



Western Reserve Section

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA

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President's Letter *By: Rod Thompson*

I hope all of you are enjoying good health as we proceed through this pandemic. The club's most recent event, the Taborville Clambake & Car Show on September 20th, was surprisingly well attended. Twenty-one cars and thirty-six attendees enjoyed a lovely afternoon with appropriate social distancing and outdoor dining in our own area away from any crowds. I wish to thank board member, Allan Pintner, for arranging what is becoming an annual tradition for our club's September social event.

On Saturday, October 17th we plan our last fall event, our Fall Leaf Tour.

This year we will conduct a drive only event, with a restroom stop and a destination that will provide fast food alternatives for those who do not wish to bring their own food and refreshments. We will meet at the Home Depot 9585 State Route 14, Streetsboro, OH 44241 at 8:30AM and caravan through Stark County, visiting the McKinley Memorial in Canton, and driving along a portion of the original Lincoln National Highway, terminating in the town of Minerva for lunch.

In place of in-person events, the national club has been sponsoring zoom/video tech sessions most recently covering 107 series cars, and Bosch electronic fuel injection. I hope you have found these sessions useful. Our annual holiday party has been cancelled, but we are considering the possibility of holding some winter tech sessions if we can secure a venue large enough to provide for social distancing.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you on October 17th as we exercise our cars amidst the fall foliage.

Fall Leaf Tour

Jim and Barb Tullis have planned a Fall Leaf Tour with COVID-19 cautions in mind. There will be no cost unless you choose to go into the McKinley Memorial as described below. Food is optional, based on your comfort level and masks are currently required by state regulations in public areas. Jim has included available food venues in Minerva including eat-in restaurants or fast food near a park. Jim is a past president and currently a board member of our section. Hope you can join us!

Route:

Meet at Home Depot 9585 State Route 14, Streetsboro, OH 44241. Departure time is 8:30 AM SHARP. Drive east on SR 14 to the center of Streetsboro and turn right onto SR 43 South. Drive south on SR43 to the intersection of the Lincoln Highway National Scenic Byway (SR172) in Canton. Turn right and proceed to the President McKinley Memorial. The tour will pause here for a one hour break.

There are several optional activities at the memorial:

1. Drive to the top and rear of the memorial and simply walk around the memorial.
2. Take the elevator from the base of the memorial to the top.
3. Take a guided tour of the memorial (\$2.00).
4. Take a guided 30-minute guide tour of the McKinley Presidential Library located at the base of the memorial (\$8.00 or \$7.00 for seniors or group rate if enough interested).

Exit the memorial and proceed east on the Lincoln Highway National Scenic Byway (SR172/US30) to Robertsville. In Robertsville drive on one of the original brick-paved sections (3 or 4 miles) of the Lincoln Highway. Participants may either end the tour here or proceed on SR30 to Minerva. The parks are open in Minerva with PortaPots. Also, there are two notable dining spots in Minerva; the Hart Mansion and Grinders Above and Beyond. There are also numerous fast-food restaurants available. This would be a driving tour ONLY unless you tour the McKinley Presidential Museum and/or choose to eat in Minerva. Cost: Individuals pay for any selected options at the McKinley Memorial or food. The return trip using SR 44 through Rootstown goes through some pretty farm country.







Gervasi Vineyard Cruise-In

Richard Self, member of the Western Reserve Section of the MBCA, once again made arrangements for our Section's participation in the Gervasi Vineyard Cruise-In in Canton, Ohio. Thank you Dick for organizing this event which has been on our calendar for many years, giving club members a first class venue for a week night car show in which they can enjoy good food, many special wines and a wide variety of classic cars.

Gervasi Vineyards features a different car club each Wednesday during the summer months and provides a special area along a brick drive adjacent to their vineyard which is reserved for club members. Covid-19 coupled with state wide mandates caused cancellation of most car shows and events. We were lucky to have this night out since our outing on July 8th was the last of the Cruise-Ins for 2020 at Gervasi because of virus restrictions. Section members who braved the virus enjoyed a great drive and evening. Please enjoy the collage of photos of some of the Mercedes Benz vehicles shown at this year's event.



DTJ Taborville Clambake

The 5th annual DTJ Taborville Clambake and Cruise-In took place on Sunday September 20th, 2020 in Auburn Township of Geauga County, Ohio. Thirty-six members and their guests took part in this year's Cruise-In and Show, as well as, enjoying the excellent food and gorgeous, sunny fall like day. Social distancing and masks along with all other state mandates were observed. These restrictions did not dampen the spirit, and enthusiasm or enjoyment of attendees. The DTJ grounds and facilities were pristine and well maintained as always. The traditional stenciling on the DTJ Hall looked splendid in the sunshine as it was recently updated.

In addition to the chicken, sweet potatoes, corn on the cob, chowder and broth 199 dozen clams were served. Thank you to Bruce Merrick of DTJ for permitting us to join in their annual event. Thank you also to Sue Morrison and Allan B Pintner for their work in administrating the show and prizes.

Twenty-one vehicles were shown at this event. They included for the 1st time a Mercedes Benz station wagon and a diesel Ford F150 pick up truck. The oldest vehicle was a 1963 Chevrolet Corvette convertible. Voting for the people's choice award was intense as ties occurred for both 2nd and 3rd places. The vehicle with the highest miles was a Mercedes Benz diesel. Prizes were awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place (including the ties); the oldest vehicle; highest mileage; and furthest driven. Prizes included a plaque for 1st place, car care products and Mercedes Benz engraved glass dessert plates.

The 1st place winner of the 5th Annual DTJ Clambake and Cruise-In People's Choice Award was a 2002 Ford Mustang GT convertible driven by Celia A Hasman of Brecksville, Ohio. Celia is the granddaughter of club member Allan B Pintner. Tying for 2nd place were a 1969 Mercedes Benz 280SL owned by Section President Rod Thompson of Hunting Valley, Ohio and a 1958 Mercedes-Benz 190SL owned by Technical Advisor and Board Secretary Ted Gottfried of Hudson, Ohio. Tied for 3rd place were a 1965 Pontiac GTO convertible owned by Joe Myroniak of Broadview Heights, Ohio, a 1980 Mercedes Benz 300D owned by Tyler Rice and a 1963 Corvette owned by Joe Lukes of Auburn Township, Geauga County, Ohio. Tyler Rice won for the car with the highest mileage. Tony Mikolich won for driving the furthest distance. Board member Pintner was quoted as saying, "I've shown my Mustang each of the first 4 years of the show and never won. The first time my granddaughter shows it, she wins. Maybe there is a future for youth in the hobby!".

National News

Fall Raffle: 1st Prize is a Pagoda at an MSRP of \$150,000. The tickets are \$50. Check the STAR or National Website for details. You've also probably received an email and snail mail notification, as well.

Membership Loyalty: You may have noticed that the rebate program for MBCA members has changed. You no longer have to be a member for a year to take advantage of the program. Your benefit starts on the date that you join the club. This is a great way to encourage your friends to join the club and receive instant rewards when purchasing a Mercedes-Benz. Again, details are on the website: mbca.org

You still have time to vote for the Regional Director for the Great Lakes Region. The RD is the liaison between the sections and the national. That person also is available to assist the sections with needs to help the section grow. Also on the ballot are the candidates for Directors-at-Large. These are the national board members from which the officers are elected at the fall National Board meeting. You received an email with a ballot, and there is information on the website and in the STAR. The deadline to vote is Oct. 15. This is your chance to choose those who make the decisions for the national club.

Quarterly Feature - John Morrison

<i>New and Renewed Members</i>	Patricia Seifert
	Jeffrey Prulhiere
6-17-20 to 9-27-20	Richard Bird
	Howard Jacobs
<u>New Members:</u>	Don Velcio
<u>Welcome!</u>	Jonathan Veres
Bruce Manning	William Alford
Marla Adley	William Gesell
	William Moore
<u>Renewals:</u>	Anthony Spena
<u>Glad you're returning!</u>	Carl Sekulich
Robert Hoover	Edward Yungbluth
Anil Panikh	George Daverio
Robert Harwood	Harvey Kay
Fed Abraham	Kenneth Coyne
Gary Goodman	Michael Yeagley
Harry Paul	Ronald White
Howard Wilmoth	Victor Troha
James Johnston	Ted Gottfried
John Buckingham	Tom Young
John Julius	Nicholas Wanchik
Jeff Payton	Joe Wehrheim
Jeffrey Noss	Stella Camuso
Kevin Zelher	Anthony Mikolich
Ellis Lovell	



John Morrison likes to say he was born at a very young age. That event occurred in Wooster OH which is where he graduated from Wooster High School. He later attended Kent State University and The University of Akron but never put all his hours together for a degree. He married Sue in 1972 and has 3 sons and a daughter and 7 grandchildren from age 5 to 25.

Very early in life, he had a love for cars and especially antique cars. He's owned several antique cars and currently has a 1929 Ford Model A, a 1967 Mercedes-Benz 230 SL (which previously belonged to Frank and Mary Alice Cozza and was "brokered" by Gary Goodman), a 2001 Mercedes-Benz SL500, and a 1960 Volkswagen Beetle ragtop that he says keeps him humble. His daily driver is a Dodge Dakota Pickup.

He also loves old houses and has remodeled or restored them to be used as rentals. He has been in the rental business since 1961 and also had a real estate license for many years. It gave him a heads up of properties available that might "fit his mold". He continues to manage his rentals as a way to "keep him off the streets." His "real job" was working 25 years for Retail Credit which became Equifax. Most of that time he worked in personnel.

John became interested in the Mercedes-Benz club by attending events with Gary Goodman. When Gary sold his "toy", John felt he should pick up the slack by buying the '67 SL. He joined the club in 1996. During the years following that purchase, he and Sue attended many of the national events and gained the friendship of so many fun and interesting people all over the country. Just before the Indianapolis StarFest in 2003, John bought another SL—the 2001 SL also brokered by Gary Goodman. He has enjoyed years of driving the cars at the events: on the road courses, autocross, and drag strips while participating in the national events. He volunteered at those events as a corner worker, set-up, and many other jobs as necessary. He also served on the committee each time Western Reserve hosted an event. As a member of the board, he served as secretary and currently serves as treasurer.





Tech Corner

By Ted Gottfried

Needless to say 2020 has limited many of our usual activities. However, in spite of it all, I have been quite busy working on my own vehicles and helping other club members work on theirs. During this past winter we remodeled our kitchen and I farmed my collector cars out for storage in order to have a kitchen cabinet workshop in my garage. My 1958 190SL was stored with club detailing guru Nicko Koutavas in Mantua, the 1975 280SL was in President Rod Thompson's garage, and the 1986 190E 2.3 16 Valve Cosworth was stored with Rick Basta at Colonial Motors in Chagrin Falls.

OK, with the cars farmed out, the kitchen remodeling was just finishing up in mid-March when the roof fell in and COVID-19 became a fact of life. First up I got the 1958 out of Nicko's shop and brought it home. When I rolled the passenger window down on a bright sunny afternoon, the glass fell out of the regulator track. Years ago when I rebuilt this car I had installed oak wood glass guides instead of pot metal for durability. Unfortunately the Mercedes adhesive broke down and the glass and guides separated. Ergo I had to disassemble both doors and reinstall both window glasses with new adhesive. The result was wonderful and both windows manually roll up and down perfectly. At the same time I gave the car a complete service. Greased all 22 Zerk fittings. Changed oil and filter.

New plugs and breaker points. Cleaned air filter.

By the way, because we have had no car shows since March I decided to drive my 58 extensively. I have some interesting sport car routes around Lake Rockwell and throughout the back roads of Portage County. The car runs flawlessly and in the past 6 years I have driven it more than 10,000 miles including trips to Cincinnati, Columbus, Detroit, and Pittsburgh. It is a tremendous pleasure to drive it as much as possible. Recently we had an outing at the Taborville Clam bake and many attendees were quite complimentary. Makes it all worthwhile.

Because the weather has been fabulous all spring and summer I have not raised the convertible top on my 1975 280SL once. I drive it nearly every day and at 200,000 total miles including 100,000 since I rebuilt the engine in 1995, the car is a real dream to drive.

However, back in April, the season started off pretty rough. When Rod Thompson and I first tried to start the car the battery was flat. I made a horrible decision to try and start the car with a hot box electrical charger. Still no good. Bought a new Mercedes battery and got car started. However the instrument panel including the tach did not work. Took the front seats out, crawled under the dash and removed fuse box and checked all connections. Fortunately John Wolf could rebuild the tach. Put everything back together and the car has run well all summer.

Next up is the 16 Valve Cosworth. Because my track time trial days are probably behind me, I have decided to sell this car. However, even though the mechanical systems operate well, the body has suffered rust damage. I stripped out the interior and \$3000 later new floors have been welded in. Now then as I assemble the interior I am refurbishing each component. New leather seat covers add to the update. A few minor problems, but nothing that can't be solved with time and money. No deadline to complete the project, a good thing and slowly but surely it is coming together.

In May I replaced the heater levers in Rod's 1969 280SL. Because this involves removing most items under the dash I also rebuilt the heater exchange boxes and cleaned out mouse droppings and trash that had resulted in terrible odors in the car if the windows were rolled up. Today the interior is nice and fresh. However last week Rod decided to put his soft top up in preparation for the Taborville Clam Bake in case of rain. Bad news. The 1976 vinyl soft top had been nested in by mice who had chewed a good sized hole in the fabric. We contacted GAHH Upholstery Supplier who is offering different types and styles of soft tops. Sample materials are in route and a decision will be made based on coordinating with the dark green leather interior and silver body color. I have installed many 113 soft tops over the years and see this as an opportunity to teach Rod how to install his own top. I have found that completing projects on your own car yourself makes it all very meaningful.

In addition to the above I have had many interesting conversations with both M-B members and non-members about their cars. Buying and selling collector cars during the pandemic has become very interesting. As always, many parameters come into play and it has become most interesting. Thus, for the time being, interactive car events are pretty much non-existent. Yet we can still go touring to our heart's content, until more normal times return.

National Club membership continues to decline to less than 17,000 total. We need to continue to interact and recruit to keep the club alive. Our Club is a great resource and it is in our own best interests to keep it rolling.

Happy motoring. Get out and enjoy your cars.

Quarterly Feature - Mary Alice Cozza



Mary Alice Cozza was born and lived most of her life at Guilford Lake in Hanoverton, Ohio. She graduated from United High School and Kent State University with a BS in Education and has hours towards her Masters degree. She taught Family Living at Salem High School her entire career. She has 3 sons, Craig, Matthew, and Frank, and 7 grandchildren. She married her high school sweetheart, Frank, and was married for 55 years until his passing in 2018.

While Frank and Mary Alice were living in Germany where Frank was stationed in the mid-'60's, the Mercedes-Benz SL's were released. Frank made the comment that they were going to have one someday. They returned to the states and began their family life at Guilford Lake. Then just before their 25th wedding anniversary, Frank bought a '69 280 SL which he restored for their 25th anniversary. Mary Alice thought it was an ugly car but loved it once he restored it. She still has the car. That was the beginning of a love affair with Mercedes-Benzenes. They raced that car for 9 years.

Mary Alice loves racing and participated in all of the local, regional, and national events across the country. Many times she'd sleep in the car on their way home from an event on Sunday evening and then go to school the next morning and teach. When asked her interests and hobbies, she responded "racing my car" as her first. She also enjoys traveling and gardening. She serves on the United High School Scholarship Foundation. She has been a member of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America since 1988 and has served on the Western Reserve Section board most of that time. She was President for several of those years. For many of the Gemutlichkeits the Western Reserve hosted, she was chairman. And at the events, she would be found working from sunup (or earlier) to sundown (or later) working at the track, on scoring, preparing for banquets, and she often did those duties for other sections hosting events. She and Frank taught Defensive Driving at all the national events and locally for schools and other groups with the hope of teaching safe driving techniques to all who would take the class. She also served as the Vice President of the Educational Foundation (part of the MBCA). Mary Alice became active on the national board and was elected as a Director-at-Large. She was secretary of the national board during that time. Mary Alice is always available to promote safe driving techniques for anyone but is especially passionate about teen skills.

Many of our members and friends know Mary Alice for hosting the popular Spread Eagle event where we gather at the Spread Eagle Tavern in Hanoverton for brunch then proceed to her home at Guilford Lake for an ice cream social and other fun social time. We celebrated 25 years of them hosting the event. Mary Alice was ready to resume that event this summer, but, as a board, we decided it was just not a safe thing to do because of COVID 19. Maybe we can "twist her arm" next year. What an asset she is to the national and local section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America!

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Western Reserve Section of MBCA Schedule of Events

Fall Leaf Tour - October 17, 2020

Meet at Home Depot 9585 State Route 14, Streetsboro, OH 44241 at 8:30AM

Board and Membership Meetings - First Tuesday of each month

As social distancing and limited group size continues, our board meeting have been held on **Zoom** on our regular dates (first Tuesday of the month). If you wish to be included in these meetings, contact Rod Thompson at: renold.thompson@clevelandship.com

We always welcome all members and guests and look forward to your input.

Watch our website for notifications of our return to Brewster's for our meetings.

Holiday Party

We have voted not to have the Holiday party this January. When the pandemic has passed, we hope to restore our calendar to the large array of activities we've enjoyed in the past. Stay tuned.