



Western Reserve Section

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA

Crier - Issue 1 - 2020

President's Letter

By: Rod Thompson

I hope you are looking forward to spring and to joining us for one or more of our club's upcoming spring and summer events. On Saturday, April 11th we will hold a tech session at Switchcars in Twinsburg where we will have the opportunity to meet and listen to one of the drivers of the Cannonball Run World Record holder, a 2015 Mercedes-Benz E63 AMG which traveled from New York City to Los Angeles in 27 hours and 25 minutes in November 2019. We will also peruse a group of exotic sports cars at this venue.

On Saturday, May 9th our club has been invited to attend Maifest in Zoar where our cars will be displayed. Maifest features a car show of German marques, German band music, and German food and drink. The \$10 registration fee includes the car show, sandwich and refreshments. Zoar is an historic town, located an hour's drive from Cleveland, and the car show will provide awards for the Peoples Choice, Runner Up, Oldest Car, and Newest Car.

On Saturday, June 6th we will enjoy a private tour of Lawnfield, President James A. Garfield's home in Mentor followed by lunch at Pickle Bill's.

On Wednesday, July 8th our club has been invited to be the featured marque at the Gervasi cruise-in located in Canton. On July 19th we will be combining our annual Old Car Fun Day with the Hale Farm & Village luncheon where our club will be given the Pavilion. At this event Hale Farm will be sponsoring a car show including many classic cars. Our Mercedes will be parked together next to the Pavilion, where we will enjoy a presentation by a Mercedes expert. The Hale Farm & Village event is well suited to children and grandchildren with activities and historic tours especially designed for them.

On Saturday, August 1st our club will attend the European Car Show at Ursuline in Pepper Pike, and on Sunday, August 16th we will hold our Spread Eagle Tavern and Ice Cream Social in Hanoverton, hosted by Mary Alice Cozza.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Gary Goodman Feature Article

Gary R. Goodman has been a member of our Western Reserve Section since 1991 where he has been president, treasurer and executive board member for many years. Our Section recently recognized Gary as 2019 Member of the Year. Gary currently serves as our webmaster, an executive board member and as the Section's parliamentarian. He's worked on various regional and national events including but not limited to: Gemütlichkeits, StarFest, and many driving events. He has also worked with teen drivers and their parents and has done both group and 1 on 1 coaching of teen drivers.

In Gary's real life, AKA his daytime job, he is an Automotive Facilitator, Trainer, and Product specialist with over 25 years of auto dealership experience representing brands including Mercedes-Benz, Toyota, Aston-Martin, Maserati, Volvo, and Ford with job responsibilities including general manager, sales manager, customer relations manager, and sales representative roles. During his dealership career, he received manufacturer recognition for both sales results and customer satisfaction. His interest in motorsports of all types has led him to become a successful competitor and an instructor for autocross and road course events throughout the U.S.

Since 2007 Gary has specialized in product knowledge instruction and facilitation, curriculum development and presentation, and has been a facilitator, product specialist, pro driver, and crew manager for manufactures including Dodge, Jeep, Kia, Lexus, Lincoln, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz, Nissan, Ram, Toyota, and Volkswagen. He brings the ability to deliver program information and corporate messaging in an engaging, enthusiastic manner. Gary has a thorough knowledge of contemporary automotive technology and performance including electric, hybrid, and fuel cell vehicles.

We are proud to have Gary's talents and contributions made available to our section. If you want something done, ask a busy person. Thank you, Gary R. Goodman.



THE QUANDARY FACING THE LONG TIME COLLECTOR CAR OWNER *By: Morgan Taft*

As the owner of two "collector cars" that I have owned for over forty years, I have reached the age when it is time to consider a reduction of my inventory of what is often referred to as "adult toys". Many owners of "collector cars", have the good fortune to have younger members of the family eager to assume ownership of "dad's or granddad's toys", that are currently a part of their estate inventory.

Unfortunately, that option is not a viable solution for me as my children and grandson are not interested in assuming the ownership of either of their grandfather's collector cars, so I must resort to one of the options enumerated below to find a new home for this part of my "adult toy inventory". One of the problems I face in the dispersal process of finding a new home for a vehicle is that I have never had appraisals of my collector cars, which would assist in determining a logical and fair price for the vehicles for downsizing purposes.

I have watched in recent years the "market value" shown in the advertisements for similar vehicles found in publications such as The Star Magazine, Hemmings Motor News, Mercedes Enthusiast, or AACA Antique Automobile publications, as well the prices that have been listed at various automobile flea markets and the results at various "collector car auctions". These prices vary widely depending on the mileage, condition, and available maintenance records and sale prices are not readily available except in the case of the major car auctions but do provide guidelines to establishing an asking price for the vehicle.

Perhaps a good starting point for the purpose of establishing a sale price is the acquisition of an appraisal by an appraiser that has a working knowledge of the particular make and model of the vehicle. If one looks at advertisements listing "collector car appraisals" in various automobile publications (the latest Hemmings Motor News provides about three pages of ads under their "Appraiser & Brokers Section") they generally do not list specific qualifications to appraise a specific make and model of a collector car. A "generalist appraiser" probably reviews the sale prices of a make and model at recent collector car auctions or advertisements as their appraisal basis and

might provide a "low ball appraisal" perhaps offering to purchase the vehicle at their appraisal price to then sell it for a quick turnover sale.

There are basically four options available to sell a fifty-year-old Mercedes-Benz, assuming there is a viable market for the model and age of the vehicle. The simplest option is, of course, finding a fellow Mercedes collector who is interested in acquiring the car to add to their collection. There are many of these folks out there who have an interest but probably may not possess the funds to purchase the vehicle at a fair and reasonable price.

A second option is to advertise the vehicle in one of several of the automobile-related publications mentioned above. This option brings up the question of whether or not to include a price in the ad or quote the price when one receives an inquiring phone call. Such an option also may attract many inquiries from "curiosity seekers" or owners of similar vehicles just "testing the market".

A third option is to donate the vehicle to an existing automobile museum, but that will require a fair appraisal prior to a consignment that is acceptable to the owner and the museum for tax deduction purposes. The problem of donating a vehicle to a museum is that most, if not all museums, possess more vehicles than they can possibly display at one time and thus periodically sell off portions of their inventory as they receive more donated vehicles and may decide to immediately sell your donated vehicle unless one places a restriction on its sale.

A fourth option is to consign the vehicle to a collector car broker, that for a fee, will offer the vehicle for sale. This option definitely is a very viable solution as it eliminates all of the negatives of the other three options and has the advantage of removing the vehicle from your garage or storage place. The real problem is finding a collector car broker who is familiar with your type of vehicle and possession of the exposure and reputation that is able to attract buyers who may be looking for the make and model of collector car one wishes to sell.

I suspect there are many other members in this MBCA Section and/or members of other antiques/collector car clubs who are now experiencing the need to downsize a collector car inventory.



Ted's Tech Report

By: Ted Gottfried

I am currently planning for a seminar at a future club event on the fact that Old Car Restoration is a Contact Sport. I have asked former Western Reserve member Jon Bernardi to assist me in making a vintage car restoration procedure presentation and we are now trying to coordinate schedules. We made a presentation at Star Tech 2015 in Cincinnati. My 1958 190 SL was one of the props at this presentation. The '58 190 SL has been driven nearly 10,000 miles since its 10-year restoration was completed in 2009.

The following listing of men and their respective area of specialty is being presented at this time prior to the actual presentation to demonstrate that Old Car Restoration is a Contact Sport and to show the complexity of a total restoration. This listing includes my contacts and suppliers for the restoration of my car's restoration which was completed from 1999 to 2009. Number 41 on this list, George Anita, was my first technical contact at my first MBCA National Event at Charlotte Motor Speedway in 1985. George's enthusiasm and advice over many years was invaluable. Unfortunately, cancer took George away several years ago.

1. Ken Ganley, Mercedes Benz of Akron dealership, Akron, OH
2. Art Thumwood, Art's Classic Restorations, Richmond Hill GA
3. Larry Solak, Automotive Machine Shop, Mantua, OH
4. Kenny Friend, Ellet Radiator, Ellet, OH
5. Lowell Cannon, Van's Tires, Streetsboro, OH
6. Corky Coker, Coker Tires, Chattanooga, TN

7. Jay Trgo, Interstate Towing, Macedonia, OH
8. Dave Pahls, Renu Gas Tank relining, Ravenna, OH
9. Gene Blackford, Red Lacquer Room, Cuyahoga Falls, OH
10. Ernie Postum, Custom Chrome Plating, Ravenna, OH
11. Jon Wright, Custom Chrome Plating, Grafton, OH
12. Joe Jones, Strip Master Media Blasting, Rootstown, OH
13. Mike Kunz, Manager, MB Classic Center, Irvine, CA
14. Jimmy Johnson, Brother's Auto Body, Akron, OH
15. Ivan Tsak, United Sales Autobody Supplies, Akron, OH
16. Rick Basta, Colonial Transmission, Chagrin Falls, OH
17. Eddie Ebel, Becker Radio, Upper Saddle River, NJ
18. David Latham, Bud's Benz, Douglasville, GA
19. Elmar Kruza, Streetsboro Foreign Auto, Streetsboro, OH
20. Chuck Widemire, Motor Werks, Painesville, OH
21. John Crumrine, Automotive Electric Service, Akron, OH
22. David Polson, Motor Werks, Cleveland, OH
23. Dennis Yoder, Northeast Coatings, Tallmadge OH
24. Will Samples, S&S Imports, Dallas, TX
25. Bob Gunthorp, Onager Corp, Chula Vista, CA
26. George Kozak, Leather and Wood Restoration, Berea, OH
27. Barry Norman, Mercedes Genius, Ft. Mitchell, KY
28. George Murphy, MBCA Invaluable Resource, Oak Ridge, TN
29. Nicko Koutavas, Detail

- Xpress, Mantua, OH
30. Mickey VanVorris, Euclid Foreign Motors, Cleveland, OH
31. Mike York, Time Valve Stainless Steel Exhaust Systems, Melbourne, FL
32. Mike McKinney, Black Forest Benz, Milwaukee, WI
33. Joe Saloie, Hudson Glass, Northfield, OH
34. GAHH, Mercedes Soft Tops and Interiors, North Hollywood, CA
35. John Wolf, Clocks and Instrumentation, Willoughby, OH
36. Mark Hooper, Rhode Island Wiring Service, West Kingston, RI
37. Falls Tool Rental, Cuyahoga Falls, OH
38. Albrecht Stachel, Brooklyn Motoren Werks, Brooklyn, WI
39. George Katsiris, Authentic Classics, Staten Island, NY
40. Tim and Pat Kidder, K&K Manufacturing, Sparta, MI
41. George Anita, Mercedes Enthusiast, St. Petersburg FL



Memphis and Dinner Out

Sunday, March 8th 20 members attended the production of Memphis at the Weathervane Theater in Akron, Ohio. The vocalists, dancers, and costumes made for a very excellent production of the Broadway Musical. Following the production, all 20 members traveled a short distance to Papa Joe's Restaurant for an enjoyable Italian meal and friendly conversation.

National News

Regional Director Rodd Masteller has notified us that two events have been designated as 2020 Regional events. On July 11th the Western Michigan Section is working with the Gilmore Car Museum on an event called, Deutsche Marques. This show is a top-notch display of German car brands which would take several hours of your time. The second event is July 25th and 26th, the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix, International Car Show. It is being held in the historic Shenley Park, while vintage racers navigate through the park's winding roads. This will be a unique car show experience.

Membership

New Members

11-3-19 to 3-8-20

Welcome!

Lee Blankenship
Paul Stallings
Benjamin Burns
Michael Spena
Robert Newbold
Charles Rhodes
Eric Hansen
Douglas Barr

Renewals

11-3-19 to 3-8-20

So glad you're back!

Robert Henkin
William Shelton
Ronald Renzoni
Monica Skurich
Laurie Tall
Anthony Kubichek
Don Negrelli
Carl Wennerstrom
Drew Schneider
Dana Little
Eric Butler
Clifford Klein
Frank Hummer
John Morrison
Brent Gundlach
Ian Faass
Klaus Kitzler
Kurt Von Leyser

Lynn Fete
Mark Rose
Robert DiCello
Mark Schmiedl
Piotr Szlamas
Timothy Graziano
Tyler Rice
Vassie Scott
Charles Ackerman
Ambrose Zorn-West
Brian Di Pasquale
Adolphus Harris
Charles Orange
Dr. William Mulhausen
Edward Mehler
R. Black
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Sue Morrison

Holiday Party

The Western Reserve Section of the MBCA held its Holiday Party on Saturday, January 11, 2020, at the Grand Resort of the Avalon Inn in Warren, Ohio with 45 Section members participating. Almost half of the members stayed overnight and participated in the monthly Section meeting where breakfast was served buffet style by the Grand Resort. The food and exemplary service provided by the professional staff of the Avalon Inn made for a very enjoyable event. Thank you for a job well done to Sue Morrison and Mary Alice Cozza for selecting the site and organizing this event and entertainment. We would also like to extend our thanks to Ken Ganley Mercedes Benz of Akron and Joe Arno whose contribution made our delicious hor'derves possible.



We were pleased to have Ed Yungbluth and Bev Basinski from the Niagara Section, Julie Bruggner, our National President, and Terry Kiwala, our past National President attend and participate in the festivities and Sunday's meeting. Julie spoke both at the Holiday Party and at our Sunday meeting bringing greetings from the National MBCA and informed members about 2020 agenda items of the MBCA.



Western Reserve Section President Rod Thompson, Sue Morrison, and Mary Alice Cozza presented pins that commemorate the years of membership in the MBCA to Dr. Jim Johnston, 45 Years; Rod Thompson, 30 Years; Stella Camuso 25 Years; and Robert Sloan 10 Years. Thank you for your contributions to our club and for your attendance at our events over the years of your membership.



Rod Thompson and Sue Morrison presented recognition awards to members attending their first club event.



Rod also presented a plaque to Gary Goodman, Western Reserve Section Member of the Year for 2019. Gary is a Member of the Section's Executive Board, volunteers as the Section's webmaster, designs and assembles all event flyers, and serves as our parliamentarian and bylaw expert. Gary is considered as the go to person when the Board is looking for historical reasons for consideration in making important current decisions. He is available to all members and is a friend to all. Congratulations Gary! Please see feature on Gary elsewhere in this issue.





Western Reserve Section - MBCA

**Tech Session and
Cars & Coffee**

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2020

10:00 AM-Noon

Hosted by Switchcars

(1521 Highland Rd, Twinsburg 44087)

Our host, **Doug Tabbutt**, recently set a record for the New York-LA Cannonball Run along with his partners Arne Toman and Berkeley Chadwick. Doug's vehicle of choice was a 2015 Mercedes-Benz E63 AMG. During the tech session Doug will fill us in on what was done to prepare the car, the in-car technology used during the trip, and an inside look at what the experience was like as they made the journey in 27 hours and 25 minutes!

Doug always has a great selection of exotic and unusual cars for us to eyeball during the event as we enjoy our coffee and donuts. And since it is April, most of our cars should be out of storage, so bring your favorite toy (or your daily driver) for us to admire. The event will be held rain or shine.

Registration is \$7 per person and is available online at www.benzclub.org or by mail using the form below.



Questions?? Please contact **Ted Gottfried** at tbgfried@yahoo.com or 330.554.9694

Name: _____ Phone _____

Email: _____ # attending _____ x \$7 = \$ _____ total

Make checks payable to MBCA Western Reserve or register online at www.benzclub.org

Mail to: John Morrison, 7783 Diagonal Rd., Kent, OH 44240



Western Reserve Section CRIER

Mercedes-Benz Club of America
7783 Diagonal Road Kent, Ohio 44240



Western Reserve Section of MBCA Schedule of Events

April 7, 2020	Membership & Bd. Meeting	Brewster's Twinsburg, Ohio
April 11, 2020	Tech Session	Switchcars, Twinsburg, Ohio
May 5, 2020	Membership & Bd. Meeting	Brewster's Twinsburg, Ohio
May 9, 2020	Maifest Car Show	Zoar, Ohio
June 6, 2020	Lawfield Tour (Garfield's Home) Lunch at Pickle Bill's	Mentor, Ohio
July 8, 2020	Gervasi Cruise In	North Canton, Ohio
July 19, 2020	Old Car Fun Day & Crawford Show at Hale Farm	Bath, Ohio
August 16, 2020	Spread Eagle & Ice Cream Social	Hanoverton, Ohio

Our section's website, www.benzclub.org, will be updated as things change. Please check it often. As mentioned before, we are hoping to do as much as possible electronically. You will learn about upcoming events quicker by visiting the web site for updates and checking your email often.

Please join us at the meetings in Twinsburg, Ohio at Brewsters, usually the **first Tuesday** of each month at 7:00 PM. Your input is important to us. Check the web page for updates, or contact any board member for information. Guests are welcomed, too.