



Western Reserve Section

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Mercedes-Benz Club of America

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Ohio Backroads Adventure - August 5-9

Have you signed up, yet, for the **Ohio Backroads Adventure**? This is a tour you won't want to miss. **Don and Carol Velcio** have designed 4 days of touring parts of Ohio sometimes missed by tourists. The event starts with a kickoff dinner at **Das Schnitzel Haus** in Parma. You will receive your itinerary so you can begin the adventure the next morning. Day 1 will take you through **Amish country** including Berlin and **Hershberger Bakery and Farm** in Charm then on to **Roscoe Village**. The next two nights will be spent in Cambridge. On day 2, you will have the opportunity to see the Longaberger Homestead, the **Miner's Museum** and "Big Muskie" at the museum, the historic "Y **Bridge**" in Zanesville, and end the evening with a Sunset Safari Tour and buffet at **The Wilds**. On day 3, buckle up for some real driving fun. The itinerary takes you through "**The Switzerland of Ohio**" aptly named because of the winding hills and dales of scenic driving. There are mouth-watering views of the Ohio River from atop and a chance to exercise your car and driving skills as you negotiate the roads. That day takes you to Marietta and the historic **Lafayette Hotel** at the confluence of the Ohio and Muskingum Rivers. That evening Don and Carol have reserved us space on the **Valley Gem Sternwheeler** for a dessert cruise. On the final day, the route takes you through the **Serpent**



Mounds and **Hocking Hills State Park** where you can hike and join the others for lunch. The final dinner that evening will be at **Schmidt's Restaurant and Sausage Haus** in the German Village section of Columbus. Don and Carol have designed this trip to show much of the fun in Ohio. But other than

scheduled meals that you've paid for, you can do as little or as much as you want. You're not even bound to the suggested route if you prefer to skip some destinations and get to the next hotel directly. For more information and registration, see our website at www.mbca.org or call Don at work at 440-886-1660 or email, velcio@aol.com But

don't procrastinate. Registration will need to be cut off soon because of space restraints at various venues. We are already beyond the halfway point. So don't miss out.



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National and Regional News....

by Frank Cozza

In order to cut cost, the national Mercedes-Benz Club of America (MBCA) board held the first virtual meeting on May 5, 2012. All 19 board members, as well as several club members were in attendance. For the first attempt at a virtual meeting, all went very well.

When an MBCA member sponsors a new member, they will receive notification that their membership has been extended for one month for the sponsorship.

The national business office has been working on obtaining a MBCA I Phone app. This will be a free app and will include the ability to join the club, renew, benefits of the club, etc. The app. will also offer a calendar of events, and then using the GPS on the phone, members will be able to find events at their location.

For more information see club website
www.mbca.org.



Frank Cozza

Starfest 2012 off to Phoenix AZ

Starfest, 2012 will be held September 28-October 3 in Phoenix, Arizona. This is the biannual national gathering for the Mercedes-Benz Club of America and is a great opportunity to see friends you've made at previous events and make new ones. The host hotel is the Arizona Biltmore Resort and Spa with a special rate for attendees. All banquets will be held at this site as well as the registration, vendors, and club store. The Concours d'Elegance also will be held on the grounds of the Biltmore. Driving events will be at the Firebird International Raceway. The Starfest committee has planned a road rallye through Metro Phoenix, the concours, technical sessions, a sponsor expo, defensive driving, autocross, acceleration runs, and time trials, banquets and a farewell breakfast. This is a great opportunity to support our National events, see new areas, learn a new appreciation of your Mercedes-Benz, and have so much fun! For more information, go to the national web site at www.mbca.org.



Or for a local contact, call Frank Cozza, National Events chairman at 330-222-1106.

Message from the President

by **Bill VerDuin**



Bill VerDuin

Much as I love the Star Magazine, for me the main benefit of membership in the Mercedes Club is the friends my wife and I have made through the club and the activities we share with our Mercedes friends at club events. This is why I

generally use my President's Message soapbox to extol the many activities we offer and to encourage you to take a look at upcoming events, as presented on our (now new and improved) web page benzclub.org.

Over the past several years my wife and I have been visiting warm sunny places as respites from winter weather, and a chance to unwind after our year-end business frenzy. We have also taken the opportunity to consider our destinations as possible retirement locales. In this regard, we look at all aspects of life in these places from the perspective of residents, not just visitors. For me, an important consideration is the car culture. Are there interesting cars around; are there interesting car-related activities around?

My findings are not what I expected. I would have thought that with retirees having plenty of time, and with snow-free weather making it easier to keep cars indefinitely, the Sun Belt would be a car nut's paradise. Not so, at least in the places we've looked seriously. At least, not at the level I've always loved and now learned to appreciate in northeast Ohio.

My take away: northeast Ohio represents a perhaps unique, but certainly exceptional opportunity for involvement in car clubs and car-related activities. So, in this message I will divert from my usual flog of the many fun things our club is doing, and instead invite us all to appreciate how good we have it here, to be able to pick and choose from so many fun opportunities, and to have the board and club members that make all this possible.

Check it Out ...

Check out the updated Western Reserve Section web site. Webmaster Gary Goodman has been working with the web page builder to update our web site. Check it out. It has updates and information about upcoming events, lots of pictures, and other information that is valuable to you.

www.benzclub.org

Packard Museum Tour

On April 22, about 30 people gathered at the Home Depot in Streetsboro to go to the National Packard Museum in Warren, Ohio. Host **Werner Heidemann** led the scenic caravan from Streetsboro to Warren where a catered box lunch was awaiting them. Following lunch, the group had a guided tour of the facility. The mission of the museum is to preserve the Packard legacy, and that they have done with cars from 1900 to 1956 in the building that was once the factory for Packard cars which were "born" in Warren, Ohio. A special exhibit,

"Motorcycles Around the World" was in progress so participants could



not only enjoy the cars but also the motorcycles. **Don Velcio**, who "loves bikes," took photographs of many of those on display. Following a great time at the museum, several ventured on to the Mocha House—a coffee shop with fabulous pastries. What a way to cap the day.

Horses! Cars! Polo? Sunday, June 24th

Leikin Motors proudly sponsors the 2012 Horse Country Road Tour... this 5th Anniversary event guarantees lots of horses, plenty of cars, and a little twist on the game of polo. You are invited to join 100 plus other guests at this great event to kick-off the summer driving season and tour open countryside, visit great horse properties, enjoy live jazz music and al fresco dining. Lots of fun, food and surprises at this BYOB event.

(Tickets for MBCA member children under 16 years of age are half price.) Get your tickets now by calling Kim



Bihler at Western Reserve Land Conservancy 440-729-9621 ext. 112. www.horsecountryroadtour.com Questions? Tom Barratt at 216-533-7192.

Members March 1 - June 1

New

Thomas Weis

Mark Gervelis

Charles Johnson

Allan Pinter

James Mahlich

Eric Schreiber

Heather Thomas

Robert Vilcheck

Ronald White

Luke Reif

Dale Miller

Brant Hahn

Marcia Dawson

Bruce May

Tyler Wilkof

William Vesia

Kurtis Lucius

Renewals

Richard Self

Don Velcio

Ronald Swenson

William Ober

John Buckingham

Terrance Hamilton

Norbert Peiker

Charles Hearn

Ronald Armenti

Wayne Ecke

Marty Santillo

Don Woodard

Werner Heidemann

Don Jordan

Joseph Scott

Ralph Montalvo

Lee Kalessis

Edward Mehler

Richard Buys

Josie Lesler

Wade Sperry

Raymond Caulk

Frank Daniels

Gary Goodman

Fred Abraham

William Ver Duin

Jeffrey Prulhiere

Peggy Mosely

Anthony Godfrey

Ron Good

Catherine Keith

John Collins

Fred Gwinn

Dawn Neff



Remembering the smile Alan wore

We never know how the little things affect other people. This is a story of how a red Bridgestone hat which was in the “goodie” bag at

Gemütlichkeit 2010 made

an impact on several lives. **Ed Yungbluth** and **Bev Basinski** from the Buffalo area and second section members of our section attended our Gemütlichkeit as they usually did. When Ed was ready to go on the track, he tossed the red Bridgestone hat into the trunk and donned his helmet. After his turn, he returned the helmet to the trunk and the red hat to his head. Upon their return to Buffalo, they were visiting Bev’s brother, **Alan Basinski**, who had been undergoing chemo and radiation for throat cancer. Ed was regaling her brother with tales about his “singing” tires and pushing his nerves and the car to 114 mph. This so amused the brother, that Ed gave him the red hat that Ed had worn during his adventures. Alan wore that hat most of the time and often grinned at remembering Ed’s tales. As it was, the chemo and radiation were not doing the job, and Alan had surgery which only removed part of the tumor. But again, the hat and the brother were never farther apart than the nightstand, but most of the time it was on his

head. After his death, the family was invited to a private viewing before cremation. At the request of his wife and mother, the red hat was to accompany Alan. So the hat was on his head when they viewed him.

Ed wrote a letter to **Rodriech Stotsenburg**, **Performance Marketing & Events Manager of Bridgestone**, telling him the significance of the hat to the family. Rodriech was so touched by Ed’s letter that he asked permission to share it with his team. His intention was to show his staff that “budget and measurable expenses sometimes get in the way of things that might be beneficial on a level more than profits.” He was truly touched by the impact the hat had on Bev’s brother.

Now, there is another chapter to this story. On the day of Alan’s service, Ed noticed a box on the porch. Thinking it was something Bev had ordered, he took it into the house. When neither knew the origin, he opened it and found.....a boxful of red Bridgestone hats. What a smile that brought to them on such a sad day. The entire family wore the hats at Alan’s service remembering the smile Alan wore when he had on the hat and thought of Ed’s adventures.

Thank-you, Ed and Bev, for sharing this story with us.

Technical Potpourri

by Ted Gottfried

Do you want better gas mileage? THEN:

- (1) Maintain your tire pressure at 35 PSI, and check it weekly
- (2) Install a new air filter at least yearly, more often if dirty
- (3) Change motor oil and oil filter every 5,000 miles. I prefer Mobil 1 0-40 Synthetic, European Formula. It's available at most Auto Parts stores
- (4) Get rid of JUNK in the trunk. It costs money to haul un-needed stuff around.
- (5) Fill gas tank to 3/4 full when it gets down to 1/4 tank remaining. Only fill tank to full for start of an extended trip. Extra gas is extra weight. It can add up over time!
- (6) A clean car inside and out runs better. (At least psychologically!)
- (7) Follow Mercedes Dealer recommended service intervals with correct fluids and filters.
- (8) Flush brake fluid every two years.
- (9) Flush coolant every three years.
- (10) Don't forget "Middle Term Maintenance"
 - (a) Replace battery at end of seven year life
 - (b) Replace tires at eight years
 - (c) Replace rubber brake hoses at ten years
 - (d) Replace all belts and hoses at a maximum of ten years.

If all ten items listed above are followed, I will personally guarantee that you will have far better fuel economy and longer trouble-free travelling.

My opinion is based on 60 years of automobile experience. My first car was a 1949 Chevy in 1952. My high school automotive teacher (Mr. Dean Kissibirth) in Elyria taught me how to tear down and rebuild the engine and to maintain the car. Needless-to-say, I am truly a long time motor head. In no small part because my father felt that if I wanted to be a motor head then I was going to be a good one!! Therefore he sent me to school!!!

Leikin Motors shows 2013 SL



Bill VerDuin introduces Kevin Conant

On Monday, May 7, about 40 members and guests met at the all new **Leikin Motors' Auto-Haus** in Willoughby for an evening of drooling, refreshments, and tech information arranged by Membership Chairman, **Jim Tullis**. Once he could pull attendees off the 2013 red SL in the garage, Western Reserve President **Bill VerDuin** introduced sales manager, **Kevin Conant**, who gave an overview of the evening events and invited participants to the showroom for refreshments. Leikin Motors is one of the few that has a unionized service department. Service manager **Mike Bonitati** told his department that we were coming, and they volunteered to stay and give a tour of the service department and answer the many questions that were presented. The service department was quite helpful.



Ray Caulk hops in to check it out.

Following that, the group returned to the showroom to hear a presentation about the re-engineered C-class and 4matic coupes. Western Reserve Section thanks Leikin for their continued support of our section and for a great evening with our favorite marquee.

Spread Your Wings

The ever popular Spread Eagle event will be held on July 22. A caravan will form at the Home Depot in Streetsboro for those coming from that direction and proceed to the Spread Eagle Tavern in Hanoverton, Ohio. Following some time to enjoy the quaint town, we will have lunch in the Spread Eagle then caravan a few short miles to the home of **Frank and Mary Alice Cozza** for an ice cream social, boat rides on Guilford Lake, swimming, visiting, door prizes, and other fun activities. A flyer will be sent for your reservation. We hope to see you there! This is one of our best attended events so we know you will have fun.

MBCA Schedule of Events

June 24	Horse Country Tour	Tom Barratt
July 3	Membership Meeting	Mavis Winkles, Twinsburg
July 21-22	Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix (Regional Event-Schenley Park)	Pittsburgh Section
July 22	Spread Eagle Event	Frank & Mary Alice Cozza
July 31	Aug. Membership Meeting	Mavis Winkles, Twinsburg
August 5-9	Ohio Backroad Adventure	Don Velcio
August TBA	Old Car Fun Day & Tech Session	Bill Ver Duin
September 4	Membership Meeting	Mavis Winkles, Twinsburg
Sept. 28 - Oct. 3	Starfest	Phoenix, Arizona

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



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

Western Reserve Section CRIER

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