



# Western Reserve Section

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA

Crier - Winter 2022

## The President's Letter

-Rod Thompson

Hopefully we are only a month away from springtime and the start of our motoring escapes. We have three spring events planned for our Western Reserve Section. On Saturday, April 15th we will join the Pittsburgh section in attending a tour of the Hahn Auto Restoration facility in Harmony, Pennsylvania. This event starts at 10:00 am and we will lunch together afterwards.

On Saturday, May 6th we return to Switch Cars in Twinsburg for another mesmerizing presentation by Doug Tabbut over coffee and pastries. The following Saturday, May 13th, our club will attend the German car show and Mai Fest event at Zoar Village including authentic German food and music. I wish to thank Ted Gottfried, our technical expert, for arranging these events.

Recently, board member and webmaster Gary Goodman took over the treasurer responsibility of our club. This is a significant commitment of time and effort, and we now need to find a new webmaster to fill his previous role. Please let me know if you a person to recommend. Looking forward to seeing you and your Mercedes soon!



## Member of the Year

As is the tradition, the Member of the Year award is given at the Holiday Party. This year the recipient was Jan Pesta. Jan and his wife Monica have been members for 5 years and have been very active on the board during that time. Not only has Jan contributed much valuable information during our meetings, but he has also been a frequent contributor to The Crier. Jan has also taken on the tedious job of being the secretary for the board. We appreciate all that Jan has added to the club. -Sue Morrison



## Membership Pins

At the holiday party and at the Spread Eagle event, membership pins are awarded for anniversaries with the club in multiples of 5 years. Receiving pins at the holiday party were: Jan Pesta, 5 years, Kurt Von Leyser. 20 years, Ed Yungbluth 25 years, and Ted Gottfried, 40 years. Congratulations to all! -Sue Morrison



# An Electrifying Road Trip

-Fred Gwinn

We are back! After eleven months and 12,000 miles we traded our 2022 Porsche Taycan Cross Turismo for a 2023 Mercedes-Benz EQS 450 4Matic SUV.



The Taycan was arguably the best handling car we had ever owned, but the stress of dealing with charging both at home and on the road became intolerable. Our Level 2 charger plug got stuck in the charging port more than once in our garage. The third time it took about three hours to persuade it to disconnect from the car. Porsche promised free Plug & Charge functionality for three years at Electrify America Level 3 fast chargers, but it was frequently more like Plug & Pray, and on several occasions, we resorted to Plug & Pay.

When we drove into a parking lot with our Frozen Blue Metallic Taycan we were frequently greeted with people snapping pictures of the car with their cell phones. In contrast, our Diamond White EQS SUV blends into the sea of SUVs we typically encounter at the hockey ice rinks where our grandsons play almost every weekend. While the EQS SUV is not as flashy as the Porsche, it is very comfortable and a pleasure to drive. Riding in the cabin is comparable to flying in first class (without meals and drinks, of course).

The EPA estimated range for the EQS SUV is 285 miles compared to 215 miles for the Taycan CT. In reality, both vehicles can comfortably drive 250 miles in the Summer and 200 miles in the Winter on a full charge. The EQS is about 20% less efficient than the Taycan, but the larger 108 kWh battery in the EQS allows it to achieve about the same range as the Porsche with a 93 kWh battery. The EQS 4Matic Sedan with a lower curb weight and less frontal area has a much higher EPA range of 340 miles.

The four standard features I especially liked in the Taycan were air suspension, blended friction/regenerative braking, 800 volt architecture, and a two-speed transmission. The EQS SUV includes air suspension and blended braking, but has 400 volt architecture and a single-speed transmission. A very useful standard feature of the EQS SUV is the 10 degree rear steering which reduces the turning radius by about three feet, and thus, makes taking U-turns easy. Our Taycan was not equipped with the available 3 degree optional rear steering. Many EVs feature a frunk for additional storage. The EQS sedan and SUV do not have frunks and the hood release is concealed under the dashboard. In other words, storage capacity is about the same as it is in a comparably sized ICE vehicle. Neither hood struts or a hood prop are included with the EQS. I installed hood struts so that I could safely open and close the hood to facilitate normal maintenance, like removing leaves from the cowl area and replacing filters.

Theoretically, the maximum 270 kW hour charging rate of the Taycan should be faster than the maximum 200 kW rate for the EQS. As a practical matter, we spend less time at Electrify America charging stations in the EQS since the Plug & Charge feature has been very reliable and we have not had to waste any time contacting EA to initiate a charge, as was frequently required with the Taycan.

For daily use, Mercedes recommends charging to an 80% State of Charge (SoC) to extend battery life. For road trips it is okay to charge to 100% since the car will be driven soon after charging. It takes about 30 minutes to charge from a 20% SoC to an 80% SoC at a fast Level 3 EA station. Charging from 80% to 100% generally takes longer than 30 minutes since the charging rate declines significantly after reaching an 80% SoC. This means the first leg of a road trip will have more range than each leg after a charging stop.

We are planning to take a cross Country trip in the Spring. The Spring and Fall are the best times to travel in an EV since less high voltage battery capacity is needed by the A/C or heater to maintain a comfortable cabin temperature. Staying at hotels with free Level 2 charging stations is a good way to maximize the range of the first leg of the trip each day.

We did not have the confidence to take this same trip in the Taycan due to chronic fast charging issues. We will have to rely upon Electrify America chargers for most of our trip. Unlike the reliable Tesla Supercharging network, it is not uncommon for 25% of the EA chargers to be out of service waiting to be repaired. We are looking forward to using the recently announced Mercedes-Benz charging network as it is rolled out across the country in the next few years.

I still have my "LOVE MB" vanity plate, but decided to keep my "LAZARU5" plate to remind me how lucky I am to be driving around in an EQS SUV.



## Welcome New Members! October 3 - March 4, 2022

Ray McCarthy  
Steven Smith  
William Crawford  
Ian Crawford  
Fredric Gwinn  
Adam Williams  
Anthony Psota  
Todd Sullivan  
Mike Morris  
Edward Brugman

## We're happy you renewed:

Austin Barnes	Peter Lesler	Ronald Marthaller
Robert Young	Andre Burke	Frank Huemmmmer
Paul Stallings	Dean Babbaro	Raymond Hensel
Brian DiPasquale	James Bergstrom	Richard Michelson
Adolphius Harris	R. Black	
Robert Cello	Celeste Francis	
Ronald Renzoni	Lewis Sawitzke	
Renold Thompson	Richard Self	
David Gaddis	Tom Danko	
Clifford Klein	Michael Spena	
Douglas McDonald	Karen Carson	
Vassie Scott	Judith Caruso	
Charles Ornge	DB Zimmerman	
John Marino	Anneliese Nefos	
Albert Jackson	Richard Bird	
Tyler Rice	Joe Wehrhein	



# Reason for the Season: The Annual Holiday Party

On January 7, 2023, friends gathered for the annual Western Reserve Holiday Party at the Galaxy Restaurant and Banquet Center in Wadsworth (Thank you Monica Pesta for the excellent suggestion). We attempted to move around the section to make it easier for people in different parts of our vast section to join us. Our party room, The Cellar Room, was adjacent to the wine cellar, with a see-through glass block separating us from their large wine collection. Opposite that wall was the fireplace, which added to the cozy, friendly gathering. As we were finishing our delicious buffet dinner, we were entertained with an outstanding performance by violinist Mary Beth Ions (Thank you for the perfect suggestion from Kieran Mulhausen). Mary Beth has played with the Cleveland Orchestra Pops, played for Playhouse Square, and has given

numerous other performances. Her warm, comfortable personality made you feel like you had been friends forever. She taught about the violin and the history of many of the pieces she played as she engaged the audience during the performance. It was such an enjoyable show! You can Google her to see what you missed! A big thank-you to **Ganley Mercedes-Benz** of Akron for the generous sponsorship, which allowed us to secure such a wonderful entertainer. For those who stayed over at the attached Comfort Inn, meeting for breakfast the next morning was a continued opportunity to visit and enjoy each other. Out of town guests included former national President, Terry Kiwala, who is from Chicago but is a member of our section, as well as Bev Basinski and Ed Yungbluth from the Niagara section who are also members of the Western Reserve section.

-Sue Morrison





# Greetings from the New Great Lakes Regional Director

I want to thank you for this opportunity to serve as the Great Lakes Regional Director. I look forward to serving you. If I can be of assistance, please contact me at [MBCAGreatLakesRD@gmail.com](mailto:MBCAGreatLakesRD@gmail.com). I trace my interest in Mercedes-Benz vehicles when I was a teenager and had an opportunity to buy two 1975 220Ds for a couple hundred dollars. Those two got away but sparked my interest, especially the cars designed by Mr. Bruno Sacco (Head of Design for Mercedes-Benz from 1975-1999), specifically the 124, 129, and

170 series cars. Being a member of the Pittsburgh Section of the MBCA for years, I have met many wonderful enthusiasts that enjoy Mercedes-Benz vehicles - both modern and classics. I always enjoy the camaraderie, the conversations, and the cars. Since December 2020, I have been on the Board of the Pittsburgh Section overseeing the dealer outreach and classifieds in the section newsletter. I look forward to working with the officers and members of the Western Reserve Section and to learn more about your successes in membership, club events, and community and share these successes at the regional and national levels. I live in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania (20 miles south of Pittsburgh) with my wife, Susan, and our two sons - Alexander and Matthias. We are currently custodians of a 1993 300 CE Cabriolet (featured in the March 2018 Star magazine), a 1997 SL320 40 th Anniversary Edition (featured in the March 2022 Star magazine), and a 2002 SLK32 AMG. Thank you again for this opportunity. I hope to see you at an upcoming event in the region.

-Jeff Hirst

## Brass Band Holiday Concert

On December 17, a few club members enjoyed an early supper at On Tap in Medina and then drove to the Medina Center for Performing Arts. We were treated to A Christmas Concert performed by the Brass Band of the Western Reserve, Medina High School Concert Choir and the Summit Bells. The music was delightful and there was even a Sing-Along, if you were so inclined.

As we were leaving, the snow began softly falling...a perfect way to start the Holiday Season!

**German CAR SHOW**

**MAFEST**  
ZOAR · Historic Village

**Saturday, May 13**  
**10:30 am - 2:30 pm**

**\$10 registration**

In Historic Zoar Village in the lot across from  
Zoar United Church of Christ  
Corner of Main and 5th Streets

**All German Cars Welcome**

**AWARDS**  
People's Choice  
Runner-Up  
Oldest Car  
Newest Car

Festival includes  
German food,  
beverages,  
music and more!

Registrants get  
a FREE bratwurst  
at the food tent!



# Zoar Maifest German Car Show

Saturday, May 13, 2023

Historic Zoar Village in Zoar, Ohio will host its fifth annual "All-Marques German Car Show" at the Zoar Maifest on Saturday, May 13, 2023. The car show will run from 10:30am to 2:30pm at the lot on the corner of Main (SR212) and 5th streets. All German auto marques and vehicles are welcome. Prizes will be awarded for "Peoples' Choice", "Peoples' Choice Runner-Up, Oldest Car, and Newest Car. Registration is just \$10 with registrants receiving a free bratwurst sandwich at the German food and brew hall as well as free admission to Maifest. Proceeds benefit preservation and educational activities at Historic Zoar Village. The car show is part of Zoar's annual Maifest which includes a German food and brew hall, traditional German music by the Gemütlichkeit Cleveländer Musikanten, Alpenhorn music, plein air painting by regional artists and more.

For more information call 330-874-3011 or visit our website ([www.historiczovillage.com](http://www.historiczovillage.com)) or Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/historiczovillage](http://www.facebook.com/historiczovillage)).



The poster features a blue and green checkered background. At the top, the word "MAIFEST" is written in large, bold, yellow letters on a green banner. Below it, "ZOAR · Historic Village" is written in a smaller font. The main title "A GERMAN CELEBRATION OF SPRING" is in orange and yellow. The date and time "MAY 13 | 10AM - 5PM" are also in yellow. There are illustrations of a straw hat, a bratwurst, a pretzel, and a beer mug. The text "ENTERTAINMENT GEMÜTLICHKEIT CLEVELÄNDER MUSIKANTEN" is in yellow. Below that, it lists "GERMAN FOOD AND BREW TENT · GERMAN CAR SHOW VOLKSMARCH · PLEIN AIR PAINTING · ANNUAL PLANT SALE". At the bottom, there are logos for Zoar and the Rotary Club, with text: "CO-SPONSORED BY THE ZOAR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AND THE BOLIVAR-ZOAR ROTARY CLUB" and "PROCEEDS BENEFIT HISTORIC ZOAR VILLAGE".

## Board Members

### Rod Thompson, President

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**Crier Editors:** Celia Hasman,  
Allan B. Pinter, and Sue  
Morrison

Available position: Webmaster



# Remembering John Morrison

The Western Reserve Section and MBCA lost a valued friend and member when John Morrison passed away on Sunday, December 4. John and Sue have devoted over 25 years of their time and efforts to the betterment of our section and to the club nationally.

John was a long-time car enthusiast who enjoyed cars of all eras, ranging from his Model A to VW Beetles to Mercedes-Benz SL, and he looked forward to the annual Father's Day Car Show at Stan Hywet. He always planned to arrive early to watch the parade of cars as they entered the show. Among John's many interests were old houses, model trains and cars, reading, classical music, and his church.

John's involvement in the Mercedes-Benz club started by accident. He attended a few section events with Gary Goodman, their most memorable one being a rally in the Chagrin Falls area. This sparked his interest in the brand and led to his purchase of the silver 1967 230SL. A few years later the SL500 was added to their collection. John exercised both of the SLs on a variety of tracks as a participant in many of our local and national club events.

As John's involvement with the club grew, he was joined by Sue, and together they have made outstanding contributions to our section. They were involved in the planning and organization of many of our local and National Events, including several StarFests and Gemutlichkeits. Although John served the Western Reserve Section as a board member and treasurer for many years, many might think that his greatest contribution was introducing Sue's cookies to our events! Rest in peace John—you'll be greatly missed by many. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Sue and the Morrison family.



Western Reserve Section  
Crier

Mercedes-Benz Club of America  
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Kent, Ohio 44240



## Schedule of Events

**March 7, 2023**

\*Membership and Board Meeting  
7:00 pm Brewster's Twinsburg

**April 4, 2023**

\*Membership and Board Meeting  
7:00 pm Brewster's Twinsburg

**April 15, 2023**

Hahn Auto Restoration Workshop  
with Pittsburgh Section  
Harmony, PA (Watch for more info)

**May 2, 2023**

\*Membership and Board Meeting  
7:00 pm Brewster's Twinsburg

**May 6, 2023**

\*Switchcars Presentation, Twinsburg

**May 13, 2023**

Maifest and Car Show  
10:00-5:00 Zoar, OH

**June 6, 2023**

\*Membership and Board Meeting  
7:00 pm Brewster's Twinsburg

**June 18, 2023**

Stan Hywet Father's Day Car Show  
Akron, OH

**July 19, 2023**

\*Gervasi Cruise-in  
(M-B featured club) N. Canton, OH

**July 29, 2023**

\*Old Car Fun Day  
Hunting Valley

**August 1, 2023**

\*Membership and Board Meeting  
7:00 pm Brewster's Twinsburg

**August 13, 2023**

\*Spread Eagle Brunch & Ice Cream Social  
Hanoverton, OH

\*Starred items are specifically our section's event. Others are open events that our section is participating in. Watch our website: [www.benzclub.org](http://www.benzclub.org) for more information and updates. Members are encouraged to join us for our monthly meetings at Brewster's Café Bistro Pub, 2681 Creekside Dr. Twinsburg.