

Western Reserve Section



CRUIER

Mercedes-Benz Club of America

Volume 08 Issue 2

June 2008

Join the fun at these upcoming section events

July 13 – National Park Rally – Join us for a scenic rally through the Cuyahoga Valley National Park area, with a final stop for dinner.

August 10 – Spread Eagle Tavern Brunch and Ice Cream Social — Park your Mercedes on the quaint streets of Hanoverton, Ohio while we brunch in the historic tavern. Later the caravan leaves for the home of the Cozzas for an ice cream social, cars, boat rides on Guilford Lake, great camaraderie and more cars.

August 23 – Old Car Event – A favorite of old car enthusiasts — An informal discussion of maintenance, restoration and just plain old “how-to” of older Mercedes-Benz. Event will be held in Solon at Dick Gortz’s home, with Dick manning the grill for lunch.

September 12-14 – Marblehead Weekend – A new event for the fall. Spend the weekend with Mercedes friends at Marblehead on Lake Erie. Event will include possible Friday evening bonfire and cookout, tour/rally of the area, and dinner at the winery. Don and Judy Brehm will be hosting this event.

October 19 – Fall Leaf Tour and Clambake – Our annual Fall Leaf tour will culminate at the Pine Lake Trout Club for a clambake and great friends.



Last year's Spread Eagle Tavern Brunch brought quiet a crowd.

Board of Directors

Gary Goodman, President
ggood10167@aol.com
330-626-2025

Mary Alice Cozza, Vice President
fcozza@neo.rr.com
330-222-1106

Sue Morrison, Secretary
slm2teach@aol.com
330-673-7885

John Morrison, Treasurer
gobenzing@aol.com
330-673-7885

Ted Gottfried, Tech Advisor
tbgfried@yahoo.com
330-650-0751

Eric Goodman, Webmaster
benzracer3@aol.com
330-256-5544

Brian DiPasquale
brian@vecmar.com
440-256-9988

Tracy DiPasquale
tracy@vecmar.com
440-256-9988

Don French
lakemohawk@earthlink.net
330-327-1188

Fred Gesell
wgesell@aol.com
419-332-8398

Dick Gortz
rgortz@gortz.com
440-248-0848

Fred Gwinn
fredgwinn@earthlink.net
440-255-0793

John Tuck
John.Tuck1@gmail.com
216-408-8454

Bill VerDuin
billverduin@alltel.net
440-338-6030

**Frank Cozza, Great Lakes
Regional Director, and
National Events Chairman**
fcozza@neo.rr.com
330-222-1106

Al Calandra, Honorary Member

**Editors: Mary Alice Cozza
Sue Morrison
Priscilla Gwinn**

Message from the President - Gary Goodman



**Gary Goodman,
President**

2008 is shaping up to be a great year for MBCA and the Western Reserve Section. Our section membership and event attendance continues to grow. Do not forget the opportunity to extend your own membership by recruiting new club members. Several section members are among the over 700 members nationally who have taken advantage of the MBUSA loyalty program to save money on the purchase of a new or pre-owned Mercedes-Benz. Many of you have enjoyed our recent events and your board has put together a fun schedule with a variety of events for the rest of the year. A special thanks go to section members Jon Bernardi, Judy Brehm, Joy Comey, and Kurt Von Leyser for their assistance in organizing our events. We finally have good driving weather—so come out and join us for some fun!

News from National....

Frank Cozza

Your National board held 3 days of very productive meetings in mid-May. Everyone on the board is working cooperatively for the betterment of MBCA and its members.



**Frank Cozza,
National Events
Chairman**

- 719 members have taken advantage of the loyalty program since July, 2007
- Raffle is underway, with a July 31 deadline
- Many hours have been put into revision and simplification of the Procedures Manual
- Membership committee is working hard on recruitment and retention of members
- The National board will help defray additional cost of track insurance for section hosting a National events in 2008.
- Proposed National events for 2009:
 - Southern Treffen - Florida — March
 - Gemutlichkeit – Michigan - Summer
 - Mid America Caravan — Kansas City — August 14-19, 2009
Heartland Park MotorSports Facility

Teaching drivers to handle a car in all situations



l-r Mary Alice and Frank Cozza give last minute instructions to Tony Mikolich and Ken Bartizal before defensive driving begins.

When we looked at the weather for the Sandusky Autocross, we wondered if we would be able to pull it off. But as we approached the Sandusky High School stadium

Almost anyone who was asked reported they had driven about an hour and a half to get there that morning. Fred Gesell, event chairman, commented that next year he would like that extended to two hours. The attendance was almost double from the 2007 event. Given the extended radius and the success of the day, let's hope that we double again in 2009. After the times were recorded, the group went to a nearby Pizza Parlor for good food, visiting, and presentation of trophies. The results are included in this edition of the CRIER for an overall view of how the participants did. We were happy to again have

several teens present and to have Fred Gwinn's daughter from Philadelphia participating with her dad. We also had several people come from the newly resurrected Toledo section, two from Indianapolis, one from Columbus, and one from Chicago. A big thank you goes to Fred Gesell for organizing the event and to Coppus Motors of Tiffin for sponsoring the event.

parking lot, the sun came out, and we proceeded as planned. Shortly after lunch as we were setting up for the autocross and dismantling the defensive driving course, the clouds returned and gave us a short shower and a few hailstones, but it passed quickly. Near the end of the practice runs, we had hard rain, hail and wind. In fact, the port-a-potty went sailing across the parking lot. We don't think anyone was inside, but what a ride! Again, the clouds passed



Rain did not dampen these drivers spirits, as anxious drivers lined up for their turn at driving on this slick track.

quickly, and we were able to resume the timed runs. What an excellent teaching situation this was!! Our goal was to teach everyone and



John Tuck shows off his skills in his 2008 C300.

especially the teens how to handle a car in all situations. This did the trick. There were many skids and a couple of "360s," but there was nothing nearby to damage a car. (The port-a-potty had been returned to its roost.) It was the perfect set up for a learning experience.



Laura Dicus (daughter of Fred and Priscilla Gwinn) maneuvers around the cones in her mother's SL550.

If you missed this event...

and are interested in learning more about defensive driving, Central Ohio Section (Columbus) has two autocrosses scheduled for the summer: July 19 and Aug. 16. If interested, contact Rodd Mastellar at RWMastel@worthingtonindustries.com

Sandusky Autocross results ...

Name	Run 1	Run 2	Run 3	Best Run	Note	Vehicle
Class - MB Sp 8						
Terry Kawala	35.64	35.42	35.04	35.04		1987 S600
John Morrison	48.57	35.88		35.88	2 cones run 1	2001 SL500
Paul Bailey	OC39.31	37.17	38.32	37.17		1987 S600
Fred Gwinn	37.88	38.17	38.40	37.88	1 cone run 3	2008 SL550
Clay Mock, III	49.52	38.69		38.69	TEEN	1996 SL500
Laura Dicus	42.09	39.50	40.69	39.50		2008 SL550
Tamara Eckelmeyer	44.78	41.44		41.44		1991 SL300
Judy Brehm	46.81	44.18	*44.61	44.18	ch. Car run 3	2000 CLK
Class - Sedan						
Gary Goodman	30.11	33.54	29.46	29.46	2 cones run 2	2003 C230
Ken Salter	34.96	35.56	34.17	34.17		C280
John Tuck	34.83	38.93	34.51	34.51	2 cones run 2	2008 C300
Rod Masteller	37.20	34.80	36.12	34.80		2006 C230
Melissa Dunham	40.33	36.28	37.26	36.28	1 cone run 1	2006 ML 350
Ken Bartizal	47.08	39.70	40.98	39.70	2 cones run 1	2006 ML 350
Class - MB Sp 6						
Don Brehm	39.61	37.38	*40.12	37.38	ch. Car run 3	1991 SL300
Melissa Mihalek	46.35	44.77	44.01	44.01	TEEN	1994 SL 320
Class - Domestic						
Norm Crowe	33.72	32.93	34.73	32.93	1 cone run 3	2005 Cadillac CTS
Scott Eckelmeyer	35.96	39.52		35.96		2001 S-10
Mike Yoshizawa	37.83	36.01	37.14	36.01		2005 Cadillac CTS
Laura Blue	41.44	40.09	38.30	38.30	TEEN	2009 Toyota Matrix
Norita Blue	44.79	45.69		44.79		2009 Toyota Matrix
Class - Euro						
Tony Mikolich	33.23	32.24	32.45	32.24		VW Rabbitt R32
Paul Hackett	35.94	38.19	33.34	33.34	2 cones run 2	2009 BMW 535i
Cynthia VerDuin	38.26	35.90	35.11	35.11	(Wagon)	2004 VW Passat
Bill VerDuin	37.56	37.47	35.22	35.22	(Wagon)	2004 VW Passat
Matt Hackett	36.38	34.82	36.44	36.38	1 cone run 3	2009 BMW 535i
Ray Wasson	41.09	38.48	37.98	37.98		1990 Maita
Kurt Von Leyser	39.61	38.67	38.18	38.18		1974 Lotus Type 74

Note: 2 second penalty for knocking over a cone has been added in where noted.

Note: MB Sp 6 or 8 indicates sports cars' cylinders

Note: * indicates a switch in cars for this run so did not consider time

Launch Town Autosport Day—Sports and Classics Invitational 2008

Tom Barrett, a member of our section, invites you to a day of driving your sport and classic cars on **June 29**. This rally benefits Launch Town Entrepreneurship Awards given to area college students. For more information, contact Tom at Tombarratt@aol.com or LaunchTown c/o Tom Barratt, PO Box 592, Chagrin Falls, Oh 44022

Crawford Auto Museum Workshop a Big Hit



Everyone listens intently as Curator Al Unrein explains how volunteers refurbish these classic vehicles.

On a Wednesday evening in late April, 64 auto enthusiasts flocked to the Crawford Auto Workshop and Warehouse in Macedonia. After a guided tour, members were free to watch the many volunteers actually working on the classic automobiles. There was not much Curator Al Unrein did not know about these classics. Al also told us that all work is done by volunteers; individuals who love the classics.

What an opportunity to view classic and antique aircraft, boats and other unusual stuff from

Cleveland's history – even some horses from the carousel at Euclid Beach.

After everyone had their “fill” of the classics, Joy Comey, saw to it that everyone got their “fill” of her homemade cookies and lemonade. Joy, single handedly made several different kinds of cookies for the event. Thank you, Joy.

Our thanks to Joy Comey and Kurt Von Leyser who planned the event. This event looks like it will become an annual event and you will not want to miss this event next year!



Joy Comey puts on a spread of yummy cookies and lemonade

Everyone is invited at these fun events

Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix - July 19-20

Each year, the Pittsburgh section hosts a Concours d'Elegance at Schenley Park in Pittsburgh. This is in conjunction with the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix. Throughout the golf course is any type of car you would like to view. The Mercedes club's venue is usually near the track where you can watch the vintage race cars do their time trials. The event is July 19 & 20 with judging on July 19. For information contact Dave Fabyonic 724-327-7361 or email him at davidfab@usa.net.

Berea Labor Day Octoberfest—Aug. 29 – Sept. 1

A weekend of German food, entertainment, arts & crafts, bands, hayrides, and more. There is also a German car show on Saturday Aug. 30. For more information contact Rudi Kamper at 440-954-4003 or 440-234-4027.

Starfest '08

Mark your calendars for Sept. 26- Oct. 1 for Starfest '08. Starfest will begin with a reception and Concours d' Elegance in San Francisco, followed by a rally north through wine country to Willows, where the track events will take place on Sept. 29, 30 and Oct.1. More information in THE STAR.

Lake Michigan Mille

From South Bend northwest through Wisconsin's Door County, to Mackinac Island, South to Lelenau Peninsula (halfway between Equator and the North Pole) and back to Plainwell, Michigan. A seven day tour around Lake Michigan with fellow Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts takes place October 7 – 13, 2008. More information in THE STAR

Ted Gottfried takes to the road

Heritage Woodworks, Andrews, North Carolina

Drew Tibcken, owner, has a huge reputation in the Mercedes Club. (He is also a huge guy with a fabulous personality.) Drew has made numerous Star Tech wood finishing presentation for more than 20 years. Drew and I became friends going to the annual Carlisle Import Car flea market back in the 1980s but I had never seen his shop.

Drew seldom sees 95% of his customers and rarely sees the finished project with the new or refinished wood installed. Promises are made, but rarely kept. However, his woodworking is of the highest quality and is pretty much the “Gold Standard” for woodworking. Almost all his work is earned through Drew’s reputation and handled through the respective shipping companies, UPS, DHL, etc. Drew’s wife, Dad and sister work with Drew. For a “Mom and Pop” operation, quality is obvious. Repairing and refinishing is the main business activity, but design and fabrication are part of the business for older or unique wood application.

The temperature, humidity factor in the mountains is very important. In an earlier location, closer to the Carolina coast, Drew experienced less satisfactory results due to higher humidity at the lower altitude. Proprietary woods, methods, techniques, stains, and finishes make Drew’s business entirely unique. The finish is sourced in Italy and many other supplies come from Europe. However, southern Indiana and Northern Kentucky are areas of the U.S. where various hardwoods and veneers are sourced. Some so called “modern” U.S. veneers are more original looking than some older European veneers. Drew has a tremendous inventory of used components covering many antique and vintage cars. These parts can be used to replace parts of wood sets that are too damaged to save.

Making frequent trips to Europe, Drew is able to locate new sources of materials for his business. For example, he recently found brand new 113 body style wood being produced in Germany. This wood is much better than the solid wood replacement being offered by U.S. suppliers.

Tail of the dragon

Leaving Heritage Woodwork, we headed North to one of the world’s best sports car roads, Tail of the Dragon. Route 129, from Robbinsville, N. Carolina, to Knoxville, Tenn. includes a stretch of highway through Deal’s Gap, N. Carolina that is only 11 miles long that has 318 turns. This sports car stretch is fantastic! This is the second time that I have driven the Tail of the Dragon. I recommend it highly. Check it out on www.tailofthedragon.com

You can even get your picture taken by some local sports car enthusiasts if you’re lucky and see it on-line. Good motoring.

Learning more about cars at the Cleveland Auto Show



l-r Peter Lesler, Gregg Gillenwater, Peter Mapp, Robert Dashil, and Gary Goodman all shared there expertise about Mercedes cars.

Nearly 70 people attended the annual Cleveland Autoshow event planned by the Western Reserve section. Tickets were provided by Peter Mapp, General Manager of Bedford Mercedes. After touring the show at the leisure of the participant, all gathered at the Mercedes venue and traveled downstairs to a banquet room for dinner and a program presented by Robert Dashil, Central Regional Training and Educational Specialist. Also on hand to answer questions were Bedford’s service and sales representatives, Jeff Miller and Greg Gillenwater. Bedford also had a Smart car set up in the show for all to “check out.” It was another successful evening of drooling over cars, enjoying the company of fellow members and friends, good food, an interesting program, and door prizes.

MBCA Educational Foundation making plans to help young drivers

A few of the immediate plans of the EF include:

- Monthly articles in THE STAR
- Auction of our first donation on eBay – 1973 280SEL 4.5— July issue of THE STAR
- New website developed www.mbcaef.org by Aim Custom Media
- Gathering fund raising ideas from other charities
- Solicitation of donations
- Pay Pal account set up for donations
- Working with BMW and Tire Rack Street Survival School for teens
- Fund raising program tied in with Starfest '08
- Work with Kemp Museum in St. Louis to increase awareness of EF to it's visitors

Safe driving has been at the center of the Foundation's focus, and thus, has chosen to partner with BMW and Tire Rack Street Survival Schools for Teenagers. Street Survival

(StreetSurvival.org) is a one day, hands-on driving experience in real-world situations. The safe teen program is designed to go beyond today's required driver's education and gives teens across the U.S. the

driving tools and hands-on experience to become safer, smarter drivers.

YOU CAN HELP! These schools are often looking for help in registration, teaching cars, setting up cones, and instructing. Unfortunately, there are no schools scheduled in our immediate area, however, there will be two schools in Columbus on July 12 & 13 at OSU lot. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Mary Alice Cozza macozza7@neo.rr.com or 330-222-1106.



Ray Wasson, Fred Gesell's stepson tries the course.

Visit MBCA EF's website at MBCAEF.org

Interesting reading from a Western Michigan MBCA member with a passion for driving safety, Marv Berkowitz has written a book, 'Take Back our Roads How to Survive on our Streets and Highways. It is available at Amazon.com.

Welcoming new members

Dan Gentile	Nicole McGowan
Denise & Mark Marabito	Kevin Conant
Donna Simon	John & Barbara Klima
Rudy & Louise Vuksanovich	Keith Lichtsien
Leo & Lenore Collins	Dennis Puining
Samuel Delzoppo	Aaron & Shelly Smith
Ellis & Margaret Lovell	Bert Tomon
Kennith & Melissa Bartizal	Nathan Workman
Michael Lekin	Rodd Masteller

Tri-o-rama 2008

Tri-o-rama will be held October 25 – 28, near Millville, New Jersey, with driving events being held at the brand new Thunderbolt Race Track. Just a few hours from home - Come and enjoy Concours d' Elegance, rally, banquets, and driving events, but most of all, the camaraderie of fellow Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts. More information in THE STAR.

MBCA WESTERN RESERVE SECTION

2008 CALENDAR

Visit www.benzclub.org for the latest schedule updates

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Host</u>
June 15	Sunday	Stan Hywet Car Show	non-club event
July 1	Tuesday	Monthly Membership Meeting	D'Angelo's—Twinsburg
July 13	Sunday	Rally	Jon Bernardi / Dick Gortz
July 19	Saturday	Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix	
August 5	Tuesday	Monthly Membership Meeting	D'Angelo's—Twinsburg
August 10	Sunday	Spread Eagle / Ice Cream	Frank & Mary Alice Cozza
August 23	Saturday	Old Car Event/Workshop	Bill Verduin / Dick Gortz
September 2	Tuesday	Monthly Membership Meeting	D'Angelo's—Twinsburg
Sept. 12-14	Fri-Sun	Marblehead Weekend	Judy Brehm
Sept. 26-Oct. 1	Fri-Wed	Starfest 2008	San Francisco
October 7	Tuesday	Monthly Membership Meeting	D'Angelo's—Twinsburg
October 6-13	Mon-Mon	Lake Michigan Mille	
Oct 19	Sunday	Fall Leaf Tour/Clambake	Dick Gortz
October 25-28	Sat-Tues	Tri-O-Rama	New Jersey

Check out the Western Reserve Section website at benzclub.org

Western Reserve Section

CRIER

Mercedes-Benz Club of America

32312 South Lane

Hanoverton, Ohio 44423