



Message from President...

By Rod Thompson



As we move into the summer season, we replace our winter tech events with monthly driving tours and social gatherings. Our next event is a luncheon buffet and cruise of Cleveland's waterfront aboard the Nautica on Saturday, June 23rd. In July, we enjoy the Gervasi

Vineyard Cruise-In on Wednesday evening July 19th, and our annual Spread Eagle Tavern Luncheon and Ice Cream Social in Hanoverton on July 23rd. August 19 is the trip to the Huron Yacht Club. Please note the date change to coincide with the Wooden Boat Show.

These events are chosen and executed by our board members, many of whom have served our club for decades. They work very hard for us, and do a great job of keeping our Western Reserve Section one of the most active in our club. Nevertheless, new ideas and new faces are vital to maintaining a club's popularity and success, so I encourage members to attend any of our monthly board meetings, which include dinner. They occur the first Tuesday of each month at Brewster's in Twinsburg at 7:00 p.m. Our dinner meetings are not only event planning; we spend some of the time discussing our cars! The next is Tuesday, May 2nd. I hope to see you there!

Services at the National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio



Longtime MBCA member, Rudi Kamper, will be buried in a military service at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio on May 26, 2017 at 12:30 p.m. His wife, Joan, would like to see a line of Mercedes-Benz cars at the

cemetery for the service. Also invited to participate

are members of the antique car club. All Mercedes driver's attending should gather at the PIC building just inside the grounds of the cemetery by 12:05. A member of the cemetery staff will then lead us to the grave site for the service. Following the service, Joan has invited all friends to come to the Lion's Park in Seville and have a box lunch. The address for the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery is 10175 Rawiga Road, Rittman, Ohio 44270. If you wish to order a box lunch, please send \$5 a person by May 22.

Please send your check and count to Ted Gottfried, 35 S. Hayden Parkway, Hudson OH 44236-3429. Registration will also be on line, and you can use Paypal if you prefer.

Name: _____ No. of lunches x \$5 _____

Phone: _____

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National and Regional News....

by Frank Cozza



The spring national board meeting is via the web. If you wish to participate, contact the National Board Office for information. The meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 29.

Don't forget that the spring raffle is under way. Tickets are \$50 for a chance to win a 2017 Mercedes-AMG GT S. Last day to purchase tickets is June, 7, 2017 for the June 20, 2017 drawing. Visit www.raffle.mbca.org or call the NBO at 800-637-2360.

Mark your calendar for StarFest 2018 scheduled for May 15-21, 2018. This premiere national event will be hosted by the Alabama Section. Many exciting venues are planned with activities that will excite everyone. Plan to join the fun. Additional information is available on the national website and in the STAR.

Membership Update

Welcome New Members

March 22 – April 23, 2017

Karen Jasien

Welcome Renewals

Edward Mehler

Andres Serrano

Stephen Baumgarten

Earl Lauridsen

Memorial Service



The Memorial Service honoring former board member, **Lucy Gesell** will be held on Saturday May 13, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. The service will be at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 147 West Forest Street, Clyde Ohio 43410. Following the service, the ladies of the church will be providing a lunch. Lucy and her husband **Fred Gesell** have been very active members of the Western Reserve Section and have participated in many local, regional and national MBCA events.

Mercedes-Benz Restoration Clinic

CAPALDI ENTERPRISES INC.,
WILLOUGHBY, OHIO
SATURDAY MARCH 25, 2017

By Ted Gottfried

On Saturday afternoon March 25, 2017, 44 MBCA Western Reserve club members met at the automobile restoration shops of Jim Capaldi and Ken Cerri for an up close look at the restoration process with special emphasis on the necessary research prior to beginning the restoration.

Going back more than 50 years, beginning with a simple Volkswagen, Jim Capaldi has been involved in bringing automobiles back to life. Initially records were kept in manual form in filing cabinets. Today Jim has four digital cameras throughout his shop to record work in process. For nearly 20 years restoration records have been digitalized and are stored on memory sticks with a computer. Jim's presentation began by projecting restoration histories of automobiles restored by his shop chronologically from his inventory on the computer. Projected on a large screen the various restoration processes were very clear.

Both European and American cars are included in the portfolio. Of interest to Mercedes-Benz owners was the restoration of a local Chagrin Falls owner's 1963 300SL Roadster. This bright red car was restored completely over about a two year period. Two years is about the typical time frame for a complete restoration. A partial restoration can be much shorter, for example one was completed in only seven months.

Essentially all work is done in-house except for chrome plating and upholstery. Chrome plating is an extremely specialized process that must meet OSHA environmental standards for handling the materials involved in plating. Upholstery is left up to the owner of the vehicle to select his preferred upholstery shop and install the kind of materials that have been selected. These materials cover a broad spectrum of fabrics and leathers. Hence, owner's choice is the best choice for Capaldi Enterprises.

Some outside specialized processes are also utilized according to need. For replacement, wheel covers are spun over a wood form on a lathe if these covers

are no longer available or the used ones are not salvageable. Spinning is accomplished at an outside vendor.

In another example, dash board knobs for a vintage Jordan automobile were reproduced in ceramic by a shop specializing in ceramics. However, Capaldi's were able to replicate replacement fenders by utilizing urethane foam, fiberglass cloth and resin to create fiberglass fenders. Then wooden forms were created from these fiberglass fenders. These wooden forms were then used to fabricate steel fenders. The resulting steel fenders gave the finished restoration a very original look. No limit to ingenuity.

Minimal powder coating has been accomplished over the years by utilizing a conventional household oven and over-riding the cleaning cycle to provide the high heat required. Again, no substitute for good old American ingenuity.

Historically, many vintage cars were painted with lacquer. But today at Capaldi's most cars are painted with the German Spies Hecker base coat, clear coat system. Capaldi purchases their paint from an outside supplier instead of mixing it in-house. Glasurit or Hecker is used by Mercedes for their automobiles today. You can check the serial plate of an older Mercedes and the three digit paint code will be followed by an "H" or "G" respectively.

Jim showed us that when a vehicle is in the paint booth, the masking tape paper covers are actually taped to the floor to prevent over-spray from getting into the fender wells and onto the under carriage. Extremely clever idea.

At any one time Capaldi has about five, six, or seven automobiles undergoing restoration. Because cars restored by Capaldi's have been award winners at numerous automobile Concours events throughout the country including the gold standard Pebble Beach Concours in California, direct advertising is not actually required. Word of mouth throughout ownership circles is sufficient. Here locally of course Capaldi's is very well known.

Capaldi's has worked with Matt Harwood, our January host at Harwood Motors, the past two years, in bringing certain aspects of Harwood's inventory

M-B Clinic Cont...

up to standard. This could include a valuable vintage automobile as well as a 1951 Ford two door sedan valuable for its provenance and history.

John Wolf Incorporated is located in the same building with Capaldi's. In fact Jim Capaldi's son Butch has worked with John for many years. John has an instrumentation restoration shop that virtually has no equal. John has a repair backlog stretching back many months for speedometers, tachometers, gauges, for autos, planes, and boats. Especially interesting is John's ability to reproduce instrument faces better than original. His work involves both art and engineering. On a personal level John has been doing work for me since I came back to the States in 1985. We have developed a great friendship as a result. John was not able to attend our event but examples of his workmanship were on display.

Current restorations presented to our group included a 1930s French Delahaye with an ash wood frame and a Pennock steel body from the Netherlands. We also saw a 1932 Lincoln with an aluminum Dietrich body. Needless to say restorations of this order require considerable research before the tool boxes are opened.

The only Mercedes-Benz in Capaldi's shop today is a 1955 300b four door convertible that is totally original including the huge black Happich fabric soft top. I serviced this fabulous car in the 1980's and 1990's and still today it has very low mileage. It still has its original off white paint patina, red leather upholstery, full luggage set, and all of the chrome is essentially faultless. As it stands today this is a number 3 or 4 rated car on a scale of 5 being perfect. Considerable investment would be required to increase this car to a 5 level and it is doubtful if the incremental monies spent would be worthwhile. A truly interesting dilemma. This car is at a crossroads. The current asking price is \$125,000 and there is more than one investor interested.

Again, many many thanks to Jim Capaldi and his wife Kathy for hosting our Mercedes club group for this event. We appreciate their hospitality immensely.

Kentucky Driving Event

Board Secretary, Allan Pintner, is planning an exciting trip to Kentucky in October. This is a brief overview of his plans to date. More information will be coming, but we wanted our members to put it on their calendars. If you have questions, Allan can be reached at 1.216.548.9077 or by email at apintner@mhmltd.com. Information will also be on the club website:

Friday, October 13, 2017, 4 PM Opening Event at Bernie Moreno Mercedes-Benz of Fort Mitchell, KY
Overnight in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky

Saturday, October 14, 2017, drive from
Fort Mitchell to Louisville
Tour Churchill Downs and Kentucky Derby Museum
Lunch at the Derby Cafe (on own)
Drive to Louisville Slugger Museum/Factory
Tour Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory
Dinner as a group in Louisville
(working on an Historic Downtown Hotel)
Overnight in Louisville

Sunday, October 15, 2017, drive from
Louisville to Clermont
Brunch (on own)
12 Noon tour at Jim Beam American Stillhouse
Drive from Clermont to Loretto
Tour Maker's Mark
Drive from Loretto to Elizabeth Town
Dinner on your own
Overnight in Elizabeth Town area

Monday, October 16th drive from
Elizabeth Town to Mammoth Cave, KY
Participate in Frozen Niagara Tour
Drive from Mammoth Cave to Bowling Green, KY
Tour National Corvette Museum
Final dinner as a group in Bowling Green KY
Overnight in Bowling Green

Tuesday, October 17, 2017
All Items Optional; Details will be provided
Tour Corvette Plant
List of Distilleries headed back to Louisville Area
List of Interesting items in
Northern Kentucky/Cincinnati area
List of interesting items along I 65 North of Louisville

MBCA | Western Reserve Section



Nautica Queen Luncheon Cruise Saturday, June 10th 10:00-1:00

Start your summer with a luncheon cruise on the Nautica Queen (1153 Main St., Cleveland 44113) on Saturday, June 10 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This is next to the First Energy Powerhouse on the west bank of The Flats. Parking is available adjacent to the Nautica for \$6.

Boarding takes place 10:00-10:30—you'll receive your tickets as you board. The luncheon includes salads, ham, beef, chicken, fish, pasta, potatoes, veggies, rolls and butter, desserts, tea and coffee.

The cost for the cruise and the luncheon is \$30 per person (\$16 for children 11 and under). This event can be open to friends, grandkids, etc. No guarantee that more space will be available at the last minute

If you want to spend the day downtown after the cruise, you can take in the Cleveland Aquarium right next door. There is also one last Trolley tour at 2 pm—you might want to purchase tickets before the cruise so you aren't disappointed. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is only a couple of miles away. Or catch the Indians vs White Sox under the lights. There is a lot to do to have a fun Saturday in Cleveland!!

Registrations must be received by Monday, June 5th!!

Questions?? Contact our host, Kieran Mulhausen at (440) 899-1570 or kieranann@aol.com

Name: _____ Phone _____

Email: _____

_____ # Adults x \$ 30 = \$ _____

_____ # Children (11 and under) x \$ 16 = \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Please enclose a check made out to *MBCA, Western Reserve*, and send to:

Kieran Mulhausen 28925 Fall River, Westlake, OH 44145 or register online at www.benzclub.org



Western Reserve Section

CRIER

Mercedes-Benz Club of America

7783 Diagonal Road

Kent, Ohio 44240

MBCA Schedule of Events

May 2	Membership Meeting, 7:00	Brewster's Twinsburg
June 6	Membership Meeting, 7:00	Brewster's Twinsburg
June 10	Nautica Queen Lunch & Cruise	Kieran Mulhausen
June 18	Stan Hywet Father's Day Car Show	Akron OH
June 23, 24	Defensive Driving & Autocross	Cincinnati Section
July 11	Membership Meeting, 7:00	Brewster's Twinsburg
July 19	Gervasi Cruise-In, N. Canton	Richard Self
July 23	Spread Eagle Brunch & Ice Cream Social	Frank & Mary Alice Cozza
Aug. 2	Membership Meeting, 7:00	Brewster's Twinsburg
Aug. 19	Huron Yacht Club	Ron Renzoni

Our section's website will be updated as things change. 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.