

# Western Reserve Section



## CRUIER

### Mercedes-Benz Club of America

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## The leaves were at their peak

About 40 people gathered at the Sulphur Springs Shelter of the South Chagrin Reservation Metro Park. As they enjoyed coffee, cider and donuts, they had a chance to reacquaint with other members and “kick some tires.” Soon the refreshments were cleaned up and the participants got in their cars to start the scenic ride through northeastern Ohio led by Tourmeister **Dick Gortz**. After a driving tour through the Chagrin Valley and the Village of Gates Mills, the group arrived at Patterson Fruit Farm. Apples, cider, pies and other goodies were available for purchase. Kettle corn and pumpkins were available. From the snack shop porch, one could see what used to be the golf course, a pond, glorious trees, and in the distance, Lake Erie on the horizon. The air was clear and crisp, and the view was outstanding. Again, the participants got back in the cars for the scenic drive which led to the Kirtland Temple. At this stop, we had a chance to visit the museum, listen to snippets of history, and shop in the store. Then we were invited into the theater for a presentation about the history of the temple—both

structurally and theologically. The temple was dedicated on March 27, 1836 and had been founded by Joseph Smith. It was originally part of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day



Barb Tullis, and Ted and Brigitte Gottfried enjoyed a lift back to the cars.

Saints. After the 20 minute film, the curator came back to answer questions. The screen was rolled up, and the wall began to move. What everyone at first thought was a picture became the real life view of the historic temple through a wall of glass. There were many oohs and aahs before the curator led

us along the curving sidewalk, through the gardens, and into the temple. Next, the group headed south on SR 306 to the Pine Lake Trout Club in Bainbridge. Friends had a chance to visit before sitting down to a complete clam bake and chicken dinner. Toys were collected for the children’s Christmas giveaway for the Center of Hope, and the 50-50 raffle was won by **Barb Strnad**. The leaves were at their peak, and the sky highlighted their beauty with its perfect blue. And then the sun put the spotlight on the whole scene. Another perfect fall leaf tour is in the books.

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## Message from the President - Gary Goodman



**Gary Goodman,**  
President

As we reach the end of a great summer of enjoying our friends and our favorite cars, it is time once again to begin planning for next year. At our October meeting, the members present reelected our current board to serve again for 2009. The officers are: **Gary Goodman**, President; **Mary Alice Cozza**, Vice President; **John Morrison**, Treasurer; and **John Tuck**, Secretary. We have also begun working on our calendar of events for 2009. We are always looking for fresh ideas and new perspectives, so if you have an interest in helping to improve the Western Reserve Section, this is your chance. We have been fortunate over the years to have a number of people volunteer their time and efforts to benefit the section. Even if you are not able to serve on the board, your talents are still very welcome. If you have any questions about how you can help, please feel free to contact me.

We have begun planning for our annual holiday party, and one of the discussion topics has been entertainment during and after dinner. In the past, we have had a disc jockey, but it seems that every year very few people actually dance and many people enjoy socializing with other members and guests. We are looking for suggestions—what would you like? Should we continue with the disc jockey format? What ideas do you have for other entertainment? Drop me a line at [gary@benzclub.org](mailto:gary@benzclub.org) to give me your thoughts. I might even be able to come up with a special prize for the best idea! I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you soon at a section

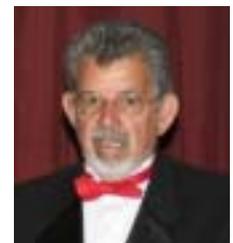
## News from National....

Upcoming National events:

National Board Meeting  
Nov. 8, 2008 – Denver, Colorado

StarTrack  
July 18-21, 2009 – Pittsburgh - Beaverun Track

Mid-America Caravan  
Aug. 14-18, 2009 – Topeka, Kansas - Heartland Park Track



**Frank Cozza,**  
National Events Chairman

## Save the Date

**November 11 – Meeting – M.B. North Olmstead**

**January 10 – Holiday Party – Aurora Inn**

**February 28 – Cleveland Auto Show**

## Have you ever seen such a sight...



Before going in for lunch everyone gathered to learn about the historic inn

The sky was threatening but Mercedes drivers were confident the rain would hold out for their annual drive to historic Hanoverton, OH. This year's event brought drivers in from many cities in the area and as far away as Pittsburgh, PA, St. Clairsville, OH, Indianapolis IN, and even Florida.

12 foot high vaulted brick ceilings and hand-chiseled stone walls. New club members **George and Diane Grandstaff** said, "This event is our first and we wanted to come because we really enjoy visiting bed and breakfast establishments and old inns."

After a delicious lunch the caravan proceeded to **Frank and Mary Alice Cozza's** residence. The cars lined their backyard. Drivers showed off their cars, answered questions, and shared stories. Guests were also treated to ice cream sundaes, **Sue Morrison's** signature cookies, and pontoon boat rides along Guilford Lake.

Ann and Dave Brooks said, "It is wonderful to be around such positive people." They also stated it was a comfortable ride in their R 350 crossover vehicle. Everyone seemed to have a great time and were able to return home before the rain came. See you next year.

The **Gentzlers, David, Ruth Ann and Gerry** said, "It was so impressive to see all those Mercedes Benz cars traveling down the road." Forty-one Mercedes led by **Dick and Toni Gortz**, caravanned through country roads to The Spread Eagle Tavern where lunch was waiting for these 87 hungry travelers. Plymouth Street was lined with Mercedes Benz dating back to the fifties. It was like an outdoor museum.

The historic tavern was built in 1837 as a tavern for the thriving canal town stated current owner **Dave Johnson**. His family saved the inn from the wrecking ball. Visitors were encouraged to walk through the

guest rooms located on the second and third floors. The rooms are decorated with antique furniture.

Downstairs is Gaver's Rathskeller, which has a



Steve and Gerri Dobrich enjoy lunch with their guest.



A group gathers to admire Judy Brehm's CLK.

## Lost at Sea...

Most of the guests walked across the field to board three pontoon boats. **Frank Cozza's** neighbors offered their assistance. While on the rough seas of Guilford Lake, where the speed limit is a rapid 5mph with no wake or waves and where they have never heard of white caps, one of these fine yachts broke down. Members left behind were starting to get worried when the ride looked like it was taking too long. Gilligan (Frank) set out to save the Skipper and Mary Ann here on Guilford Island. Gilligan, took on the extra passengers. The Skipper and Gilligan threw out tow ropes and brought Mary Ann back to the dock. All were saved and returned to the social. It was a close call.

## Welcome new members

May - September

Dawn Grant  
William Moore  
Roy Umanzio  
Houdek  
Robert Morgan  
Michael Yoshizawa  
Albert Bowles  
RJ Nemer  
David Seymour  
James Gray  
Gabriella Peter

Carlos Jordan  
Phillip Schimonitz  
Jean DuklesPaul  
Fred Lick Jr.  
Anil Parikh  
Matt Allen  
John Coppus  
D Schreckengost  
Cynthia Cicigoi  
John Kern  
John Pyke III

Associate members

Joshua Houdek  
Michelle Umanzio  
Jennifer Coppus  
Ellen Kern

Donna V Erb  
Holly Murphy Allen  
Gene Cicigoi



Welcome to the club's newest member **Brandon Enzo Di Pasquale**, born September 17, to parents Brian and Tracy, and big sister Brianna.



Pictured are club members attending their first event.

Guests received a variety of door prizes, including glasses, shirts, and hats.

## It is anniversary time once again

Anniversary pins in five year increments are awarded at two events during the year: The Spread Eagle Tavern event in July and the Holiday Party in January. Members must be present at one of the events to receive their pins. Pins were awarded to the following individuals:

**Don French—5 years**

**Fred Gesell—10 years**

**Tony Mikolich—20 years**



Fred Gesell, Don French and Tony Mikolich proudly accept their pins.

# Traveling the shores of Lake Michigan

Lake Michigan Mille

October 6-13, 2008

Six members of the Western Reserve Section attended the Circle Lake Michigan Mille—**Frank and Mary Alice Cozza, John and Sue Morrison, and Don and Carol Velcio.**

The tour began at the Studebaker Museum in South Bend, IN, and featured the kick-off dinner in the Studebaker Mansion. In the morning, breakfast was served at a member's farm.



**Don Velcio (Western Reserve Section) and Russ Sternberg (St. Louis Section) looking at a Studebaker the Museum**

Before heading off to Chicago the group toured Tire Rack and learned about tire performance. A lecture and lunch were available at the Notebaupt Museum in Chicago followed by dinner on your own. The next morning the participants were invited to view the Knauz Auto collection in Lake Bluff, IL then on to Egg Harbor, WI in Door County for a fish boil.

The group saw beautiful scenery as they traveled along the shores of Lake Michigan, through the Upper Peninsula, past the Sleepy Bear Dune and through cherry and apple country.



**Western Reserve members attending - Carol, Don Velcio - Sue, John Morrison - Frank, Mary Alice Cozza at Mackinac Island waiting to board the Star line Ferry to the island**

When the group arrived at the Mackinac Island dock they boarded a carriage for a tour around the island. Some enjoyed the optional walking tour of the Bay View Area in Petoskey. Bay View is a Methodist community patterned after Chautauqua which boasted an ambitious summer university and is a beautiful

Victorian summer resort area. While in Petoskey, the circle tour members joined the Western Michigan section's fall leaf tour for dinner and a play at the local community theater.

The final lunch was held at a restored theater in Allegan. A box lunch was prepared and served in a gallon size popcorn container and included a six ounce bottle of Coke as packaged a generation ago and Cracker Jacks. Awards were given at that location and a vintage



**John and Sue Morrison fill-up before the long ride home.**

movie from Mercedes Benz describing overseas delivery was shown. At that point, which was the official end of the tour, many headed home.

**Jim Luikens**, editor of the Star magazine, led a caravan to the Gilmore Museum, which is a wonderful car museum set on a farm with the various car displays in restored or recreated vintage barns. For those who chose to stay until the next day, a dinner was held in a "grill your own steak" restaurant. During the over 1000 mile trip, old friendships were renewed and new ones made among the participants that represented 15 states.

# A race to the finish – Starfest '08



by Mary Alice Cozza

Starfest '08 was held in San Francisco and Willows, CA, September 26 through October 1, 2008. The Concours d' Elegance, welcome reception and Concours banquet were held in San Francisco. Those attending the Concours were delighted with the awesome view from Treasure Island of the city, the Bay bridge, Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz. **Peter Lesler** from the Western Reserve Section chaired the Concours. Also, at the Concours site, was **Josie Lesler** with a membership booth, while **George Murphy**, tech advisor, held a tech session for the ladies.

The rally started at Presidio in San Francisco and traveled over 150 miles along the coast and through Napa valley to Willows, CA, where the track events were held. From the city life to the rural setting of Willows created something for everyone.

Defensive driving, autocross, acceleration runs and time trials were all held at Thunderhill near Willows, a premiere track and facility. Many Western Reserve members helped with the event. **Frank** and **Mary**

**Alice Cozza** ran the track events for three days, while **John Morrison** supervised tech inspection and worked as starter for the autocross. **Sue Morrison** was the registrar for the entire event. Sue also worked with **Chris Murray** from the Las Vegas Section in timing and scoring of track events. **Paul Bailey** and **Terry Kiwala** second section members of the Western Reserve Section helped instruct defensive driving and autocross. The final awards banquet was held in the dining room at the track. Everyone attending had a great time.



Pictured is a 1959 Mercedes 300D with the Bay Bridge in the distance.

## Western Reserve Club members show some Ohio hospitality



Paul and Sherry Rodecki from Palm City FL stopped on their way to San Francisco.

### STAR TRIP

**Werner Fehlauer** from the South Jersey Section organized and led a caravan of Starfest participants from Gettysburg PA to San Francisco traveling the Lincoln Highway (Rt. 30).

As Rt. 30 is only a few miles from the home of **Frank** and **Mary Alice Cozza**, the caravan was invited to stop for some afternoon treats and camaraderie with other Western Reserve Section members.

# A quaint town with a lot of history

## Marblehead Weekend



Hosts **Don** and **Judy Brehm** await everyone's arrival

**Don** and **Judy Brehm** hosted the first (annual, we hope) Marblehead weekend from September 12 through 14. Thirty-eight people participated in all or part of the

weekend which began with a tour of the Firelands Winery on Friday. Others gathered throughout the day at the Marblehead Lighthouse Resort and met for snacks and drinks in the lounge before enjoying a dinner in the dining room. The group met again for breakfast in the resort before embarking on a beautiful tour/rally of the Marblehead Peninsula.

The tour began at the famous Marblehead Lighthouse. Club members had an opportunity to climb to the top of the lighthouse where they enjoyed a spectacular view of Lake Erie.



**Mary Alice Cozza** and **John Morrison** reading clues on cemetery sign.

After a series of clues and turns, the group explored the first lighthouse keeper's home, the Lakeside Methodist community, the quaint downtown area of Marblehead, Port Clinton, and a model train museum. There was time to enjoy the parks, or visit shops along the way. The route included a lot of opportunities to enjoy great lake scenery.

Even though there was rain, our spirits were not dampened as we

explored new and interesting areas. The owner of the country general store was more than eager to show off the merchandise in his store and also the log house behind the store that he is restoring. He was quite the historian and passed on much of his knowledge.



**John Morrison**, **Ron Mihalek**, and **Joan Barrett** review the rally directions.

Saturday evening, the group was joined by some "local" members at Mon Ami Winery for dinner and awards. Rally winners were **Ralph** and **Terri Stupka** for answers to the questions and **Ron** and **Marcia Good** for mileage. The next morning, the hotel awarded its own trophies for the cars in the parking lot. **Karen Mihalek** won first place, and **Judy Brehm** won second. Those who remained were invited to the home of Don and Judy Brehm for more visiting.



L-R **Peter Lesler**, **Karen Mihalek**, **Paul Barrett**, **Judy Brehm**, **Mary Alice Cozza**, and **Sue and John Morrison** contemplating the next move on the rally.

# Food, friends and cars a perfect day

By **Bill VerDuin**

The third annual Western Reserve Old Car Fun Day was a great success, as always. **Dick** and **Toni Gortz** were gracious hosts, serving a wonderful lunch of brats, dogs, salad, cookies and brownies, all washed down with pop and beer. Just what we all needed, as we enjoyed the beautiful August sunshine and the wonderful cars.

And they were wonderful. Thirty-some attendees got to see some very nice cars. **Rudy** and **Joan Kamper** showed off their latest, a stunning 1938 BMW 327 convertible, a 2 liter 6 cylinder 2-seater in burgundy and black. We had 10 SL's from a 280SL up through the latest generation. The 9 sedans included a 1967 230S, a 450SEL 6.9, and a 240D and 300TD, as well as a selection of newer gas-engine sedans. I brought my 1965 220SEb coupe and **Rod Thomson** brought his Boxster.

Our special guests were **John Barnard** and **Al Beasley** of Euromotorsports in downtown Chagrin Falls. I invited them to attend because I have found them to be great to work with while performing repairs on old and new European and Asian cars. They gave us pointers on buying old Mercedes. They talked about issues such as body integrity

common to all, as well as model-specific issues such as mechanical fuel injection. They took questions from the crowd and individually.

We then went back to talking, eating and looking at cars. What a fun way to spend a summer afternoon.

Thank-you Dick and Toni for the wonderful food and the beautiful setting.

## How to properly store tires

During the Lake Michigan Circle Tour, participants gathered at Tire Rack in South Bend for an informative presentation on tire tread wear and its effect on performance and braking distance. The website for Tire Rack has videos illustrating what was presented at [www.TireRack.com](http://www.TireRack.com). During the question/answer period, the question arose as to proper winter storage. The technical engineer leading the discussion said to take pressure off your tires to store them during the winter. He also warned not to store tires on a floor that has solvents, oils, etc. on it because of the corrosive damage to the tires. The web site has much to offer technically. The Tire Rack is also very supportive in the Street Survival Program. MBCA Educational Foundation is working with BMW CCA Foundation to promote safe teen driving with the invaluable help of Tire Rack.

**Check out the Western Reserve Section website at [benzclub.org](http://benzclub.org)**

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**CRIER**

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MBCA **Educational Foundation** is working with **BMW CCA Foundation** to promote safe teen driving with the invaluable help of Tire Rack.