



Western Reserve Section

CRUIER

Mercedes-Benz Club of America

Volume 12 Issue 1

March, 2012

Annual Cleveland Auto Show



Tony & Cindy Godfrey attended their first meeting

Olmsted. Attendees could arrive at their chosen time, but 6:30 was the time to meet Chairman **John Tuck** at the Mercedes-Benz venue and go downstairs to our private meeting room. This year's different menu and improved food seemed to please those in attendance. Following dinner and much visiting, President **Bill**

and friends attended the annual Cleveland Auto Show and gathering with tickets provided by **Mercedes-Benz of North**

Ver Duin welcomed the group, made introductions and gave thank-yous, and recognized those attending their first MBCA event. Then John Tuck introduced our featured speaker, **Ninia Sykes** from **MBUSA** who gave an informative presentation of what's new and what soon will be new in the Mercedes line. She had videos to accompany her presentation and allowed time for questions. It was another successful, enjoyable evening. And there was still time to enjoy the auto show if one still needed their "car fix".



Ninia Sykes featured speaker



Jack Ecke and guest enjoyed dinner at their first event

Contest winners!

The National Board Office sponsored a contest to retain existing members. Thanks to the help from **Jean Adamcik**, our section was a second place winner. Jean has been calling all new members to welcome them and reminding those whose memberships are expiring to renew. Thank-you, Jean, for all of your work and for your warm, welcoming touch. Jean has decided to "retire" from this position, and **Jim Tullis** has graciously accepted the added responsibility.

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National and Regional News....

by Frank Cozza

The premier national event, **Starfest**, is held every 2 years. Starfest 2012 will be held in Phoenix in September. Watch for future announcements in the STAR, on our web site, or in the Crier. There will probably be trips planned to caravan to the event. Plan to join us.



Frank Cozza

In an effort to cut costs, the spring national board meeting will be a virtual meeting via Webex. Board members will log into the site on the computer and then call in to be connected. MBCA members will also have the opportunity to log in as well. Committee meetings will be Friday, May 4, with the national board meeting on Saturday, May 5. Members who are interested in being part of the meeting, should contact the NBO in late April for contact information.

There are many reasons you have a passion for Mercedes-Benz.

This is the place to indulge them.

Join us at StarFest® 2012
Hosted by the MBCA Desert Stars Section
September 28 - October 3, 2012 in Phoenix, Arizona

For More Information:
Visit www.starfest2012.com
or contact Rick Stacio at rstacio@desertstars.org

More Than a Car. We're a Community.™

StarFest 2012

The world-famous Arizona Biltmore will be our anchor hotel and site of our two-day Concours d'Elegance. Firebird International Raceway will be the thrill-seekers' venue for all timed- and non-timed driving events; open to every Member and their guests.

Great Lakes Regional Event

The Fort Wayne Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club and a member of our region is hosting an event June 1-3. The event will include a Clue Hunt Road Rally, welcome reception, defensive driving and autocross and a Shine and Show concours. The host hotel is Don Hall's Guesthouse. For more information and to register, contact Julie Bruggner 260-348-1369 or Brian Davies 260-437-7744 between 5:00 and 9:00 p.m.

Julie's email is juleslb@msn.com, & Brian's is hwy-song@concast.net. They have planned a wonderful event not that far from us so we hope you can join them.



Bill VerDuin

Message from the President

by **Bill VerDuin**

The gala 2012 season is well under way! Last week many of us enjoyed the Cleveland Auto Show. A huge show, many fun cars, Benz and otherwise. Thanks

to Mercedes-Benz of North Olmstead for their sponsorship of this event. And thanks to Ninia Sykes of Mercedes-Benz USA, who gave us a fun and informative PowerPoint presentation over dinner, once we'd had our fill looking at the car show upstairs. She told us all about what's coming in our favorite car line.

We're hard at work dreaming up and presenting other fun events. You'll want to keep checking our webpage benzclub.org to keep tabs, but here's what we know is happening so far: our ever-popular Spread Eagle Tavern and ice cream social at Cozza's, yet another variation on Old Car Fun Day, Horse Country Tour (stay tuned for details), another trip to Lakeview Cemetery (final resting place of many automotive and industry notables; great architecture), and a biggie: Don Velcio's August 5 through 9 Ohio Backroads Adventure, featuring fun driving on, yes, backroads, and a variety of activities and venues in central and southeastern Ohio. Other possibilities: a golf outing, and a visit to the Packard Museum in Warren. On all of these, you snooze, you lose.

We get such interesting club activities because members make it happen. We used to call our monthly meetings Board meetings, but now we refer to them as Members Meetings because that is what they have become. Board members attend, but so do other members not on the board, and this has been great in a number of ways. The meetings become more fun, a social event, not just business. And, we get great input on new events, and volunteers to make them happen. These meetings are 7PM the first Tuesday of each month (with occasional exceptions such as the holiday season). These days we're meeting at Mavis Winkle's in Twinsburg. Hope to see you there!

May Meeting at Leiken Motors

Our May meeting will be held at **Leiken Motors** in Willoughby. There will be a brief membership meeting, refreshments, and a presentation by Leiken representatives. Their focus will be on the 4Matic Coupes and the revised C 300. Then there will be plenty of time to check out the beautiful cars in the remodeled Mercedes-Benz showroom. Leiken has been a gracious sponsor of the Horse Country Tour. Now is our turn to show our appreciation to them. Please join us! Specific information will come in a flyer and will be available on the web site.

Backwoods Tour through Ohio

Don Velcio of our section has prepared a "**Backwoods Tour**" through Ohio from August 5-9, 2012. The trip will begin with a kickoff dinner at Das Schnitzel House in Parma on Sunday, Aug. 5. On Monday the suggested route will take you through Amish country with stops at Hershberger Bakery and Farm in Berlin and Roscoe Village then stopping in Cambridge for the night. The next day includes trips to Dresden and Longaberger Homestead for shopping. We can cross the historic Y Bridge in Zanesville and proceed to the Miner's Memorial and a "Sunset Safari" tour and buffet at the Wilds. We will return to Cambridge that night. The next day finds us touring the scenic mountain-type, canyon-style roads through southeastern Ohio in the part of the state known as "Switzerland of Ohio". As you travel these roads,

you'll understand the name. One of the suggested locations is the Kiedaisch Point Park which is on a bluff at 500 feet and overlooking the Ohio River. We'll continue on to Marietta where the host hotel is the historic Lafayette Hotel at the confluence of the Ohio and Muskingum Rivers. We are scheduled for a Sunset Dessert Cruise on the Valley Gem sternwheeler. On Thursday, Aug. 9, as you wind your way towards Columbus, stop in Hocking Hills for a hike or two then join the group that night in the German Village section of Columbus at Schmidt's Restaurant and Sausage Haus for the farewell buffet. For more detailed information and registration forms, visit our web site at www.benzclub.org. You can also contact Don Velcio at 440-886-1660 or at Velcio@aol.com. Our attendance at some venues is limited so early registration is suggested.

Members November 14 - March 7

New

Don Toth
Thomas Gross
Adam Ross
Kimberly Keller

Joel Todd
Charlie Richards
Steve Tunwall
Chuck Widemire

Leon Wieber
Timothy Boals
Amy Olitsky
Mark Ferencak

Dalibor Raguz
Emil Rosul

Renewals

Lawrence Shafer
Frank Omerza
Lou Jaksetich
Laurie Tall
Bob Arther
Catherine Bellante
Christopher Arn
Anthony Dunne
Raymond Vehovec
Kennith Bartizal
T. Garland
Charles Deeds
Neil Weimer
Michael Weinhardt
Anthony Mikolich
Craig Thompson
Mark Rose
Charles Wilder
Warren Barr
Jim Browning
Roger Urban

Gary Stevens
Paul Barrett
Ellis Lovell
Fareed Siddiq
Adolphus Harris
DP Smith
Arthur Pickering
Juan Castro
Wes McBride
Ronald Renzoni
Ronald Marthaller
Debra Traxler
Jeff Payton
Robert Starr
Terry Kiwala
Ralph Stupka
Jonathan Veres
Thomas Scahel
Donald Wagner
Peter Conway
Donald Brehm

Jerry Vanaskey
Victor Fisher
Richard Harrington
Mark Botham
Klaus Kitzler
James Eichler
John DiPasquale
Frank Varga
Thomas Barratt
Hans Proemm
Robert Erickson
Raymond Hensel
Renold Thompson
David Gentzler
Beverly Stewart
Richard Tashjian
Robert Eckley
Jack Kline
Howard Jacobs
Thomas Hudson
Albert Jackson

Kenneth King
Nicholas Wanchik
Steven Baumgarten
Mary Alice Cozza
Ron Mihalek
Laurence Lengyel
Frank Cozza
Ted Gottfried
Ralph Christ
Phil Yanchar
Ralph Swegan
J. Holan
Nicholas George
Thomas Rousher
Nancy Lewayne
Kevin Mizer
Eugene Pallas
Rudolf Kamper
Tommy Lapolla
Tom Lapolla

New Raffle Tickets

The new raffle tickers are now available. Go to www.mbca.org and log in with your username and password. You will find the place to buy a raffle ticket and can print an official order form. If you need help, call the National Business office at 800-637-2360 (Mon-Fri. 8a.m.-5p.m..MT)

Check it Out ...

Check out the updated Western Reserve Section web site. Webmaster Gary Goodman has been working with the web page builder to update our web site. Check it out. It has updates and information about upcoming events, lots of pictures, and other information that is valuable to you.

www.benzclub.org



Buy Your Ticket to Ride

1 Grand Prize	\$50,000 cash*
1 First Prize	\$10,000
2 Second Prizes	\$2,500
20 Third Prizes	\$500 <small>Gift Card to your Local Mercedes-Benz Dealer</small>

Raffle tickets on sale NOW. More prizes than ever before!



The Melting Pot at Legacy Village

The annual Western Reserve Section holiday party was held January 7 at the Melting Pot in Legacy Village. This interactive evening began with a variety of cheese fondues and dippers spread throughout the dining room for a stand-up cocktail party that encouraged mingling. The 56 attendees were then invited into the private dining room for the remainder of the four course meal. Each participant ordered a salad from the menu that was specially made for our party. Next came the hot pots of cooking liquids and platters of assorted meats. Also during this time, bowls of vegetables and potatoes were available for cooking.



(Front) Barb & Jim Tullis (Back) Beverly Stewart, Tom Hudson, Joy Comey, Dave Gentzler, Don Velcio

When it appeared that we could eat no more, those were removed, and the awards and door prizes were presented. Among the door prizes, were 2 gift certificates given by the Melting Pot. Membership pins were awarded to: 5 year pins: **Joy Comey, Dave Gentzler, Tom Hudson, Beverly Stewart, Jim Tullis, and Don Velcio**; 10 year pins: **Norm Crowe**; 15 year pins: **Brian DiPasquale and Clay Mock**. These are given twice a year—either at the holiday party or the Spread Eagle event—to members celebrating anniversaries of membership in increments of 5 years. Glasses were presented to those members attending their first event.



Norm Crowe, Clay Mock, Brian DiPasquale

Gary Goodman received the Member of the Year award for his immeasurable service to the club. Gary is a former president, treasurer, and secretary of the club and was track coordinator for Gemutlichkeit. He also maintains the web page and does all of this while traveling all over the country for his work. We appreciate all that Gary continues to give to our section.



Gary Goodman receives award from Bill Ver Duin

John Morrison was presented the Officer of the Year award by **Frank Cozza**, regional director. John serves as treasurer for the Western Reserve Section and for the events that the section hosts. Officer of the Year is presented to one officer of the Great Lakes Region. Congratulations to both men for their contributions to the Mercedes Benz Club of America.



John Morrison, Officer of the Year award from Frank Cozza

Following the awards, pots of various types of chocolate fondue were brought in including the Flaming Turtle which was set afire by the waiter. Platters of endless goodies were available for dipping into the chocolate. It was an evening of good food and good company.



Brigitte Gottfried made and donated the stocking that she presented to Rose Sloan

My car won't start, What do I do?

by Ted Gottfried

On Monday morning March 5 at 8:30 AM I received a phone call from a club member asking to pick my brain about why his car wouldn't start. He said that it is a 1976 450SL that has been sitting in his garage for a fairly long time. He had cranked it and cranked it (ergo, the battery was turning the engine over) and then poured gasoline down the intake venturi and the engine fired briefly. First of all, pouring gas into the engine of any Mercedes carb or intake venturi on an injection system is very dangerous. An engine fire is quite possible. If you want to try anything, use starting fluid from an aerosol spray can. But be very careful and use it sparingly.

Based on the fact that the engine had fired, this club member diagnosed that the fuel pump was faulty and he bought and installed a new pump. NOT. The car still would not run.

I suggested that the gas tank is probably full of rust and sediment based on having seen similar situations many times before. Because the car has been sitting for some time, crud is the likely cause. He had put in a new fuel filter with the new pump, but that filter likely filled with foreign material pretty quickly

However, what we don't yet know is whether the fuel system is providing fuel to the engine and back to the gas tank in a closed loop at about 30 PSI with the new pump.

For me the better approach would have been to put a fuel pressure gauge in the fuel line at the engine. Then run the pump independently of firing the engine to listen for the sound of the flow of gasoline from the tank to the engine and back to the tank. This circulation is mandatory for a fuel injected system to be able to supply fuel to the engine and to keep the engine running.

Several years ago Gary Goodman and I refurbished a 1982 380SL that had been sitting for years resulting in square tires among other problems. We relined the gas tank and replaced the fuel filter. However, we did not have a complete loop of 30 PSI fuel to and from the engine. With the help of MB Tech Barry Norman we

found that the return gas line to the tank was plugged at the inlet to the tank. This plug was created when the tank was relined. We opened up the plug and the engine ran like new! The engine only had 7,000 miles on it.

Therefore, I suggested to the owner of the 1976 450SL that he verify that he has the 30 PSI loop of gasoline flowing. If not, then the solution will likely be to reline the gasoline tank.



Since 1985 I have had many, many tanks relined by Dave Pahls in Ravenna, who has the "RENU" franchise there. After Dave has relined a tank you are certain that that part of having a reliable good running car is taken care of. After that you can move

forward to the fuel pump, filter, hoses, carbs, injectors, etc. to trouble-shoot the fuel system. We'll save the ignition system trouble-shooting for another day.

Mark your calendar

Mark your calendar for a special event at the **Packard Museum** (<http://packardmuseum.org>) in Warren Ohio on April 22. Participants who want to caravan will gather at the Home Depot in Streetsboro at noon and proceed to the museum on a scenic drive. Upon arrival, there will be a box lunch and mingling time followed by a guided tour of the museum. For those interested in a little sweetening, attendees will go on to the Mocha House (www.mochahouse.biz) for pastries, coffee and conversation before heading home. Flyers will be sent with specific information and registration. Also, watch the Western Reserve website www.benzclub.org for further information and updates.

Also coming on June 24 is the next Horse Country Tour. Host Tom Barratt has some new surprises for this year's tour so save that date, too. Information will be sent and will also be on our website when plans are complete

40 Years in America – Anniversary of the R107 SL

Article by Tom Barratt

In the mid-1960s, Paul Bracq, Gerard Cardiet and Giorgio Battistellas began the early design sketches of what was to become the most successful SL ever. Designed with the U.S. market in mind, the R107 project was to develop a new SL and replacement for the—“Pagoda SL” (of which 1 of every 2 went to the U.S.).

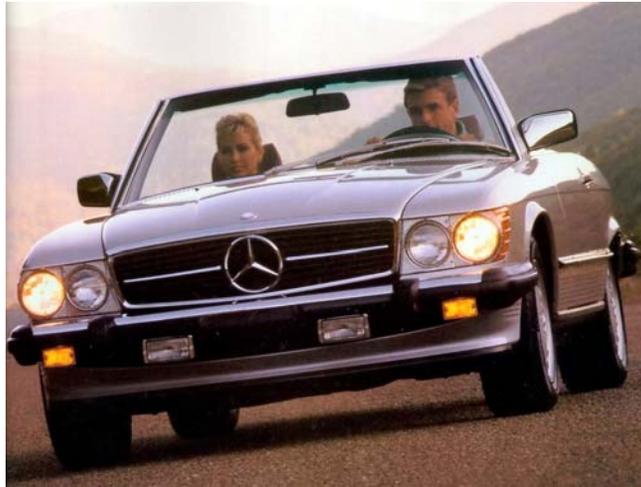
Created in the era when “over engineering” was a tag line in Mercedes-Benz advertising, the R107 series is celebrating the 40th anniversary of the first model year – 1972. The press launch occurred in August 1971 at the Indianapolis Raceway as the new SL was quickly introduced to U.S. showrooms that fall as a 1972 model. At the time Road & Track Magazine called the new R107 series SL “one of the best cars in the world.”

The R107 began its U.S. career retailing for just over \$10,000 and growing in price until reaching over \$64,000 by 1989, the last model year. The R107 variants were many, from engine size and various specifications, yet the overall structure, style and layout remained consistent for over two decades, a market tribute to the design and quality. The ultimate record of achievement, the R107 ended its career with final numbers totaling 237,287 SLs and 62,888 SLCs for a total of 300,175 automobiles. No other production car in M-B history has a record to match the 18-year run of the R107.

But enough of history and statistics, for those of us living in 2012, what is it like to own and drive an R107 series SL? First and foremost, the car is solid in the most hand built way a top-end Mercedes from the SL line can offer. It delivers the grand touring experience over that of a sports car, despite the SL moniker (sports lichte). Yes, this is an incredibly comfortable car to drive on the open road, silent inside with the hard top in place, and most enjoyable

with the top down.

The 107 (almost all of which are automatic) delivers even power over a long range of smooth gears, not peppy, but steady and with mass – gaining speed and with the ability to autobahn cruise at 100 mph without any noticeable effort. The larger steering wheel, compared to today’s standards, is reassuring and adds to a feeling of occasion for the driver, as does the view over the long hood which seems to reach out past the intersections. The steering feels best at “10 and 2” with a safe and gentle understeer as the car’s natural presence and handling.



Much of the driving experience matches the overall thematic of M-B cars from the same era, but the SL leaves all that behind with a low center of gravity and strong level suspension that glides through the most twisty bends of blacktop. The suspension is compliant and diffuses chuckholes and road noise without ceremony or recognition. My experience is one of fine

braking that pulls a straight line in a full stop from cruising speed. In addition the well appointed cabin has intuitive switch gear plus the interior comforts of leather seats, climate systems, and a level of comfort unexpected from a convertible car of this vintage. The overwhelming impression is one of quality, including doors closing with the solid thump and precision of a bank vault. To quote Hans Herrmann, the great Mercedes racing hero of the time: “It’s powerful, yet not ostentatious. It simply oozes superiority...”

A well cared for R107 is an absolute pleasure to own and operate. The rock solid reliability and ease of service and parts sourcing make for a low cost of operation. The R107 is a bargain in the current market, and a most dependable M-B classic you can drive to town, or across the country, in comfort, style and safety.

MBCA Schedule of Events

April 3	Monthly Membership Meeting	7:00	Mavis Winkle's (Twinsburg)
April 22	Packard Museum Tour	12:00	Streetsboro Home Depot
May 1	Monthly Membership Meeting	7:00	Mavis Winkle's Twinsburg
June 1-3	Regional Event-Rally at the Rivers	Three Rivers Section	(see article)
June 5	Monthly Membership Meeting	7:00	Mavis Winkle's Twinsburg
June 24	Horse Country Tour		Tom Barratt, host
July 3	Monthly Membership Meeting	7:00	Mavis Winkle's Twinsburg
July 8	Spread Eagle Event		Frank & Mary Alice Cozza, hosts
July 21-22	Regional Event-Pittsburgh Vintage	Pittsburgh Section, host	Grand Prix
August.5-9	Regional Event-Ohio Backroads Tour		Don Velcio, host (see article)

Flyers will be sent for our specific club events.

Check the website www.benzclub.org for more information and updates.



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

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