



March-July 2011

The BenzScene

The newsletter of the MBCA International Stars

TWO FANTASTIC EVENTS!

Forward Ramblings: Notes from your President, Peter Williams

The end of July is going to be a very busy time for our club. We have two great events which need your help to really make them fantastic.

The first event on **Saturday, July 30th** is a *Defensive Driving and Autocross*. This is really a high energy driving event, the most fun you might ever have with your car. And, no experience is necessary--just the desire to have fun, learn to drive your car better, and improve your motoring skills. You can participate with either your favorite Mercedes-Benz or whatever you drive on a daily basis. There will be trophies and a dinner / awards event after the driving event. We need members and their immediate family members to help set cones, score and tabulate the results. It's fun and easy to do; our Regional Director and staff will train you in a short time. (I'll have to be trained too!) I cannot stress enough just how much fun you will have driving in an autocross. It does not matter whether you are young or old, have an old diesel sedan or a sleek new sports car. You might have an SUV or crossover--it does not matter, really! I guarantee that you will have fun. Most people who do an autocross for the first time, end up seeking them out, and will drive great distances to participate! However, you need to take that first step and sign up. It will be a great learning experience for all the drivers in your family.

You can sign up to help by placing a check in the sign-up sheet at the top of the entry form you return, included in this newsletter.

The second event follows on **Sunday, July 31**. This is a high class and elegant event, so please dress in tasteful, casual summer attire. This is our *MBCA Special National Event* to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of Mercedes-Benz. We are going to be included with *Mercedes-Benz Finan-*

cial Services family day events. Both Mercedes-Benz Financial Services as well as the MBCA are sponsors of this prestigious Concours d'Elegance. The event will be located on the show field of the *Concours d'Elegance of America* at the Inn at St. John (this is the Concours formerly known as Meadow Brook) The Concours will be hosting a special invitation-only class of Mercedes-Benz vehicles to celebrate 125 years of Mercedes-Benz. MBCA will have a sponsor tent across from this display. There will be many special things going on all day at the show.

One very special car that will be on display in the Mercedes Class is the "prototype" 190 SL that was featured on the cover of *The Star*, November-December 2010 issue. This is a recreation of the original "show car" as introduced at the 1954 New York Auto Show. ***You did NOT see this car at Amelia Island this year, you WILL NOT see this car at Pebble Beach either--in fact, this is the car's first major Concours debut--right here in Michigan.*** So, believe me when I tell you that this event is THE HOT TICKET of the season!

With our down to earth midwestern sensibilities here in Michigan, our events with the Concours at St. Johns are priced *significantly lower* than other major Concours. The show fields attract the same kinds of collectors and cars, so you can be sure of seeing the most astounding car show in the USA.

Always the best, *Pete Williams*



A Once In A Lifetime Event! Sunday July 31, 2011 Plymouth, Michigan

Mercedes-Benz Financial Services, the MBCA and the Concours d'Elegance of America cordially invite all MBCA members and their immediate family to a joint event to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of Mercedes-Benz at the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth, Michigan Sunday, July 31, 2011. Our participation and event has been declared a "Special National Event".

This once in a lifetime event will allow us to park on the St. John's Inn golf course in a special parking area next to both the Mercedes-Benz Financial Services (MBFS) employee parking and the Concours d'Elegance show field. MBFS expects 300 plus employee-driven, clean 2011 Mercedes-Benz vehicles to be on the fairway. They expect around 500 employees and their families.

Our best cars--YOUR CARS--will be placed in a unique parking area for our "fun concours" to show the employees some of our historic and well-kept Mercedes-Benz cars. So, let's wash our cars and make them presentable! You might say this is a "significantly enhanced" version of our club parking area that has been a popular draw when the event was at Meadow Brook in past years.

MBCA will have a sponsor tent on the show field across from the special, invited Mercedes-Benz class of automobiles. We will be the ambassadors for our club; so come and join in, meet fellow MBCA members and enthusiasts from around the country; lend a hand, if you can. We give each MBFS employee a copy of the July-August STAR and encourage them to sign up. In addition, we will be giving the STAR to those who sign up to be members. The national MBCA is funding approximately \$6,200, and our section International Stars is pledging \$1,000. The MBCA is providing other support services as well. We already have National Board Members and others making hotel reservations!

We will sponsor the "Most Significant Mercedes-Benz Award" to be awarded by the Concours judges during the day's awards ceremony. A professional photographer will capture the event and other items as they come up.

Due to the nature of this celebration, MBCA members with non Mercedes-Benz vehicles will not be able to *park* with us, but you can certainly join in *all* the day's festivities. Non MB vehicles will park with the general public. Because we are highlighting the marque during this special anniversary, MBCA members with ill-maintained and less than presentable MB vehicles will not be able to park in the MBCA show area. MBFS will want these vehicles to park at the rear of the MBFS parking area.



This is a BIG deal, so plan to be there! Many of our national MBCA board members as well as MBCA members from across the country will be there to celebrate with us. This will be a golden opportunity to gain new members from the MBFS family. MBCA National views this as a great opportunity to gain the friendship of MBFS as well as a new member opportunity. This will also be a phenomenal show at a new venue.

Are we excited? You bet! Can we do it? Well with your help and participation it will be an excellent event. Look for the application form in this edition of the Benz Scene and send it in as soon as you can. The deadline is July 11, 2011. Check out these web sites:

<http://www.mbca.org/event/2011-07-30/mbca-conjunction-concours-america-st-johns>

<http://www.stjohnsgolfconference.com/>

<http://concoursusa.org/>

Summer or Winter Home?

Take your MBCA membership with you . Join a second section for \$15, and enjoy the benefits at your second home, too!

2011 National Events Summary and Preview

The MBCA National Event Schedule is always found at the www.mbca.org website, under the OUR COMMUNITY-UPCOMING EVENTS tab. There are a variety of means to select and highlight events. *All MBCA members are encouraged and invited to attend these events.* With the 125th anniversary of Mercedes underway, there are a lot of events in 2011, more than usual. Here is just a sampling--*visit the website regularly for updates and contact/registration information.*

MBCA [in conjunction with] **Concours of America** at St. Johns July 30 & 31. See info elsewhere in this issue.

Star Trails 2011, August 17-21, Ouray, Colorado.
2011 Legends of the Autobahn: West Coast Summer Concours, August 19.

2011 Lake Huron Mille Driving Tour, September 24-30.

Let's see you there!

2011 Monthly General Meetings

The MBCA International Stars Section holds its monthly meetings *generally* on the first Tuesday of the month at *The Crash Landing Restaurant*, a casual dining restaurant located on the east side of Dequindre just north of I-696. It is very easy and convenient to get to from all areas. **The Crash Landing** Restaurant is at 26620 Dequindre Road, Warren, MI 48091-3938 (586) 751-4444. They do *not* charge us for the meeting room. As a courtesy to our hosts, we *suggest* that attendees consider ordering a meal.

Remaining meetings for 2011 are as follows: June 7, July 12*, August 2, September 13*, October 4, November 1, and December 6. *The July and September meetings are on the *2nd* Tuesdays due to the 4th of July and Labor Day holiday weeks. ***Our meetings are not board meetings, but general meetings open for all members!***

International Stars Upcoming Events

June 12--Cars R Stars at the Packard Proving Grounds in Shelby Township. This is an open show where all kinds of vehicles will be on display. It would be great to see many Mercedes-Benz vehicles there! You can find out more information at www.carsrstars.com

July--Concours and Autocross

August 13--Eastern Market Tour. See Flyer.

September--Show and Shine

October--Color Tour

November-**NATIONAL BOARD MEETING**;

Thanksgiving Pot Luck

December--Holiday Party

Many of these events are only in the early planning stages. When more information is available we email this out in advance.

Note that events come up quickly on occasion, and we ALWAYS email flyers and information! Please ensure we have your email address so you can stay informed regarding details of planned events as well as new events.

Autocross and Defensive Driving July 30

We will be hosting a Regional Defensive Driving and Autocross event **Saturday, July 30, 2011** at the Compuware Arena parking lot at 14900 North Beck Road, Plymouth, MI 48170-2413. This is just down the road from the Inn at St. John's. For those of you who would like to sharpen your skills, educate your teenage driver, and compete in a driving event this is the event for you. We start at 8 am. Lunch is at noon. We depart for a group dinner / awards presentation (dinner self pay) around 4:30 pm.

The application form and details are on an insert in this Benz Scene. The cost will be \$30 per person by July 22, 2011. (\$40 per person day of event). We will have several loaner helmets for your use. The most fun you can have with your car--come and see why!



MBCA International Stars Section
 Michael Salemi
 21129 Chase Drive
 Novi, MI 48375-4751
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Place
 Stamp
 Here



TO:



**MBCA International Stars
 Section Officers and Board**

President: Peter Willams
 15561 Sherwood Lane Fraser, MI 48026
pwmbsca@aol.com (586) 293-0935

Vice President: Adam Lumsden
 214 Grosvenor Rochester Hills, MI 48307
adam@lumsdenlive.com (248) 650-7833

Secretary: Vacant, but this could be you! Position in need of a volunteer...

Treasurer: Steve Mahac
 3926 Wadhams Road China Twp, MI 48054
keyunfrm@flash.net (810) 326-4565

Membership: John Briggs
 8462 Ilandview Court Brighton, MI 48114
johnrbc@comcast.net (810) 299-2732

Ex-Officio and
 Interim Newsletter Editor: Michael Salemi
 21129 Chase Drive, Novi, MI 48375
mdsalemi@sbcglobal.net (248) 380-6332

Board of Directors:
 Delis Schell (989) 729-7070; Carla and Karl Bekemeier (586) 465-6009
 Bob Beltz (989) 689-5241; Resi Feil (248) 545-1575
 Chuck Hiller (313) 563-8980; Michael Mountain (734) 223-5557

EMAIL IS OUR PRIMARY MEANS OF COMMUNICATION!

WELCOME

We welcome the following NEW members to the MBCA and International Stars as of 6/2/2011 Lawrence Gallagher, Harrison Twp.; Bernard Bittner, Reece; Christopher Berry, Bloomfield Hills; Douglas Barber, Milford; Jason Griffin, East Lansing; David Tait, Croswell; Sandra Chumack, Huntington Woods; Bill Blaylock, Saline; Christian Shank, Troy;

All new members, please, make an effort to attend an event or a monthly meeting. We'd love to meet you, and we want to see your cars, too!

**To all members who have recently renewed their membership,
 THANK YOU!**