



Western Reserve Section

CRUIER

Mercedes-Benz Club of America

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Look ahead to exciting fall and winter

As the year winds down, we are looking forward to the remaining events. The section still continues to be busy, and the board always tries to find a variety of events to interest the members. We encourage you to give us your ideas of what you want to see during the year. The new board and officers will take office in November which will also be the time we work on the calendar for 2011. Feel free to email or call any of those listed with suggestions. And, as always, you are encouraged to join us at D'Angelo's in Twinsburg the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00p.m. Check the web page at www.benzclub.org for further information.

A brief overview of the remaining activities:

- October 17—Fall Leaf Tour beginning at the McDonald's just north of I 90 on SR 534 at 1:00. We will travel through several covered bridges, see beautiful country, (and of course admire our beloved cars), have cider and donuts at a park, ride the AC&J Railroad through more pretty countryside, and finish with dinner (and a discount card) at Quaker Steak and Lube in Mentor. If you have not already registered, call Sue Morrison at (330-673-7885, slm@teach@aol.com) or register through the website.
- November 4, 5, 6—National Board Meeting at Kemp Museum in St. Louis. Any MBCA member is invited to attend these meetings.

The 4th and 5th are days when various committees meet. They are open to all members. The full board will meet on the 6th to act on recommendations from the committees. The Kemp Museum is “home to one of North America's finest private collections of Mercedes Benz ever displayed in one location.” (Taken from their website)

- November 9—Note the change of date—Section meeting at D'Angelo's
- December 7—Possible section meeting. Check the web page because we usually cancel this meeting.
- January 8—Holiday party at Glenmoor Country Club in Canton. Since this party was such a success in 2010, the committee decided to hold this next party there, too. You will receive a special invitation in December, but we want you to mark your calendar. We think Christmas decorations will still be up this year because it is a week earlier. Plan to attend, spend the night on the grounds, and join us for breakfast the next morning. This is a great opportunity to meet and visit with fellow members in a festive environment. Watch for more information.

The board works hard to vary the activities and hopes you will join us for as many as possible.

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National and Regional News....

By Frank Cozza, Great Lakes Regional Director

If you missed Starfest in Winchester, Va., you missed a great time. However, you will have another chance to participate in a similar event when your section hosts Gemutlichkeit (same events as Starfest) in Mansfield, Ohio with track events being held at Mid-Ohio. This fun event will take place in late May, 2011. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**



Frank Cozza,
National Events Chairman
Great Lakes Regional Director

The National Board meeting will be held at the Kemp Museum in St. Louis, Nov. 6, with committee meetings held on Nov. 4 and 5. All MBCA members are welcome and encouraged to attend all meetings. Be sure to check out MBCA's new website www.mbca.org.

Western Reserve Section joined in

Members of the Western Reserve Section attended several other events this summer. In July, the Pittsburgh section hosted a Concours d'Elegance in conjunction with the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix. The golf course of Schenley Park was covered with various makes of cars while time trials were going on for the vintage race cars. The race track was the road through the park. Judging was done according to MBCA specifications, and lunch was available in the special MBCA-Pittsburgh tent. Western Reserve was well represented. The next day several Western Reserve members travelled to Auburn Hills Michigan to visit the Meadowbrook Concours d'Elegance. The International Stars section had a special parking area for Mercedes-Benz members just outside the main entrance. The weather was beautiful, and the cars were outstanding! In fact, members **Ron** and **Karen Mihalek** had one of their prized cars on display in this by-invitation-only show. Members **Rudi** and **Joan Kamper** chair the annual Berea Oktoberfest at the Berea fairground in September. Again many of our members displayed their cars and enjoyed this annual German festival. The German Auto Show was at Donauschwaben Cultural Center and had participants showing and judging cars—several coming home with trophies. Glenmoor Country Club hosted the Glenmoor Gathering of Significant Automobiles also in September. Joan Kamper was there with her beautifully restored 190 SL. Again, this was an invitation only show for the displayers. It is nice to see our group so well represented at so many events.

Mercedes-Benz USA Rewards Your Loyalty

MBUSA has continued the Loyalty Program until December 31, 2010. Buy a new or pre-owned Mercedes-Benz and receive a gift card from Mercedes-Benz valued up to \$1500. Use the card towards parts, service, personal or vehicle accessories at any Mercedes-Benz dealer. Details and an application, go to the MBCA website. (www.MBCA.org)

Message from the President



Gary Goodman,
President

Auf wiedersehen...

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as Western Reserve Section president for the past five years (has it really been that long?). After last year's officer elections I made the decision that 2010 would be my final year in office for two reasons. My business travel schedule has been increasing to the point that I have not been able to devote the attention to the section that it deserves. More importantly, for the section to continue to grow and to prosper, it is time for new leadership and a new voice. As we move forward, Bill VerDuin has been elected as our president with Tom Barratt replacing Bill as vice president—two great choices that I am excited about.

I am proud to have been part of the Western Reserve legacy as we celebrate our 50th anniversary as a section. A special thank-you goes to my predecessors who kept the section thriving and vital during some difficult years. There have been many times that I have relied on the wisdom of past presidents such as Ted Gottfried, Pete Lesler, Dick Gortz, Brian DiPasquale, and Mary Alice Cozza to help steer the club in the right direction. It has been a blessing to have a board of directors whose enthusiasm, hard work, and the mind-set of “what is best for the section” that have made my time as president so much easier. Ladies and gentlemen, I have no doubt that you are the best board in the MBCA!

The definition of auf wiedersehen is not “good-bye”, but “until we meet again”. I plan to stay active on the board and to attend as many section events as possible. Thanks to all for your support and I look forward to seeing you again soon.

New Board Members and Officers Elected

The Western Reserve board met October 5, and elected the following board members for the year beginning with the November meeting: **Tom Barratt, Mary Alice Cozza, Brian & Tracy DiPasquale, Fred Gesell, Gary Goodman, Ted Gottfried, Fred & Priscilla Gwinn, Kim McConnell, John & Sue Morrison, John Tuck, Rod Tucker, Bill & Cynthia VerDuin.** From that list, the following officers were elected: **President: Bill VerDuin, Vice President: Tom Barratt, Secretary: John Tuck, Treasurer: John Morrison.** Again, all members are invited to attend meetings at D'Angelo's restaurant in Twinsburg the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00.

Member Update

Welcome New Members – August

Kenneth Blech, Michael Murry, David Deioma, Edward & Jo Ann Monaco, Bob Malloy, John & Lisa Keleman, Debra & Andrew Lawlor, Joe & Lori Latone, William & Patrice Fox, Todd Sleggs & George Gonzolez, Mark Schwartz, Edward Hsiao & Edward Hsiao, George Ochs, Hassan Abbass, John Julius, Lars Larsen, Michael Creatore, David West, Angela West, Ken & Holly Ziebold

Renewl Members – through August

Joseph & Rosina Horvath, Warren Ledsky, Ronald & Carol Armenti, Ronald Marthaller, Robert Morgan, Robert Bates, Jr., Tyler Rice, Thomas Zung & Joyce Burke Jones, Jeff Rayer,, Stella & John Camuso, William & Patricia Galida Eugene Lucas, Dana & Tom Young, David Barrie, W. Taylor Hart III, William & Tammy Pahl, Tim & Terri Rupert, Rod & Christy Wiggins, Renold Thompson & Jonathan Freilich, David & Sarah Qualkinbush, Patrick Kirk, Kurt Wilson & Kim Riedy, Jack De Matteo, Robert & Christine Di Cello, Edward Lozick, Richard & Jean Taton, R.E. Mathews II, Rita Luebke & Cathy Stape, Lewis Sawitzke, August Furio, Roy & Joyce Alle, John Tuck, Rita Luebke & Cathy Stape, John Phillips, Georgene & Edward Bayer, Kathryn Franko, Thomas & Joanne Ballway, Richard & Toni Gortz James & Joyce Bergstrom, Nathan Yancey II, Harry & Susan Paul Manfred, Trevor Bussell, Evelin & Alex von Saucken, Fred Lick, Jr. & Donna Erb, Errol Bellon, Brant Schnackenberg & Valerie Maciag, Richard & Ruth Niemiec, Ralph & Mary Johnson, Todd & Sally Schneider

Continental DWS tires

By Kurt von Leyser

Well, it finally snowed, and the appropriate lousy street conditions followed. Now I have had plenty of snow tire experience so basically refuse to drive an all season tire all year. I would recommend a summer tire with good rain qualities and a real winter tire for the snowy months.

What are we looking at? For real winter tires I reference the Dunlop Graspic DS-2 in a 205 width. Continental DWS came in a size to offer the first compromise as they are a summer width of 245. These are just chubby lookin' tires. Driving during the recent snow fall created a subjective testing. I have two different cars with different antilock brake systems 10 years apart and a killer traction control system that keeps the cars in a straight line under hard acceleration.

The Yokohama s.Drive is a great tire for rainy days in the summer. Tire Rack rated the Yokohamas 8.3 out of 10 for wet traction and 8.2 wet hydroplaning resistance. The DWS are rated at 9.1 in both categories with the DS-2 real winter tires rated at mid 8's. In actual driving, hit the 2 inch water level in the street, both the s.Drive and the DS-2 pull to the side with the deep water. Watching the tracks in the rear window, both tires start to show hydroplaning around the same speed for the same kind of rain. Watching the rear window, you can see the center of the tread pattern stop clearing water from under the tire until the pattern goes to 4 narrow lines, 2 per side, and nature takes over.

The DWS, a wider tire, will on average give the same presentation in the rear window at about 5 mph faster. The unexpected part is that the DWS is less sensitive to standing water than summer and winter tires—better resistance to hydroplaning and less sensitive to puddles. Being a wider tire, I would have expected the pull from the puddles to snag the car to the side, but it did not happen. The car was delivered with “V” groove tires when I got it. I found them much noisier than DWS, and in a serious rain, the car became a handful wanting to change lanes. In the dry, the “V” grooves would tram a lot.

The Dunlop DS-2 is now replaced with the DS-3. The compounds are designed with cold in mind. I have always recommended a real winter tire because you extend the life of a summer tire, and when the weather turns bad, you buy an extra margin of safety. Winter tires have all sorts of sipes, smaller blocks and are designed to clear the tread for a better bite. I went for the DS-2 for the ice factor.

For a subjective seat of the pants winter test, I started a hard acceleration on a street with a layer of ice under snow not plowed for several hours. The deceleration test, same street. Mashing the motor, the traction control light comes on, and I achieved 30 MPH after about two tenths of a mile. I hit the antilocks full on. The car came to a halt—no muss, no fuss. Continental DWS established the base line. In 3 tries, it was pretty close. Next I tried the DS-2s. They get to speed a whole lot faster. Spin the tires, it's even quicker. With traction control on the other car, I tried to keep the wheel spin to a minimum to keep it as even as possible. I run a narrower tire in winter to get better reaction with more weight in a narrower margin. For acceleration, this formula works well. The part not expected was stopping. Remember these are wider tires in the DWS so it may have been a factor, but the DWS just stop quicker on snow over ice. This is max antilock operation. Not using the antilocks, stopping distance at impending lockup from 30 mph was almost a full car length.

For handling, I tried to run a slalom in a BIG EMPTY lot. The car cheats. With traction off, it's all over the place. Driving on the highway, the DWS will accelerate almost as quickly as the DS-2s, and stops are equivalent. Because the DWS are wider, they are a bit more sensitive to the slush pile in the lane centers, not as bad as the “V” groove in rain, but you know you are leaving the lane.

For 50,000 miles, the DWS from continental have been an excellent summer tire with great rain characteristics and surprisingly strong in the winter driving department. If you need a tire to handle both summer and winter driving conditions and you normally replace tires once a year, these seem to be a good choice for a late fall, early winter purchase.

Western Reserve caravan to StarFest 2010



Western Reserve members who attended StarFest 10 in Winchester.
First row: Mary Alice Cozza, Frank Cozza, Barb Tullis, Jim Tullis, Josie Lesler
Middle row: Sue Morrison, Werner Heidemann, Bill VerDuin,
Cynthia VerDuin, Fred Gwinn
Back row: John Morrison, Ron Swenson, Pete Lesler
Missing from the group is Rodd Masteller & Dave Gaddis

Fourteen members of the Western Reserve Section participated in all or part of StarFest 2010 in Winchester, Virginia. Three cars left the home of **Frank** and **Mary Alice Cozza** to caravan early on the morning of September 24. The group traveled through Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and into Virginia in order to arrive at the hotel in time for the swap meet in the parking lot.

Others came on different days or from different points to arrive in time for the actual event. Car cleaning clinics were available that same afternoon to prepare the cars for the Concours d'Elegance. In the

evening, guests were invited to the Welcome Reception at the Winchester Civil War Museum in the historic pedestrian mall of downtown Winchester. Following that, friends old and new continued to a dinner destination of their choice. The following day, the Concours d'Elegance was held on the beautiful grounds of Historic Jordan Springs. About 65 cars were presented for judging. Dinner that evening was held at that location, too.

Sunday was the day for defensive driving and autocross at a local school parking lot. Monday and Tuesday were spent at Summit Point Raceway where an excellent staff of instructors did classroom presentations and rode along with the drivers on the course. There had been an ample amount of rain during the night on Sunday and into Monday morning, but extra caution was taken and provisions made for the standing water, and instruction continued. Acceleration runs were done that afternoon with 3 of the 4 run groups getting their times in before the rain returned. The weather again cleared so that those who chose to could participate in the picnic and movie at a local drive in theater. Tuesday proved to be great weather for the events at Summit Point. The final banquet was held again at Jordan Springs. Tours and brunches were planned as alternatives to driving events in which several of our members participated. All Western Reserve members who participated in driving events received trophies. Way to go Western Reserve!

Spread Eagle Brunch and Ice Cream Social

By Mary Alice Cozza

On an extra warm Ohio summer day, 68 MBCA members from three sections parked their prized possessions on the historic streets of Hanoverton, OH. The Spread Eagle Tavern in Hanoverton is a historic restaurant which was a part of the Underground Railroad many years ago.

Caravans of Benzes came from Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Columbus to join in the fun. After listening to the history of the tavern, members and guests enjoyed brunch. Later everyone caravanned to the home of **Frank** and **Mary Alice Cozza** at Guilford Lake where dessert was served - an old

fashioned ice cream social. Benzes lined the lawn at the Cozza home. The biggest draws of the day were the two Benzes from **Fred Martin** Mercedes, a 2010 SL and a bright red 2010 E cabriolet. Members enjoyed the afternoon talking cars, taking boat rides on the lake and enjoying the camaraderie of MBCA friends.

Roy and **Joyce Allen** received their 5 year anniversary pin and new members were recognized.

Thank you to Fred Martin Mercedes of Austintown for their continued support of the Western Reserve Section

Having fun at the Old Car Days

By Bill Ver Duin, photos by Jon Bernardi



August 21 in northeast Ohio started out less than great—gray skies, threatening a few showers. Not what you like for an outdoor event,

and enjoying our cars. George Kozak of GRK Rolls Royce Interiors showed us the beautiful job he did returning not only the original color, but also the suppleness of the green leather interior of **Rod Thompson's** 1969 280SL. The process involved removing the leather, and then multiple steps of stripping, treating and dying. Also on hand was section member **Ted Gottfried**, our resident mechanical restoration and repair guy, who described his comprehensive mechanical restoration of Rod's car.

particularly one in which you ask participants to bring and display their fine old cars. But ultimately, the weather gods cooperated, and we had passably good weather at section members **Bill and Cynthia VerDuin's** place. And more to the point, we had very good participation: twenty-five members and significant others came, brought almost as many cars, and had fun checking them out. There were Benzes from the early sixties through today. (An old Porsche and BMW cycle even snuck in.)



Rounding out the presentations, section member **Jon Bernardi** showed us his extensive collection of '50's, '60's, and '70's Benz marketing pieces, owner's manuals, color charts, and parts lists with exploded views that help owners of older cars figure out how stuff comes apart

and goes together. The three presentations were a great educational opportunity.

This event had more than the usual cars, lunch, various beverages, and friends. We enjoyed presentations by experts in various aspects of keeping

Yet another fun event celebrating old and new Benzes and having fun with friends...



Fred Martin receiving Mercedes glass from Mary Alice in thanks for his support of our club



Joyce & Roy Allen receiving 5 year anniversary pin



Andrew and Debbie Lawlor - new members



John and Sue Morrison giving directions to Cozza's



HORSE TOUR

By Tom Barratt



An impressive field of 60 Mercedes-Benz automobiles and 130 guests took part in the third annual Horse Country Road

to the horizon. Next stop was Craighead Farm, home to the famous thoroughbred champion All the Gold. The stables and buildings at Craighead represented true masterpieces of woodwork and craftsmanship. Tours of all the properties were led by experienced guides sharing stories of the past and present.

Tour on June 27th in Hunting Valley, OH. The sunny day began with a rendezvous and brunch at the historic White North estate, one of the pillars of the sporting life that was known for their weekly polo matches. The historic tour departed at noon as a parade of Mercedes were led down the estate drive by horses and hounds of The Chagrin Valley Hunt, representing the region's horse heritage. The Hunting Valley police stopped traffic for the entire procession of vehicles, including the 20 horses and red-coated riders, with enthusiastic fox hounds out in front.

This year's theme was Back to the Future and a chance to relive the daring exploits of days gone by – like those who rode and raced these historic hills – though now at a more relaxed pace. Guests traveled the back roads with stops at private horse farms and pastoral country estates. First stop was Squire Valleevue Farm, a dramatic property with hundreds of preserved acres as guests enjoyed panoramic views stretching for miles

At day's end, the first, second and third place prizes were awarded based on trivia scores from the tour, testing the knowledge and humor of pilot and co-pilot. Winners were announced during the al fresco dinner held in the courtyard of the White North Stables, where first place trophy was captured by **Cynthia** and **Bill VerDuin** touring in their vintage Mercedes "pillarless" coupe. Guests were entertained over

dinner by a quartet from the Cleveland Orchestra, as well as by views of the rolling hills, beautiful horses and classy cars.



This family friendly tour of historic horse properties was generously sponsored by our friends at **Leikin Motor Companies**. The tour benefited the

Western Reserve Land Conservancy and raised over two and a half times the previous year's tally, and all to preserve the region's open countryside for future generations. This special event was a kick-off to the Section's year-long celebration of our 50th anniversary. Founded in 1960, the Western Reserve Section now has over 300 members throughout northeast Ohio



Meadowbrook in Michigan

L to R

Trinna Wright, Rod Tucker, Fred Gesell, Lucy Gesell, Rod Mastellar, Sue Morrison, John Morrison, Frank Cozza, Mary Alice Cozza



MBCA Schedule of Events

October 17	Fall leaf tour	Lake & Ashtabula Counties
November 4-6	National Board Meeting	Kemp Auto Museum, St. Louis
November 9	Membership meeting	D'Angelo's, Twinsburg
December 7	Possible Member meeting	D'Angelo's Twinsburg
January 8	Holiday Party	Glenmoor Country Club, Canton
January 9	Breakfast meeting	Glenmoor Country Club
May, 2011	Gemütlichkeit	Mid-Ohio Sports car Course, Mansfield

Flyers will be sent for specific club events. Check the website www.benzclub.org for more information. National events will be advertised in the STAR and on the www.MBCA.org website.

Check out the Western Reserve Section website at benzclub.org

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