



Western Reserve Section

CRUIER

Mercedes-Benz Club of America

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Fall, 2009

Trading a Mercedes-Benz for an Amish buggy

The morning of October 14 was crisp when over 60 people gathered at the Gateway Place in Wilmot for the annual Fall Leaf Tour. This year's event was planned by **Don French** and took us through Holmes, Stark, and Tuscarawas Counties' Amish country. After enjoying coffee and donuts, catching up with old friends, meeting new friends, and checking out the many things at the **Gateway Place**, the tour began.

Don had planned multiple stops and had questions along the way. Alex Trebec would have been proud! First stop on the tour was Yoder's Amish Farm. A guide was on hand to show the crowd through an original Amish home and a home of the less strict Amish. Another guide took the group through the barn. Next, it was on to the buggy ride around the farm. The seats were almost as comfortable as your M-B, but where was the switch for the seated seat? Last stop at the farm was the school house and a demonstration of how the one room school was run. Everyone began to appreciate the modern comforts we take for granted.

As the sun began to peak out and the fall colors became more vivid, the procession went into Walnut Creek with visits to **Carllisle Gifts**, **P. Graham**, and

Coblentz Chocolate Company, and several others if you had time. Next was **Heini's Gourmet Market** for Cheese and Wine tasting and purchasing. The caravan headed to Sugarcreek for a peek in **The Secret Garden** with its 350 quilts and a very interesting

reindeer ready for Christmas. Meandering along the roads from Sugarcreek and Charm, participants got a good glance of true Amish farm life.

The buffet dinner at The Chalet in the Valley was worth the wait! The food was good, and the fellowship was fun, too. Don announced the

winners of the rallye. Prizes were donated from each of the stops mentioned above.

Smiles were seen as the cars started for the less relaxing world, than that of our Amish neighbors.



Members gather outside Yoder's Barn



Warming up on coffee and gathering information at Gateway Place

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National and Regional News....

Frank Cozza

Pittsburgh StarTrack – a National Event

Thousands of cars, all makes, models and years lined the hills of Schenely Park Golf Course the third weekend in July. This spectacular array of automobiles is the beginning of MBCA StarTrack. The Pittsburgh Section hosts the concours d' elegance on Sunday, then moves to BeaveRun Motor Sports Complex for track events on Monday and Tuesday.



Frank Cozza,
National Events Chairman
Great Lakes Regional Director

Western Reserve member, **Fred Abraham** and son, **Tom Abraham** are newcomers to track events, but that did not stop them from taking home some trophies. Tom beat his dad in the acceleration run by 61 hundredths of a second. Congratulations Tom!

The Fall National Board Meeting

The meeting was November 7th in St. Louis, MO. Meetings were held at the Kemp Museum. Committee meetings were held on November 5-6. All MBCA members were invited to attend any of the meetings. Newly elected Directors At Large (DAL), **Mary Alice Cozza**, **Rodger VanNess** and **Jim Luikens** were installed during new business on Saturday. Also during new business, national officers were elected from the seven DALs.

Looking ahead at National Events

Join other Mercedes-Benz members on a trip to Germany during the summer of 2010. See National website at www.MBCA.org or watch for more details in the STAR magazine.

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, or call MBUSA Customer Assistance Center - (800) 367-6372.

Fall Raffle deadline is November 27

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 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. Drawing date December 9th. Good Luck!

Message from the President - Gary Goodman

Our Website is Live!



Gary Goodman,
President

Our website at www.benzclub.org has gotten the tune-up it so badly needed and is ready to go. If you have not already done so, I would encourage you to visit the site to see all the new features. Menus are easy to navigate. There is a photo gallery with numerous pictures, more stories on the front page, online event registration, and even the opportunity for you to comment on the posts. It is also much easier for our webmaster, **Priscilla Gwinn**, to update. Even with all the improvements, the site is not completed yet. We plan to add more event photos, a classified ad section for our members, and more Mercedes-Benz and club-related news. Thanks to MBCA member **Greg Magnus** at AIM Custom Media for his patience and professionalism as we completed the website redesign.

If there is something you would like to see included on the website, contact Priscilla or any board member and let them know how we can make the site better for members.

To maximize the value of the website to you, do the following:

- Visit the site.
- Enter your email address in the “subscribe” box on the lower right side of the home page.
- The next screen will ask you to input a 1-time password that appears on your screen; enter it and click “complete subscription request.”
- You will receive a confirmation email—just click on the link in the email and you are all set.

As a site subscriber you will automatically get an email each time there is a new post to the site so you can stay current with our activities and information. Subscribing is safe and secure and is only used to inform you when the website is updated. Club membership does not automatically subscribe you to our website—you need to have a separate site subscription. It would also be a great idea to go to the national site www.mbc.org and make sure that the email address on your profile is current as we get several returned emails each time we send an email to our section mailing list.

Congratulations to **Mary Alice Cozza** on her well-deserved election to the MBCA National Board as a Director at Large.

Special thanks to **Peter Lesler** for his tireless efforts as National President during the last two years.

Welcome **Tom Barratt** and **Kim McConnell** as they join the Western Reserve Section board of directors.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season and I look forward to seeing you at the holiday party on January 16th.



Herman and Sherry Belchlakev attend their first event.

Member Update

New Members –

July - October

Tyler Rice, Carmine Sberna, Martin Shaffer, Anthony Suever, Rod Wiggins, William Wolford, Scott Zeilinger, Thomas Zung, Stanley Klein, David and Dawn Heinrichs, Ron Degrandis, Karen Hostoffer, Dr. Robert Hostoffer, Suresh Babu, Harold and Rheeta Beeler, Rodney Macaulay Ralph and Mary Johnson, Nicholas M. Garrifano,

Renewals –

July - October

Anneliese Nefros, R. Nemer, Gabriella Peter, John Phillips, Brant Schnackenberg, Drew Schneider, Todd and Sally Schneider, Monica Skurich, Beverly Stewart, Renold Thomas Jr., John Tuck, James Tullis, Kurt Wilson, Phil and Sue Yanchar, Donald Zimmerman, James and Joyce Bergstrom, Anneliese Nefros, Brant Schnackenberg, Valerie Maciag, Trevor Bussell, David and Ruth Ann Gentzler

My how the times have changed...

by Ted Gottfried

The 1950's 300SL's included an original Mercedes-Benz tool kit and an optional spare parts bag.

The optional parts bag itself was about 11" x 17" x 4" in bright red-orange vinyl with the Mercedes star logo and 300SL embossed on the side.

This bag included enough parts so that a skilled mechanic/driver could repair almost any problem that he might encounter on a road trip most anywhere in the world, especially in under-developed areas.

The Gull Wing spare parts catalog, Edition C, spelled out on pages 214-216 all of the parts which were in the bag. It is interesting to note that a distributor cap was not included in this bag.

SPARE PARTS KIT TYPE 300SL PART No 198 580 00 10 included:

Part name	Quantity
Exhaust valve	1
Outer valve spring	1
Inner valve spring	1
Valve cone half	6
Injector nozzle	1
Carbon brush for starter motor	2
Carbon brush for generator	2
Gasket between intake manifold and throttle	1

Gasket for oil filter	1
Spark plug	6
Dog ring for generator coupling	1
Water pump rubber joint	1
Fan belt	1
Oil filter element	1
Flexible oil pipes	1 set
Fuel pipes	1 set
Brake hoses	1 set
Wheel nut	3
Inner tube valve dust cap	4
Clutch driven plate	1
Box of bulbs and electrical parts including distributor parts and fuses	1 box
Cylinder head gasket	1
Manifold gasket	1

At a price of \$28 in 1956, it is likely that most owners would have purchased the optional bag and kept it in the car. It would have provided the peace of mind if the car had quit while traveling in the middle of nowhere.

I am not aware of an optional spare parts bag for the 2010 300 SL.

Section members enjoy dealership events

Our club has been very fortunate this year to have such good relationships with the area dealers. Five dealers have offered sponsorship to us for our events. This enables us to reduce the cost to you. It is good that we have the opportunity to support the dealers' events as well. **Fred Martin Mercedes-Benz** in Austintown, who sponsored the Spread Eagle event, had an open house on September 9 to unveil the all new 2010 E-Class and sedan. At least 8 section members attended and enjoyed the refreshments as well as the great cars to examine.

On October 20, **Mercedes-Benz North Olmsted** hosted an open house celebrating the first year anniversary of their remodeled, state-of-the-art

dealership. Titled "A Taste of the Westside", various food and wine vendors showcased their wares while the dealership showcased the newest models of Mercedes-Benz. This event was attended by at least 20 members from the Western Reserve Section.

Thank you to both dealers for the invitations, great evening, and their continued support of our club. We do appreciate the friendship with the dealers, and hope our members continue to support the dealers that have been so gracious to us. When you are in one of our sponsoring dealerships, be sure to say thank-you.

Also, make sure your email address is registered with us so you will continue to receive these invitations.

The summer brought us two local German car shows

From Gary Goodman

Western Reserve section members displayed their Mercedes-Benz at two local German car shows in September.

The Berea Oktoberfest Car Show

The Berea Oktoberfest was held over Labor Day weekend at the Berea County Fairgrounds and was a fun event with plenty of tasty German food, polka music, and of course a variety of cars including a row of VW Microbuses and Westfalia campers. Mercedes-Benz on display covered a wide range of models including **Rudi** and **Joan Kamper's** 1912 Mercedes, **Tom** and **Joan Barrett's** 1958 220S, **Rod Thompson's** 1969 280SL, and **Paul Houdek's** 2007 C280 4Matic.



Rudi and Joan Kamper brought their 1912 Mercedes-Benz, which turned out to be a crowd pleaser



Mark Schmiedl's bright red '63 - 190SL is all shined up and ready to go.

Donauschwaben German-American Car Show

On September 20, the Donauschwaben German-American Cultural Center in Olmsted Falls had something for every German car enthusiast — Porsches, BMWs, Audis, Volkswagens, and of course several examples of our favorite marque.

The Mercedes-Benz on display ranged from cars of the 1950s and 60s (**Paul Barrett** and **Mark Schmiedl's** 190SLs) through the modern era (a McLaren SLR and a Lorinser CLK500 cabriolet formerly owned by Cleveland Cavalier **Shaquille O'Neal**) and had small engines (**Bill Gerken's** pristine 240D) and big ones (**Kurt vonLeyser's** SL600 and **Tim Migchelbrink's** Brabus C58).

A sunny day, great cars, good food, nice people—what could be better! To see photos of the Mercedes-Benz on display at both shows, visit the photo gallery at www.benzclub.org.

MBCA Schedule of Events

January 5	Monthly meeting	D'Angelo's - Twinsburg
January 16	Holiday Party	Glenmoor Country Club
February 2	Monthly meeting	D'Angelo's - Twinsburg
February or March	Cleveland Auto Show	
March 2	Monthly meeting	D'Angelo's - Twinsburg
April 6	Monthly meeting	D'Angelo's - Twinsburg
May 4	Monthly meeting	D'Angelo's - Twinsburg
May 16	Defensive Driving and Autocross	Sandusky High School
June 1	Monthly meeting	D'Angelo's - Twinsburg
June TBD	Horse Country Tour	

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.

Cruise on in to the August meeting

Well, it was the August Board and Membership meeting, but not the usual discussion over hot



Gary Goodman squeezes in a quick meeting at the Cruise in

spaghetti and lasagna at D'Angelo's. This meeting was held over the roar of hot-rod crate engines and the rumbles of vintage '50's cars at the Solon Cruise-In. Nearly 30 of our members brought their cars to show, eat greasy food from vendors, walk the lot and be part of the hundreds of cars which gather in this movie theatre lot each Tuesday night during the summer. This event is the largest weekly cruise-in in the U.S., and has been featured on Dennis Gauge's "My Classic Car" cable TV show.

Fifty's music spun by a DJ provided the background, while car owners settled comfortably in their fold-up

chairs, happy to discuss the restoration of their car or give hints on finding that elusive '49 Ford headlight trim. Displays varied from a '21 Rolls Royce to one member's '09 E class. Dragsters and vintage motorcycles provide spice.

Western Reserve President **Gary Goodman** did a yeoman's job of holding a short business meeting in the middle of the chaos. **Jon Bernardi** drove away in his 1967 250SL with the Sponsor's Trophy, presented by **Rick Lane** of MBUSA, on behalf of show sponsor Mercedes Benz, North Olmsted.

This meeting was our section's first appearance at the show, but not the last. We'll be there again next summer. Watch the flyers and the website for an announcement and plan to join us!



Jon Bernardi drove away in his 1967 250SL with the Sponsor's Trophy, presented by Rick Lane of MBUSA.

Cars, boat rides, prizes, and ice cream

Fred Martin Mercedes-Benz Presents The Spread Eagle Tavern Brunch and Ice Cream Social

Early morning clouds and a bit of rain did not keep 76 enthusiastic Western Reserve Section members from attending the annual Spread Eagle Tavern Brunch and Ice Cream Social.

Fred Martin Mercedes-Benz of Austintown, Ohio sponsored the event, bringing 5 new cars including 3 new E's. As the clouds subsided and sunshine took their place in the summer sky, 42 Benzes took their place on historic Plymouth St. in Hanoverton, Ohio, where the street had been closed to traffic. After greeting old friends and meeting new ones, **Dave Johnson**, the owner of the Historic Tavern, and an MBCA member told of its history, after which, all went inside for a delicious brunch. We were pleased to have **Fred Martin** himself attend the brunch.

After everyone had enjoyed a great meal, toured the tavern and the bed and breakfast, everyone caravanned to Guilford Lake and the home of **Frank and Mary Alice Cozza** for an afternoon of cars, boat rides, door prizes, camaraderie, more cars and then an ice cream social complete with homemade cakes and cookies.

Thank you, Fred Martin Mercedes.



Club members view cars during the ice cream social

Toto are we in Kansas yet?

By Mary Alice Cozza

Early on August 13, **Frank** and **Mary Alice Cozza** and their MBCA guests **Jim** and **Diane Beck** from the South Jersey Section set off for the trip to Topeka, Kansas and MBCA's National event, Mid-America Caravan. After an hour and half drive **John** and **Sue Morrison** joined in on this adventure. The next rendezvous was in Indianapolis, where we met up with **Paul Bailey** from the 500 section and a member of the Western Reserve Section. Paul's bright red 560 SL was full of competition tires and ready to go.

By early evening, we had driven 590 miles and had made it to the west side of St. Louis.

We began looking for a hotel. Just as we pulled off the exit ramp, Jim in his 2004 SL55 radioed that he was having car trouble. He had no power and the car kept stalling. Jim called 1-800 for Mercedes and the

local Mercedes dealer, Plaza Mercedes, sent a technician out to diagnose the problem. After only a few minutes, he announced that it was the fuel pump. He ordered a flat bed truck to take the car to the dealer. Being concerned that the dealer might not be able to locate a fuel pump for an AMG vehicle before the weekend, Frank called MBCA friends in the local St. Louis area for assistance. **Rick Seifert** from the St. Louis Section called Plaza Motors, **Jay Schlueter**, the service manager and past president of the section. Jay reassured Jim that he would do everything he could to be sure he got to Topeka on time. Jay told Jim that he would call him shortly after 7:00 A.M. on Friday.

While sitting at breakfast, a few minutes after 7:00 A.M., Jay called with good news. They had located a fuel pump out of state and they would have it by 10:15 on Saturday morning. He assured Jim that they would have it installed and he would be on his way Saturday afternoon, arriving in Topeka in time for the Welcome

Reception. The mechanics began preparing Jim's car for the install (gas tank had to be removed, etc.); so that all they would have to do on Saturday is install the fuel pump. Jay then picked Jim and Diane up and took them to the dealership and a hotel right next door.

After learning that Jim and Diane were in good hands, the rest of us started back on our journey to Topeka. By this time, we had another car in our caravan. **Terry Kiwala** from Chicago and also a Western Reserve member had joined us in the middle of the night.

Now, 808 miles into the trip, we arrived at the Capitol

Plaza hotel in Topeka, our home for the next few days. The first Kansas City Section member to greet us was **Joyce Smith**, co-chair and dear friend.

After lunch,

we all proceeded outside to prepare our cars for the Concours that would take place on Saturday morning. It was fun cleaning the car on a beautiful 90 degree day in Kansas.

Early Saturday morning, each car was photographed by a professional photographer and cars were parked on the front lawn of the hotel for the show. **Jon Bernardi** from the Western Reserve Section was the chief judge for the Concours.

Later that afternoon, the drivers' meeting was held and the Welcome Reception. Mid-way through the reception in walked Jim and Diane, a bit tired, but happy to be in Topeka. The car was running great!

Although there were some bumps in the road to Topeka all worked out well. It was amazing how MBCA members work together to help each other in a time of need. A good time was had by all.



(L-R) Paul Bailey, Frank and Mary Alice Cozza, Jon Bernardi, John and Sue Morrison, and Terry Kiwala from Western Reserve attended Caravan

Holiday Party – Mark your Calendar



Glenmoor Country Club

The holidays are right around the corner and so is the annual Holiday Party. This year's get-together is on Saturday, January 16th. We will gather at 6:00 P.M. in the Chapel Party Room at the Glenmoor Country Club. As you may recall, this Country Club

hosted the elegant Glenmoor Gathering of Significant Automobiles in September.

This beautiful classic Gothic building was built during the years 1930-1931 as a boys school. The building contains approximately 167,000 square feet. The Wolstein's purchased the 381 acres of land and buildings in 1989. Many considered this property to be one of the most desirable tracts in Stark County. After two years of renovation, the spa portion of the club

opened in December of 1991. On July 1, 1992 Jack Nicklaus took part in the gala celebration which opened the golf course. The Grand Opening of the Clubhouse followed in September of 1992.

Sleeping rooms are available at the Bertram on the grounds. Reservations for the rooms are due by December 16th. To receive the special holiday rate of \$109.00 plus tax be sure to mention the MBCA rate.



Bertram's Rooms

A formal invitation will be sent out by snail mail at the beginning of December. More information will also be posted on the website.

There will also be a breakfast meeting the next morning.

Don't miss this spectacular event

Check out the Western Reserve Section website at benzclub.org

Western Reserve Section CRIER

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