



Western Reserve Section

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA

Crier - Summer Issue 2022

President's Letter

By Rod Tompson

Welcome to a hot summer in northeastern Ohio! Our club will be emphasizing several outdoor events during these warm days. On Wednesday, July 20th we are invited to display our cars at The Gervasi Vineyards in Canton. Gervasi offers several lovely outdoor dining pavilions with adequate shade to enjoy fine Italian cuisine, and attendees will receive meal vouchers for discounts on food.

August will be a busy month for our members with three planned events. On Saturday, August 6th, we will display our cars at the Ursuline European Car Show in Pepper Pike. On Saturday, August 13th we will hold our Old Car Fun Day at my home in Hunting Valley, when we will provide a symposium on the future of electric cars in our nation. We have invited two speakers to provide opposing views on the subject, while we dine on pulled pork sandwiches and Oktoberfest beer.

We end the month of August with our annual Spread Eagle Tavern & Ice Cream Social in Hanoverton on Sunday, August 28th. Mary Alice Cozza always provides us with a beautiful setting to socialize and display our cars atop Guilford Lake. We finish the summer season with the DTJ Taborville Clambake and car meet in Auburn Township on Sunday, September 18th. Our vice president, Allan Pintner, will be our host, and he has invited the local Lambda Car Club to join us, so our Mercedes' will have some competition this year.

We hope to arrange a cultural event this fall, probably a musical or play production. As always, we will have our Fall Leaf Tour in mid-October as well. Finally, I want to congratulate Ted Gottfried for winning the trophy at the Zoar Maifest event in May. His precisely restored bright red 190 SL took the honors! Looking forward to seeing you soon!



Gervasi Vineyard's Cruise-In

Our next Section event will be the Gervasi Vineyard's Cruise-in on Wednesday, July 20th. Club member Richard Self makes our arrangements with the Gervasi Vineyard, and we will be the featured car club that day because of Richard's efforts. Please register your intention to attend by emailing Richard Self at selfrich@sssnet.com. The show runs from 5 to 8 PM and Rich is usually available to check you in and assist you on where to park by 4 PM.

Gervasi Vineyard is located at 1700 55th Street NE, Canton, Ohio 44721. Gervasi Vineyard weekly Cruise-Ins are casual, Family Friendly gatherings for car lovers of all ages, featuring a wide range of cars and trucks from the very old to the not-so-old. Admission is free. Take advantage of 50/50 drawings and food discounts for the first 100 vehicles in the showcase lot. Enjoy a relaxing summer evening as you wander between fenders while admiring the surrounding beauty of the vineyard's grounds and buildings. Both casual and formal dining is available at these events.

Switchcars

A big thank-you to Doug Tabbutt for another exciting presentation of his cross-country adventures.
1521 Highland Rd
Twinsburg, OH 44087

Seasonal Feature ~ Ike Perez



I am Ike Perez and I am from the Great State of Texas. I was born in San Antonio and I come from a military family (USAF). I attended Texas A&M University (Class of 88') for Computer Science and was in the Corps of Cadets. I continued the family tradition by joining the Air Force after that and was assigned to combat communications units in



various parts of the world and took part in various contingencies with Desert Storm being the major one. It was in the military that I met the love of my life, Cheryl, who was also in the Air Force. We married in 1990. We loved spending time with each other traveling throughout Europe, golfing, visiting wineries and "bierfests". We were married 30 years at the time of her passing in 2020. We have a son who is also in the Air Force with a wonderful wife from Germany and our precious 7 year old granddaughter.

We thoroughly enjoyed our time in the military and living in Europe for most of



our tours. We traveled widely throughout Europe. It was in Germany where I obtained our first Mercedes. I purchased a 1978 450SEL 6.9, which I fell in love with. It was a tank with luxury and speed. The car was owned by a Luftwaffe Colonel who was selective of any future owner. Funny story, apparently the Germans don't go for buying/owning older (non-



collectible) cars. After they trade them in, they get sent to Africa for resell. Back to my tale, I took it to the dealer for maintenance and when I went to pick it up, it was not parked in the front where they normally park the cars. I told them that I was informed that it was done and ready for pickup, but I don't see it out front. Discovered that it was parked in the back out of sight. I guess they did not want to be embarrassed with it being in the front.



I then purchased a 1992 500SEL for my wife. Both were German spec vehicles and could not bring them back to the US. Upon our returned we leased a 1996 E300 for her. After our move to Ohio in 2003, we experienced a cut in salaries and higher cost of living so no Mercedes purchases during that time. Once we got established, we purchased a summer toy, a 2006 SL500 with the license plate "KUGEL" which is German for bullet. We got bit by the Mercedes bug after that and ended up purchasing a 2016 GL450 as our commuter and a 2016 CLS550 for her. I still own these last 3 vehicles. In March of 2021, I joined the



MBCA and have participated in a couple of events of which I enjoyed and look forward to attending more.

I love to cook and read. My hobbies are motorcycling, classic cars, golfing, woodworking, traveling, wineries and pretty much anything fun.

Oh, oh, oh.....One of my interesting life moments was

spending 45 days flying around on SAM 2500 which is the aircraft used by the president/vice-president. In this case I flew around with then vice-president Quayle. That aircraft has since been retired and located at the USAF Museum in Dayton, OH. When you walk inside and turn to the right, there are two seats at the communications terminal. I sat on the left seat. Pretty cool!

That is me in a nutshell. Hope to see y'all soon.



Regional Director Ramblings



I have delayed communicating, waiting until the next meeting at the national level was complete. The meetings are ended for a period and I can provide an update and personal reflections. The news is that MBCA is in better shape financially and the auditor's report was very favorable. MBCA is not to the point financially to re-instate rebates to sections, but the financial situation is positive enough that rebates will be discussed in establishing budgets in the near future.

Membership in the Great Lakes Region is steady through the first quarter of 2022. The region has maintained 1100+ members, with little fluctuation in the winter season when sections are less active. In the first quarter, the region added approximately 20 new members and 55 members renewed. The greatest number of new members and renewals were in the Pittsburgh section. Numbers are approximate as membership is always a moving target due to delays between members signing up or renewing and those numbers being reported at the national level.

It is clear that sections will be dependent on generating their own income, at least for the near future. One suggestion that all should consider is encouraging those supporting the newsletter to provide sponsorships rather than buying an ad. Sponsorships are considered contributions and thus not taxable; purchased ads are considered income for tax purposes. In addition, sponsorships may be encouraged by providing links to their pages on the section's webpage.

Events throughout the Region are beginning to blossom rapidly and calendars are filling up. Share events with adjoining sections as our members often look for new events and reasons to tour in their MB. That is if gas prices don't frighten them. I now look for reasons to drive my E350 High Efficiency rather than my 450SLC due to a 10-mile-per-gallon difference in consumption. I'm sure many other people are also considering these kinds of options.

Welcome New Members March 19-June 18, 2022

Gloria Wesolowski
David Gilliss
Jim Klomfas
Nicko Koutavas
Rod Kalkman
Thomas Beasley
James Ellis

Renewals March 19- June 18, 2022 We're so glad you're back!

Anthony Mikcolich
John Di Pasquale
John Michels, IV
Connor Schiffka
Thomas Rousher
Dana Pawlicki
Kevin Goodman
Donald Brehm
Ronald Renzoni
Peter Bihuniak
Terry Endress
Daniel Ferencz
Frank Omerza

Christopher Arn
Carl Wennestrom
John Morrison
Kimberly Keller
Dante Comacchione
Gregory Pusa
Chris Remark
Peter Battar
Kurt Von Leyser
Beverly Stewart
Jake Breedveld
Laurie Tall

1999 SL500 Repair

By Allan B Pintner

On Memorial Day, 2022 my 1999 SL500 failed to make the start of the Brecksville, Ohio Parade. It was the third car in the parade preceded by the Brecksville Police Patrol Car, The Color Guard, and the Veterans Marching representing the Brecksville Post 196 of the American Legion. At 10 AM the police gave the direction to start the parade. The 1999 Benz had no prior experience of not starting since I owned the car and as I began to move forward in my 1966 Lincoln Continental Convertible, my Granddaughter, Celia Hasman, driver of the Second Parade Car, a 2002 Mustang Convertible came running up to me that her sister, my Granddaughter Corin was not able to start the Mercedes. My efforts to start the car failed. We scrambled and were able to fit the Veteran riding with Corin into the Continental with her candy and the allotment for the SL500. Thinking that the car may have been flooded, I advised Corin to let it sit for 5 minutes and try to start it again, and if it did, proceed with whatever place in line the Parade was at at that point. It did start after 5 minutes and Corin proceeded with her new spot in the parade only to have the car stop running again about 2/3rds into the parade route. She enlisted the aid of her dad, my son-in-law, Craig, who helped push the car out of the way into a parking lot where it started promptly after a 15-minute nap. I drove the car over the next several days and could not duplicate the problem. Then finally, the car stopped without any warning on the interstate. Thankfully, I was able to coast to the right-hand berm and let the car take a nap. When it again started, I drove directly to my neighborhood mechanic who was able to plug in and get two engine code problems. The codes were P0 335 Crank Shaft Sensor and P0 341 Cam Shaft Sensor. The next day I was able to make an appointment with Dan Braucher owner of **Dan Braucher's Import Automotive** at 4900 Aultman Road North Canton, Ohio 44720. Telephone number 1.330.966.3923; email db2import@gmail.com. When I spoke with Dan, he was able to indicate to me that it was most likely caused by the failure of the Crank Shaft Sensor and that the error code of P0 341 was likely to be just in sympathy to the Crank Shaft Sensor failure. On the morning of the appointment granddaughters, Celia and Corin followed me in Corin's car to give me moral support and aid me if necessary. The 49-mile trip in route to the repair shop resulted in 4 required naps. Two of which were on straight stretches of the highway enabling me to get over to the right shoulder without any significant problem; two of the naps were more problematic but I was eventually able to get to the repair shop. Dan had the Crank Shaft Sensor part and confirmed utilizing the under-dash plug with two different gauges that the culprit we expected was present. He then replaced the part and retested the engine codes using the port under the hood provided by Mercedes-Benz using a third code reader. The port is located on the passenger side of the engine bay just ahead of the firewall. It has a round cap that needs to be turned to remove to get to the actual port. I also learned that the Mercedes engineers provided release tabs on the inside of the hood hinges to permit the hood to be opened to a true vertical position. After taking another reading in the engine compartment port Dan took the car for a test drive and tested once more after his test drive. The time it took from arrival to departure at the shop was less than the time for the trip from my home to the repair shop. It is nice to have a mechanic that is willing to work on older Mercedes-Benz vehicles, and even nicer to have one that can properly diagnose and fix them. I am also grateful to my neighborhood mechanic, Joe Myroniak, for pointing me in the correct direction by reading the codes. In conversation with Dan Braucher, I asked if the car museum in downtown Canton, Ohio was still open to which he responded that he did not know. He then shared with me a story about him questioning his father about why the dad never went to car museums or car shows. His dad asked Dan if he thought the mailman went for a walk when he got home. Enough said...



Corin is looking forward to another parade in August with better results and the Western Reserve Section's car show Sunday, September 18th at the DTJ Taborville Clambake in Auburn Township, Ohio. Please enjoy the pictures of Dan Braucher and his shop. Needless to say, I highly recommend him and the services he provides.

Zoar Event

Section Member John Elsasser again sponsored the German Vehicle car show at the Village of Zoar Ohio's annual Maifest Celebration on Saturday, May 14, 2022. The show was well attended and awarded several awards, including a People's Choice Award. Most German Marques were well represented, and it was fun speaking with owners of other German vehicles. This year the rain held off until the end of the day, and only a few of our members experienced rain on their drives home.



In addition to the car show, Zoar's Maifest included German food, local craft draft beers, and an impressive German orchestra and vocalists. The entertainment made for a delightful event. If you have never been to this event, you are

encouraged to watch for the date of the 2023 Maifest in Spring 2023 Crier. If you or your family are history buffs, tours of local historical buildings and businesses will also contribute to a pleasurable day.



Ted Gottfried, our Section's Technical Director's 190SL was selected as the First Prize Winner of the People's Choice Award. The prize was a full professional detailing of a vehicle. The award was provided by **Kemphorn Motors of Canton, Ohio**. Ted took his Mercedes diesel in for this opportunity and was very pleased with the work product they produced. Ted was also happy to find friends working there that he has known and worked with over many years. **Kemphorn Mercedes-Benz** is located at 1449 Cleveland Avenue, NW in Canton, Ohio 44703 and its phone number for sales and service is 1.330.452.6511.



Thank you, Jon Elsasser, for providing the opportunity for our Section to participate in this event.




Hagerty Insurance Profile

Hagerty is an automotive enthusiast brand offering integrated membership products and programs. Hagerty's purpose is to save driving and preserve car culture for future generations and its mission is to build a global business to fund that purpose. In December, 2021, Hagerty, Inc. joined the New York Stock Exchange as a publicly traded company under the ticker symbol HGTY. Based in Traverse City, Michigan, the company has more than 1,600 employees in the U.S., Canada, the UK and Germany. Hagerty is a leading provider of specialty automotive insurance, with 2 million cars insured globally, an industry-leading 84 Net Promoter Score (NPS) and partnerships with nine of the top 10 U.S. automotive insurers.

Hagerty has invested in a unique business model that integrates omni-channel distribution, risk management & reinsurance, and subscription & membership with a rich source of first-party data to drive multiple revenue streams and several compelling market advantages. The company's omni-channel insurance distribution model positions Hagerty to scale through national insurance partners, local agents and brokers and direct distribution.

In addition, Hagerty's highly differentiated membership model helps to drive loyalty and retention by engaging, entertaining and connecting with members at every stop of their journey --- digitally, on the track, in the garage, at an event or on the road. The Company's portfolio of automotive offerings includes Hagerty Drivers Club, Hagerty Drivers Club magazine, Hagerty YouTube, three major concours events, a nationwide collection of premium social and car storage membership facilities called Hagerty Garage + Social, and DriveShare, a peer-to-peer service that lets people rent vintage and cool cars. In 2020, as COVID-19 impacted many small businesses, Hagerty provided 100 "Restore the Roar" grants to vehicle restoration shops, specialty parts manufacturers and other classic vehicle businesses across the country. In 2021, Hagerty launched the Hagerty Drivers Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit rooted in the company's long-standing mission to celebrate car culture and preserve the simple, joyful act of driving. Through an initial pledge of \$2.5 million, the foundation will focus its work in three key areas: culture, education and innovation awards. The foundation will also build upon the work of the Historic Vehicle Association, which was founded in 2009 through the philanthropic support of Hagerty and became the designated North American representative of FIVA (Fédération International des Véhicules Anciens), the international federation of historic vehicle organizations. One of the HVA's signature achievements was the formation of the National Historic Vehicle Register. Created in 2013 in collaboration with the U.S. Department of the Interior, the register creates within the Library of Congress a permanent archive of significant historic automobiles, motorcycles, trucks and commercial vehicles. To date, 28 vehicles have been added to the register.

Based on the bedrock principles of "improving every day, taking care of one another and enjoying the ride," Hagerty has built a reputation as an outstanding place to work. Over the past decade, the company has won numerous workplace culture awards such as Fortune's Best Medium Workplaces, Best Workplaces for Millennials, Best Workplaces in Insurance, Best Workplaces for Giving Back and Best Workplaces in Financial Services & Insurance. Hagerty offers unique personal and professional development opportunities, including a program where employees help restore a classic vehicle.



Many of our members ensure their older Mercedes-Benz vehicles with collector car insurance companies. The following article provides an insight into what Hagerty Insurance does for our car hobby in addition to making collector car insurance available. Hope you find the information insightful.

McKeel Hagerty

McKeel Hagerty is the Chief Executive Officer and driving force behind Hagerty, an automotive enthusiast brand offering integrated membership products and programs as well as a specialty insurance provider focused on the global automotive enthusiast market. Based in Traverse City, Michigan, the company has more than 1,600 employees in the U.S., Canada, the UK and Germany. Hagerty's purpose is to save driving and preserve car culture for future generations and its mission is to build a global business to fund that purpose. In December, 2021, Hagerty Inc. joined the New York Stock Exchange as a publicly traded company under the ticker symbol HGTY. McKeel was elected by his CEO peers in 2016-17 to serve as the international board chair for YPO, a global leadership organization with more than 29,000 extraordinary chief executives from 142 countries. During his term, he traveled the globe speaking to leaders and thinkers like former U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, President of Rwanda Paul Kagame, Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau, philosopher Yuval Harari, and countless business titans. These experiences deeply affected his views on the possibilities of leadership in a rapidly changing world: "There is a new generation of evolved leaders emerging in the world. They take a balanced stakeholder approach. They show us that by being forward-looking, growth mindset-oriented and ideologically pragmatic, a more flourishing world is possible. These people have inspired me to think bigger than building profitable companies and taking on single global issues." McKeel continues to work with YPO as an ambassador, speaker, moderator and strategic consultant. McKeel is passionate about entrepreneurship and helping young leaders emerge. He was co-founder of Grand Ventures, a Michigan-based venture capital firm providing emerging companies with early-stage capital and strategic support. He serves in many board and advisory roles, but is especially proud of being a founding member of the advisory board for McPherson College in McPherson, Kansas, home to the only four-year Bachelor of Sciences degree in Automotive Restoration Technology in the United States. He also serves as a board member for the Petersen Automotive Museum, a nonprofit specializing in automobile history, and America's Automotive Trust, a not-for-profit whose mission is to secure America's automotive heritage. All of these efforts culminate in the Hagerty Drivers Foundation, which serves the Hagerty purpose of "saving driving and car culture for future generations." McKeel is a lifelong fan of great cars and great roads. As a 13-year-old, he restored a 1967 Porsche 911S with his father Frank. He still owns the car and it is the first car out of his garage each spring. Among his many recent motoring adventures, he has driven the Porsche to the top of Pike's Peak and on many other dream roads, a 1903 Knox in the famed London to Brighton Veteran Car Run, a McLaren 600LT through Tennessee's beautiful but treacherous Tail of the Dragon, and many other tours and rallies. He also served for decades as a judge for the prestigious Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, where he continues to serve in an honorary capacity. In Traverse City, he is known as a passionate community supporter and an advocate for government, business and local organizations working together to create a more sustainable economy based on scalable businesses. McKeel earned his undergraduate degree in English and Philosophy from Pepperdine University and his master's in Theology from Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary. His interests include reading and skiing, and he has played guitar since the age of 11. He lives with Soon in Traverse City, Michigan. They have three wonderful daughters, Olivia, Sophia, Ava, and a Boston Terrier, named Hudson (after the car, of course).

Board Members

Rod Thompson, President
renold.thompson@
clevelandship.com
216-374-6419

Allan B. Pintner, Vice
President
abpintner@mhtmltd.com
216-548-9077

Jan Pesta, Secretary
Monica Pesta
jnkpst@gmail.com
330-659-4956

John Morrison, Treasurer
gobenzing@aol.com
330-673-7885

Sue Morrison
slm2teach@aol.com
330-673-7885

Ted Gottfried
tbgfried@yahoo.com
330-650-0751

Gary Goodman,
Webmaster
ggood100167@aol.com
440-670-4203

Dr. Bill Mulhausen
drbillmulhausen@
outlook.com
440-899-1570

Kieran Mulhausen,
Membership Chair
kieranann@aol.com
440-899-1570

Jim Tullis, Past President
jtullis@roadrunner.com
330-656-1453

Mary Alice Cozza
macozza7@neo.rr.com
330-222-1106

Paul Bailey
paulbailey@neo.rr.com
317-502-8595

Joanne Hovanic
330-332-1576

Ike Perez
ike.perez66@gmail.com
440-994-9274

**Great Lakes Region
Regional Director-**
Ron Harshman
rharshman1943@ gmail.
com

Crier Editors: Bryce
Hasman, Allan B. Pintner,
and Sue Morrison

Western Reserve Section

Crier

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



Schedule of Events

July 5	Membership & Board meeting	Brewster's, Twinsburg
July 20	Gervasi Cruise-In	Canton OH
July 23	Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix	Pittsburgh PA
Aug. 2	Membership & Board meeting	Brewster's, Twinsburg
Aug. 6	European Car Show	Ursuline College
Aug. 20	Old Car Fun Day	Hunting Valley
Sept. 6	Membership & Board Meeting	Brewster's, Twinsburg
Sept. 18	Clambake & Car Show	DTJ Taborville

We are in the process of planning events for the year and hope to add some tech sessions during the spring. Please watch the website for new additions. Fliers will also be sent.

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.

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