



MBCA | Western Reserve Section

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA

Crier

Volume 17 Issue 3

September, 2017

Spread Eagle Brunch and Ice Cream Social

On July 23, a large crowd gathered for the ever-popular Spread Eagle Brunch and Ice Cream Social. After a presentation by **Dave Johnson** about the history of the Spread Eagle Tavern in Hanoverton, the group moved inside to enjoy a good meal. There was time to look around the Inn for those who had not been there before.

The group then caravanned to the home of **Frank and Mary Alice Cozza** for the ice cream social, boat rides, and awards. Central Ohio Section was well represented



by their President **John Van Ladingham**, Vice-President **Bernadette Pavlick**, and members **Joe Alexander**, **Jacob Stout**, **Kent Mc Donald**, and **Suzy Peabody**. They presented Cozzas with a Collection of Mercedes-Benz Art by Walter Gotschke thanking them for the support they

continue to show for the Central Ohio Section. Cozzas also received a wall hanging with the Spread Eagle mug on it celebrating 25 years of hosting this well-loved event.

Jim and Barb Tullis, **Don and Carol Velcio**, and **Joy Comey** received anniversary pins for 10 years of membership.



Thank you to Fred Martin Mercedes-Benz for their generous support of this event.



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National and Regional News....

by **Frank Cozza**



The National Board Office is hoping to train more defensive driving instructors throughout the country making the events more accessible/ If you would be interested in helping with this, contact either the National Board Office or **Frank Cozza** for more information.

Now is the time to nominate Members of the Year for our section to be submitted soon to the National Board Office. If you have a suggestion, send it to our President, **Rod Thompson**.

Starfest 2018 will be held in Alabama May 14-18, 2018. There will be the usual track events, concours and a rallye on scenic roads. Also included are tours of the MBUSA factory, an Autobahn experience at Talladega, a welcome reception at Barber Museum and other banquets. For more information, check the national web site at mbca.org or the STAR magazine.

Membership Update

Welcome New Members

April 23 – August 30, 2017

Lawrence Gray
John Michels IV
Darby Buehler

Joseph Novak
Dante Cornacchione
Mark Sipos

Welcome Renewals

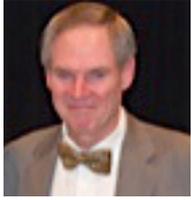
Terry Donley
William Moore
Cynthia Smith
Greg Canrtell
Stanley Kolenda
Aldolphus Harris
Roger Skrocki
Norman Foraker
Catherine Bellante
Richard Harrington
Jon Elsasser
Richard Buys
Tommy & Tom LaPolla
Ronald White
David Wade
Ronald Armenti
Robert Starr

Nicholas Wanchik
Lin Baker
Robert Urbancic
Rudlof Kamper
Mark Elisco
Joseph Novak
Nans Proemm
John De Matteo
Scott Schulick
Donald Jordan
Anthony Mikolich
Elaine DeMore
Howard Johnson
Kevin Goodman
Arthur Pickering
John Burns
Robert Vadas

Paul Bailey
Conner Sehliffkea

Message from President...

By Rod Thompson



Now that our busy summer is behind us, I would like to highlight our fall events. On Sunday, September 17th our club will throw a car show and clambake luncheon at the DTJ Taborville compound in Auburn

Township. Our board member and board secretary, Allan Pintner will be our host and we have also invited members of the Jaguar Club of Cleveland to join us. In October we have planned a four day fall driving tour in Kentucky from Friday October 13th through Tuesday October 17th. Our "Kentucky

Driving Adventure" will include tours of the National Corvette Museum, Kentucky Derby Museum, Louisville Slugger Museum, two bourbon distilleries, and Mammoth Cave National Park, and dinner parties in Fort Mitchell, Louisville, and Bowling Green. We have invited MBCA members from neighboring regions to join us including Columbus, Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, and Louisville.

I hope many of you can join us for one of these fall events, and I look forward to seeing most of you at our annual Holiday Party at The Lockkeepers Inn in Valley View, Ohio on January 6th.

If you don't blow your own horn, who will? Or perhaps who would want to?

By Ted Gottfried

I got up at 4 AM on a clear Saturday morning, July 15, 2027, had breakfast, and left at 5:00 AM for the 120 mile trip down I-71 in the dark. 120 minutes later I was on the show field in Dublin Ohio, outside Columbus with my 1958 190SL that took me more than 10 years to restore myself with lots and lots of help (and money too!).

Central Ohio Mercedes Club members **Bernadette** and **John** were already hard at work setting up the Mercedes tent and positioning arriving cars on the show field allocated to our club. Close to toilettes and food vendors with plenty of huge shade trees we had a good location. Bernadette instructed me to set up right next to the entrance to our show field. Excellent location.

About 10AM **Joe Alexander** asked me to serve as one of the Mercedes judges given my long service in the club and the fact that I have been a Judge going back to the 1980's including 1988 where I judged under carriages for all Mercedes show cars at the first National Star Fest held at Evans Farm in a suburb of Washington DC. **George Murphy** was my partner and we became lifelong friends as a result. **George** judged engines.

We judged from 11AM until 2PM some 75 or more Mercedes show cars. My assignment was exteriors. At the same time **Frank** and **Mary Alice Cozza**, fellow Western Reserve Section members were judging interiors. The whole venue was held in a very beautiful setting around an oval ring road that includes numerous hotels in Dublin.

A total of 1253 cars were registered for the event and more than \$400,000 was raised for the Arthritis Foundation. On Saturday night the Mercedes Club organized a dinner for all participants.

However by 3:30 I had enough and I got in my little car and headed back up hill to Hudson. By 6PM I was home. Again 140 miles in 150 minutes. The same time on the road as in the morning. However to be completely honest I was really tired. Nearly 300 miles, 14 hours, lots of three lane traffic on I-71 with 18 wheelers throwing up gravel at 75 miles an hour. All that really took its toll on a 77 year old.

PS. Several days later I received a UPS package from the Central Ohio Mercedes Section. Inside was a large trophy indicating that I had been awarded first place out of all the Mercedes in the show. What a pleasant surprise. Sort of made the trip down and back all worthwhile.

Old Car Fun Day in Hunting Valley

On Saturday, August 12th 30 club members attended our "Old Car Fun Day" luncheon and tech session at the home of **Rod Thompson** in Hunting Valley. The lovely weather provided a perfect setting for enjoying our cars and patio dining with pulled pork sandwiches and cool refreshments. Members were provided with expert presentations on paint refinishing and metal work restoration.

Gene Blackford, owner of The Red Lacquer Room in Cuyahoga Falls brought his pickup truck loaded with tools to demonstrate different techniques for working with metal. He showed us some extremely wide inner fenders he is fabricating for the rear wheel wells of a 1000 horsepower Corvette dragster. They are being formed from 18 gauge sheet aluminum. Numerous compound curves are shaped into these inner fenders. The process is quite involved and requires the eye of an artist as well as the skill of an engineer. At almost 80 years old with many decades of experience, Gene has both the eye and the skill.

Gene examined member **Morgan Taft's** rare 1971 280SE 3.5 Coupe and explained the repair techniques he would use to repair rust and dents around the wheel wells and rocker panels. As a rule of thumb, restoring the original factory metal should always be given priority over any replacement metal. Heat can weaken metal if not used properly. In about two months Gene will be able to accept Morgan's car for the needed repairs. The car is too valuable to not have this work done correctly.

Nicko Koutavas, owner of DetailXpress, a very successful full service detailing facility in Twinsburg, provided our members with a detailed overview

of various paint restoration refinishing techniques. Nicko is one of our club's sponsors and has hosted our members to winter tech sessions and summer social parties at his local facility.

Nicko is in his early 30's yet is considered one of the most knowledgeable experts in paint restoration and automobile detailing worldwide. Apart from his technical expertise, Nicko is an extremely hard worker who sometimes ends up sleeping on a cot in his shop after finishing a hard project to meet a promised time schedule. His reputation has become widespread and currently more than 90% of his business is outside the state of Ohio. Nicko is quite famous for his work detailing President Eisenhower's plane, Air Force One, which is housed in a museum in Seattle, Washington.

For our group on Old Car Fun Day Nicko explained the technique of measuring paint thickness prior to restoring paint to approach its original condition. By determining the thickness, the process is far more precise. Other topics included correct automobile finish protection including the application of a film over new versus older paint. Unless a car finish is completely cured out, there is a risk of tearing off the paint if an attempt is made to remove the film. As a rule of thumb, protective film is not recommended for truly high end collector cars. A Pebble Beach concours entrant would not utilize a protective film. Nicko offered suggestions on routine washing, waxing, and show prepping of a typical member's car. Dish washing liquid detergent should only be used to remove a protective wax or finish. Milder car wash liquid formulations such as Meguiar's should be used for routine car washing.

A gathering at the Huron Yacht Club

Even though there was a forecast of showers for the afternoon, hosts **Ron** and **Darlene Renzoni** ordered a beautiful day for the annual excursion to the Huron Yacht Club. Most of the group gathered at Mercedes-Benz of North Olmsted for coffee and donuts before departing for Huron. Some opted to go by expressway while others followed new member **Karen Jasien** in her 1958 SL as she took us the scenic Route 6

along the shore of Lake Erie. The Yacht Club was featuring their annual wooden boat show, and there was a large car show up on the hill overlooking the docks. Our cars were featured in the lot behind the club. Appetizers were available on the patio followed by a late lunch in the dining room. All were home before there was any rain. It was another fun, relaxing beautiful day of cars and friends and food.

Kentucky Driving Adventure October 13 - 16, 2017

The Western Reserve Section of the Mercedes Benz Club of America cordially invites you to join us in a MBCA Regional Event taking place Friday, October 13th through Monday, October 16th. Come enjoy many interesting venues and witness the turning of the leaves and a final drive before the snow flies.

This event will kick off with a party and tour at Bernie Moreno's Mercedes-Benz of Fort Mitchell, Kentucky. The Kentucky Driving Adventure will also feature tours of the Kentucky Derby Museum, the Louisville Slugger Museum and Manufacturing Plant, two distilleries on the Kentucky Bourbon Trail, the Frozen Niagara Tour at Mammoth Cave National Park, and will end with a tour of the National Corvette Museum and a hot buffet and awards celebration at the Corvette Café. We have special rates available at each of our host hotels.

If you would like additional information or if you have questions please contact Tour Director Allan B. Pintner at abpintner@mhmltd.com or 1.216.548.9077.

Here's a detailed look at the tour schedule:

Friday October 13th

The Kentucky Driving Adventure will officially start with a party and tour at Mercedes-Benz of Fort Mitchell, KY beginning at 4:00 PM. This dealership has won the coveted Mercedes-Benz Best of the Best Award three separate times. For those tour participants with the ability to arrive earlier in the afternoon there will be a special opportunity to visit the Vent Haven Museum, also in Fort Mitchell, KY

Saturday October 14th



The Kentucky Derby Museum and the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory are a combined group tour. At the Slugger facility you may roam the museum at your own pace and you are given a timed ticket for the tour which is guided. You are given a token souvenir at the Slugger facility and you can buy bats and other items at the gift shop.



The Kentucky Derby Museum is one of the premiere attractions in the Louisville region, celebrating the tradition, history, hospitality and pride of the world-

renown event that is the Kentucky Derby. At the Derby Museum we will start with a curator/docent talk and explanation and a short movie and then you are permitted to roam on your own time with no time limit. The tour at the Derby Museum includes a timed ticket for the group to go out to the walk in between the rail and the grandstand—this is also guided. If you love horse racing and in particular the Kentucky Derby you will enjoy this experience.

You can enjoy watching the movies of the past races. What could be better than to see a significant historical part of the Nation's Pastime and see up close the Sport of Kings? And of course you can find a great souvenir at the gift shop.

Saturday's activities will conclude with a gourmet plated dinner at the Marriott Louisville East.

Sunday October 15th



Our Sunday activities feature tours of 2 famous distilleries. We will begin by visiting the Jim Beam American Stillhouse in Clermont, KY, where we will get an up close and intimate look at Jim Beam® Bourbon and how it's made. Guided tours will

take you through the entire process, starting with our natural limestone water well and all the way through the mashing, distilling, barreling, aging, and bottling. And what tour would be complete without a little taste at the end? After a short drive to Loretto, KY we will tour the Maker's Mark distillery. The tour takes about an hour, is mostly outside, and includes quite a bit of walking as well as climbing some stairs. Wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather. Guests over 21 will have the opportunity to join in the sampling after the tour.

Continue Kentucky Driving Adventure

Monday October 16th

Monday we start with the Frozen Niagara Tour at Mammoth Cave National Park. This tour is rated easy, and has 18 steps. It tours the most-photographed area



of the park, so be sure to bring your camera.

In the afternoon, we will tour the National Corvettes Museum in Bowling Green, KY. The

museum was established in 1994 with a mission of celebrating the invention of the America's sports car; preserving its past, present and future; and educating the public about Corvettes. The Museum opened in 1994 and is a 115,000 square foot facility located on a 55 acre campus. After having toured Mammoth Cave you will find the displays about the Sink Hole at the Corvette Museum particularly interesting. Again, be sure to bring your camera.

The Kentucky Driving Adventure will conclude with a buffet dinner at the Corvette Cafe. And look for a surprise at the Holiday Inn Express on Monday night!

Hotel Information

Tour participants will make their own hotel reservations at the hotels noted with the special rates available until September 1, 2017. Participants should request the Kentucky Driving Adventure room rate at each hotel.

Nautical Queen Cruise

On a picture perfect day about 30 members and friends gathered for a luncheon cruise on the Nautical Queen June 10. While the boat toured the Cuyahoga River and out into Lake Erie, passengers enjoyed a great buffet lunch and had time to go to the top deck bask in the sun and the scenery. Kieran and Bill Mulhausen planned a wonderful trip including the weather! Kieran had information for other sites and events in the area. Some went on the trolley for a tour of the city. Some explored the Flats, and others checked out the West Side Market. All had fun.

PLEASE BOOK NOW;
HOTEL RATES GUARANTEED THROUGH
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2017.

All rates include tax

Friday night–Hilton Cincinnati Airport 1.800.445.8667
Ref: Mercedes Benz Club; \$132.09

Saturday night–Marriott – Louisville East (502) 318-1707 Ref: Kentucky Driving Adventure; \$172.49

Sunday night–Fairfield Inn & Suites Elizabethtown
1.270.769.1440 Ref: Kentucky Driving Adventure;
\$132.09

Monday night–Holiday Inn Express Bowling Green
1.270.843.3200 Ref: Kentucky Driving Adventure;
\$132.09

Note Please: Bowling Green is on Central Time; all other hotels are on Eastern Time.

Registration:

The per-person Entry Fee for the Kentucky Driving Adventure is \$225.

The Entry Fee includes participant admissions to the museums and tours; and dinners Friday in Fort Mitchell, Saturday night in Louisville and Monday in Bowling Green. Hotel charges and other meals are not included. Either register on line or mail a check to:

Allan B. Pintner, 6543 Mill Road, Brecksville, Ohio 44141.

Gervasi Vineyard Cruise-In

Quickly becoming a highlight of July is the Gervasi Vineyard Cruise-In. Richard Self makes the arrangements for the club to be the featured marque each year. As usual, he ordered great weather. Five specialty Mercedes-Benzes were featured in the pavilion while the rest of our prized possessions lined the brick walkway leading to the pavilion. Many enjoyed eating at the patio, drooled over cars, and catching up with friends and acquaintances. If you missed it this year, be sure to catch it next year. It's worth your time.

MBCA | Western Reserve Section



DTJ Clambake and Car Show !! Sunday, September 17th from 11:00-3:00

DTJ Taborville 9850 North Blvd., Auburn Twp., OH 44023
(The DTJ Entrance is at Corner of Bartholomew and Quinn Roads)

For those unfamiliar with DTJ, here's a little history about our venue—

The initials DTJ stand for "Delnicke Telocvicne Jednoty" or "Workers' Gymnastic Union". DTJ as an organization is a part of the great Labor Movement as the translation implies. It is an International organization, whose program consists of training the youth of the world to enable it to take part in the great movement for a better and more just organization of human society. The DTJ organization was formed by a group of tailors in Prague, 1897. The first DTJ group to be formed in America was founded in Cleveland, Ohio by members of the Lassalle Senior Club in 1909.

The event will begin at 11:00 with an informal (non-judged) car show open to all makes and models. Bring your favorite car to display, and your car might win a people's choice award! We'll have live music to enjoy too.

The traditional clambake (served from 1-3pm) includes: Broth, Chowder, Clams, ½ Chicken, Coleslaw, Sweet Potato, Sweet Corn, Coffee, Cash Bar (Beer, Soft Drinks and Treats only, no Liquor sold).

Not a fan of clams?? There will also be a chicken-only dinner available (as above without clams)

Registrations must be received by Sunday, September 10!!

Questions?? Contact our host, Allan Pintner at 216.548.9077 or abpintner@mhmltd.com

Detailed directions are available on our website www.benzclub.org

Name: _____ Phone (____) _____

Email: _____

_____ # Clambakes	x \$ 25.50	= \$ _____
_____ # Chicken	x \$ 17.50	= \$ _____
_____ # Extra Clams	x \$ 8.50	= \$ _____
Total enclosed		\$ _____

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

John Morrison, 7783 Diagonal Rd. Kent, OH 44240 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

Sept. 5	Membership Meeting, 7:00	Brewster's Twinsburg
Sept 17	Clambake & Car Show	DTJ Taberville. Auburn Twp.
Oct. 3	Membership Meeting, 7:00	Brewster's Twinsburg
Oct. 13-16	Fall Leaf Tour, KY Driving Adventure	Allan Pintner, tourmeister
Nov. 7	Membership Meeting, 7:00	Brewster's Twinsburg
Jan. 6, 2018	Holiday Party	Lockkeepers Inn, Valley View

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.

At our next meeting, we will be planning the 2018 calendar. If you have input, please join us or contact one of us. We are always looking for events YOU will enjoy.