



# MBCA | Western Reserve Section

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA

## Crier

Volume 16 Issue 4

December, 2016

## Message from President...

By Rod Thompson



Now that the winds of winter are upon us, I want to thank our section's industrious board members for a year filled with fine events providing our members with outings encompassing technical, social, driving, automobile collecting, dining, botanical, and musical themes. I am

especially anticipating our January events: our Holiday Party at The Sebring Mansion on January 7th, and our Harwood Motors Tech Session on January 29th. I enjoy something to look forward to on Saturdays during the heart

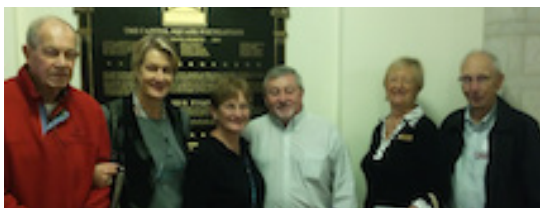
of the winter. Certainly that includes fine food and classic cars!

If you consider your Mercedes to be a collector car that you do not drive in the winter weather, please remember to add stabilizer to your gas tank and fill it full of gas, disconnect your battery or hook it to a battery maintainer, and add an extra five pounds of air pressure to your tires. Come spring your car will be ready for the road.

My best wishes for your Holiday Season!

## Ohio Statehouse

On Nov. 12, the Cincinnati Section sponsored a tour of the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus and invited all Ohio sections to join them. Six from the Western Reserve Section joined the group of 29 for the private guided tour. The building is an example of Greek Revival architecture with a central dome and chambers on both sides of the atrium. The cornerstone was laid on July 4, 1839. The legislative Chambers and Governor's Office were occupied in 1857 after 22 years of construction. Construction was completed in 1861. Following the hour long tour, the group moved on to Schmidt's Sausage Haus in German Village where we enjoyed a private buffet and visiting with fellow enthusiasts. Included in the meal were Schmidt's famous cream puffs. Thanks to David Hagood of the Cincinnati Section for arranging this great trip and chance to mingle with the other sections' members.



## Membership Update

### Welcome New Members

September 14 – Dec. 2, 2016

Greg Fazekash

Moritz Haiss

### Welcome Back Renewals

September 14 – December 2, 2016

Albert Jackson

Lewis Sawitzke

Ronald Marthaller

James Bright

Robert Henkin

Karen Carson

Dennis Puening

Drew Schneider

Roy Vankanegan, Jr.

Anil Parikh

Mark Schwartz

Todd Schneider

Robert Eckley

John Tuck

James Bergstrom

Allan Pintner

Joyce Jyurovat

William Gesell

Christopher Arn

Steve Dobrich

Robert Di Cello

Joe Wehrheim

Vassie Scott

Doug Seib

DB Zimmerman

Joseph Horvath

Anneliese Nefos

Charles Hearn

Raymond Hensel

Thomas Scahel

Richard Bird

Harvey Kay

Hassan Abbass

Thomas DiNardi

Evelin Von Saucken

Tyler Rice

Michael Yeagley

Jerry Vanaskey

Victor Troha

## Board of Directors

**Rod Thompson, President**  
[renold.thompson@clevelandship.com](mailto:renold.thompson@clevelandship.com)  
216-374-6419

**Paul Bailey, Vice President**  
[paulbailey@neo.rr.com](mailto:paulbailey@neo.rr.com)  
317-502-8595

**Allan Pintner, Secretary**  
[apintner@mhmltd.com](mailto:apintner@mhmltd.com)  
216-548-9077

**John Morrison, Treasurer**  
[gobenzing@aol.com](mailto:gobenzing@aol.com)  
**Sue Morrison**  
[slm2teach@aol.com](mailto:slm2teach@aol.com)  
330-673-7885

**Gary Goodman, Webmaster**  
[ggood100167@aol.com](mailto:ggood100167@aol.com)  
440-670-4203

**Ted Gottfried, Tech Advisor**  
[fbgfried@yahoo.com](mailto:fbgfried@yahoo.com)  
330-650-0751

**Brian DiPasquale**  
**Tracy DiPasquale**  
[brian@vecmar.com](mailto:brian@vecmar.com)  
440-953-1119

**Fred Gwinn**  
[fred@reverselogic.us](mailto:fred@reverselogic.us)  
216-235-8584

**Lee Kalessis**  
[lkalessis@yahoo.com](mailto:lkalessis@yahoo.com)  
330-461-0422

**John Tuck**  
[John.Tuck1@gmail.com](mailto:John.Tuck1@gmail.com)  
216-408-8454

**Frank Cozza, Director-at-Large**  
**(National)**  
**Mary Alice Cozza**  
[fcozza@neo.rr.com](mailto:fcozza@neo.rr.com)  
330-222-1106

**John Briggs, Great Lakes Regional**  
**Director**  
[johnrb@comcast.net](mailto:johnrb@comcast.net)  
810-299.1165

**Crier Editors: Mary Alice Cozza,**  
**Priscilla Gwinn, Sue Morrison**

# National and Regional News....

by **Frank Cozza**



**Frank and Mary Alice Cozza** recently attended the National Board Meeting in Naples, Florida. (Ed. note: Frank was reelected as a DAL. Congratulations!) The amendment which was on your ballot passed. The following national officers were elected:

**Terry Kiwala** (Western Reserve Section), President, Steve Ross (San Diego Section), Vice President, Cliff Reyle (Memphis Section), Secretary, and Julie Bruggner (Three Rivers Section), Treasurer.

## Traveling in the Fall

On Oct. 22, about a dozen cars gathered at the Home Depot in Streetsboro to begin the 2016 Fall Leaf Tour. The first stop was TP Tools and Auto



Museum where we enjoyed coffee, cider and donuts and toured the private auto collection of 57 cars and other memorabilia as well as the 5000 square foot store filled with antique décor. Our short hour there was just a taste of the wonderful things

to see. We were joined here by another 10 cars. The thirty nine people then followed the caravan to Steubenville along the Ohio River. At the Steubenville Visitors Bureau, half the group boarded an old trolley for a narrated tour of the murals throughout Steubenville. While that group was on the trolley, the other half were treated to a guided tour of the recreated Ft. Steuben of Revolutionary War times built where the original had stood. Then the groups traded places. Guides at both venues were exceptional and so full of information. Next the group went to Naples Spaghetti House for a late lunch. This restaurant has been in existence since 1923 and



features memorabilia of many notable people who have been a part of the Ohio Valley. The food was outstanding, and the service was excellent. They handled our large crowd efficiently and graciously. It was a full day, but most were able to get home or near home by dark.

**Cliff & Jean Thorp and Tom & Brenda Young (above left)**  
**Cindy & Mike Smith and Don & Michelle Yezerski (right)**  
**Marcia Good making eyes at Dean Martin (left)**

# Vintage car restoration & Maintenance

By Ted Gottfried

In the September 2016 Crier Newsletter, in an article titled Vintage Car Restoration and Maintenance, I briefly covered:

- (1) Machine Shop, Larry Solak Automotive, Mantua, Ohio
- (2) Mercedes Benz Akron, OE Parts, Frank Recco, Akron, Ohio
- (3) Pacific Fuel Injection, Gus Pfister, So. San Francisco, California
- (4) Time Valve Stainless Steel Exhaust Systems, Mike York, Melbourne, Florida
- (5) RENU Gas Tank Relining, Dave Pahls, Ravenna, Ohio
- (6) Radiator Recoring, Ellet Radiator, Kenny Friend, Ellet, Ohio
- (7) Electrical, Automotive Electric Service, John Crumrine, Akron, Ohio

Because I work with the services of more than 50 shops both locally and nationally, the purpose of this article is to spell out some additional important "contacts". Remember, Vintage Car Restoration and Maintenance is truly a contact sport. Not football blocking and tackling contact, but professional contacts for the services necessary for a complete vintage car restoration.

Today this article will touch on the following seven shops and services that I have used:

- (1) Art's Restorations, Art Thumwood, Richmond Hill, Georgia
- (2) Bud's Benz, David Latham, Douglasville, Georgia
- (3) Red Lacquer Room, Gene Blackford, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio
- (4) Colonial Transmission, Rick Basta, Chagrin Falls, Ohio
- (5) Autowerkes, Chuck Widemire, Painesville, Ohio
- (6) Hudson Glass, Joe Saloiye, Northfield, Ohio
- (7) Chrome Plating, Jon Wright, Grafton, Ohio

Art Thumwood has been in the business of supplying parts and advice to Mercedes owners for nearly 40 years. For many years Art was in Flagstaff Arizona, but he came back to the East Coast about 10 years ago. Not until last year at Amelia Island Concours Car Show in March did we meet face to face for the first

time, even though we have been friends for about 30 years. Art is the man I turn to for hard to source parts that usually come from Germany. Art is a true expert for most Mercedes models for parts from early vintage up until about 1990. For the 50's and 60's Mercedes, Art has no equal.

I have known David Latham for more than 25 years and while my mother was living in Florida, I used to schedule a stop at his facility en route back up north in the spring. David has expanded his business from not only parts, but also restorations much more heavily. I have worked with David on appraisal work and checking out cars prior to their restoration. Two years ago when Star Tech was held at the Mercedes Manufacturing Plant in Alabama, I filled my 1975 SL to the brim with miscellaneous stuff that I had accumulated over the years and took it to David's shop. He traded me a soft top for the entire car load. At present we are working together on a project to convert 113 SL 's from 4 speed transmissions to 5 speed. I just happen to have one in my garage ready for installation. Anyone interested please raise your hand.

Gene Blackford and I became friends about 30 years ago when he was restoring a 1965 230 SL and he had learned that I had recently brought one from Germany. He called me up, came over, took many pictures and is well known "the rest is history". Over the years during many winters when I was not out plowing snow I would be working in Gene's shop bead blasting parts to determine if they were salvageable or had to be replaced. Gene has also fabricated some no longer available parts for me. He is a genuinely skilled metalsmith.

I found Rick Basta by asking Mercedes Akron which Transmission shop was buying the most rebuild seal kits for vintage automatic 16 bolt transmissions. The parts Manager at Mercedes Akron, Frank Recco, immediately told me it was Rick. His shop is immaculate and last April Rick conducted his first ever clinic for a car enthusiasts club. Although nervous at the time, Rick volunteered recently that he is ready to hold another one whenever we are ready. In actual fact, as an aside, thanks to my involvement Mercedes Akron has had many transmissions rebuilt in his shop. The dealer approach is usually a complete replacement

# Continue Vintage Car & Maintenance

and not a rebuild. I can not begin to count the number that Rick has rebuilt for me over the past 30 years.

Chuck Widemire has more than 20 years MB experience working at a Cleveland dealership and more recently has opened up his own independent shop in Painesville. Because Chuck has attended numerous Mercedes technical seminars and because he is a truly gifted in the skill of diagnosis as well as turning wrenches, we have hit it off well together over the past 6 years.

He solved an electrical problem on my 1975 280SL that had left lesser men in the dust. Similarly we have worked together to bring my 16 valve 1986 190E up to speed. And not only that Chuck spent less than a half hour determining that the catalytic converter on a 1985 Rolls Royce Corniche Convertible was chemically plugged and causing the engine to shut down during hot mountainous driving. A lot of time, money, and resource had gone into that problem for a number of months without a satisfactory solution. During the past 5 years I have recommended numerous Mercedes owners take their cars to Chuck for service. He has never let me down.

Hudson Glass, run by Joe Saloiye, is a unique shop right here close to my home. Over the years Joe has come to my home to install difficult glass for me. For example when I have rebuilt SL hard-tops, especially the rear quarter triangle glass is a real bear to install.

Even though Joe has vowed "Never Again" it is going to take a lot of cajoling to possibly to get him to do another one. I source the glass through Mercedes, but installation is always a bear. Again like the men listed above my relationship with Joe covers many years. Ordinarily we run into each other at a local bank on Monday mornings.

Jon Wright is a former school teacher in Elyria High School in Lorain County. He worked for my dad who was Superintendent of Elyria schools in the 1950's and 1960's. Small world! In the 1960's Jon took his interest in restoring old cars to a new level by opening a small chrome plating shop. Because of his insistence on the best or nothing (Sort of an MB-like idea) the plating he does is considered to be the gold standard for the vintage auto industry. Many high end shops have their work done by Jon. Not cheap, for example the total for my 1958 190SL is north of 30K. But many of the items he chromes are no longer available at any price. Definitely a good business model.

In summary, these seven services listed in this article are extremely important for vintage car restoration. However perhaps most important is the personal relationships I have been able to develop over time with the men who own these businesses. To me that is the most important aspect of the entire vintage hobby-- the people involved who have found extreme satisfaction in what they do.

## Clambake at DJT Taborville

Twenty-six members of the Western Reserve Section of the MBCA attended a Clam Bake at DTJ Taborville and had a car show. Our cars were on display and we also included additional cars from members of the DTJ organization. Over 250 people attended the Clam Bake. All attendees at the event were able to participate by ballot in the selection of the People's Choice Award which was the 1958 190SL owned by Club Member Ted Gottfried. DTJ Taborville is located in Auburn Township, Geauga County Ohio. Taborville, a community with Czech Roots, was organized in the 1920's as a place where members could take part in cultural events and gymnastic training. The venue

was perfect; the food delicious; and the camaraderie outstanding. It was agreed that this should become an annual event. Thank-you, **Allan Pintner** for organizing it..

