



Western Reserve Section

CRUIER

Mercedes-Benz Club of America

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Fall, 2011

Fred Martin Shines on Mercedes-Benz



Fred Martin and Mary Alice Cozza enjoys the day

Fred Martin Mercedes Sponsors Spread Eagle Tavern Brunch and the Ice Cream Social

On a beautiful Sunday morning in July, M-B members caravanned from Streetsboro to join

members from Pittsburgh and the area in Hanoverton for the annual Spread Eagle Tavern brunch and ice cream social. Fred Martin from Fred Martin Mercedes in Austintown joined the caravan from Streetsboro. After some time to check out Peddler Days in Hanoverton, members enjoyed a

delicious brunch and then caravanned to **Frank and Mary Alice Cozza's** home at Guilford Lake. Forty two beautiful Mercedes were parked on the lawn along with several new Mercedes provided by Fred Martin Mercedes. Members enjoyed pontoon boat rides on the lake, swimming in the pool, door prizes and especially the ice cream.

Thanks to Fred Martin for his gracious support of this event.



Anniversary Awards

Members attending their first event were presented glasses with the Mercedes-Benz Club logo etched on them. Anniversary pins were awarded to Fred Gwinn, 5 years; Ralph Stupka, 20 years, Gary Goodman, 20 years; Werner Heidemann, 25 years.



Fred Gwinn receives award from Mary Alice Cozza



Ralph Stupka and Gary Goodman



Werner Heidemann

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National and Regional News....

By Frank Cozza, Great Lakes Regional Director

The Fall Board Meeting will be held close to home, in the Detroit area, with committee meetings on Nov. 3 and 4 and the board meeting on Saturday, Nov. 5. All members are welcome to attend the meetings.

Ballots for election to the National Board will arrive in your mailbox late September or early October. Please vote.



Frank Cozza

Message from the President



Bill VerDuin

Yet more fun with the Western Reserve Section! Last Saturday was the new and improved Old Car Fun Day, and what fun it was. This event continues to be a celebration of older Benzes, say, pre-1980, but all are welcome. Even non-Benzes have been known to appear and live to tell. In days of old we had everyone bring their cars to my place or the Gortzes. We'd stand around, look at cars, chat with friends, have lunch and maybe an informal presentation. Fun for many years, but time for something new.

That something new was provided by Mercedes-Benz of Bedford. This dealership is making a real point to be of service to those of us with older cars, with skills in diagnosis and repair of older Benzes and preferential hourly rates. What a great event! MB of Bedford has done similar events before, but this was the best. Seventy-some people, a huge selection of great old cars, some of which went up on the lift for commentary by Chuck Widemire, MB of Bedford's specialist for older Benzes. Thanks to Chuck, Service Director and host Chriss Burdis and Customer Care Representative April Jones for making this happen, and providing a great lunch and many, many door prizes.

A lot more fun is in store. We'll be involved with the Berea Oktoberfest over Labor Day and the Donauschwaben all-German car show this fall, both great events worthy of your support. Our club will be sponsoring two new events. On September 25, we'll do car-related history, architecture, beautiful scenery and fine dining with a tour of Lakeview Cemetery in Cleveland and dinner in Little Italy. Don Velcio's Fall Leaf Tour will happen October 15, and will include shopping, dining, Lehman's Hardware Store, touring Amish country south of Cleveland, and an Amish dinner. Both will be a lot of fun, and we look forward to seeing you there.

As always, we welcome your thoughts on new events. You can contact any of the Board members, and if you like, attend a Board meeting. We are now holding these meetings at Brewster's in Twinsburg, typically 7 PM the first Tuesday of every month, but check our website benzclub.org for this and other news.

New members June -August

Sheila Hummel
Randall Brooks
Thomas Scahel

Richard Self
Wayne Ecke
Robert Hinman

Marty Santillo
Lias Kalessis

Renewals

R. Mathews
John Tuck
Hugh Fisher
James Tullis
John De Matteo
Renold Thompson
William Pahl
David Qualkinbush

Kathryn Franko
Lewis Sawitzke
Harvey Kay
John Julius
Tyler Rice
C. Bayer
W. Hart

John Phillips
Harold Beeler
James Cooney
Kenneth Blech
William Ober
Jeff Rayer
Tim Rupert
Zoe Ann Zimmerman

Anneliese Nefos
Patrick Kirk
Nathan Workman
David Barrie
Harry Paul
Paul Houdek
Merle Woman

Old car fun day & 1958 190SL at Mercedes-Benz Bedford

By Ted Gottfried

Bright and early on Saturday, August 20th, I left home on my way to Bedford Mercedes. The fog was thick and I needed the wipers to clear the mist on the windshield. Little did I know that I was being chased by a nearby neighbor who had heard about this 1958 190 SL and now wanted to buy it immediately.

For 5 years, I have worked on the restoration of this car and it has become a true labor of love. Bright red with parchment leather interior, and it runs great.

When I arrived at Bedford at 8:45a.m., I was met by **Chuck Widemire** their ace Classic Car Tech who has been working on my 1975 red 280SL (107) Convertible all summer. Chuck and I have gotten to know each other real well! Earlier in the summer, he aligned the front end on the 1958 190SL for me and now has a real tiger by the tail in trying to figure out the electronics on the 1975 280 SL EFI Twin Cam Six. I had made a test run on Friday, Aug 19th. The first 50 miles were great but the second 50 were sort of lumpy. Needless to say, the car stayed with Chuck the week of August 22nd.

Chuck and I placed the 2 red convertibles side by side outdoors by the Dealership. **Chriss Burdis**, Service Director for Bedford, our host for Old Car Fun Day, had cleared the parking lot for the event and roped it off for us. Chriss was a great host and very much in evidence all day long. As more older cars arrived, they were also lined up, and the result was a very impressive collection of older cars.

Two of the cars from the **Mike Viny** Collection were brought by **Brent Marshall** and his son. Brent helped maintain the Viny Collection before Mike passed away more than 10 years ago. He brought a very nice red 1957 190SL and an outstanding 1961

300d dark green 4-door convertible. Both cars are special and Brent has a plan to put an injected motor in the 190SL next winter. Should be a very interesting project.

We had many 113 Model cars, specially 280SLs of many colors and condition. Members new to the Club were very much in evidence with their prized babies. They contributed a lot to the show and Chuck was kept very busy helping them out and answering their questions. **Morgan Taft's** well photographed, fabulous silver 1971 280SE Coupe was given the honor of being the first car up on the hoist for further show and tell. Club Vice-President **Tom Barratt's** interesting 1985 380SL was next up on the rack. This was Chuck's car previously and Chuck knows it well.

At about this time, my pursuing neighbor, after tracking me down by contacting my wife **Brittne**, shows up. He has brought his wife and 3 daughters and they all love the 190SL, so much they want to take it home. However, this was the first outing for this car and some fine tuning still has to be done. Besides that, I like the car too and after 5 years, we've grown to know each other very well.

While I was working in Europe in 1967, my first Mercedes was a 1957 190SL. I still feel a lot of nostalgia for this kind of car. I am not yet ready to let the 1958 190SL go to a new home. What a day!

The attendance at Bedford was wonderful and many non-Club Members had an opportunity to see what our Club is about. Hopefully we will attract some new members to our group.

Many, many thanks to Bedford Mercedes for the door prizes and lunch and such warm hospitality. We look forward to the next event at Bedford Mercedes.

Leikin Motors Company Sponsored Horse County Tour - Tally Ho!

The Horse Country Road Tour benefiting the Western Reserve Land Conservancy was sponsored by **Leikin Motor Companies** and coordinated by section board members **Tom Barratt and Kim McConnell**, leading a stream of 45 predominately vintage cars while driving their own 380SL convertible. The guests began and ended the June afternoon at White North Stables, now preserved in perpetuity, and once part of the vast estate owned by Windsor T. White of the White Motor Company.

The tour continued through Hunting Valley onward to Arrowhead Farm, including a walk through the 40-room mansion built in 1916 by Samuel Mather for his only daughter Constance and her



husband Robert Bishop. Here and at each of the stops, local historian Dan Ruminski shared facts about the properties and the families that owned them. Next stop was the hidden airplane hanger on the estate of David Ingalls, the WWI Navy flying ace who built his own private airfield that was once used by Charles Lindbergh. The final visit was to the old White estate, Halfred Farms, where property manager Loren Warner led tours of the grounds and Cow and Apple Barns and the original Farm Office.

The wonderful summer day concluded with an alfresco dinner by Chef David Armstrong of Cater

To You, and special prizes awarded to those teams scoring highest on the road tour trivia.

MBCA Schedule of Events

September 3	Oktoberfest Car Show	Berea Fair Grounds
September 6	Monthly Membership Meeting	Brewster's, Twinsburg
September 25	Dine & Drive (See enclosed flyer)	Lakeview Cemetery
October 4	Monthly Membership Meeting	Brewster's, Twinsburg
October 15	Fall Leaf Tour (See enclosed flyer)	Amish Country
November 1	Monthly Membership Meeting	Brewster's, Twinsburg
December 6	Monthly Membership Meeting	Brewster's Twinsburg

Flyers will be sent for our specific club events.



Check out the Western Reserve Section website at benzclub.org for updates.

Western Reserve Section CRIER

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