



# MBCA | Western Reserve Section

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA

## Crier

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## Kentucky Driving Adventure

By Allan Pintner

Sixteen people participated in the Kentucky Driving Adventure, a Regional Event, organized by the Western Reserve Section of the Mercedes Benz Club of America over 4 days in October 2017. The Adventure included tours at the Vent Haven Museum in Fort Mitchel, KY; Kentucky Derby Museum and Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory in Louisville; the Jim Beam American Stillhouse in Clermont; the Markers Mark Distillery in Loretto; Mammoth Cave National Park; and the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, KY. Organized banquets were enjoyed at The Greyhound Tavern in Fort Mitchell where Tour Master Allan B. Pintner passed out map books and discussed the trip; The Marriott East Hotel in Louisville; and the Tour Closeout and Awards Ceremony at the National Corvette Museum. **David Hagood**, Vice President of the Cincinnati Section of the MBCA welcomed us at The Greyhound Tavern and David and his wife joined us for dinner.

Awards were passed out for the winners in the following categories: Furthest Drive to the starting point, **Dudley and Joyce Smith** from Leawood, KS (over 600 miles). Oldest Car a 1980 450 SL, **Jim and Cathy Loseke** (Sheboygan, WI). Car with the most mileage, **Brant and Valerie Schnackenberg** a 2007 ML350 with 156,123 miles. Newest Car, **Don and Carol Velcio** a 2018 Forester MB Sprinter Motor

Home. Most Senior Participant, Dudley Smith. Most Junior Participant Cathy Loseke. Top 3 License Plates, ABP, Tour Master **Pintner**, DAS BENZ, Jim and Cathy Loseke, and GOBNZNG, **John and Sue Morrison**. Closest Birthday to the Kentucky Driving Adventure, Brant Schnackenberg (October 20 th ). A drawing was held where all participants selected door prizes ranging from car care items to souvenirs from the trip to snacks for the ride home. Don Velcio, on



behalf of the participants, presented Tour Master Pintner with an engraved bottle of 120 Proof Knob Creek – a Single Barrel, Small Batch, Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey, Aged 9 Years.

The group thoroughly enjoyed the extensive collection of Ventriloquist Dummies at Vent Haven and the variety of other venues where tours were conducted. The gift shops of the other places visited were also of interest to all in attendance as were the tastings at the two distilleries. The tour was blessed with excellent fall weather and driving conditions. The roads in rural Kentucky were of interest to our driving enthusiasts, especially the one to Loretto where many of us had to navigate around a burrow on an extremely narrow two lane road (more properly noted as a wide drive way). One car had a tire failure and another experienced a septic station overflow to add to the planned intrigue. Truly, a Kentucky Driving Adventure!

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# National and Regional News....

by Frank Cozza



The National Board Meeting in November was held in Kalamazoo, Michigan. New officers elected for the coming year were: **Gene Jurick**, President; **Steve Ross**, Vice President; **Jim Roberts**, Secretary; and **Julie Bruggner**, Treasurer.

The Western Reserve Section met recently to elect new board members and new officers from the board members. The officers for this next year are:

**Rod Thompson**, President

**Allan Pintner**, Secretary

**Paul Bailey**, Vice President

**John Morrison**, Treasurer

## Membership Update

### Welcome New Members

August 30 – November 30 , 2017

Peter Kiko  
Joseph Auth  
Debra Staian  
Mark Langworthy

Ryan Boyce  
Andy Skorobatchkyj  
Bill Clair  
Don Negrelli

Walt Stashkiw  
William Montalto  
Julie Thomasson  
Cory Jonke

### Welcome Renewals

James Bergstrom  
David Gaddis  
David Kilo  
Tyler Rice  
R. Black  
Karen Carson  
Robert Henkin  
Monica Skurich  
Mary Mehwald  
Albert Jackson  
Morgan Taft  
Willea Orha  
Robert Sloan  
Terry Kiwala  
Jerry Vanaskey  
Kenneth Coyne  
Vassie Scott  
DB Zimmerman  
Joseph Groscost  
Raymond Hensel  
Harold Keichel

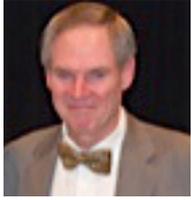
Anneliese Nefos  
Drew Scheider  
Warren Ledsky  
Lewis Sawitzke  
John Tuck  
Robert Erickson  
James Johnston  
Charles Hearn  
Joe Wehrhelm  
Bert Reimann  
Edward Yungbluth  
Richard Bird  
James Tullis  
Fredric Gwinn  
Jeffrey Noss  
Jone Hull  
Howard Wilmoth  
Michael Knopick  
Doug Seib  
Josephine Lesler  
Michael Yeagley

William Gesell  
Joe Oberle  
Victor Troha  
John Buckingham  
Frank Cozza  
Gordon Anhold  
W. Hart.  
Don Velcio  
Jeff Payton  
Harvey Kay  
Brant Schnackenberg  
Terry Hughes  
Ronald Good  
Brian Di Pasquale  
James Rector  
Gary Goodman  
Connor Schliffka  
Stella Camuso  
Richard Self  
John Julius  
Werner Heidemann  
Harry Paul

Note from **Ted Gottfried**: Ted encourages all to check Harwood Motors' website often. Our section has several cars listed and more anticipated in 2018. <http://www.harwoodmotors.com/>

# Message from President...

By Rod Thompson



For my year-end letter I shall take this opportunity to recognize those individuals that make our club a success. This list starts with **Frank** and **Mary Alice Cozza** who have tirelessly served on both our Section's board as well as our National board for many years. They have annually hosted our Section's two most popular events (Spread Eagle Tavern / Ice cream social and Holiday Party) and been our strongest proponents of regional and national track events.

**John Morrison**, our club treasurer, carefully saves our club's cash faster than his wife, **Sue Morrison** can spend it on membership activities. Sue also orchestrates our club newsletters with our editor, **Priscilla Gwinn**.

**Ted Gottfried** dutifully assists members in the restoration and maintenance of their cherished cars. He has arranged our club tech sessions that represented a third of our club's scheduled events for 2017. If Ted can't fix something, he knows who can!

**Paul Bailey**, our club Vice President, assists me in running our monthly board meetings and is a prime supporter of our track events.

**Alan Pintner** has become invaluable to our section, serving as board secretary. Alan sponsored this year's regional Kentucky Driving Adventure and Taborville Clambake events.

**Kieran** and **Bill Mulhausen** have pursued new events for our club in order to increase member involvement. They arranged the Nautica Queen Cruise this year.

**Lee Kalessis** has pushed our board to accommodate younger and more time-challenged members with shorter and less expensive events.

These individuals make our Western Reserve Section tick! Through their hard work we have already finalized our event calendar for 2018. I look forward to seeing many of you on Saturday, January 6th at our Holiday Party at Lockkeepers Inn.

Editor's note: Thank you to **Rod Thompson** for his excellent leadership and raising the bar to include varied cultural events.

## DTJ Taborville Clambake and Car Show

Over 35 people participated in the Second Annual Car Show sponsored by the Western Reserve Section of the Mercedes Benz Club of America at the DTJ Taborville Clambake on North Boulevard in Auburn TWP of Geauga County, Ohio. Arrangements were made by Club Member **Allan B. Pintner**, who owns a property in Taborville.

Again this year all attendees at the DTJ Taborville Clambake were able to view cars being shown and vote on the People's Choice for which a trophy is awarded by our Club. The car show is open to all Marques and is not judged except for the voting for a car of the individual attendees' choice by paper ballot This year's winner was a 1971 Oldsmobile Cutlass owned by **James Krejci**. Over 20 cars were shown, most were

Mercedes Benz vehicles but excellent examples of Mustangs, a Lotus, the winning Oldsmobile Cutlass and a Jaguar XKE were proudly displayed. Members like showing their other vehicles in addition to their Mercedes cars.



Participants enjoyed the traditional clambake fare of a dozen clams, ½ chicken, sweet potato, corn, broth, and clam chowder. Many ordered an extra dozen clams. Chicken dinners

were also available for those not interested in clams. Live Czech Music was performed during the car show and the clam bake. Czech beer and soft drinks were also available at the DTJ Taborville Hall. The weather was hot and dry which enabled our members to be able to socialize with each other and their guests.

# 1963 Mercedes 190SL Soft Top Installation

By Ted Gottfried

During our Mercedes Club Event at the Huron Yacht Club this past August, long time member **Dr. Mark Schmiedl** parked his 1963 190SL next to my 1958 190 SL so that we could compare notes about our experiences with our similar red SL's.

I have decided to keep the hard top on my car year round because I really like the profile looks of my car that way. Besides if I want to use an open Red SL I have my 1975 280SL (Euro 107) ready to go. But Mark that day had the soft top up on his car. Mark told me that he unfortunately stuck his thumb through the fabric near the window on the right rear corner washing the top that very morning. Sure enough there was an irreparable three corner tear clear through.

He asked me if I knew anyone who could replace his top. My answer was "probably me." Long story short, I ordered the materials and he dropped his car off reluctantly in mid-October. Given the beautiful warm weather we had this fall, that was not easy, but Mark was concerned that I might not finish the job before the roads were treated with salt. Because Mark's car is completely original except for normal maintenance items, its value continues to appreciate commensurate with continuous market valuations.

Hence, the importance of replacing the top correctly. After stripping off the torn replacement top which had been installed in 1983, I refurbished the frame completely while it was removed from the car. The storage well was thoroughly cleaned, and the paint touched up. All folding joints were cleaned and lubricated.

Some fastener hardware was replaced and all metal parts were polished with steel wool and rotary wire brushes. The four wood pieces including the windshield header, the two B pillar vertical wood headers behind each side glass, and the rear hip header above the rear plastic window were all cleaned and all old staples and brass nails were stripped out.

New wire cables were installed above each side window to insure that the top does not balloon up at Interstate travel speeds. All rubber seals: window header, both A pillars, and both side glasses were renewed. Because I did not have the hardtop, the

inside door panels were not opened up to adjust the camber of the glass when rolled up with the soft top and the hard top. Sometimes this is necessary too.

However both windows rolled up tight with minimal wind noise at higher speeds. Older SLs are notorious for this problem.

I used only genuine Mercedes materials, including high temperature contact cement to fabric cover all wear points on the interior metal ribs as well as the rubber seals. By not rushing the installation, the fit turned out tight and snug. This top should last more than another 35 years.

The cost of this top installation calculated with all current material costs and a standard 40 hours of labor, totaled approximately two percent of the current appraised value of this car.

In short, an excellent investment to maintain and increase the value of Mark Schmiedl's 1963 Mercedes 190 SL. And equally important Mark drove his car home on a cool, clear day in November before any salt had been put down on our Ohio roads. All's well that ends well.

## Stay connected with our section

Our primary means of communication with our members is by email—that's the quickest (and most cost-effective) way to provide event information and other news. We typically only send emails once or twice per month--so you won't be bombarded with content--and we never sell or provide our list for use outside the section. If you are not currently receiving section email notification of event schedules and newsletters, here are a few tips to keep you up-to-date on current Western Reserve Section news and events:

1. Make sure we have your current email address by doing the following: send your name and current email to [wrsection@gmail.com](mailto:wrsection@gmail.com), and update your profile at [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org)
2. Add our section email address [wrsection@gmail.com](mailto:wrsection@gmail.com) to your address book or contact list. This is especially important if you are using a company email address as many servers block group emails
3. Subscribe to our website [www.benzclub.org](http://www.benzclub.org). It's easy and free—sign up in the box in the lower right corner of the home page and you'll receive an update each time there is a new event posted to the site.

No email—no worries! We'll continue to send newsletters and event flyers by mail to members who have not provided a valid email address.