



STARS News



Concours d'Elegance of America's 125th Anniversary Weekend Celebration Report

This last weekend, July 30 – 31 we had two events which brought out many members to enjoy the festivities. The first event was the Defensive Driving and Auto Cross on the Compuware Sports Arena parking lot in Plymouth, Mi. The second event was the Concours d'Elegance at the Inn at St. John in Plymouth which was held in conjunction with Mercedes-Benz Financial Services.

Defensive Driving and Auto Cross (DD AX)

The day was sunny with intense blue skies and with puffy white clouds. It was HOT! Fortunately we had a 10x10 tent and several moderate size trees to give us some shade. There was also a light wind blowing to keep us fresh.

Our MBCA Regional Director Frank and Mary Alice Cozza started the day with Defensive Driving instructions. Then we all got to practice what was taught. Our youngest, Ericka Lumsden, 16, was tentative on her first run, but turned up the speed as she became more confident of her abilities. All the rest of us were just a little older, but it was very evident with each successive lap that we seemed to become more assertive and “younger”. This was the start of our high energy day.

Next, we had lunch from Jimmy John's and the course was reset for our the Auto Cross.

The timed Auto Cross is short and has many twists, turns, S's, and a stop box. Auto Cross is an extension of the Defensive Driving techniques we learned earlier in the day. We were allowed several timed runs. The twists and turns of the course were challenging. Some of our members take this very seriously and even change all four tires to sticky race tires. While most folks were serious about the course, they weren't that serious. All of us had fun. A little later in this newsletter we will list the classes and the winners.

This was a safe and a very high energy event. Some cones were knocked down, but on the whole, everyone got better and faster as the sessions

Concours d'Elegance of America Show subtitle: 125th Anniversary of Mercedes-Benz

We started working on this event in October of 2010 with Mercedes-Benz Financial Services (MBFS). At one time we were going to have two separate events. One being a huge celebration at the DIA on the week preceeding the Concours show. The other being car club parking at the Concours show.

As time went on things changed dramatically. The first idea didn't happen as Detroit Diesel and Mercedes-Benz Research and Development had budget constraints. The over-the-top DIA event was “scrubbed”.

Scott and Adam Lumsden, two of our MBCA members, worked on the Car Selection Committee and the Operations Committee of the Concours d'Elegance. We chatted about the MB 125th Anniversary and they informed me that they were going to have a “circle” or “grouping” of significant MB vehicles as one of their showcase displays. When we chatted we thought that we had an opportunity to put together something even bigger, namely MBFS, MBCA and the Concours group.

Scott, Adam (Lumsden), Mike Salemi, and I got together with our contact at MBFS and with the Executive Director of the Concours. We proposed the possibility of a joint set of events. MBFS would have their “family day”. MBCA would sponsor a 20x20 tent on the show field and the Most Significant MB trophy. The Concours d'Elegance of America would seek to enlarge their display as much as they could. After our meeting we adjourned to the magnificent St. John's

DD AX continued

went on.

We'd like to thank Chuck Hiller for being our check in host. We'd like to thank Mary Alice and Frank Cozza for their instructional help and for their help in setting up the courses and running the events. They have the experience that we lack. We'd also like to thank Bill Hopper and Bobbie Wozny of the Greater Washington (DC) section for their help. We'd also like to thank all the participants who all helped take care of the myriad details involved with doing this kind of event. Thanks to Adam Lumsden for the use of his pick-up truck to haul cones and other "stuff".

After the event we cleaned up the area put the cones in Adam Lumsden's truck and adjourned to CJ's Brewing Company in the Compuware Sports Arena for refreshments, dinner and to socialize. Everyone agreed that we had a tremendous amount of high intensity fun! Please see the DD / AX picture collage for some of the fun things that we did.

The day of the Concours – July 31

The day was sunny, HOT, and we had a slight breeze to cool us in the shade. The new venue (St. John's Inn vs Meadowbrook) was wonderful. When I managed to look up from all of the activity at our tent, all I could see is what appeared to me to be wall to wall people on the show field.

The show cars were wonderful... especially the 19 MB show cars on the Concours show field. WOW would be an understatement!

The array of cars around the MBFS show tents were very interesting as well. Our photographers went up in the tethered hot air balloon to take pictures of the activities in the MBFS area. (Personally, I never made it back to that area as I was too involved with our tent and with the presentation of awards.)... As an aside, many of the MBFS families were not able to get to the Concours show field because there were so many activities in their area.

Our photographers took many pictures which we will start showing in our publications and perhaps on our web page (later).

Mercedes-Benz vehicles were presented 4 trophies. I presented two Lion Awards for MBFS and Doug Truitt presented an award for the Most Significant Mercedes-Benz... 1931 SSK Sport/2 (all original) **The Best of Show – European was won by Arturo Keller's 1938 540K Autobahn Kurier (6 made, 2 remaining) See the right column**

The show was a magnificent, stupendous, fantastic, smashing success! (and any other superlatives you can think of...) Thanks to all who made the event a success. Thanks for showing your

125th Continued

golf course to see where things would be. Everyone agreed that this would greatly enhance the whole event and make it a "Once in a lifetime event".

Months went by and more planning sessions took place. We wanted to keep you in the loop with our monthly STARS News updates on our progress.

Each group had to go through an approval process. MBFS had to get management approval, which was very deliberate. We were getting nervous about being able to pull off the event with our time line shrinking. The MBCA National Board was brought on board in April at their spring board meeting in Milwaukee. Adam Lumsden, Mike Salemi and I attended the meeting, put a tentative budget together and presented it. The Board unanimously approved our presentation and provided some funding. We were elated! We also got approval from our local MBCA section board. Now the work would really begin!

Behind the scenes of every event there are always a ton of little details that have to be taken care of. We want to thank Trish and John Briggs for putting the ticket packages together. We all wanted the event to be a memorable smashing success.

The Best of Show – European was won by Arturo Keller's 1938 540K Autobahn Kurier (6 made, 2 remaining) From Mexico. (picture from Concours d' Elegance of America web page.)



Many say "Do it again!"

We got many emails from folks who liked the show enough to write to us and ask us to do it again. We'd really like to say yes, but first we have to put together a budget which will support the event. We would also probably not do DD / AX on the same weekend as that event was greatly overshadowed by the Concours event. We will keep you informed of our plans.

[NEW WEB SITE for INTERNATIONAL STARS](#)

cars in the MBFS area. (Pictures later in newsletter)

Auto Cross Winners

S Class

1. Paul Bailey 31.70
2. John Briggs 33.68

4 Door Sedan

1. John Ball 28.67
2. Jeanene Johnson 35.41

SUV

1. Bill Hopper 33.31
2. Bobbi Wozney 35.49

SL320

1. Nancy LeWayne 34.40
2. Ron LeWayne 37.70

16 Valve

1. Craig Bagby **28.41**
2. Adam Lumsden 29.42

SL New / SLK

1. Brian Daves 32.61
2. Trisha Briggs 34.71

SL Older Style

1. Terry Kewalo 30.09
2. Irv Brock 32.65

Coming Events – Past Events

- January 29: Tour Eastern Market and Lunch at Roma Café – Dining with the STARS
- February 28: Antique show – Southfield Pavilion with food
- March: Just the regular meeting March 1
- April 17 **SUNDAY**: Crank Up Tour the Dick Kuhn private collection – 4 buildings (Livonia area)
- May 14: BTL- Breakfast, Tech, Lunch Event Novi, then Manchester, Mi. After lunch drive to; MB-SCS Spring Value Day Open Haus. Bring your M-B and Park at their Used Car showroom.
- June 12: Car Show Participation (Cars R Stars).
- June 25th Algonac Boat and Car Show
- M-B 125th Anniversary
July 30-31 MBCA National and Regional Event 2 days in Plymouth area
 July 30: Regional Defensive Driving / Auto Cross,
 July 31: National MBCA Special Event with Mercedes-Benz Financial Services Concours D' Elegance of America (formerly Meadow Brook) at the new location.
- **COMING EVENTS**
- August 13: Eastern Market Summer Tour (flyer)
- August 19: MB Research & Development in Redford: Show Your Car, Lunch & Tour 11 am- 3 pm (see small article elsewhere in this newsletter)
- August 20: Woodward Dream Cruise
- September 17: Show / Shine / New Members party

Have you visited our new web page yet?

Your email notice will include the link.
<http://internationalstars.mbca.org/>

In order to get to the newsletters you must go to the bottom of the page and click on "Newsletters". All of the features are not functional yet as it is under construction.

International Stars Section MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Go to this link: <http://www.mbca.org/section/international-stars>

The monthly board and membership meetings are usually held at **6:30 PM** the first Tuesday of every month at the **Crash Landing Restaurant., 2011: Sep 13*, Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6. (* = 2nd Tuesday Meeting)**

Special note: Nov 1 Meeting will be at the Henry Hotel in Dearborn. This will be where the National MBCA will be having their fall Board Meeting. We will provide more detail as the months proceed.

Please forward any agenda items to: Pete Williams, President, MBCA International Stars: via email, phone or by mail: 1-586-293-0935 or 15561 Sherwood, Fraser, Mi. 48026 **Location:** Crash Landing Restaurant - 26620 Dequindre Rd, Warren, MI 48091-3938, 586-751-4444 (Just North of 696)

Any current, new or prospective member is welcome to attend. We usually have a business meeting which is interrupted by a short dinner. We have always had a policy which allowed our attending members to either order – or not – a meal at our monthly board / general meeting.

Officers

President: Peter Williams pwmmbca@aol.com,

Vice President: Adam Lumsden adam@lumsdenlive.com

Treasurer: Steve Mahac keyunfirm@flash.net ,

Secretary: OPEN,

Benz Scene Editor: Mike Salemi mdsalemi@sbcglobal.net

Hospitality: Mike & Mary Ann Mountain

mikesradioshop.plymouth@yahoo.com

Parliamentarian: Charles Hiller chiller26@juno.com

Membership: John Briggs johnrb@comcast.net

This issue's content was provided by Pete Williams. Want to participate?

Send your article to pwmmbca@aol.com.

Want to help? We need a Secretary. Drop Pete an email...

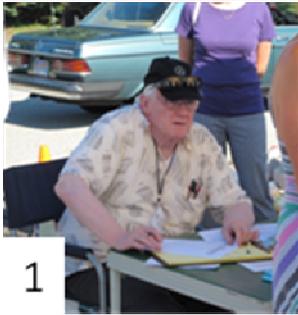
More... Coming Events – Past Events

- October 15: Pumpkin Color Tour with other car clubs
- November 19: Date TBD National Board Meeting, tours and parties; Pre Thanksgiving Pot Luck
- December 10: Progressive Holiday Party

If you have any event ideas, let us know

at the Shooting Club – Auburn Hills (flyer)

Defensive Driving (DD) / Auto Cross (AX) Pictures



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1. Chuck Hiller checks us in and takes the lunch orders. 2. DD class. 3. Walking the AX course 4. Doug Truitt, MBCA Exec Director, Adam Lumsden 5. Rodger VanNess Pres National MBCA, Emil Hunter, Adam Lumsden, Doug Truitt 6. Frank & MaryAlice Cozza MBCA Regional Directors & our instructors 7. Emil Hunter, John Briggs 8 & 9. John Ball putting his car through the paces 10. Terry Kewalo 11. Nancy LeWayne 12. Line up before release 13. Gathering at CJs Brewing Company after our event.

Dinner at CJ's Brewing Company continued



Special Rally Awards for John and Trish Briggs from the Gemutlichkeit event in Mansfield Ohio presented by Frank and Mary Alice Cozza... Their timing in the Rally was perfect!

Concours Sampler: Row 1 Set up on Saturday night before the show; Row 2 Most Significant MB presented by Doug Truitt (MBCA Exec Director), Permanent Concours Trophy; Row 3 & 4 After glow refreshments and dinner. More pictures next month from our photographer the day of the show.



We had many members from: Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio, Vermont, New York, Michigan, Florida, and Washington DC. Canada was represented too. We also had our current MBCA President, Rodger Van Ness, our past President Pete Lesler, MBCA Regional Directors / Directors at large: Josie Lesler, Frank Cozza, Greg Magnus, Bill Hopper, Doug Dees, Jim Luikens and MBCA Executive Director: Doug Truitt. Thanks to all who traveled long distances for coming to our event!

Pride in Product at Mercedes Benz Financial Services July 21. 100 Degrees HOT HOT HOT!!!! The shade from the building allowed us to stay out of the sun. There was a stiff wind as well to cool us. After 2 hours we went inside where it was 30 degrees cooler and had an excellent lunch! 11 cars and 19 members were there. Those of us with air conditioning in our cars got to test it out this day! Even though it was hot we had fun!



August

The month of August brings two events for your enjoyment.

August 13

Come on a trip to Detroit's Eastern Market area. It will be a lot warmer than it was in January when it was snowing and cold. There will be more vendors on hand as well. Their produce is always fresh. There are also some stores next to the market which bear investigation too.

CARS FOR SALE

1995 E320 Sapphire black metallic ext, black leather int. Garage kept. New heating & AC systems. All service records. 114,000 miles Call Holly Izbicki at 248-646-7744

1988 Mercedes 560SL, 30,300 Miles No rust. Like new finish. Anthracite grey with black interior. \$22,000 One owner. U.S. standard equipment and all OEM parts. Purchased this beautiful car in Stuttgart in 1988 and kept it stored in owners garage. Drives like it was just off the showroom floor. Car is in excellent condition. Must see to appreciate. Black soft top is original and has no fading. The interior of the soft top, however, has some wear.

5.6L 250hp V8 Engine, 4 Speed Automatic Transmission, Power Windows, Power Door Locks, Becker Grand Prix Electronic Radio Cassette, Heated Seats Right and Left, Orthopedic Padded Backs on Right and Left Seats, Leather interior, Leather Steering Wheel Trim, Walnut Burl Accents, Automatic Climate Control, Anti-Lock Braking System, Power Steering, Power Antenna, Removable hard top (includes storage rack and cloth cover), Theft alarm system

Location: Orchard Lake, near Commerce Road and Hiller Road. Call Nancy Benner for more photos or to see in person 248-207-3545. ncbenner@yahoo.com



August 19

Come to Mercedes-Benz Research and Development to display your car, have lunch and get a small tour of their facility. Please RSVP to Pete Williams if you have not already done this. pwmbsca@aol.com or give him a call 586-293-0935. We start at 11 AM and end around 3 PM.

Location: 12120 Telegraph Rd, Redford, Mi
It won't be as hot as at MBFS' event July 21!

Death Notice (email from Mike Salemi)

I am saddened to report the death of Larry Stevens. Many of you did not know but Larry was battling prostate cancer for a while. When I last spoke with him a few months back, he seemed in good spirits, and if the end was near he did not let on; we kept planning a lunch that never happened. Larry convinced me to become active in the MBCA years ago and even drove me to my first meeting. He also introduced me to the love and lore of the Steinway Piano. Larry and his first wife Sally were active members of the MBCA for many years, and sadly she passed from cancer as well. He found love again, and married Tammy a few years ago.

Some of you are old time MBCA members, and feel free to forward this email to people you think might have known Larry.

Condolences to the Stevens family can be sent to: Tamara R Stevens, 4524 Villa France Dr, Brighton, MI 48116-4702

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Mercedes-Benz Club of America | International Stars Section

125th Anniversary Shirt



For a limited time we are offering our Mercedes-Benz 125 Years Shirt for sale. We are taking orders and will be getting them embroidered this month for delivery in late September.

The Shirt is a blend of cotton and poly. It should not shrink. The sizes are generous. For example, while I usually wear a XXL, I was able to get into the Large size... which was tight for me. Thus I will be able to order an XL and it will fit. We are now offering both Men's and Women's shirts.

Fill out the order form at the bottom of this page and mail it along with your check to Pete Williams, 15561 Sherwood, Fraser, Mi. 48026 Any questions please email or call me pwmzca@aol.com or 586-293-0935.

Make the **checks payable to MBCA IS**

The prices below include shipping via USPS

125th Mercedes-Benz Anniversary Event Shirt Order Form Colors: White, Aquatic Blue, Orange Spice, Pure Gold, Spring Green

Sizes / Price	S-XL \$35	XXL \$38	XXXL \$41	Total
Quantity				
Color				
Size				
Men's				
Women's				

Print carefully - Shipping information:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone No. () _____ If we have a question , we'll need to call you.



Mercedes-Benz Club of America | International Stars Section

SHOW & SHINE / NEW MEMBERS PARTY

September 17, 2011

REVISED FLYER **11:00 AM – 3:00 PM**



GERMAN-AMERICAN MARKSMANSHIP CLUB

Deutsch-Amerikanischer Schuetzenverein

MBCA |International Stars will host our annual picnic and show and shine car show. This is also our **NEW MEMBERS PARTY**, so if you have joined recently – This is your opportunity to meet the club and show your car!

There will be informal vehicle** judging with ribbons for the winners. Voting is by acclamation for the best car by color!

Bring a potluck dish for the buffet.

If your address ends in an even number, bring a Dessert, or a Side Dish. If your address ends in an odd number, bring a Salad or a Specialty food. If your dish requires chilling, bring it in a cooler with ice. Bring your own beverages. If you are a vegan, bring your own food!

MBCA will provide tableware, napkins, sausages (Wurst und Brats) and buns. Gas grills inside the food pavilion will be available.

RAIN OR SHINE



[2650 Auburn Road](#)
[Auburn Hills, MI 48326](#)

Directions:

I-75 to Opdyke Exit. South on Opdyke to Auburn Rd. Left on Auburn Rd, go under I-75, The club will be on the South side of the road just past the bridge. We are using the park behind the building

RSVP and remit \$10.00 per person*
(Make Checks payable to MBCA-IS)

Mail to: Adam Lumsden, 214 Grosvenor, Rochester Hills, Mi. 48307
Please call 248-505-4832 if you have any questions

*** NOTE: New Members = Free (but we still need to know if you are participating)**
**** Judged vehicles will be of European origin (preferably not your daily set of wheels)**
If you bring your normal daily car, and it's not a MB please park in the front parking area.



Mercedes-Benz Club of America | International Stars Section

Meeting Place Instructions below.

Lunch: Roma Café:
1 block North – at the end
of Riopelle St. **11 AM**

Roma Café: 3401 Riopelle, Detroit, MI 48207

TOUR – Detroit's EASTERN MARKET



**August 13, 2011 – Saturday Starting at 8:30 AM.
Lunch to follow at 11 AM at**

**the Roma Café – Dining with The STARS
- Experience the many unique businesses -**

Eastern Market Tour

Meet at the Welcome Center at 8:30 AM

Located between Shed 2 & 3, Open 7 AM- 4 PM.
Park as soon as you find a space!

The Eastern Market store tour is self guided – at
your own pace.

OPTIONS: You may choose to omit the early
tour and just join us for lunch. **Roma Café
opens at 11 AM.** Alternatively, you may also
have lunch and then tour the stores after lunch.



Directions : Exit
from I-75 at
Mack Ave
(East). Turn
right on to
Russell St.



For more information on Eastern Market click on
this link: <http://www.detroiteasternmarket.com>

