



# Western Reserve Section

# CRUIER

## Mercedes-Benz Club of America

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## Reading German is just a click away ...

By Don French

Are you restoring an old Mercedes-Benz? Are some of the parts no longer carried at your local dealer? Help is only a few clicks away...

Some Mercedes-Benz cars were popular in Germany, but few were sold here, so there are not many used parts or replacement parts available in the USA.

Have you tried searching on eBay for good parts, but did not find much there? There are tons of parts on the eBay Germany site, [www.ebay.de](http://www.ebay.de). Only problem is everything is written in German. The pictures look like what you want, but you can not search by name or read the details. Scrolling through hundreds of pictures of M-B parts and then trying to figure out if the parts are exactly what is needed is a time-waster.

Google now has a simple solution. Go to "<http://translate.google.com>" and cut and paste the whole foreign web page into their text box, select the languages you want to convert to and from, and VOILA! The German converts to English and vice versa.

You can now email in German, type in German and – you get the picture – you look like your German. It is

a great idea and its free; they convert 41 languages. So next time you need a part, try the eBay Germany site you may save a lot of money.

Pay with PayPal and the dollars convert to Euros or the local currency automatically. No credit card conversion surcharges (like Visa and Mastercard have).

You can bet that within the next few years eBay will have the Google translate function incorporated into their listings.



As the license plates says "Why Not" try it.

### Spread Eagle Tavern Brunch & Ice Cream Social Sponsored by: Fred Martin Mercedes in Austintown

Mark your calendar for Sunday, August 2 for brunch at the Spread Eagle Tavern, 10150 Plymouth Street, Hanoverton, Ohio. Meet the caravan at the Home Depot lot in Streetsboro or drive directly to the Tavern. After brunch bring the family to the **Frank and Mary Alice Cozza's** home and enjoy the pool and the boat rides on Guilford Lake. **Fred Martin Mercedes** is bringing some special cars for us to view and possibly drive. See [benzclub.org](http://benzclub.org) for more details or contact the Cozza's at 330-222-1106.

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# National and Regional News....

## Frank Cozza

### Pack your bags we are off to Kansas

By now you may have missed the first of two national events being held this year. StarTrack in Pittsburgh is now history, but there is still a chance to enjoy Mid-America Caravan in Topeka, Kansas, on August 14 - 19.

If you enjoy your section events, you should definitely attend this national event. There is something for everyone. It is 5 days of fun, fun, fun. Not only do you have the opportunity to show your car along with cars from all over the United States and Canada, but have the opportunity to drive on one of the first class tracks in the U.S., Heartland Park. There will be banquets, rallies, tours, defensive driving, acceleration runs and autocross as well. But probably the best part of a national event is the people you will meet; people from across the country that you will have a lot in common - the love of Mercedes-Benz vehicles.

I'LL BE LOOKING FOR YOU IN KANSAS

### Don't forget the Membership Loyalty Reward Program

Purchase or lease a new Mercedes-Benz from an authorized US dealer or a pre-owned M-B from a licensed independent US dealer and you may be eligible to receive a gift card up-to \$1500 towards parts, service and accessories at an authorized M-B dealer. Remember you must be a M-B club member for twelve continuous months. For more information see the Star magazine, visit the club website at [www.MBCA.org](http://www.MBCA.org), or call MBUSA Customer Assistance Center - (800) 367-6372.



Frank Cozza,  
National Events Chairman  
Great Lakes Regional Director

## Looking Ahead

### National election is coming up soon.

Members will have the opportunity to elect three Directors at Large and six Regional Directors to the National Board. The deadline for Ballot Receipt is October 15. So vote and mail early, but please vote. See website or Star Magazine for more details.

### Fall Raffle just around the corner

Win a chance to get off the road this fall in a 2010 GLK350 4MATIC or cash equivalent. Second and third prize sends you and a friend to Germany. There are \$2000 gasoline gift cards for fourth and fifth prize. Show off your his and her watches from the Mercedes-Benz Collection for sixth and seventh prize. Plus there are gift cards to MBCA Club Store for eighth through twelfth prize. Entry forms will be available at [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org) or by calling 800-637-2360. Let's support the club and have a Western Reserve Section Winner this year. The Raffle tickets are only sold to MBCA members making the odds of winning in your favor.

Good Luck!

## Message from the President - Gary Goodman



Gary Goodman,  
President

### Say Thanks to Your Dealer!

Over the years, our Western Reserve Section has been very fortunate to have a great relationship with and tremendous support from our local Mercedes-Benz dealer body as well as from the Mercedes-Benz Chicago Region. In the past, they have hosted events, donated door prizes,

advertised in event programs, and as a group were the title sponsor for Gemütlichkeit 2007. This relationship is something that many sections would love to have but have been unable to achieve. The support of the dealer body has been a key factor in helping to keep the Western Reserve Section active and viable.

In 2009, **Bernie Moreno** (Mercedes-Benz of North Olmsted) hosted our annual Cleveland Auto Show dinner, **Ken Ganley** (Ganley Mercedes-Benz in Akron) hosted our new member recognition party, **Dan Lehman** (Coppus Motors in Tiffin) sponsored our Great Lakes Regional Defensive Driving and Autocross, **Kevin Conant** (Leikin Mercedes-Benz in Willoughby) sponsored our horse country tour, and **Fred Martin** (Fred Martin Mercedes-Benz in Youngstown) is the sponsor for our annual Spread Eagle event. These sponsorship dollars allow us to provide our members with quality events and even more importantly help us to reduce your cost to attend them. What makes this support even more remarkable is the current state of the economy. Unless you have been on another planet for the last several months, you are probably aware that things are difficult in the auto industry—sales, revenues, and profits have all been dramatically reduced. From first-hand experience, I can assure you that even in good times, dealer net profits are not nearly as high as most consumers believe they are, and under current market conditions there is even more pressure to be profitable. So why would a dealership spend money on our club in a market where every expense is under a microscope? As a group, we are enthusiastic and passionate about Mercedes-Benz, and we are advocates for the brand. Every business is looking for loyal customers that return to purchase again and also refer others to their business. That is exactly what we can provide to our dealers.

What can we do to ensure that this is a win-win

situation for both our section and the dealers? How about thanking them for their support the next time you are in the dealership? Let them know that you appreciate what they are doing to support us. In addition, take advantage of the MBCA Loyalty Program and purchase a new or pre-owned Mercedes-Benz. Think of your local dealer first when it is time for parts and service for your car. They have factory trained technicians, state of the art equipment, and the correct parts to keep your favorite vehicle performing as designed.

### Website update

The work on our website is well underway. We have contracted for the redesign and update which should be completed by the end of August. The new site will be a big improvement, and will have more information as well as the ability to register for events online. We have email addresses for about half of our members and several of them are incorrect. Please make sure that your current email address has been updated at the National Business Office. This can be done online at [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org).

Have a great rest of the summer. Hope to see you at the next event.

## Member Update

### New Members –

#### May

**Daniel Lieberman, William Zell**

#### June

**Eric Butler, Jay Jesensky, Thomas Tubbs**

### Renewals –

#### May

**Ronald Armenti, John Brodnick, Terry Donley, William Galida, Charles Hearn, Donald Jordan, Harvey Kay, John Ledsky, Ralph Montalvo, Norbert Peiker, Phillip Schimonitz, Mark Schmiedl, Ronald Swenson, Don Velcio**

#### June

**Stella Camuso, James Croniger, W. HartIII, Werner Heidemann, Gordon Jones, John Koncar, Eugene Lucas, Robert Morgan, Harry Paul, David Qualkinbush, Jeff Rayer, Lewis Sawitzke, Scott Sazima, Dana Young**



More than 100 guests enjoyed the Horse Country Tour through the Western Reserve. Thank you **Leiken Mercedes-Benz** for sponsoring the event, Eutrophia Farms, Hunt Club, White-North Stables for their hospitality, and Tom and Kim for all their hard work.



# MBCA 2009 Schedule of Events

July 24-26

August 2

Aug. 14-18

Aug. 22

Oct 17

Pagoda meet - Blacklick, OH

Spread Eagle Brunch & ice cream social

Mid-America Caravan

Central Ohio Autocross

Fall Leaf Tour (Amish Country)

[ja17@worldnet.att.net](mailto:ja17@worldnet.att.net)

Club event - Hanoverton, OH

National event - Topeka, Kansas

[centralohiombca@gmail.com](mailto:centralohiombca@gmail.com)

Flyers will be sent for specific club events. Check the website [www.benzclub.org](http://www.benzclub.org) for more information. National events will be advertised in the STAR and on the [www.MBCA.org](http://www.MBCA.org) website.

## Even torrential rains could not hamper the old car fun day

By Bill VerDuin

The Western Reserve Section held its fourth annual Old Car Fun Day, an event designed to celebrate and provide interaction with pre-1980 cars. Every Old Car Fun Day has been fun, and this year's was no exception.

This year, we added a few new twists. First, we had torrential rains. The event was to begin at 11:00 on July 11. But at 11 it was pouring, so those of us who



Car pictured in order Rod Thompson's 280SL, Morgan Taft's 280SE 3.5 Coupe, Kurt von Leyser's Lotus, Bill VerDuin's Porsche 911, Dick Gortz's 380 SL

were already at the beautiful home of our hosts, **Toni** and **Dick Gortz**, stayed under cover. Those driving from afar drove for hours in the wetness.

But then, it became beautiful, and at noon we started the fun. Toni and Dick provided a delicious lunch of brats, potato salad, baked beans, cookies, and various liquid refreshments. We went outside and ate, looked at cars, talked to our friends and looked at some more cars.

Our featured event: **Rod Thompson's** 280SL, fresh from a comprehensive mechanical restoration and engine compartment detailing by our tech guru **Ted Gottfried**. Rod described the work and then showed it

off for all to see. They did a beautiful job restoring a beautiful silver car with a dark green leather interior.

All told, we had 21 cars attend with 30-some people. A few got scared away by the weather, but we had a great turnout. As the photo shows, we had some beautiful older Benzes in addition to Rod's 280SL. We had **Tom Barrett's** 220SE Ponton sedan, **Morgan Taft's** 280SE 3.5 coupe, as well as Dick Gortz 380SL. A few non-Benzes snuck in and lived to tell: **Kurt**

**von Leyser's** Lotus Europa and my Porsche 911. An outrage, but we were able to rise to the occasion. (I brought the 911 because I try to keep my 220SE coupe out of the monsoons.)

Thanks again to Toni and Dick for their warm hospitality and great lunch, to Rod for taking us through his restoration project,

and to the Western Reserve members for turning out and making this event fun!



Once the rain stopped it was rime to check out the cars.

# Keep those old brakes working like new

There is a lot more to brake fluid than meets the eye. In modern Mercedes with ABS or SBC brake systems, the incorrect fluid can cause brake failure and possibly void warranty.

Old DOT 3 was fine in older cars, but it soaked up moisture like a sponge... marginal for older cars as long as it is changed Every Year and a definite NO-NO for ABS and SBC.

DOT 4 was engineered for ABS and is more resistant to moisture contamination. It can be used at the higher pressures encountered in ABS systems. Can extend change interval to 3 years in older cars.

DOT 4+ is NOT THE SAME as DOT 4! Slightly lower viscosity than Dot 4 with greater resistance to bubbles forming at extreme pressures encountered in SBC systems. I have used it in M198 cars and it is the most common M-B fluid you will find at the dealers.

DOT 5 Full synthetic Silicone based fluid, sometimes purple in color. Not approved for use in SBC systems that I know of... that does not matter with "our" cars M198. Since it is completely different than DOT 3, 4, 4+ when you switch to it, the whole system should be flushed/cleaned completely. Preferably, all the rubber parts should be replaced

when switching to Silicone fluid.

Personally, I like the DOT 4 Super Blue ATE fluid in older cars. The Blue dyed color makes it easy to see when you have flushed the old yellow fluid out. ATE also makes a Gold (yellow) DOT 4 fluid with basically the same formula, so you can use the same technique when you flush out the Blue fluid the next time.



Bill VerDuin's 220SE showing off its excellence

My only slight concern with M-B DOT 4+ in older cars is the lower viscosity could make rebuilt (rather than new) brake components start to seep fluid. Owners who rebuilt/honed their wheel cylinders previously could find that they have a "leaker" after a routine brake fluid change to DOT 4+.

I would not be afraid to top-up or replace fluid in a system which had DOT 3 in it using DOT 4 or DOT 4+ since they are supposed to be completely compatible. But I would not "add" DOT 5 synthetic to those systems.

Just my educated opinion...

**Craig Crouch**  
**Classic M-B Restorations**  
**M-B TRP Award winning, Factory Trained**  
**Arizona, USA**

## HIGH MILEAGE AWARDS

The Mercedes-Benz Classic Center USA is offering High Mileage Awards for the following levels:

**250,000 km or 155,000 miles**

**500,000 km or 312,000 miles**

**750,000 km or 466,000 miles**

**1,000,000 km or 625,000 miles**

**1,000,000 miles**

Each award includes a Star and Laurel grill badge and a certificate. For an application form, call 1-866-MBCLASSIC or [www.mbusa.com/classic](http://www.mbusa.com/classic)



Sally and Morgan Taft and their 280SE 3.5 coupe, what a beauty.

# A tale of a 1938 Mercedes 290 Cabriolet B

**Rudi and Joan Kamper** belong to the Classic Car Club of America which has a pretty narrow description of what is allowed on their tours.

We searched for a good dependable and comfortable touring car for five years. In 2004, Rudi found an ad for a 1938 Mercedes 290 in the Star magazine. He called Mr. Caddick, and the car sounded good, so we went to visit. Although the car did not run, it looked to be in fair shape and worth the purchase.

When we got it to Cleveland and started looking over the papers, we uncovered the possibility that the car had belonged to a member of the Secret Service (SS) in Iceland before WWII. At our friend's 90th birthday party, we got to talk to his friend from Iceland. The Icelander was too young to remember the era but recommended that we talk to his cousin who is the curator of the Transportation Museum in Reykjavik, Iceland. As soon as Mr. Sigourson got home, we got an email from Iceland about the SS Person who turned out to be German Ambassador to Iceland, Dr. Werner

Gerlach. It turned out that Dr Gerlach was a scientist as well as a medical Doctor. Pictures, documents and newspaper accounts as well as first-hand oral history proved that the car was indeed the one that belonged to Herr Gerlach and had a part in his undoing and deportation by the British.

Iceland was a neutral country until 1940, when the British took over. U-boats could stop for supplies in the port and Americans were allowed to use the Air Field to ferry planes to Great Britain. There was an unanswered question about messages going to Germany by radio signal before the British took over. It seemed as if the signal was always being broadcast from a different place. It was discovered that Gerlach had a transmitter in the boot of his car and a hidden antenna between the headliner and roof. A cliff along the Ocean afforded a clear signal for a good description of ships passing Iceland. Werner Gerlach

was discovered and deported back to Germany.

In 1970, the car was purchased by a US serviceman, who found all the wires as he was preparing the car for modification. He painted the car wine red, replaced the engine with a short block Chevy engine and added an automatic transmission. Lucky for everyone, Mr. American Serviceman, put the original engine in the back seat when he shipped it to the US. The car made its way to the US and was sold at auction to some car collectors who got more work than they were expecting.

Mr. Caddick bought it from the auction and proceeded to restore the car to its original glory. Mr. Caddick had worked in the motor pool for Uncle Sam while in Germany. It also was helpful that he owns a company that fabricates truck bodies.

Rudi and I really enjoyed the thrill of each letter from Iceland as each new wrinkle was discovered about the story of the car. We shared our story at many car shows and we were very pleased to take the 290 on a terrific tour of the finger lakes in



Rudi poses with his 1938 Mercedes 290 Cabriolet B before returning it to Iceland

New York State.

After many interesting tales, a man from Iceland decided that Iceland needed our car to come home. Rudi and I agreed that Iceland would be the proper place for more people to truly enjoy the car. After three people came from Iceland to assess the possibility, the car was shipped via Rudi's shipper Rudi imports clocks and has a very good and long-standing relationship with his shipper.

After landing in Iceland to great media fanfare an octogenarian man appeared with a small German Flag from the 1930s. He explained that when he was eight years old, he stole the flag from Herr Gerlach's car and wanted to return it to the museum for the car.

The car now sits on the floor of the Icelandic Transportation Museum hailed as the "most historic car to ever drive on Icelandic roads."

# Learning to be a defensive driver?

## Western Reserve members improve driving skills at Coppus Mercedes-Benz defensive driving and autocross

By Dick Gortz

On a gorgeous and sunny Sunday in mid-May, twenty-five members of the Western Reserve Section gathered in a school yard in Sandusky, Ohio for a fun day of defensive driving instruction and autocross. Joining in



The pros get their final instructions

on the fun were **Paul Bailey** from the Indianapolis 500 Section and **Dean Strosnider** a member of the Pittsburg Section from Beaver Falls.

The annual event sponsored by **Coppus Mercedes-Benz** of

Tiffin, Ohio concentrates on car handling and emergency procedures. The Section also encourages newly licensed drivers between age 16 and 20 to participate.

“It is great to see these teens and members who have never attended a driving event start out tentatively.

After a few rounds of the defensive driving course, and some time in the autocross, they are much improved in car handling and more confident in their driving in general,” said event chairman **Fred Gesell**.

**Frank and Mary Alice Cozza**, veterans of many such driving instruction events across the country for the MBCA, were on hand to do classroom instruction.

The Autocross was timed and **Coppus Mercedes-Benz** awarded trophies by class at the end of the day. Class winners were **Gary Goodman**, with an Fastest Time of Day in the Mercedes class, and **Norm Crowe** with the Overall Fastest Time of Day driving a Cadillac CTS. Class winners also included first-timer **Aaron Boettlichter, John Tuck, Tony Mikolich, and Paul Bailey**.

Our sincerest thanks to **Coppus Mercedes-Benz** of Tiffin, Ohio for their valued support and sponsorship.



John Tuck accepts his award from Fred Gesell;

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

## Western Reserve Section

### CRIER

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