



# MBCA | Western Reserve Section

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA

## Crier

Volume 15 Issue 2

June, 2015

## Have you registered for Gemütlichkeit?

Have you registered for Gemütlichkeit, yet? It's time to be thinking about it! We have many activities planned and fun venues for the various events and tours. This is an event you don't want to miss!

The Western Reserve Section has hosted many Gemütlichkeit events, and enjoys doing them. But we really enjoy having our members present and enjoying the event with the many we attract from other sections across the whole United States. Those who have participated in the past have made many long-lasting friendships. We hope to add you to that number.

The "gathering of friends" begins on Wednesday, August 19 with registration at the host hotel, Marriott Pittsburgh North in Cranberry Township just off the Pennsylvania Turnpike. A Welcome Reception for participants and a driver's meeting will also be in the Marriott that evening. Early on Thursday morning, the fun moves to Pittsburgh International Raceway for Defensive Driving, Autocross and the driving experience on the 3 mile track. That evening as an optional event, we have been invited to Hahn-Vorbach and Associates restoration center in Harmony PA for an open house of their facility. The associates will be on hand to answer questions and give information. Within a short drive (5 minutes) is the Harmony Inn which is eager to have any or all of us stop for dinner. On Friday, the day will be spent on the road track

extending your driving skills. For those preferring not to be at the raceway that day, alternate tours are planned in the Pittsburgh area. Transportation will be provided for that. On Saturday, shine up your favorite Mercedes and join us at Hartwood Acres Mansion, part of the Alleghany Metroparks, and participate in the Concours'd Elegance. While on the grounds, take a tour of the beautiful mansion. Box lunches will be available that day. Saturday evening, we'll travel up the hill from the Marriott a short distance to the Hilton



Garden Inn for the Awards banquet and farewells.

For a registration packet, contact **Sue Morrison** at [slm2teach@aol.com](mailto:slm2teach@aol.com) or call her at 330-673-7885. Also, watch the web site for updates: [www.benzclub.org](http://www.benzclub.org)

## StarTech Cincinnati

You might still have a chance to participate in StarTech 2015 being held in Cincinnati on June 12-14. Our own members **Jon Bernardi, Ted Gottfried, Fred Gwinn, and Peter Lesler** will be presenters at this weekend of tech seminars. There are events for those not interested in the tech sessions and also a Ladies of Mercedes seminar led by mechanic **Mary Nohr**. For more information go to [MBCAStartech2015@gmail.com](mailto:MBCAStartech2015@gmail.com). This is a fun national event in our own backyard.

## Board of Directors

Jim Tullis, President  
jtullis@roadrunner.com  
Barb Tullis  
barbtullis@yahoo.com  
330-656-1453

Rod Thompson, Vice President  
renoldthompson@clevelandship.com  
216-222-2827

Ron White, Secretary  
wrsmbc89560@gmail.com  
216-374-6419

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

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

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

Tom Barratt  
tombarratt@aol.com  
440-247-2942

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

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

Fred Gwinn  
fred@reverselogic.us  
216-235-8584

Werner Heidemann  
pepper5454@aol.com  
440-537-0991

Lee Kalessis  
lkalessis@yahoo.com  
330-461-0422

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

Rod Tucker  
330-983-6625

Bill VerDuin  
billverduin@windstream.net  
Cynthia VerDuin  
cverduin@cpahatfield.com  
440-338-6030

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

John Brigs, Regional Director

Crier Editors:  
Mary Alice Cozza and Sue Morrison  
Priscilla Gwinn

# National and Regional News....

by Frank Cozza

The National Board had a telecom meeting recently and made two changes to the rule book for driving events:

1. When on a track, the driver must point to signal permission for a passing car to overtake them.
2. When an autocross is co-sponsored by another group (usually a 1 day event), defensive driving is recommended by not required.



Frank Cozza

For all MBCA hosted high speed events, defensive driving is still required.

From the 2015 Election Committee:

If an election is uncontested where there is only one nominee for each National Board position and no ballot issues to be submitted, a slate of candidates may be printed in The Star and not sent to each member. That ballot must be cast by Oct. 25. That is the case this year. The candidates for DAL of which 3 are to be elected are **Terry Kiwala, Steve Ross,** and **Jim Luikens.** Our RD is in the middle of his 2 year term and all other RDs are uncontested. Therefore, watch for the ballot in the Sept./Oct. 15 Star.

## Members March 4 – June 3, 2015

### New Members

Mark Schmiedl  
Mike Knopick

Tim Conway  
James Wilson

### Renewals – Glad you're back!

Greg Cantell	James Michael	Eric Schreiber
Joy Comey	Ronald Renzoni	William Vesia
Jeff Payton	Sandra Decerbo	Howard Jacobs
Marty Santillo	Sandra Omerza	Mason Beale
Ronald Armenti	Raymond Caulk	Nicholas George
Hans Proemm	Carl Hiteman	Adam Ross
Mike Klem	Edward Mehler	Richard Harrington
Don Jordan	Laurence Lengyel	Charles Johnson
Beverly Stewart	Thomas Barratt	Rudolf Kamper
Adolphus Harris	Eleanor Pawlicki	Scott Schulick
Jay Jesensky	Stuart Sears	Kimberly Keller
Eric Hansen	Ron Mihalek	Frederic Gwinn
Elaine Demore	Frank Daniels	Stephen Baumgarten
Anthony Dunne	Jone Hull	Raymond Vehovec
		Frank Daugherty

# President's Message – See you soon!



Jim Tullis

Our Western Reserve Section needs your participation and your help! We will rapidly move through the events scheduled for this summer and we hope that they are fun, interesting, and informative. We are in the final stages of planning Gemütlichkeit 2015 awarded to our Section as a National MBCA event. Our Section was selected to host the event because our membership includes some of the most skilled in the entire MBCA at concours judging, autocross, and defensive driving. The Pittsburgh International Raceway should be an exhilarating drive and the side tours promise to be fun and interesting! We invite your participation and we urge you to volunteer to help with manning the events, judging, etc. Please volunteer to help make Gemütlichkeit 2015 a success by contacting our co-chairpersons, either **Mary Alice Cozza** at [macozza7@rr.neo.com](mailto:macozza7@rr.neo.com) or **Sue Morrison** at [SLM2teach@aol.com](mailto:SLM2teach@aol.com)



Our Section would like to thank **Rod Thompson** for planning our tour of the Crawford Auto Aviation Collection. We visited Crawford and the CWRU campus on a beautiful early spring day. We all enjoyed the visit to Crawford and a gourmet luncheon at the nearby Trentina Restaurant. Thanks Rod! Also, we would like to thank **Ted Gottfried** for hosting and you for supporting our first ever “Cars and Coffee” featuring **Fred** and **Elisabeth Smit** who are traveling around the world in a 1957 220S. This event enjoyed a good turnout and Ted later helped the couple by putting their car on a lift for minor repair and parts replacement.

The Western Reserve Section has a very busy schedule of events for the summer! Please check our website at [www.benzclub.org](http://www.benzclub.org) for details (Hmmm.....a Cruise-in to the beautiful Gervasi Winery!).

Again, volunteers are needed for Gemütlichkeit! Please contact Mary Alice or Sue. We look forward to your participation in this summer's events and any ideas that you might have for the continuing success of our club.

## Circle Lake Ontario Tour

Our section is sponsoring the Circle Lake Ontario Tour led by Tourmeister, **Ron Harshman**. Several of our members have participated in previous Great Lakes tours hosted by Ron and have enjoyed them very much! This one sounds as exciting as the others. The event will kick-off on Saturday September 26 at the Canadian Tire Motorsports Park in Bowmanville Ontario, with a dinner and the chance to watch the cars competing. On Sunday, we'll participate in a cooking class/wine tasting at the Waring house in Picton, Ontario. From there, we'll move on to Montreal for tours of the city and lodging. Tuesday will be spent in Mont Tremblant, Ontario. Wednesday, we'll be in Gananoque, Ontario, and will include a boat tour and includes time on the Island to tour Boldt Castle. From there, the tour continues to Rochester, New York for final tours and meals. Unique lodgings have been planned and interesting sites along the way are listed for your enjoyment. The tour ends in Rochester on Oct. 3. For a detailed itinerary,

check our web site: [www.benzclub.org](http://www.benzclub.org). If you have questions, contact Ron Harshman at [rharshman1943@gmail.com](mailto:rharshman1943@gmail.com) or phone him at 218-213-4967.

## A rough winter!



And we thought we had a rough winter! This is a picture that **Dolf Kamper**, son of **Rudi** and **Joan Kamper** took of his C Class in Baltimore during our long, cold winter.

# Why does Mercedes-Benz require OEM?

**Ted Gottfried**, our tech specialist found this article and felt it worthy to be used as his tech article.

One of the expenses that can take many Mercedes-Benz owners by surprise is the fact that Mercedes requires the use of genuine OEM replacement parts. OEM stands for “original equipment manufacturer,” meaning that all parts in your Mercedes-Benz need to come from Mercedes itself. Certified collision centers are required to provide:

- Genuine Mercedes-Benz Replacement Parts

- Mercedes-Benz approved equipment, including tools, parts and paint

- A dedicated Mercedes-Benz approved fixture bench to ensure repairs are made with assembly-line accuracy

- Technicians with up-to-date, advanced skills and training

Some body shops, who don't have Mercedes-Benz Certification, may try to tell you that they can complete your repairs for less money, using aftermarket parts that haven't been approved by the manufacturer. However, there are very important considerations that have gone into the decision to require OEM parts affecting the safety, performance and value of your Mercedes.

## Safety

First and foremost, while “aftermarket” parts may sound tempting, the unfortunate truth is that with any car repair, even Mercedes-Benz repair, you get what you pay for. And if you buy parts on the cheap, you might find them failing at exactly the wrong moment. Badly-engineered aftermarket and counterfeit parts can, and do, kill. Mercedes-Benz, unlike other car companies, rarely shares information about its engineering with other firms. So aftermarket parts are essentially guesswork, and that can sometimes lead to serious problems (not to mention voiding your car's warranty). A reputable auto body shop would not want to put its customers at that kind of risk — and, its experts also experienced in spotting counterfeit parts or used parts that have been disguised as new — so, coming to a shop like ACS, certified in Mercedes-Benz repair, is putting safety first.

## Performance

Mercedes-Benz wants to ensure that your car is operating in as close to ideal circumstances as

possible, and that means using the parts your car was built with. Mercedes-Benz is famous for its engineering for excellent reason, but that means they have to design custom parts or engineer seemingly-common parts to very specific tolerances, or it will affect the performance of the car.

Even seemingly-generic parts are built to a much, much higher standard than many other brands on the market. Thus, Mercedes-Benz builds their own parts, engineers them to an exacting degree, and carefully inspects them, selling them with a warranty that ensures any certified Mercedes-Benz repair facility can replace the part free of charge if a defect escapes their inspection.

## Reliability

By using the proper parts, a Mercedes-Benz repair shop can actually save you a lot of time. Aftermarket parts can be the source of everything from leaks to unusual noises, so by eliminating the entire class of problems aftermarket parts can bring, finding what's actually wrong is that much simpler. When you bring a Mercedes-Benz to a reputable auto body shop, they know exactly what they're dealing with, as well as common problems that might come into play.

Similarly, by using OEM parts, you know that a Mercedes-Benz repair is going to stick; it's very rare to take a Mercedes-Benz out of your local auto body shop and come back a week later with the same problem.

The essential idea behind the Mercedes-Benz philosophy is this: if the car is properly cared for, it will work out to be cheaper in the long run. While Mercedes-Benz is rightly associated with luxury, its cars are also built to stay on the road for as long as you care to drive them.

So, don't put your safety at risk, and don't lose money in the long run by buying the wrong part. Use a certified Mercedes-Benz repair facility to keep it in top condition. Use the right auto body shop, and you'll be able to drive your Mercedes-Benz for years to come.

*This article was reprinted by permission by its author, Larry Emmons of Auto Collision Specialists. To learn more about his business and find other helpful articles, go to [www.acs.md.com](http://www.acs.md.com)*

# Hudson cars and coffee – May 9

by Ted Gottfried

At Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance in mid March near Jacksonville, Florida, on Saturday the day before the big show on Sunday, I attended with my son Philippe the inaugural MBCA Cars and Coffee Event. Basically a shine and show outing for any model, any year Mercedes SL. The event turned out to be fantastic. **Bill Warner** the event Chairman even invited some non SL cars to be a part of the MB field, much to the chagrin of some MB officers including past National President **Peter Lesler** who had the concept of an SL only type of showing. All cars had to be driven and not trailered in.

Well, lo and behold, in the middle of 50 some pretty nice SL's. here sat a 1957 Mercedes 220S

4-door sedan with the steering wheel on the wrong side, New Zealand license plates and towing a German made Zambezi two wheeled camping trailer. For me it was fascination at first sight. In more than 50 years of working with MB's starting with my own 190SL in Germany in the 1960's, I was thoroughly taken with the rig and the New Zealand couple on a five year trip around the world. We hit it off immediately and I invited them to come to Ohio to make a presentation to our club during our high season of June through September. Regrettably they told me they only had a one year visa to visit the USA expiring in August.



Elisabet sharing her adventures

Already they had covered more than 20,000 miles from California to Florida with lots more planned before going south through Mexico on the way to the tip of South America. What an adventure!!!!



Fred and Elisabeth traveling around the world in his 1957 220S

Any way about a month later **Fred** and **Elisabeth Smits** sent me an email that they planned to pass through Ohio in May and asked if May 8-9 would work for us to have a presentation that week-end. I brought it up to our board, was given the green light, and through friends in Hudson arranged for a Hudson Cars and Coffee. We held the event at the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church just around the corner from my home. My friends at the church offered a complete venue including coffee service, video equipment and all of the amenities free! We later have made a nominal contribution to the Church's General Fund.

The Smits arrived on schedule on Friday PM May 8th and we confirmed the video

equipment and venue was all set. At other stops in the

USA, they have usually gone to an MB dealer, but dealers in our area consider Saturday a prime sales day and were not warm to this type of event, on a Saturday.

On Saturday morning we had more than 30 interested Club members attend what was a truly different Club event. Fred and Elisabeth were extremely patient answering questions until well after 1 PM. For only \$5 for coffee and donuts the event was not a typical fund raiser, but definitely worthwhile. Some new members attended and some long term old timers were there too.

**Brett Hahn**, a club member who maintained the **Mike Viny** Collection of some three dozen MB's before Mike passed away and the Viny family broke up the collection, brought one of Mike's stunning 300 Convertibles from the 50's. Fred and Elisabeth obtained a copy of fuse locations from Brett and made copies for themselves. Many members told me they really got a lot out of the video presentation and were

Continued on page 7.

# The busiest summer yet!

Our Western Reserve Section calendar is rapidly filling up with both new events and old favorites too. By now, you should have received notices of the upcoming Spread Eagle Brunch and Ice Cream Social, and the Super Weekend which includes the Concours Judging School and the Old Car Fun Days. Visit [www.benzclub.org](http://www.benzclub.org) or contact **Sue Morrison** at [slm2teach@aol.com](mailto:slm2teach@aol.com) for the info on upcoming events.

These events are even more highlighted this year because the Spread Eagle Event is a MBCA Regional Event open to all members of our Great Lakes Region. **John Briggs**, our new Regional Director, will be in attendance.

**George Murphy**, our MBCA National Technical Director, will be traveling in from Tennessee to be the keynote speaker for our Old Car Fun Day. George also plans to attend our Concours Judging School.

One of the new events is a cruise-in at The Gervasi Vineyard in Canton on Wednesday, July 22nd. We will be the featured club and need a great selection of both newer and vintage Mercedes-Benz models to represent our section. The event is free to attend and there will be door prizes, a 50/50 raffle, live

music, and discount coupons to use at the vineyard restaurants. Space is somewhat limited, so RSVP with the year and model Mercedes-Benz you will be displaying to **Richard Self** at [selfrich@sssnet.com](mailto:selfrich@sssnet.com) or 330-837-0502 to confirm your attendance.

Later in the summer, we will return to the Huron Yacht Club for brunch and the Wooden Boat Show. We thank **Ron** and **Darlene Renzoni** for again hosting this event. The flyer will come later for this event, but mark your calendar for Aug. 15.

Our fall leaf tour will be on Oct. 3 and will conclude at the Mansfield Oktoberfest. **Dirk Schluter** of Mansfield Motor Group, has specifically invited the club to participate in this event held at Snow Trails in Mansfield and will include the typical Oktoberfest food, beverage and entertainment. This event will benefit Roemelton Therapeutic Equestrian Center. Watch for more information.

Up-to-date event information is available in our section emails, on our website, in The Crier, and on our Facebook page. Our calendar features a variety of events—we hope you find something that interests you as we enjoy our cars and the camaraderie that we have at these events.

## Join us on Facebook

The Western Reserve Section is on Facebook!

Please join our group on Facebook to stay up to date with everything happening in the Western Reserve Section. View the Crier, photos, post comments, and get reminders on upcoming events.

Simply go to our page Mercedes-Benz Club of America | Western Reserve Section and click LIKE and/or FOLLOW the Western Reserve Section..... It's easy, convenient, and it's FREE!



## Looking good

Now that summer is finally here, we often focus on how to keep our car looking clean and sharp for the cruising and show season. One of our most popular recent events was the detailing and car care seminar hosted by Nicko Koutavas, owner of DetailedXpress. Many of the tips Nicko presented have been compiled on our website for your review. Among the topics covered:

- A list of things to avoid—such as automatic car washes and California Dusters
  - Tips on proper car washing and glass cleaning techniques
  - Info on recommended products that work well with Mercedes-Benz paint and leather
  - Sources for detail supplies including one with special discounts available to WRS members
- Get all this information and more on our website at <http://benzclub.org/2015/06/detailing-tips-techniques/>

## Continued from page 5

truly impressed by the grit of this couple to actually realize their dreams.

On Sunday my wife **Brigitte** and our guests took a tour of the Cleveland area in their 1957 car with the steering wheel on the wrong side. We left the trailer in Hudson. The highlight of the outing was the Crawford Automobile Museum to give the 1959 220S Mercedes that former Cleveland MB member **Kevin Clemens** and his partner had driven around the world in 2001 a thorough inspection, and they took lots of photos. The docents were all dozing so we were behind the ropes collecting info and photos with absolutely no problem! Fred and Elisabeth know Kevin from past travels and will stay with him in Minnesota.

Fred and Elisabeth stayed in our home for five days and the time flew by too quickly. We hated to see

them leave and continue to stay in touch with weekly emails. I will be able to provide updates in future Crier articles. When they pass through Costa Rica my daughter who has lived there for 18 years will be able to provide good contact information.

And in a word a lot more happened during their 5 days in Hudson and I personally gained a lot from them in our late night



## Horse Country Motor Classic

**Members are invited—Sunday July 12th to the Horse Country Motor Classic!**  
**Sponsored by Leikin Mercedes-Benz of Willoughby**

You will enjoy the day with your special car parked on VIP display at the Metroparks Polo Field along with a private party at the \$50,000 Grand Prix Horse Show!

It all begins with registration and arrival from 9:00am to 10:30am with sports and vintage cars in on-field location, including your favorite 'ride' on view.

At noon it's the VIP Party and Awards Luncheon in the private tent at ringside tables – as we watch the \$50,000 Hunter Jumper Grand Prix unfold right before our eyes!

Tickets \$75 per person, includes:

- VIP on-field Car Show parking
- Breakfast Buffet
- Awards and Prizes Presentation
- VIP Lunch w/beer & wine
- Private Tent w/ringside seating
- All access to Horse Show Jumper Classic
- Tax deductible non-profit

(Patron and sponsor tables available)



Reserve your tickets now by calling: **Gina Pausch** at Western Reserve Land Conservancy 440-528-4178 or e-mail [ebacha@wrlandconservancy.org](mailto:ebacha@wrlandconservancy.org) or reserve tickets online at [www.horsecountrymotorclassic.com](http://www.horsecountrymotorclassic.com).

Event proceeds benefit land conservation, open countryside, and farm preservation in northern Ohio through Western Reserve Land Conservancy.

# Western Reserve Section

## CRIER

### Mercedes-Benz Club of America

7783 Diagonal Road  
Kent, Ohio 44240

## MBCA Schedule of Events

June 12-14	StarTech (National Event)	Cincinnati
June 28	Spread Eagle Brunch & Ice Cream Social	Hanoverton
July 1	Performance Driving School	Watkins Glen
July 7	Membership Meeting 7:00 p.m.	Brewster's, Twinsburg
July 11	Concours Judging School by Pete Lesler	Streetsboro
July 12	Old Car Fun Day	Guilford Lake
July 12	Horse Country Motor Classic	Metroparks Polo Field
July 18-19	Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Show & races	Schenley Park, Pittsburgh
July 21	Performance Driving School	Thompson, Connecticut
July 22	Cruise-In	Gervassi's Winery
July 25-26	St. Johns Concours	Michigan
August 4	Membership Meeting 7:00	Brewster's, Twinsburg
August 15	Huron Yacht Club	Huron, OH
August 19-22	Gemütlichkeit	Cranberry PA
Sept. 28-Oct. 3	Circle Lake Ontario Tour	Toronto, Canada
Oct. 3	Fall Leaf Tour and Oktoberfest	Mansfield OH

Our section's website will be updated as things change. [www.benzclub.org](http://www.benzclub.org) Please check it often. As mentioned before, we are hoping to do as much as possible electronically. You will learn upcoming events quicker by checking for updates and watching your inbox. We have several other events pending but haven't verified dates, yet. Continue to watch for mailings or email from the section.

**Check out the Western Reserve Section website at [benzclub.org](http://benzclub.org) for updates.**