



Western Reserve Section

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA

Crier - Fall 2023

The President's Letter

-Rod Thompson

Our summer and early fall events have been well attended. Thanks go to Mary Alice Cozza for arranging our Spread Eagle Tavern & Ice Cream Social event in August, and to Allan Pintner for arranging our DTJ Clambake & Car Meet in September. We will conclude our driving events with the upcoming "Fall Leaf Tour" scheduled for Saturday, October 21st. Our club member, Nicko Koutavas has invited us to Mantua for a "haunted luncheon" at 11:00 am, followed by a drive to Warren for a private guided tour of the Packard Museum at 2:30 pm. The fall color should be at its peak for this event. We also hope to schedule a cultural event later this year before the holidays. Please let me know if you have any suggestions for such an outing. Hope to see you soon!



Fall Leaf Tour 2023 - Mark your Calendars

With Halloween around the corner, please plan to join us for the 2023 Fall Leaf Tour on October 21st as we have a haunted lunch and then a back roads driving adventure admiring all the vibrantly colored leaves. We will drive from Mantua, Ohio to the National Packard Museum in Warren, Ohio, where our members will have a private, guided tour of the museum.



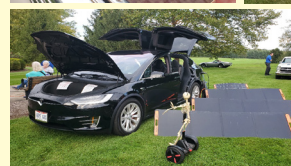
Lunch will be hosted by Nicko Koutavas at his home at [10806 Reservoir Drive, Mantua, Ohio 44255](#). Nicko will be serving plenty of fall themed food, cookies, and cake, so come hungry!!! Nicko is the owner of Detailed Xpress & Details by Nicko. Lunch will begin at 11 AM. We will depart from Nicko's home promptly at 1 PM for our Fall Leaf Tour drive to the National Packard Museum, [1899 Mahoning Avenue, N.W. Warren, Ohio 44483](#). Our guided tour of the Museum is scheduled to start at 2:30 PM and will last an hour to an hour and a half. Guests will be able to continue to enjoy the Museum until the 5 PM closing time.



Cost for the 2023 Fall Leaf tour is \$30 per person. This cost includes both the lunch and the admission to the museum. Guests may register for and pay on line at [benzclub.org](#), the Western Reserve Section's website.

Regina Health Care Car Show

Several of our members attended the recent mid-week car show at the Regina Health Care Facility on Broadview Road in Richfield, Ohio. Jan and Monica Pesta, and Kurt von Leyser were lucky enough to get front row reserved parking!





Old Car Fun Day -Rod Thompson

On Saturday, July 29th, 30 of our club members attended our annual "Old Car Fun Day" at my home in Hunting Valley. Long time club member, Fred Gwinn, gave us a thorough presentation on the practical aspects of owning an all-electric vehicle.

Fred has owned a Tesla, a Porsche Taycan, and now drives a Mercedes EQS SUV. In addition to his car, two other Mercedes EQS Sedans were in attendance, provided by Kempthorn Moters and Tony Mikolich. The morning experienced periods of intermittent light rain, so Fred gave his presentation under cover before the buffet lunch was served. Luckily, the sun arrived just as he was finishing with the lengthy answering of questions. Fred's insights on the technical differences in the three automakers' EV products, as well as his opinions on the current limitations of remote charging stations were of great interest to our members.

Thank you, Fred, for driving up from Philadelphia to give us your thorough and insightful review of the current state of EV ownership! The membership is clearly interested in this topic and the efforts of Daimler-Benz in developing EV cars.



Brunch, Ice Cream, and Good Company -Sue Morrison

The ever-popular Spread Eagle Brunch and Ice Cream Social was held on August 13, 2023. Beautiful cars lined the streets of Hanover, Ohio as their drivers and friends gathered inside the Spread Eagle Tavern for a delicious meal and socialization. The caravan of those cars moved on to the wonderful home of Mary Alice Cozza for more socializing and enjoying our special cars. Fred Martin Mercedes-Benz brought several of the new models to show the group. Their friendly staff was available to answer questions. And the dealership brought some door prizes. Thank you, Fred Martin Mercedes-Benz. As is the practice, membership anniversary pins are awarded at the Spread Eagle event and the Holiday party. This year at the ice cream social, pins were awarded to John Michels IV, 5 years. Jim and Barb Tullis, 15 years. And Tony Mikolich, 35 years. We were happy to have Regional Director, Jeff Hirst and his fellow Pittsburgh members, Betsy and Dan Marcin, who are longtime friends of Western Reserve. Also, it's always great to have John van Landingham from the Central Ohio section.



CRIER GOING PAPERLESS!

For many years, the MBCA National Business Office provided sections a stipend based on the number of section members to help to cover the expense of printing and mailing newsletters and event flyers, as well as subsidizing event costs when needed. These stipends were suspended at the end of 2020, so for the last 3 years, the section has absorbed the costs to subsidize events and to print and distribute member communications. This has resulted in operating losses for each year, with the primary expenses incurred by publishing The Crier and event flyers.

Beginning in January 2024, all communications, including The Crier and event flyers, will only be available through email and our website. With the increase in postage rates (10% this year and a total of 20% since 2020) coupled with the increases in paper, ink, and printing costs, it is not feasible to continue to mail newsletters and flyers.

There are a few section members who do not have an email address on file at the national business office or have emails that are no longer valid. To correct this the best solution is to log in and update your profile at mbca.org. Another option is to send an email with your name and preferred email to wrsection@gmail.com. Doing this will add you to our section roster but will not add your email to your profile at the NBO.

These members do not have an email on file or have emails that are no longer valid:

-Paul Balciar	-Klaus Kitzler	-Robert Sloan
-William Bartels	-Joseph Lepera	-Ralph Stupka
-David Boyce	-John Michels IV	-Laurie Tall
-James Johnston	-Charles Orange	-Mike Yeagley
-Dennis Kelly	-Hans Proemm	

In some cases, our emails are rejected by your server. This is usually caused by firewalls that block our emails as spam due to the large number of recipients. There are some steps to solve this:

1. Add wrsection@gmail.com to your address book or contact list
2. Consider using a personal email instead of a work email to avoid corporate firewalls

These members have our emails being rejected by their server:

-Stella Camuso	-Gloria Wesolowski
-Robert Henkin	-Robert Young
-Anneliese Nefos	

The Western Reserve Section does not sell or share your email information, and our emails are always sent bcc so your email address is not visible to other members.

Our only sources of income are event registration fees and event sponsorships. We are fortunate to have support from Fred Martin Mercedes-Benz of Youngstown, Kempthorn Motors in Canton, and Ganley Mercedes-Benz of Akron. Over the last year we have had event venues provided by Hahn Restoration, SwitchCars, Harwood Motors, Gervasi Vineyards, Rod Thompson, Nicko Koutavas, DTJ Taborville/Allan Pintner, and Mary Alice Cozza.

-As always previously, events are organized on a volunteer basis without any time or travel compensation.

-The board members and officers are volunteers.

-The webmaster is also on a volunteer non-compensated basis.

-The Western Reserve section does not have dues as is typical for most car clubs.



From the Great Lakes Regional Director

It is hard to believe that autumn has arrived here in the Great Lakes Region. Where did the time go? I hope you had the opportunity to take your Mercedes-Benz to one of the many events offered this summer throughout our sections in the Region. One of the events that I was looking forward to all summer was Mercedes Grande. I had registered for Mercedes Grande in Indianapolis and entered my 1997 SL320 in the Roadster/Cabriolet Class of the Artomobilia Monumental Car Show scheduled for Saturday, September 9. That was the plan until the SL sprung a gushing fuel leak the Friday before Grande, and instead of heading to Indy, was on the back of a flatbed truck heading to the repair shop. I did get to Indy late Friday night (thanks to a rental Toyota) and had a wonderful time at the Artomobilia Monumental Car Show on Saturday. I was asked to be one of the concours judges. There were over eighty Benzes lining the streets of Carmel, Indiana along with the many other makes and models of beautiful cars. The MBCA Best in Show Award went to Dave Steingas and his 1951 220b Cabriolet. Second Place went to Bill Walsh and his 1961 300d Limousine. The Best Preservation Award (Artomobilia) went to Jim Johnson and his extremely clean 1999 SL500. The SL320 – minus the fuel leak - would have had a hard time competing against Jim’s SL. It was immaculate and had won many awards to prove it.

We ended Saturday with the President’s Dinner and Award Ceremony at the Downtown Hilton - Indianapolis. This event capped off a wonderful Grande experience. There are discussions already planning for the next Grande event. I am looking forward to that. Kudos to Roger Brummett (Indiana Crossroads Section President), Ken Koehler (MBCA Central Regional Director), Katie Carruth (MBCA Executive Director) and the staff, volunteers, and sponsors who worked tirelessly to put on such a successful event. If you have a question or just want to chat about Benzes, please contact me at MBCAGreatLakesRD@gmail.com. By the way – The SL320 is back home with a much tighter fuel line connection...

Godspeed,
Jeff Hirst

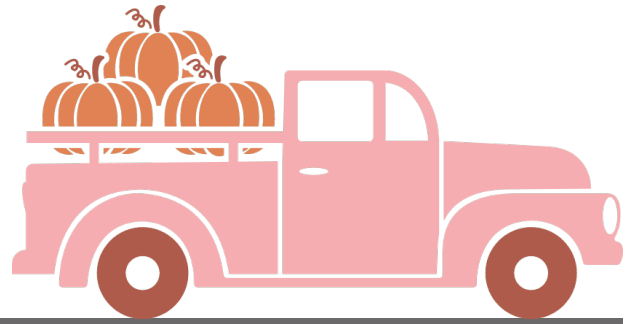


Concours D’Elegance & European Car Show

Members of our Western Reserve Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America participated in the show run by the Jaguar Club of Ohio at Ursuline College in Pepper Pike, Ohio on August 5, 2023. This well-run show featured Jaguar and other British and European marques. It was truly a Concours d’Elegance. Each marque was given a separate spot on the multiple show fields. Our club was represented by over 20 different Mercedes-Benz vehicles.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



October 21

*Fall leaf tour and cook out
Beginning in Mantua and ending in
Warren at the Packard Museum.
Watch the website and email for info.

December 5

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

November 7

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

January 6

*Holiday Party- Details to follow

*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.



DTJ Taborville Clambake

The 8th annual DTJ Taborville Clambake and Cruise-In took place on Sunday, September 17, 2023, in Auburn Township of Geauga County, Ohio. Forty-one 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. The DTJ grounds and facilities were pristine and well maintained, as always. The traditional stenciling on the DTJ Hall looked splendid in the bright sunshine. Many recently built picnic tables enabled tables to be positioned adjacent to the Show Area for our members to enjoy.

In addition to the chicken, sweet potato, corn on the cob, chowder, and broth, over 275 dozen clams were consumed and enjoyed by guests at the 2023 DTJ Taborville Clambake. Thank you to Bruce Marek of DTJ for permitting us to join in their annual clambake. Thank you also to Sue Morrison, and Allan B Pintner for their work in administering the show and prizes.

Twenty-three interesting vehicles were displayed at this event. The oldest vehicle was a 1971 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme SX owned by Gary and Jocelyn Goodman of Kent, Ohio. The newest vehicle was a 2023 Mercedes-Benz EQS 450 owned by Tony Mikolich of Canfield, Ohio. Prizes were awarded for 1st place in the People's Choice Award, the Furthest Drive to the Show, and the Highest Mileage. Prizes included a Plaque for the

1st place in the Peoples Choice voting and car care products for the other winners.

The **1st place winner** of the 8 th Annual DTJ Taborville Clambake and Cruise-In was the 1971 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme SX owned by **Gary and Jocelyn Goodman**. **David Gilliss** with his 2012 Mercedes-Benz AMG SL63, **Ryan Boyce** with his 2014 Mercedes-Benz AMG SL63 and **Keith Gecking** all tied for **2nd Place**. **David Boyce** won for the **Furthest Drive** in his 2013 Mercedes-Benz SL 550. David's drive from Beallsville, Ohio to DTJ Taborville was 165 miles each way. **Highest Mileage Award** went to **Keith Gecking** in his 1978 Mercedes-Benz 450 SL which boasted over 132,000 miles.

Member Beverly Stewart asked us to note her appreciation to all the members who helped her when she became ill and give a special thanks to Rod Thompson and his brother Brad for assisting her with her car. Thank you also to Member William Kennedy for graciously supplying tubes of Udderly Smooth Hand Cream for all our participants. Bill manufactures this product in his plant in Salem, Ohio. Many members commented that they were familiar with the product and that it was their favorite hand cream.



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