



Western Reserve Section

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA
Crier - June 2023

The President's Letter

Now that we have entered summer, our event schedule is busy. July brings us the Gervasi cruise-in on Wednesday, **July 19th**, and the Old Car Fun Day at my home in Hunting Valley on Saturday, **July 29th**. Last year's Old Car Fun Day emphasized electric vehicles and elicited a good deal of interest from the attendees. We decided to pursue this topic again this year, with a presentation by long-time member, Fred Gwinn, discussing his ownership of three electric cars, a Tesla, a Porsche, and now a 2023 M-B EQS 450 4-Matic SUV. Last March he and his wife, Priscilla, made a cross country tour with the Mercedes and Fred will share his experience of touring long distance with these cars. On Saturday, **August 5th**, we will attend the European Car Show at Ursuline College in Pepper Pike. On Sunday, **August 13th**, Mary Alice Cozza has invited us to Hanoverton for the Spread Eagle Tavern brunch followed by an Ice Cream Social at her lovely home overlooking Guilford Lake. Sunday, **September 17th** brings us the Clambake and car show at DTJ Taborville sponsored by Vice President, Allan B Pintner. I am looking forward to seeing you and your cars soon.



-Rod Thompson

Zoar Maifest

Historic Zoar Village and the Zoar Community Association sponsored their sixth annual Maifest "German Celebration of Spring" and German All-Marques Car Show on Saturday, May 13. Zoar was founded in 1817 by Swabian Germans from the same Wuerttemberg area that birthed famous automotive companies and suppliers including Mercedes-Benz, Maybach, Porsche, Bosch, and ZF.

Despite early showers and threats of more rain, the overall event was well attended, and over a dozen intrepid car owners braved the weather to participate. Mercedes-Benz vehicles and Western Reserve Section members were well represented, and the vehicles included a 2023 electric EQS 450 displayed by Kempthorn Motors. Prizes awarded included Peoples' Choice (pictured bottom left) and Peoples' Choice runner-up, Participants' Choice, Newest Car, and Oldest Car. Zoar Maifest 2024 will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2024. Mark your calendars for next year!

-Jon Elsasser



Replacing a Mercedes Battery: The Route to Success

-Ted Gottfried

1. Many basic meters are available at local auto parts stores to determine if your battery is being charged by your alternator when your motor is running, as well as measuring the stored voltage amount when your motor is turned off. 12.8 Volts should be available in a battery at rest.
2. Mercedes recommends monitoring your battery and charging system at a minimum of once a year during normal scheduled maintenance. For typical passenger cars dating from about the year 2000 up to the present, there is a recommendation of replacing your battery every four years. This frequency, of course, is a function of usage as well as time. Some batteries remain viable up to twice that time if the vehicle is high in mileage. Stop and go short trip vehicles wear the battery out much sooner. What wears out is the interior insulated grid used to store the energy. Running the stored energy down and then back up again takes a toll much faster than maintaining the voltage at the necessary 12.8 level.
3. If, or when, a battery has been run down to as low as 10 volts, then the likelihood of bringing it back up to 12.8 by introducing a slow trickle or rapid fast high amp charge is extremely slim. The interior storage grids and acid can no longer do the job of holding the charge.
4. The solution is to replace the battery with one comparable to the original designed for the vehicle.
5. To remove the old battery, one must first find where it is located and remove any shields or covers preventing access. Typically a 10 mm socket with about a 12 inch extension is used to remove the one or two nuts holding the battery in place with a plate that fits against the tapered extension at the base of the battery.
6. To disconnect the battery, first turn off the ignition key. The negative terminal pinch clamp is held on the negative post terminal. Always remove the negative clamp first, then the positive. Usually a 13 mm, 45 degree angle ratcheting box wrench works best to loosen the nuts on the pinch clamp bolts. Tuck both terminals out of the way under nearby lining or carpeting definitely away from the business end of either terminal.
7. Physical removal of the battery from its designed storage location probably will require someone strong who can pull the embedded handles up and out to clear any nearby obstacles. Then, set the used battery out of the way on a block of wood and compare the physical dimensions of the new battery to the old. A battery number letter identification can verify the correct battery. Previously German batteries labeled Varta were supplied for Mercedes. More recently, Mercedes batteries have come from USA Interstate battery manufacturer at a considerably more interesting price.
8. Installation of the new battery is a reversal of the steps necessary to remove the old one, with the final step being to install the pinch clamp to the negative battery terminal. A light coating of white lithium grease on each terminal will act as a moisture barrier and aid in extending battery life.
9. The final procedure involves turning on the ignition key and observing the instrumentation as the vehicle begins to run. The radio code is one of the first to be entered from an information card supplied with each vehicle. If this code is not available then a Mercedes dealer can supply this code upon proof of ownership by the requester. Other code resetting follows the necessary steps for the requested accessory. For example, on an R129 convertible, the start up procedure mimics the operation of the so-called automatic operation with the large red lighted button for raising the top and lowering the top. Because this function is electrically connected to lowering the side windows, they must initially be recycled manually to be synchronized with the operation of the top. In order to reset brake system, functions indicated by amber warning lights in the main instrument panel the steering wheel must be turned from lock position to lock position. Following this operation the warning lights will go out.

Greetings from the Great Lakes Regional Director

As warm weather continues in our Great Lakes Region, I hope you have had an opportunity to get your Mercedes-Benz out for a drive. In April, both the Western Reserve and Pittsburgh Sections took advantage of the good Spring weather for a drive to Hahn Restoration in Harmony, Pennsylvania for a tour of their shop and then enjoyed lunch at a local restaurant. It was a great opportunity for the two sections to join an event together for the community, camaraderie, and the cars. It was most enjoyable to meet new members and share stories of our vehicles.

As you may have read in recent Star articles, membership, and subsequently revenue, in the MBCA has been declining. The National Board is currently looking at ways to increase both membership and revenues. But, as I have told our hard-working section presidents in the Great Lakes Region, the success of the MBCA starts at the local level. We can do our part in increasing and maintaining membership by offering events of



varying interests – driving, social, and tech-related – for our members. In addition, when planning events, we should make sure to send the event information to neighboring sections for inclusion in communications to their members.



Here is just a sample of some of the events that are being planned this year in the Great Lakes Region:

July 8 - Deutsche Marques at Gilmore Car Museum (Western Michigan); **July 22** – Arthritis Foundation Classic Auto Show (Central Ohio); **July 22-23** – Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix (Pittsburgh); **August 13** – Spread Eagle Brunch and Ice Cream Social (Western Reserve); **September 7-10** – Mercedes Grande; **October 22** – Fall Color Tour (International Stars).

To learn more about these and other events or if you have a question, please contact me at MBCAGreatLakesRD@gmail.com. I hope to see you at an upcoming event in the region. It is a wonderful way to catch up with friends and is a perfect way to make new ones as well.

-Jeff Hirst

Welcome New Members!

March 4 - June 14

Johnny Illijeyski

Rick Pomplas

Maura Braun

Gregory DeSena

Kristen Faricellie

We're happy you renewed:

Frank Omerza

Peter Thomas

Kimberly Keller

Dana Pawlicki

Joseph Lepera

Dan Schmidt

John Michaels IV

Anthony Mikolich

Earl Lauridsen

Dante Cornacchione

Dr. William Mulhausen

Christopher Arn

Donald Brehm

Terry Endress

Klaus Kitzler

Robert Vadas

Carl Wennerstrom

Beverly Stewart

Paul Bailey

David Gillis

Bernard Barabas

Rod Kalkman

Benjamin Kulper

Jeffrey Hildebrandt

Todd Schneider

Laurie Tall

Bill Clair

James Eichler

Annerose Zorn-West



Friday Morning Cars and Coffee

What do you mean 7 to 10 AM at the CVNP Visitors Center Parking lot across from the Boston Mills Ski Resort? Isn't that sort of early? Yes, but the refreshments are free and you can eat and drink as much as you want!!! This has been occurring every Friday morning this Spring.

Brad Brownell, Crawford Automobile Museum General Manager brings the coffee and donuts, Myron Vernis, International Car Enthusiast who has nearly 100 cars in his personal collection, and world-renowned coast to coast race car driver and owner of Switchcars exotic car dealership in Twinsburg Ohio Doug Tabbutt assist in encouraging attendees to introduce themselves to fellow car enthusiasts. All marques and makes are welcome and the interaction between owners of like and dissimilar vehicles occurs naturally.

Beginning in April this year, inclement weather has only been a factor once, causing a cancellation.

Otherwise the events have been most interesting and profitable for all attendees. At a minimum several dozen men and women have gained considerable knowledge about each other's vehicles. The event ends at 10AM because the National Parks Rangers need the facilities to meet and greet Park visitors at opening time at 10AM.

The CVNP does not charge the organizers and attendees any fees.

These events obviously have been fulfilling a need of early risers who can attend before beginning their normal work day activities. We look forward to attending many more throughout the summer and fall.

-Ted Gottfried



EVENT SCHEDULE

July 11

*Membership & Board Meeting 7:00
Brewster's, Twinsburg

July 19

*Gervasi Cruise-In
(M-B featured marque)
Canton, OH

July 29

*Old Car Fun Day
Hunting Valley

August 1

*Membership & Board Meeting, 7:00
Brewster's, Twinsburg

August 5

European Car Show
Ursuline College

August 13

*Spread Eagle Brunch & Ice cream Social
Hanoverton, OH

August 19

Alzheimer's Benefit Car Show
Anna Maria, Aurora

September 5

*Membership & Board Meeting, 7:00
Brewster's, Twinsburg

September 10

Molto Bella Car Show
Stan Hywet, Akron

September 17

*Annual Clambale & Car show
DTJ Taborville

October 3

*Membership & Board Meeting, 7:00
Brewster's, Twinsburg

October TBD

*Fall Leaf Tour

*Starred items are specifically our section's event. Others are open events that our section is participating in. Watch our website: 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.

Attend Gervasi 2023!

-Richard Self

The MBCA Western Reserve Section is the featured car club on Wednesday, July 19 from 5:00-8:00 PM (weather permitting) for the weekly cruise-in at one of Ohio's top destinations - Gervasi Vineyard Resort & Spa at 700 55th Street NE, Canton, OH 44721. This cruise-in will feature our cars in the Vineyard parking lot. Come and enjoy Gervasi. They have added several new venues to the property. Come experience Gervasi outdoor patio dining, and the other luxury accommodation options, their three restaurants and coffee house featuring their award-winning wines and distillery offering bourbon, gin, and vodka. Admission is free, but pre-registration is highly recommended so that we can reserve enough parking spaces. Contact MBCA member Richard Self (selfrich@sssnet.com or 330-546-5764) with the year and model of the Mercedes-Benz that you will be displaying. This allows Richard to plan the display in advance. We would like you to be there by 4:30 on that Wednesday.

Visit to Hahn Auto Restoration

Ten of our members made the trip from our homes in Ohio to visit Hahn Auto Restoration on April 15 at an open house organized by the Pittsburg Section of the MBCA. Hahn Auto Restoration is located in Harmony, Pennsylvania. We joined over 20 members of the Pittsburg Section touring the facility and viewing the cars which were in the process of renovation and then enjoyed a short presentation from the founder, Bill Hahn and the current owner, Amy Hahn Beck, who is Bill's Daughter. Following the presentation, most attendees traveled a short distance to eat lunch at the Log Cabin Inn built in 1835. Hahn Auto Restoration performs full restorations on collector vehicles known for their rarity. From "one of a kind" projects like a 1938 HRG coupe to rare Mercedes-Benz 300SL Gullwings and Roadsters or custom creations such as a 1946 Chevy panel truck, Hahn Auto Restoration has extensive experience with high-level restorations. They provide full restoration services for European and American collectible vehicles. Hahn has completed several concours award-winning restorations over the years. An impressive list of their award-winning cars is available on their website. As a bonus to this trip, we met and talked with Jeff Hirst, our new MBCA Regional Director, and his wife, Susan. Jeff and Susan are members of the Pittsburgh Section. It has been a while since your editor has been on the Pennsylvania Turn Pike and was pleasantly surprised that there were no toll charges at the entry and exit points for the Turn Pike; that is until he returned home and was billed for the tolls a month later. Technology does indeed change. -Allan Pintner



Western Reserve Section
Crier
Mercedes-Benz Club of America
7783 Diagonal Road
Kent, Ohio 44240



Board Members

Rod Thompson, President

renold.thompson@
clevelandship.com
216-374-6419

**Allan B. Pintner, Vice
President**

abpintner@mhmld.com
216-548-9077

Jan Pesta, Secretary

Monica Pesta
jnkpst@gmail.com
330-659-4956

Gary Goodman, Treasurer

ggood100167@aol.com
440-670-4203

Sue Morrison

slm2teach@aol.com
330-673-7885

Ted Gottfried

tbgfried@yahoo.com
330-650-0751

Dr. Bill Mulhausen

drbillmulhausen@
outlook.com
440-899-1570

Joanne Hovanic

330-332-1576

**Kieran Mulhausen, Membership
Chair**

kieranann@aol.com

Jim Tullis, Past President

jtullis@roadrunner.com
330-656-1453

Mary Alice Cozza

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

Paul Bailey

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

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

Available position: Webmaster