



## MBCA | Western Reserve Section

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA

# Crier

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## Fall leaf tour & Oktoberfest in Mansfield!

By Ted Gottfried

On Saturday, October 3, 2015, the club's annual fall leaf tour was combined with Oktoberfest at Snow Trails Winter Resort outside Mansfield. This Oktoberfest is a fundraiser to benefit Raemelton Therapeutic Equestrian Center. **Dirk Schluter**, President of Mansfield Motor Group, and his wife Tammie were our hosts. Last year the event was held two weeks later, and the weather was cold and rainy. Guess what? This year the weather was cold and rainy. The planned German Car Show was cancelled, and all activities were moved indoors.

About 20 members of the Western Reserve Mercedes Benz Club of America met shortly after 9:00 a.m. in Peninsula at Fisher's Café for coffee and some excellent hand made muffins. President Elect **Rod Thompson** led a caravan for more than two hours of about a dozen fine Mercedes cars in his award winning 1969 280SL. **Morgan Taft** with his equally fine 1971 280 111 Coupe and **Ted Gottfried** in his European 1975 280SL brought up the rear. **Ron White**, newly elected club secretary, had his 1988 560SL Signal Red convertible all prepped for the car show, but, alas, Ron had to settle into another role as club photographer, taking numerous photos of club members and various activities indoors.

New member, **Roger Loewenheim**, in his brand new 2014 CLK, recently retired to Mansfield, joined our group at Snow Trails, changing his membership from Columbus to Western Reserve noting the busy

schedule of activities in our section. We look forward to having Roger participate in our future events.

The Jager girls were pretty and the Liederkrantz/German Dancers provided good German entertainment. Authentic German foods included

schnitzel, bratwurst, sausages, pretzels, sauerkraut, potato salads, cream puffs and many German desserts. Of course, nearly 100 foreign and domestic beers and wines contributed heavily to the Old World Style German atmosphere. Dirk Schluter was properly dressed in genuine German leather pants

which came from Germany. After the meal, many of our group started drifting off towards home because The Ohio State University football game started at 4:00 p.m. Again, the weather was lousy, but the friendship was great, and hopefully next year we will have better cooperation from the weather. Many thanks to one and all who attended this event.



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# National and Regional News....

by Frank Cozza



## MBCA's 2015 Fall Raffle Tickets Are Selling Fast!

[Purchase Tickets](#)

Time is passing quickly, we are not that far away from reaching the required ticket sales to give away the prized car with European Delivery! Don't miss your chance to win a 2016 Mercedes-Benz GLC300 4MATIC.

Only 1,019 tickets to go!

Tickets are \$50 each and there is no limit to the number of tickets you can purchase. Hurry, time is running out. The last day to purchase your tickets is **December 1st, 2015.**

This raffle is open to MBCA members only. Visit [raffle.mbca.org](http://raffle.mbca.org) for more information and to read the rules and regulations.

Frank Cozza (National Director-at-Large) and Mary Alice Cozza attended the National Board Meeting in Boston. New national officers elected at that meeting are:

President-Terry Kiwala (Western Reserve Section)

Vice President-Steve Ross (San Diego Section)

Secretary-Cliff Reyle (Memphis Section)

Treasurer-William Hopper (Greater Washington Section)

## Members Sept. 11 – Nov. 13, 2015

### New Members

Edward Morze

Gordon Anhold

Kevin McAlear

Liu Yizhou

### Renewals – Glad you're back!

Joe Wehrheim

Karen Carson

Raymond Hensel

Ralph Johnson

Richard Bird

Stanley Klein

Christopher Arn

Tim Ryan

Robert Erickson

Warren Ledsky

Kenneth Coyne

Robert Henkin

Rodd Masteller

Lewis Sawitzke

James Bergstrom

R. Black

James Tullis

Jerry Vanaskey

Michael Litten

Eric Butler

Robert Eckley

Anneliese Nefos

Errol Bellon

Drew Schneider

Terry Hughes

Joyce Jyurovat

# President's Message – Rod Thompson



As the new president of our Western Reserve Section, I intend to maintain the unique strengths that our club has enjoyed over many years. I have inherited a club with healthy financial reserves, more than 200 active members, an experienced

and enthusiastic team of board members and club officers, and a history of sponsoring complex regional and national Mercedes events that attract participants from outside our region. Jim Tullis left me with an outstanding organization and great relationships with our local Mercedes dealers that are the envy of other car clubs in northeastern Ohio.

The members of our club expect me to pursue monthly activities that encourage comradery and social interaction while offering a diverse scope of interests including technical sessions for members

interested in the maintenance and restoration of their cars, cultural tours of historic venues, driving tours with meals of quality and destinations of popular interest, and driving events that teach us to drive our cars safely under extreme circumstances. For 2016 we have already scheduled ten outings including a tour of a car collection and presentation by the collector, a wine tasting, a pig roast, the Cleveland Auto Show, the Spread Eagle Tavern, the Aviation Museum in Dayton, the Old Car Fun Day, a Fall Leaf Tour and Oktoberfest party, and a museum tour in University Circle.

Our club relies on our members to suggest new activities. If you or your family enjoys a venue or activity, chances are good that many of our members will enjoy it as well. So please let us know about it! I look forward to seeing many of you at our first event of the year, our Holiday Party on January 16th at Tangier in Akron.

## Harwood Motors Open House

Tech specialist, Ted Gottfried, has made arrangements for an Open House at Harwood Motors in Macedonia on January 24, 2016 from 1:00-4:00 by preregistration. Information will come out next month, but we wanted to give you a chance to put it on your calendar. The snow date will be Jan. 31. Many wonderful things are planned so hope to see everyone there.

## Annual Western Reserve Holiday Party



The annual Western Reserve Section Holiday Party will be held in the Cabaret Room of The Tangier in Akron on Saturday, January 16, 2016. Please add us to your calendar and watch for the invitation which will arrive mid-late December. We hope you'll join us for this wonderful evening of friendship, entertainment, good food and awards. Membership anniversary pins are given to those in increments of 5 years. We look forward to seeing you!

# Winter storage tips for your Mercedes

Ted Gottfried

If your **battery** is more than five years old, plan on replacing it in the spring.

Older car: Disconnect negative cable

Newer car: Connect trickle charger to large main battery, usually found in the trunk.

Secondary battery under the hood is in series and one charger for entire car is sufficient.

**Tires:** Inflate to 40 PSI unless car is suspended with no load on tires.

**Motor Oil and filter:** Change in the fall. No feel good additives are required.

**Plastic Ground sheet:** Place under car if garage is unheated. This creates a moisture barrier for the spring thaw and keeps your garage floor beautiful.

**Air Intake/Exhaust outlet:** Cover with aluminum foil held by rubber bands to keep mice and varmints out of your engine.

**Gasoline:** Fill tank to maximum and only Stabil and Techron to tank; no other additives are M-B approved.

**Passenger compartment:** Open a box of baking soda to absorb moisture and odors. Bounce brand dryer sheets: (no other brands are as effective). Scatter in the engine compartment to deter mice from gnawing on wiring harnesses.

**Victor brand 60 degree angle mouse traps:**

Place one trap next to each tire baited with peanut butter. Monitor traps weekly. I have stored my cars in some very fancy, expensive garages, and I have never failed to catch mice!!!



**Dream about fun next spring when the weather breaks.**

## Keeping your garage floor clean!

Ted Gottfried

After many years of painting my garage floor with epoxy paint which only lasted a few years, I decided to tile the floor this with Vinyl Interlocking Floor tiles.

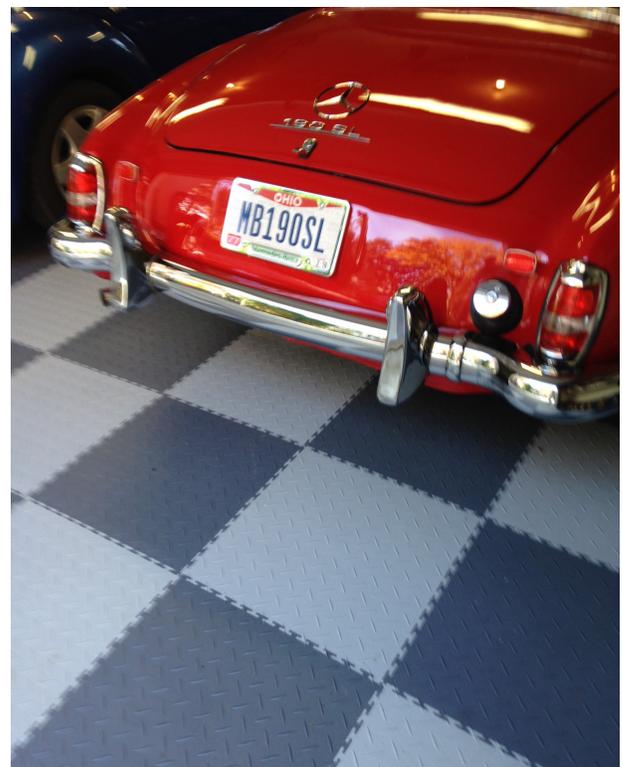
Not cheap, \$2200 for 500 square feet, these tile are guaranteed for 25 years and are resistant to all automobile fluids and paint and lacquer thinner.

So far so good. However on the light colored tiles hot tires will leave an oil stain. I corrected this by installing only dark tiles where the cars are parked.

The diamond plate pattern is very comfortable under foot.

No adhesive is required and the locking system on the twenty inch square tiles is very tight.

I look forward to never painting my garage floor again.



# Winning a ride in the E-400 Coupe

Kurt von Leyser

August 15th my traveling companion, **Joy Comey**, invited me to the Western Reserve outing to the Huron Yacht Club outing to see the wooden boats. We were to meet at the Mercedes-Benz North Olmsted, then be on our way. Being a wonderful, nearly cloudless morning, I needed an SL fix. The V-12 is an addictive machine, and it was calling me as some exotic drug from a land far, far away.

Upon arriving at Mercedes of North Olmsted, we had the continental breakfast start of coffee, donuts or muffins, and a quick raffle of a car for the day. Our host dealer offered us the use of a 2015 CLA and an E-400 Coupe. After a pair of ticket draws and a coin toss, Joy won the E Coupe. I'm just her driver. She handed me the key, and told me to get the car ready, we were going to the Yacht Club. The SL wasn't going along...big disappointment.

My first impression was it looked like my S-550 in miniature only missing a couple of doors. Nice lines, an all glass top, well proportioned, ready to play. Being a sunny day, I held the unlock button a few seconds and the sun roof opened, and all the windows went down, just like the Big S. Hopped in, started the car and it was in economy settings. The AC defaults to ECO mode, and the operating mode was in the E mode as opposed to Sport or Manual where you can play with the paddle shifters. Cold air comes out of the vents hard, and by the time I got the destination entered, sunroof buttoned up, and the windows up the fans were already slowing to quiet mode. For anyone with COMMAND Experience, the destination was a bit different than the older S-550. From the map page you press down, not the back button to make destination entries. The map was the receding distance type not the satellite view I like, but it was not my car. Maybe I won't be upset driving something else. It just might prove to be fun.

By now the car is quite cool and Joy arrives (my passenger- the other joy was earlier), and we are off. The first thing she noticed is the car hands you your seat belt. After it is locked around you the arm retracts out of the way and you are securely fastened in. The car has a unique system built into the headrests called NECK-PRO—a whiplash prevention system in case you are being followed by one of those pesky beamers, (According to Advanta-

STAR®, they got smaller brakes) and they might bump you from behind if the car needs to suddenly stop real quick. Oh and another thing, the AC chills the back seats where the BMW sixer's only get heat. After coming from an S-550 the rears are a bit smaller, but still larger than say a Lexus RC350. Advanta-STAR® also says it's a full 5 more inches than the Jaguar XK!

The drive to the Huron Yacht club showed some nice attributes. The only problem I experienced was the constant increasing or decreasing of the cruise control speed when changing lanes. They moved the two stalks; the little one is now on the bottom--hard to get used to, but I was only driving it for a day. The one thing about this E-class is the new safety monitors. With collision protection, lane monitoring, Surround View, and the inattentive alert, Mercedes-Benz has made it a new beast entirely. I think Mercedes-Benz wants you to avoid

accidents so you can come back and buy a new car with a great trade in, not an insurance settlement with your car in the crusher.

I experienced the lane departure warning because of the temporary construction cones

everywhere. They squash the lanes down so you need to run on the berm. I noticed that just as you put the outside edge of the tire on the line, solid or dashed, you feel little bumps in the wheel. These are much like a series of cat's eyes under the tire to inform you of the edge. The pulses are the same speed whether you are traveling faster or slower as traffic permits. On the interstates where they erase the lines this does not happen, unless you are actually looking to run too close to the line. I made no effort to try the Collision Prevention Assist, just not that brave.

We arrived at the Huron Yacht Club, after a drive in Economy mode, checked the mileage, and reset it after noting I got about 30 mpg on a turbo 6. Then I noticed another button I missed--the trunk opener. Yep, you have to push something outside the car to get in the trunk, the key or the release, and it's a manual close, bummer. But it is a big trunk 13.3 cu ft., and the ability to fold the rear seat makes it absolutely huge, and Advanta-STAR® says the Q60 will fold only half a seat, the BMW 6 series is

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# Metris one of the newest Mercedes – Benz

Eric G Goodrich

Metris the new 2016 Mercedes-Benz midsize van. Mercedes-Benz has come up with a midsize cargo van that a small business can afford to have and still have all the safety features and all the amenities of some of the cars on the road. Starting at \$28,950 Mercedes-Benz has the midsize van Metris available as a Cargo or Passenger Van. The Metris has large capabilities in a small footprint that delivers in crowded streets, commercial garages and virtually any jobsite.

The Metris carries your company forward with standards and optional safety innovations that protect you and your business mile after mile. Plus in a high-efficiency gasoline engine with an optional ECG start/stop, 7G tronic transmission, service intervals of up to 15,000 miles and Mercedes-Benz durability help lower your total cost to ownership. When you're ready to grow larger, think smaller.

Discover why the Metris Van is the right size for your business

You need a van that adapts to your business yet is tough enough to outwork your competition every day. Meet the Metris and size up a wise choice. Mercedes-Benz, the name that revolutionized the commercial van market with the business- building Sprinter, introduces a mid-size van that thinks big. Whether you select the Cargo or Passenger Van model, the Metris features car-like ride and handling that's an extraordinary fit for a range of business, including delivery, maintenance, mobile workshops, taxis, shuttles and many others.

Take advantage of every opportunity with the Metris

Even with its high payload and ample cargo volume, the new Metris features a small footprint that also offers the comfort, room and maneuverability you need- without compromising anywhere.

The Metris includes innovations standard and available safety features to protect both you and your

business. Plus custom options let you add comfort and functionality perfectly suited to your business. Built for the long haul, your Metris reduces your total cost of ownership, thanks to economical operating costs and renowned Mercedes-Benz quality. Do business with the Metris - the smart way to work.

The Metris can be very helpful to churches small businesses that need to take executives to the jobsite and back again. Sliding doors on drivers and passenger sides make it very easy to enter and exit. Moving cargo around is easy with your opening space letting you rearrange any items that you want to carry.



Mercedes-Benz Cargo Van, 4960 pound towing capacity, 186 foot cargo volume, 2502 pound maximum payload, 111.5 cargo length through loading partitions, 37.8 inch sliding doors opening with standard wood floor.

Some of the things I wish to add that are not in a brochure is that I've driven this vehicle, and as a small business owner I find this

vehicle to be ideal for my hauling of estate items. I base this on the option having rear doors that open up 270° which you can back it to any dock and load from that dock. Also having the ability to have sliding doors on both sides gives you ample room for a person to maneuver cargo and for easy loading from ground level. After driving this vehicle couldn't believe the cornering was so easy to handle like I was driving a midsize sedan or any E350. The turning radius was 38.7'. The starting price \$28,950 fits my budget very well and I will find that this vehicle will work and save me money as now I can take on more clients. Mercedes-Benz in my mind has given the small business owner a chance to compete in the large-scale world because now I have the opportunity and the vehicle to move my company forward. Not all standard and optional equipment is listed. You need to visit your local Mercedes-Benz dealer for more information.

# Circle Lake Ontario Tour

On September 26, about 27 people arrived at the Delta East in Toronto for the beginning of a week of fun activities while circling Lake Ontario. The kick-off dinner was held that evening at the Canadian Tire Motorsports Park east of Toronto. Early arrivers could view cars on the racetrack from the dining room. Host **Ron Harshman** welcomed the travelers and presented each with a fleece jacket and reviewed the book of maps and venues which had been mailed to the participants.

The next day, participants had a choice of touring the Canadian Auto Museum and the National Air Force Museum of Canada as they proceeded to Waring House in Picton, Ontario. There we had an opportunity to stroll through their lovely gardens surrounding the buildings. Rooms all had patios or decks which were used to enjoy the countryside and to watch the eclipse that night. Many participated in the cooking school while others enjoyed each other's company in the dining room or on the porches. What a fun evening of mixing and getting to know our travel companions! **Joanne Hovanic** and **Paul Bailey** got to know fellow Western Reserve Section members, **Stuart** and **Roberta Sears** that evening, and a friendship was formed. From the Waring House, the tour proceeded to Old Montreal in Quebec where the host hotel was the Auberge Bonaparte. Many gathered in the dining room that evening



In front of Canadian Auto Museum are: Joanne Hovanic, Paul Bailey, Dennis, Jean Melby, & Sue, John Morrison

while others sought out other nearby attractions. That afternoon or the next morning, many toured the Notre-Dame Basilica, a stone church built between 1672 and 1683. This church was too small so the existing church was approved in 1823 for construction which took place from 1824-1829. What an amazing building and facilities!

Next stop was the beautiful ski resort in Mont Tremblant and nearby village of shops, restaurants and apartments. From there, the group moved on to Gananoque on a little bay of the St. Lawrence Seaway amidst the Thousand Islands. A 5 hour boat ride through the Thousand Islands area included 2 hours on an island which gave time for the tour of Boldt Castle,

a 120 room vacation home built by George Boldt, proprietor of the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City. The last evening was spent in Rochester NY with the final banquet at the hotel. Nearby was the George Eastman house and the Rochester Auto Museum.

This was the last of the Great Lake Tours hosted by Ron Harshman, but he is beginning to think of a tour that he can host in two years. Stay tuned. The Western Reserve section sponsored this tour and had 6 members and 2 guests as part of the participants.

## Winning a ride in the E-400 Coupe

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still smaller (13.0) where the E-Class is 7.8 inches shorter (making it easier to park) and BMW has no seat folding capacity.

After arrival and tour of the Yacht Basin, I spied a car show. Among the cars in exhibition: an old Packard Super 8, a pickup stating "I hope your ship comes in before your dock rots", and a bunch of low-riders. The restaurant served dinner, and the return started. I put the E-Coupe in Sport mode.

Using a slightly different route back we discovered the mileage was about the same in both directions, the car felt quicker, more like the old CLK 500 than a six. I turned in the E-Class Coupe to the dealer and came to this conclusion: I found three things with the car that were not going to help in my decision, and a whole bunch of things

in it that I love about my S-550. Obviously they both have the same DNA, and after seeing the Packard, I can conclude this is a great grandchild of the 500K, with almost as many goodies as a new S-600 Maybach. Take that Hyundai.

About the third thing, I like the preowned cars. Advanta-STAR® says in comparison to most cars in or near its class, the E-coupe holds resale value better than a BMW and was recommended by Consumer's Reports. However Advanta-STAR® also said the overall ownership cost, well, I will probably make up the difference if I own it for five years.

Mercedes of North Olmstead, Thanks for the ride. This is a fun car and practical too.

# Western Reserve Section

## CRIER

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## MBCA Schedule of Events

Dec.	No membership meeting	
Jan. 5	Membership Meeting, 7:00	Brewster's Twinsburg
Jan. 16	Holiday Party	Tangier's, Akron
Jan. 24	Open House, Harwood Motors	Macedonia, OH
Feb. 2	Membership Meeting, 7:00	Brewster's Twinsburg

The board is working on the list of events for 2016 and hopes to include it in the invitation for the holiday party. In the meantime, this list will get you started on our busy year.

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.

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