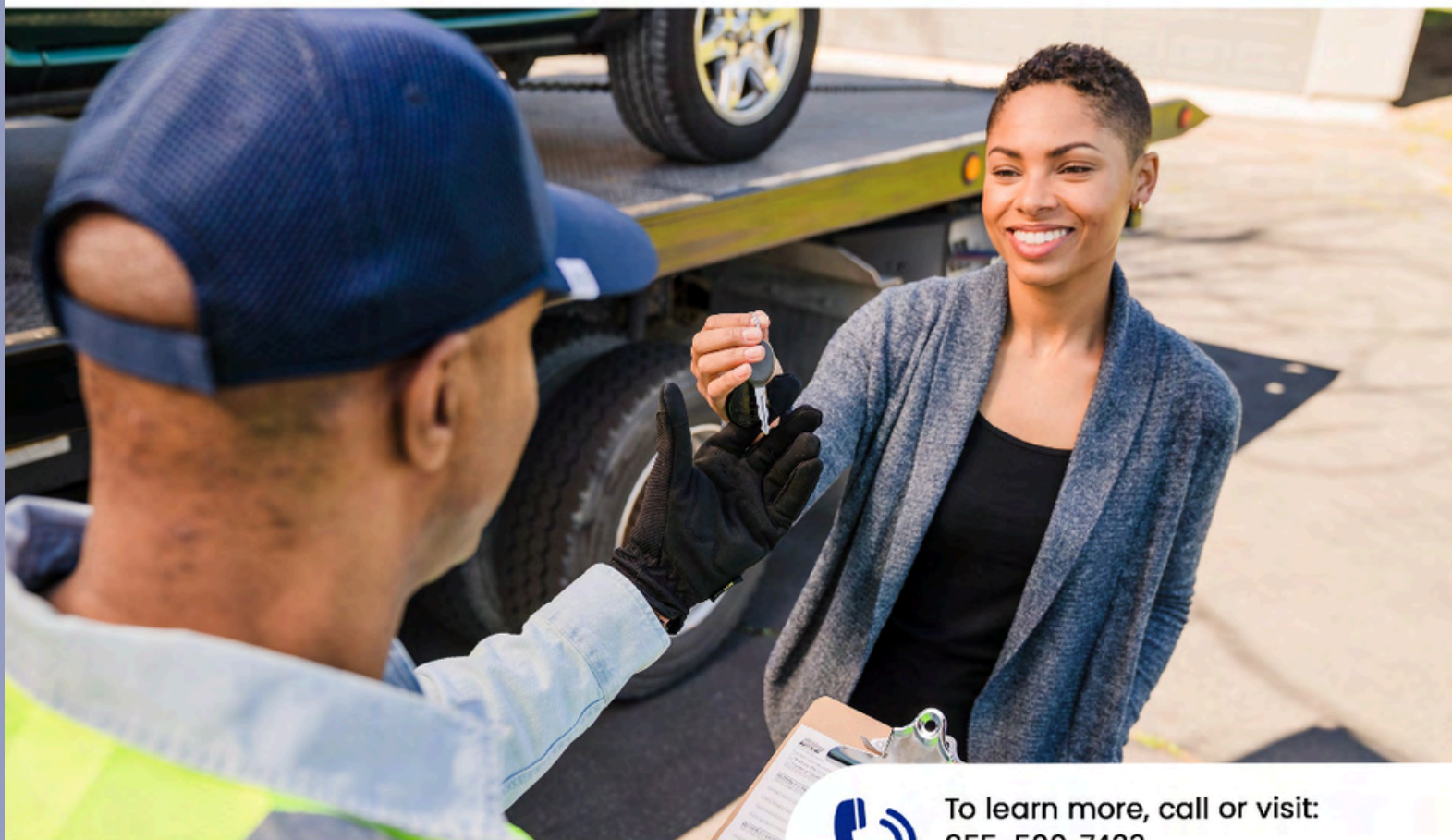
- MERCEDES-BENZ, The 1960s, W111 Two- and Four-Door: From the 220b Sedan to the 220SEb Cabriolet
 - <https://a.co/d/6pGfRje>
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happy new year!*



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YOU AT OUR 2025 EVENTS**

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