



Western Reserve Section

CRUIER

Mercedes-Benz Club of America

Volume 10 Issue 4

Winter, 2010

Holiday Gathering

Western Reserve Section Holiday Party

By now, you should have received your invitation to the Holiday Party at Glenmoor Country Club on January 8, 2011. We'll start with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in the beautiful chapel of the country club. Dinner will follow. We will be awarding membership pins to those with anniversaries in 5 year increments, member of the year, and door prizes. Cost for the dinner is \$49. Reservations for the dinner should be sent to Sue Morrison, 7783 Diagonal Road, Kent OH 44240 by December 31, 2010. Indicate if you prefer the chicken, pork or vegetarian entrée. Rooms can be reserved by calling the hotel directly at 1-330-966-3600 and mention the MBCA rate to receive the \$109 rate. The following morning, we will gather for breakfast at 9:00. There will be a brief meeting during breakfast followed by a tour of the Glenmoor Country Club building by Dan Kirby who gave the presentation of the history of the building last year. Cost of the breakfast is \$15. For more information, check the website at www.benzclub.org or call **Sue Morrison** at 330-673-7885 or **Mary Alice Cozza** at 330-222-1106. We look forward to seeing you.

Please note:
Hotel telephone has changed to
1-330-966-3600.

Fall Leaf Tour, 2010

Seventy seven people (about 36 shiny Mercedes-Benzes) pulled out of the McDonald's in Geneva, Ohio, to begin the annual Fall Leaf Tour. This year the group drove through several covered bridges in Lake and Ashtabula Counties and enjoyed the rural countryside as we went from bridge to bridge. The group arrived in Jefferson an hour or so later at the local park for donuts, cider, and coffee before proceeding to the Ashtabula, Carson, and Jefferson Railroad depot for a ride on the "Pumpkin train". This vintage train was pulled by an Alco diesel engine across two bridges and through 12 miles of back country farm land on the last remaining portion of the New York Central's "High Grade" passenger mainline. The passengers were entertained by a magician and the antics of Freddie the Ho Bo who was regularly thrown off the train. After our return to the depot, we drove through one more covered bridge before traveling to Mentor and having dinner at the Quaker Steak and Lube which is loaded with car memorabilia. The day was crisp, but the sun was out which put a smile on the faces and a shine on the cars. It was a great day with great people and beautiful scenery and cars,



The Mercedes Club toured the colorful leaves as they enjoyed some of the local covered bridges.

Board of Directors

Bill VerDuin, President
w.verduin@csuohio.edu
440-338-6030

Tom Barratt, Vice President
tombarratt@aol.com
440-247-2942

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

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

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

Gary Goodman, Past President
ggood10167@aol.com
440-670-4203

Kim McConnell
middleburg39@aol.com
440-247-2942

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

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

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

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

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

Rod Tucker
rodzbenzbuds@yahoo.com

Cynthia Ver Duin
440-338-6030

Frank Cozza,
Great Lakes Regional Director

Mary Alice Cozza
National Director at Large
fcozza@neo.rr.com
330-222-1106

Al Calandra, Honorary Member
(deceased)

Editors: Mary Alice Cozza
Sue Morrison

National and Regional News....

By Frank Cozza, Great Lakes Regional Director

Check out the new, revised national web site. Log on to www.mbca.org. To view the entire web site, log in and stayed logged in.

Mercedes-Benz USA Rewards Your Loyalty Last chance hurry!

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)



Frank Cozza,
National Events Chairman
Great Lakes Regional Director

Message from the President

by Bill VerDuin

As the seasons change, I'm reminded of the good things brought by the passage of time. We're not too far from the event of the holiday season, the Western Reserve Holiday Party on January 8. It was such fun last year; I know it will be this year as well. Hope to see everyone there to share the good cheer of the holiday season. Looking farther out, I can see many fun car-related events as the weather turns warm again. A biggie: Gemütlichkeit 2011, hosted again by our section, again in Mansfield and at Mid Ohio. May 21-24, 2011: be there or be square.

Our sponsorship of Gemütlichkeit, again, along with other national events in prior years, reminds me what a special section Western Reserve is. I've seen what a great job we do hosting big, complex, well-attended events. I've seen how well-represented we are on the national stage, at the Mercedes Benz Club of America. I don't see other sections with anywhere near the representation we have. How great to be part of something so vital.

What would I like to see moving forward? Build on our strengths: activities and involvement. Embrace what our national club calls us to do, what most organizations must do to prosper and grow: reach out and become more diverse. In our case, we like all car clubs must learn how we can appeal to people that maybe never thought about joining a car club. I thought joining a car club was a no-brainer; most don't. Good to see that the national club is mounting a major marketing initiative to get the word out on who we are and what we do. For this to really work, we need to expand both who we are and what we do.

For this I ask your help: let me or any board member know what you think would be fun activities. I now have a benchmark: Kansas City Section has 50 events per year. A growth opportunity for us!

Thanks to my predecessor **Gary Goodman** and the other officers and board members for their hard work bringing us to such a good place...

Gemütlichkeit moves forward

It's official! Our section will be hosting Gemütlichkeit from May 21 to May 24, 2011 in Mansfield, Ohio, and we want your participation. As **Bill VerDuin** mentioned in his president's message, our section has become well known for our national events. For those who are new to this term, Gemütlichkeit roughly translates to "the spirit of friendship and camaraderie". This multi-day national gathering offers something for everyone—a Concours d'Elegance, defensive driving, autocross, performance driving school which includes time trials and an acceleration run at Mid Ohio Sports Car Course, banquets, side trips, road rallye, and tech sessions. Here is a brief description of these "foreign" terms:

- **Concours d'Elegance** – a car show. This is a chance to show off your prized possession in an elegant setting. To increase the fun, cars can be entered into judging. The national board has established a 100 point judging sheet to be used at national events. Trained judges inspect your car for cleanliness, authenticity, and condition. Consideration is taken for mileage and age, and cars are classed with like models.
- **Defensive Driving**—Learn how your car performs in various situations and how to become a better, safer daily driver. This class teaches you such things as proper setting for mirrors to eliminate the blind spots, seating position, defensive thinking, and will give you a chance to feel how your car reacts to various situations. The driving course is a series of low speed exercises that simulates various emergencies that might arise on the road.
- **Autocross**—A course is set up with cones on a parking lot or similar surface. Using an instructor, the participant follows the course through gates and turns to hone maneuverability skills. Then, to make it more exciting, times are recorded for 3 runs after 3 practice runs, and trophies are awarded. Again, cars are classed with other like cars.
- **Acceleration Runs**—This is a timed run—usually 1/4 mile—in a straight line.
- **Time Trials**—Again an instructor will ride with the participant and teach the participant the—"ins and outs" of driving the track at peak performance. This is an opportunity to really learn

the performance available in your car. After the practice sessions, timing will again be done, and trophies will be awarded. This is not nose-to-nose racing. Not more than 3 cars will be on the track at a time, and they will be started at intervals to keep them separated.

- **Road Rallye**—A road rallye is a tour of the area following clues. Sometimes there are questions to answer. Mileage is taken, and sometimes time is considered. This is a fun, competitive way to see the area and view points of interest. Trophies are awarded for this event, too. It can be run anytime during Gemütlichkeit.
- **Banquets**—There will be a welcome reception at the Carousel in downtown Mansfield, a concours banquet where the concours awards will be presented, and a final banquet where driving event trophies are presented.
- **Other activities**—For those who do not wish to participate in the track events, other activities such as tours to Amish country, shopping, sight-seeing, etc. will be arranged.
- **Tech sessions**—Some of our sponsors will be presenting sessions on various aspects of car care, restoration, or maintenance.

We will need lots of help in the planning and presenting of the event. This is an opportunity for you to get to know your fellow club members and more about your car. Lasting friendships have been made all across the country at these events, and we'd love to add you to that list. Watch for announcements about meetings and areas where you can help. And most of all, we hope you'll participate.

National Concours Chairman, **Peter Lesler**, will teach a judging school prior to the event. Here's a chance to learn what is expected of your car for the various levels of judging and a chance to help with the event while you enjoy the array of vehicles. Watch for notices about this valuable school.

If anyone wants to advertise their business in the Gemütlichkeit program book, we will sell business card size ads in addition to the 1/4, 1/2 or full page.



MBCA Schedule of Events

2011

January 8

Holiday Party

Glenmoor Country Club, Canton

January 9

Breakfast meeting

Glenmoor Country Club

May 21-24

Gemütlichkeit

Flyers will be sent for specific club events. Check the website www.benzclub.org for more information.

New Members – September to November

Tom Lowenkamp, Tommy & Tom Lapolla

Robert Erickson, Naji Richani, John Kemper

Richard Porterfield, Philip Gravengaard

Ghazi Faddoul, Zoe Ann Zimmerman, John Wray

Robert Deskins, James Cooney, William Ober

Renewals – September to November

James Feher, Patrick Rice, T. Garland

Vassie Scott, Ronald Welch, Robert Young

Stan Burson, Kevin Mizer, Daniel Idoine

Ralph Stupka, Don French, R. Black

Rudolf Kamper, Michael Matheis, Ralph Swegan

Jeffrey Delmonico, Ted Gottfried, Steven Sagri

Thomas Charek, Charles Wilder, Leonard Strnad

Leonard Ambrose, Drew Schneider, Victor Troha

Brian Di Pasquale, Elmer Henry, Thomas Vail

Joyce Jyurovat, Jack Hemminger, Joe Wehrheim

Jean Adamcik, Eric Goodrich, Timothy Graziano

Raymond Hensel, Thomas Barrett, James Eichler

Michael Yeagley, Hugh Fisher, C. Bricker

Anneliese Nefos, Suresh Babu, Harold Beeler

Steve Dobrich, Beverly Stewart, Bruce Galbreath

Check out the Western Reserve Section website at benzclub.org

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Mercedes-Benz Club of America

32312 South Lane

Hanoverton, Ohio 44423