



Western Reserve Section

Crier

Mercedes-Benz Club of America

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A multi-day event you don't want to miss!

Gemütlichkeit is the oldest MBCA national event, and your section is hosting the 2015 version from Aug. 19-22. This event is an opportunity to improve your driving skills, show off your beautiful car, meet wonderful people from all over the country and enjoy meals and other events. Because we have reworked the event somewhat, we are calling it a “Driving Experience.” The event will begin on Aug. 19, 2015 and will include one day of defensive driving and autocross as well as time on the newly renovated Pittsburgh International Complex in Wampum PA. Defensive Driving is a must for any conscientious driver. This is time in your car around cones with an instructor. You learn what to do in emergencies. It is a non-threatening class taught by our own people who have taught it all over the US and Canada. Once that is completed, the option is available to try your skills on the autocross. This is a course laid out with cones for you to maneuver in a controlled environment. We want you to go home knowing what your car can do and what you can do with your car, a definite confidence builder for highway driving. Also happening on Thursday and again on Friday will be time on the “big track.” The original North track and the newly constructed South track have been combined for a 3 mile driving experience. Again, instructors will talk you through every part of the track emphasizing every turn and every braking point. With plenty of time on the track, you will have the chance to enhance your driving skills and have fun without competition. We’re hoping this removes some of the apprehension and encourages many more to participate. We are also preparing you for Starfest, 2016 to be held in the

east the following year. There have been no national driving events for at least 3 years, so we want to encourage all of you to come learn what fun you can have and improve your driving skills in the process. For those not interested in driving events, there will be scheduled activities of interest to all.

On Saturday, you will want to make your cars all clean and shiny and participate in the Concours d’Elegance. This is a judged car show — although we have room for non judged (touring class) cars. It’s also a time for M-B enthusiasts to enjoy the wide array of beautiful automobiles. Trophies for the concours and for the autocross will be given at the final banquet on Saturday evening. The host hotel for this event is the Pittsburgh Marriott North in Cranberry Twp. The banquet will be held at the Hilton Gardens Inn also in Cranberry Twp. a half mile away from the Marriott. The Hilton will hold a block of 10 rooms for those wishing to use Hilton Honors. Cranberry Twp. is one exit east of the exit for the track on the PA turnpike but is in the section where no tolls are charged.

Please mark your calendar and join us for this exciting event. We might even put you to work! And that’s fun, too. Many lasting friendships have been made and much learning accomplished at these events. If you have never been on a track and thought you would like to do this, well, this is the event for you. There will be special instructors for first timers. This event can be your introduction to driving events.

Board of Directors

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

Rod Thompson, Vice President
renoldthompson@clevelandship.com
216-222-2827

John Tuck, Secretary
John.Tuck1@gmail.com
216-408-8454

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

Ted Gottfried, Tech Advisor
tbgfried@yahoo.com
330-650-0751

Gary Goodman
ggood10167@aol.com
440-670-4203

Tom Barratt
tombarratt@aol.com
440-247-2942

Brian DiPasquale
Tracy DiPasquale
brian@vecmar.com
440-256-9988

Fred Gesell
wgesell@aol.com
419-332-8398

Fred Gwinn
fred@reverselogic.us
216-235-8584

Werner Heidemann
pepper5454@aol.com
440-537-0991

Lee Kalessis
lkalessis@yahoo.com

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

Rod Tucker
rodzbenzbuds@yahoo.com

Ron White
ronjwhite1016@gmail.com
216-276-4159

Bill VerDuin
billverduin@windstream.net
Cynthia VerDuin
cverduin@cpahatfield.com
440-338-6030

Frank Cozza,
Great Lakes Regional Director
Mary Alice Cozza,
fcozza@neo.rr.com
330-222-1106

Crier Editors:
Mary Alice Cozza and Sue Morrison
Priscilla Gwinn

National and Regional News....

by **Frank Cozza**

At the recent National Board Meeting held in Atlanta Georgia, the following officers were elected:

President-Terry Kiwala,
Western Reserve Section and Chicagoland Section

Vice President—Laura Simonds,
San Francisco Bay Section

Secretary—Cliff Reyle,
Memphis Section

Treasurer—Bill Hopper,
Greater Washington Section



Frank Cozza

The new regional director for the Great Lakes Region (our region) is John Briggs from International Stars Section replacing Frank Cozza who is now a Director-at-Large. Information for reaching these officers is in the back of the STAR.

Also, the national board approved Gemütlichkeit 2015 being presented by our section and provided a nice stipend to help defray expenses for the event.

Reminder: StarTech will be held in Cincinnati June 12-14, 2015.

Members Sept. 9 – Dec. 11

New Members

Ed Weaver	Richard Bird	Karen Carson	Doug Seib
Joseph Groscost	Alan Psota	Thomas Soltis	

Renewals – Glad you're back!

Albert Jackson	Robert Eckley	Robert Sloan
Kevin Mizer	Emil Rosul	R. Mathews
Charles Wilder	Raymond Hensel	Timothy Graziano
Thomas Barrett	Warren Ledsky	Joe Wehrheim
Clarke Bricker	Michael Schiltz	David Gaddis
James Bergstrom	Vassie Scott	Fred Gesell
Thomas Heck	Donald Bellante	William Ober
Joel Scheer	Jerry Vanaskey	James Michael
Stan Burson	Jack Hemminger	Steve Dobrich
Jackie Taconet	Terry Hughes	Bruce Galbreath
Joyce Jyurovat	Robert Piggott	Thomas Schahel
Anthony Psota	Hugh Fisher	Don Woodard
Robert Henkin	Eric Goodrich	Roy Vankanegan Jr.
Drew Schneider	Lewis Sawitzke	Zoe Ann Zimmerman
Thomas Vail	Paul Houdek	Terrance Hamilton

President's Message – See you soon!



Jim Tullis

Great news for our Western Reserve Section!!! **Mary Alice** and **Frank Cozza** recently submitted a proposal for the 2015 Gemütlichkeit to the National MBCA Board of Directors at their recent meeting in Atlanta. We are thrilled to have been awarded this prestigious national event! Arrangements have been made for it to be held at the Pittsburgh International Park from August 19-22 and will feature on-track time, defensive driving, autocross, and a Concours and banquet on Saturday. This year's Gemütlichkeit will be headquartered at the Marriott North, and we will have access to the many local attractions in the Pittsburgh area. Our Board/Members meeting scheduled for January 7th at Brewster's in Twinsburg will serve as the "kickoff" for more detailed planning. Your efforts and support will be necessary and appreciated for our Section to make this successful. My thanks to all of you in advance!

Our WRS events this Fall have included some of our Section's trademark "Touch of Class." **Don** and **Carol Velcio** started us along our way with a meticulously planned combined three-day and one day Fall Leaf Tour. We began with a tour of author Louis Bromfield's Malabar Farm, a drive along the Walhonding River Gorge, several stops in Amish

country including the Amish Door Inn, the Walnut Creek Animal Farm, the American Gas Pump Museum, the Dennison Railroad Depot, and finally ending at the Oglebay Resort near Wheeling.

Rod Thompson made arrangements for our visit to the recently renovated Cleveland Museum of Art which included a luncheon in the museum's private dining room. Our group was split into two private docent led tours. One tour visited the Asian Section of the museum while the group that I enjoyed was led by a member of our club, **Cathy Keith**, and focused on automobile based artifacts. One of the paintings that she featured was a view painted by Matisse while he sat in the back seat of his son's car. Henri, how dare you neglect painting a tri-star emblem on the hood of the car!

Our upcoming section happenings will include revisiting the Sebring Mansion on January 10th for this year's holiday event (I fondly remember champagne at the front door as we arrived and Bananas Foster as we departed...Classy!) In addition, our section will be running a special bus trip to the Detroit Auto Show in February. The North Olmsted MBZ dealership will also be supporting our annual Cleveland Auto Show event.

Please check www.benzclub.org for more events, details, and dates. We look forward to seeing you!

Join us to celebrate the holiday...

Mark your calendar for the Western Reserve Section Holiday party. Because of the huge success of the party two years ago at the Sebring Mansion, we are again scheduled to return on Jan. 10. As before, valet parking is requested because of lack of space on the grounds. You will be met at the front door with a glass of Champaign (or non-alcoholic if desired). Mingling throughout the beautiful first floor of the mansion and enjoying hors D'Oeuvres sets the mood



for your elegant night. Dinner again will be served in the ball room followed by entertainment provided by Ganley Mercedes-Benz of Akron. Your invitation will arrive in the mail in a couple weeks. Reserve early because we do sell out. You'll be so glad you did. Overnight accommodations are available at a group rate. Check the web site at www.sebringmansion.org or Alliance is about 5 miles away where several hotels are available.

Loses a long-time member.

by Gary Goodman



The Western Reserve Section lost a long-time member and friend when Manfred E.S. von Saucken-Tarputschen, affectionately known as “Manny” to his many friends and colleagues, recently passed away at age 81. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Evelin, sons Alex and Sylvius, daughter Yvonne, and their families.

Manfred was born at Evelin’s grandparents’ estate in Fronza, Westprussia, outside Danzig, Poland in the German Territory. He was the only baby born there in over a hundred years. Manfred’s father was a diplomat for the German government and served in many countries including Italy, Russia, China, Turkey, & Cuba; he also had a post in San Francisco and was Consul General in New York City. Of course, Manny lived in all those places too.

Manfred and Evelin met at her parents’ home in March 1962 when he came over to visit from Riverside, NY. He returned 3 months later and proposed to Evelin; they were married on November 3rd, 1962 in the chapel of the castle Solitude in Gerlingen, located outside Stuttgart in southern Germany. After a honeymoon in Switzerland, Manny and Evelin returned to the U.S. and settled outside

New York City.

After attending high school in San Francisco, Manny graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from New York University. In the early years of his business career, he worked for Max Hoffman (yes, THE Max Hoffman) at Hoffman Motor Company in Manhattan as a district manager for BMW. A lot of effort was spent during that time enlisting dealers who were willing to take on the franchise for an unknown car. Manny later became a District Manager for Mercedes-Benz and in that capacity came to Cleveland in 1986 to live in South Russell. Manny was a staunch supporter of both Mercedes-Benz and MBCA and was always justifiably proud of his association with the brand. After his retirement he kept up on the latest Mercedes-Benz news in Auto Motor and Sport as well as with his connections in Germany. He befriended many MBCA members and dealership personnel and was always willing to do the right thing to take care of his customers and dealers. In addition to his business talents, he was very competent as a driver as well and took great pleasure in driving his 500E with brio whenever he had the opportunity. Although his health kept him from being as active in MBCA as he would have liked to be, he was always interested in hearing about the Western Reserve Section events and thoroughly enjoyed reading The Star.

Our sympathies go out to Evelin and the von Saucken family. Manny, you will be missed.....

Auto show bus trip to Detroit!

On January 17, 2015, the Western Reserve Section is chartering a bus to take members and friends to the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. This is one of the largest in the country as well as the venue where new production and concept cars are debuted. Here is your chance to go worry free. The trip will depart from Cleveland and make one stop on it’s way to Cobo Center where passengers will be taken to the front



door. The cost including ticket price will be \$50 per person and will include refreshments coming and going. On the way home, a dinner stop will also be made. Other fun things will be planned for the bus ride. For more information, look for the flyer either in this Crier or on our web site.

A beautiful fall leaf tour!

By Don and Carol Velcio

On the tour, 24 members and a few guests traveled through some of the most beautiful areas of northeast Ohio, enjoying scenery, interesting venues, and (of course) MBCA camaraderie.

Of the stops we had, many voiced their opinions that the Ohio's Malabar Farm "Big House Tour" was especially interesting. Others thought the natural beauty of Ohio's Mohican State Park, with the views of The Gorge and the Pleasant Hill Dam, was noteworthy. Still others thought that the goats on the roof of Hershberger's Farm and Bakery in Ohio's Amish Country were something they hadn't seen before. And all loved the wonderful Amish-style dinner that we had at the Amish Door Inn and Restaurant. And that was only our first day.

Our second day of travel took us to The Farm at Walnut Creek. There we all loaded into a large wagon that was driven by an Amish gentleman. He gave us a tour of a large outdoor farm full of exotic wild animals from around the world. And – best of all – we were allowed to feed the animals from the wagon. You can't imagine the smiles and other various faces that you saw in our wagon load of tourists!

After the wagon tour and carefully washing our hands (some of those animal tongues would make Kiss' tongue seem tiny) we drove past the world's largest cuckoo clock in Sugarcreek heading to the American Gas Pump Heaven Museum in Dover. There we received a tour from the museum's founder. This museum is full of automobilia and Americana that brought back memories to all of our guests, including those not so inclined to be "car guys." American Pickers talks about nostalgia. This museum embodies it. On we traveled to the Dennison Railroad Depot Museum. Recognized as a National Historic Landmark, The Dennison Railroad Depot is the most significant remaining example in the nation



of a railroad canteen still reflecting its WWII heritage. Our tourists loved it. The remainder of our second day was spent driving on specially-selected backroads of northeast Ohio. We saw beautiful rolling hills, colorful fall hillsides, magnificent inland lakes, and many areas with gas and oil fracking activities. Many of the "sportier" drivers thought that the roads themselves were the highlight of the day, as these were "driver roads."

The end of our second day took us to Oglebay Park and Resort in Wheeling, WV. Over a hundred years

ago, a tradition of generous hospitality was started at the summer estate of Earl W. Oglebay. Today, Oglebay offers 1,700 acres of year-round recreational opportunities and picturesque natural beauty. We had a scrumptious catered evening dinner at the Wilson Lodge where we stayed. Many of

our tourists plan to return to see more of Oglebay, including beautiful golf courses, a zoo, glass museum, historic homes, and magnificent gardens.

Our final day of touring had us on a scenic drive to The Inn at Honey Run near Millersburg, Ohio. The Inn is a modern country inn with a fabulous kitchen and chef. There we were treated to a beautiful and bucolic setting, a large common area for socializing before our catered luncheon, and a fine-dining meal that brought comments from everyone who enjoyed it. This was a perfect setting to say our goodbyes to our friends, new and old.

Recognition was given to MBCA members who joined us long distances from home – Colorado, Missouri, and Tennessee were the furthest. Further recognition was given to members driving the oldest cars (a beautiful 450 SL from Tennessee joined us at the luncheon) while the owner of the Mercedes-Benz Ponton had already started home to Canton.

Traveling out west in a Mercedes–Benz

by Kurt von Leyser

This whole story actually starts in December last year, when I was visited somewhere Northwest of Chicago by the Motorwerks Roadside assistance truck. Why me? The temperature had dropped to single digits in the evening before. To start the morning SE 300 refused to complete its start sequence. The starter ground, but too slowly to catch. She tried to start, but the oil was from a time when the weather was more prone to flowers and birds and swings and things. Let's be real, it was an attempt, but a feeble attempt at that. A brand new Cadillac had the same problem. I didn't think it was that cold. Knowing over 360 thousand miles might also be part of my problem, I called the Mbrace 800 number and the truck arrived quickly, about 20 minutes, got me started, and on my way. I was given the morning moments to make a decision, and it had better be the right one. While waiting I swapped car stories with the Caddy driver over motel coffee until the truck arrived, and I have no idea if he ever left northeast Chicago...

After Christmas my favorite Mercedes-Benz dealer lowered the price of a car I had thought "way outta reach" so only casually looked at. After a search for nice preowned cars it had suddenly come within budget, and the 89 300SE became theirs. I now have a 2008 S-550 4-matic. With all the goodies and toys, (somebody really knew how to order a driver's car) and now it was mine!

It immediately became the "company car" and started to go into useful service. It was not a certified Preowned, it was an age thing, and after a month of shakedown, the only problem was questionable tires. I contacted Tire Rack, and that problem went away, in fact, it became a pretty impressive driver. Remember the "engineered like no other car?" Ya, pretty much like that. It's BIG, silver, black, equipped with night vision, backup camera and has more radar than the Bismarck. I have now named it the Tirpitz.

Being older now birthdays are just not as much fun as when younger, an attack on the mundane was necessary. This year I wanted a margarita from Isabella Greenway's Arizona Inn. The Tucson watering hole has been in operation since about 1930 and considering the movie industry ties to the city, I thought it the perfect place to drive a big Benz,

if only for the fun of it. A foot note here, I was left to understand the Inn does not offer normal fare television, but you can see DVD movies of many of those who did stay at the Inn instead. While considering the past guest list I was quite certain a Mercedes owner would have a wonderful time.

It is so nice to be right!

The route was not intentionally chosen for its historic aspect, it was basic and efficient. We left northern Ohio following closely to the Tri-C highway, then straight west on the National Road, then most of the rest of the way was the Mother Road. If you have been on any of the tours in the recent past, this is to confirm the country side was worth the trip.

Then they appeared, only a few miles into the drive. A three-pointed star, just standing there. Immobile, yet pointing a way. As we traveled west they would appear as guideposts along the interstates and highways. One here, or there, or a small group, most frozen in place, sometimes some are moving, long slow sweeps. Through Indiana and Illinois the grouping always seemed small, Missouri however had always planted them in clusters. I wondered, was this a start of some unique religion?

We may have discovered the cult of the three-pointed star. Daimler had the three pointed star for Air, Sea, and Land. Could they be related? Some places there may have been only one, and other places hundreds. During the drive I considered what an archaeologist three thousand years from now will think. Would they become baffled by this strange icon? Could a misinterpretation of our culture run rampant in the annals of future archaeology? Would they think worshippers be part of a georgic society where during the same time frame the city dwellers worshipped a goddess called Barbie? Would the three-pointed star get compared to the Minoan cult of the Bull? Will Mercedes-Benz still be a name known to all? These are the questions that come to mind across Oklahoma and the Texas panhandle.

The travels west ran through old west legends. Texas Rangers, Billy the Kid, The Earp brothers all traveled along the same route at some point or another. Even the dust-bowl emigrants haunted the

Continued ...

route. The mother road was home to an evening's rest several times during the journey. Tucson arrived in the horizon late in the afternoon, time to find proper lodging and evening meal. Tomorrow was the big day.

Early in the next day we explored the desert museum and caught the creatures prior to their afternoon naps, the desert creates its own time line. Touring the area multiple sites were taken in. I could hardly wait for the approaching evening and my birthday present to myself. In May much of the desert is in bloom, not the bleak landscapes so often seen in the movies. Taking a more scenic route was the right choice.

Travel time allowed for a leisurely afternoon visit at the Inn. Afternoon cocktails were the order, and the one Margarita turned into three. The staff was wonderful, and invited us to stay for dinner. Having escaped from the button-up world of Eastern Daylight time, my traveling companion and I appreciated the 5:30 early start. My choice for the evening was Chef Sam Allison's Tasting Menu. A delightful three course dinner of extraordinary presentations coupled with a selection of the appropriate wine to match the serving.

Imagine yourself in a setting from nearly eighty years ago. We have seen "the Great Gatsby", both versions. The scenes presented on the big screen showed how the well-heeled during the depression "survived." I am taken back in time, visiting the playground of the very rich. Soft spring sun, dining on the patio, very pretty young ladies in uniform to attend to your needs, and course one arrives with the proper glass of wine. Bay Scallops, Seared Ahi, and Rabbit Loin with Hugel Gentile. I have had dinner at the Vesuvius Hotel in Naples, munched Lobster at the Tamarind in Mombasa, and indulged my appetites at Tai Pac in Hong Kong Harbor. This was in that neighborhood.

As with Cinderella the clock never stops, and the end of the evening is inevitable. To have sampled an epicurean's euphoria that would have been standard fare for the opulent of another time made following the three-pointed star to the Arizona Inn well worth the excursion. There are other restaurants, in other towns, but this is a visit to the 1930s and a life style long forgotten in today's search for bling, not fulfillment. It was now time to shift 80 years and three hours of time zone. The big S was again pointed East and back to the time zone of today. An uneventful slingshot back to reality.

New questions replace the old for contemplation. There is a knowledge the EPA lies, the advertised gas mile figures are low, 24.5mpg combined for the complete trip from the onboard computer with a day mostly in New Mexico at 27. Why the cult of the three-pointed star when so few actually will experience a



Mercedes?

The route to return again found us on the Mother Road, where time seemed a bit slower. A non-chain family restaurant, that served families. A steak dinner in an old cow town like Abilene, or the rail head of Kansas City, for some bar-b-cue. For the tourists the summer had officially arrived, and the highways east of KC became congested. The Star continued to guide the way to home. Sure, I could fly to Tucson, but do you get the big comfortable seating, climate control set to your liking, or the view? Nope, you are just another passenger on the bus, and I don't like the bus. I like to fly among the stars.

Some historical information from Will Conroy.

Western Reserve Section

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Mercedes-Benz Club of America

7783 Diagonal Road
Kent, Ohio 44240

MBCA Schedule of Events

Jan. 6.	Membership meeting & Gemütlichkeit Planning	Brewster's, Twinsburg 7:00 p.m.
Jan. 10	Holiday Party	Sebring Mansion
Jan. 17	Bus Trip to Detroit Auto Show	Holiday Inn, Rockside Rd (See flyer)
Feb. 3	Membership Meeting	Brewster's, Twinsburg 7:00 p.m.

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. Our section's website will be updated as things change. www.benzclub.org

Check out the Western Reserve Section website at benzclub.org for updates.