



May, June, July 2010

# The BenzScene

The newsletter of the MBCA International Stars

## What Floats Your Boat? Notes from your President, Peter Williams

**W**e've all heard the come back phrase: "Well, whatever floats your boat." This phrase is usually said after a situation where someone is frustrated by, or does not understand the response of others. In my case here, this is not meant as a negative thought or phrase, but rather a situation where I am trying to elicit a response from you. *What floats your boat? What kind of activities would you like to see? We cannot plan for something we do not know.*

The MBCA International Stars Section has had a number of events this year, with very different ideas and activities than in the past. We hoped that the variety of offerings would pique your interest. We did *Dining with The STARS* events. We had a detailing technical event in April. We have done a better job of partnering with and participating in neighboring section events. In May we had breakfast at *Mercedes-Benz of Ann Arbor* and we went to the *Matthaei Botanical Garden*. In June we participated in an open car show – *Cars R Stars* (Michael Salemi won a Best in Class). The *Cars R Stars* was itself a new event. Also in June we did a two-museum and an architectural salvage tour event where the turn-out was... um... an underwhelming 7 of 239 members present... and not all at the same time. So, where were you June 19th? I know I enjoyed the outing.

Those members and guests who have attended our events have been really very positive about the quality, fun and variety of our event planning this year.

We are scheduled for more, and different, events in the coming months:

- **July 25** brings the noted *Concours of America at Meadow Brook* where our local sectional event has grown to a regional event with 43 people signed up--many from neighboring sections in

Ohio and Indiana. You can visit us in the club parking area if you have not signed up. They won't let you get into the close in parking unless you have the club parking pass (that came with the prepaid tickets). We're having a small car show competition of our own in our parking area with awards. We then will adjourn to the *Rochester Mills Brewery* at around 4 PM for an early dinner.

- **August 14** brings a lunch at Zingerman's Road House and then the Ann Arbor Antiques Fair. This is a place where you might find that elusive antique item that you've been searching for.

- **September 11** is our Show and Shine and New Member Party. This is a pot luck affair where we can show our cars. This year we're going to be on the West side in the Plymouth area. Mike and Mary Ann Mountain are our hosts. This is usually quite well attended and hope a location west will just offer something different to consider.

- **October 16** is our Color Pumpkin Tour from Chelsea to Hell, Michigan. We start out with lunch at the Common Grille in Chelsea and then go on a 90 mile tour. You can even have ice cream in Hell and see the dam in Hell. If you can't find a pumpkin along the way, then the farmers have been slacking off. Other car clubs will be joining us.

- **November** – Nothing planned yet, but how about an activity and some sort of Thanksgiving dinner event?

- **December** is open right now, but former President Michael Salemi is angling to get our Holiday Party back at the Automotive Hall of Fame. We had two wonderful events there in 2006 and 2007 surrounded by "automobilia", as a car club should be. We may partner with another club. Thoughts? So, tell me please: what does float your boat? What kind of activities do you want to participate

in? What kind of activities would you actually come to? How do you like to kick back and have fun? Let me know. Drop me an email at [pwmmbca@aol.com](mailto:pwmmbca@aol.com). Or, call me at 586-293-0935.

*Pete Williams*

## Woodward Dream Cruise

Motorwerks in Commerce Township has invited MBCA members with presentable cars to park with them along Woodward Avenue; they've reserved the parking lot of a restaurant and want to have a "showing" of fine looking Mercedes-Benz cars, in addition to provide a place for YOU to park and see the show! This is a VERY BIG DEAL and a great opportunity to get VIP parking and a "front row seat" to one of the world's largest automotive shows! **If interested you must call Bill Mains at Motorwerks (248) 668-6793**, you'll need to get a special pass to allow entry past the police blockades! The Woodward Dream Cruise is on Saturday August 21, 2010.

## Thank you for Renewing!

International Stars would like to thank the following members who have renewed as of 7/1/10: John Sotir, Joe Weidman, Dennis Malecki, Gunter Von Doring, Gene Mitchell, Marvin Griffin, Syed Warsi, Frederick Peterson, Richard Reed, Jon Block, Raphael Boji, Charles Carino, Alex Gherlan, Darryl James, John Koepel, Daniel Kujawa, James LeVan, Daniel Paul, Anthony Pekalski, Joe Pisarcik, Barry Sorkin, Albert Anderson, Mark Arnold, George Ascherl, Lee Barthel, Elise Emrick, Frederick James, Dennis Kateff, George Lewis, Mike Mangrum, Louis Mastro, Gerald Abel, Gary Austin, Ronald Basse, Mark Burnstein, Michael Cramer, Robert Dickman, Michael McCoy, Lloyd Mitchell, Donald Nease.

***Thank you, and we hope to see you at an event soon!***

## 2010 Monthly Meetings

The MBCA International Stars Section holds its monthly meetings generally on the first Tuesday of the month. We hold them 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.

Our monthly meeting schedule for 2010 is: ~~January 5, February 2, March 2, April 6, May 4, June 8, July 13~~, August 10, September 14, October 5, November 2, December 7. These meeting dates are generally accurate, but subject to change. If there are changes, they will be noted in an email. *We send email reminders for all meetings.*

In order to encourage our membership to attend our general meetings, the meetings for the rest of 2010 will feature the **dinner raffle**. Just show up and you get a ticket. AT THE CONCLUSION of the meeting, we'll draw a ticket--if you win your *dinner only* will be paid for by the Club. You must be present to win of course, and you must actually *buy a dinner* in order to make it of any significance!

## Dinner Raffle Extended: July-December 2010!

### CLASSY-FIEDS FOR SALE:

- **4 Blizzaks off of a E320, on 15" after market Mercedes rims.** Used only one season. \$300 takes all. Call Steve Mahac 810-326 4565
  - **Hardtops to fit any 107 body.** Many colors to choose from. I need garage space. Call Rich Reed @ 810-252-1761
  - **NOS W115 Grille** P/N 115 880 05 83 New and has never been on a vehicle, however the horizontal trim on the left side has a small ding where it looks like something was set on it. They are not very noticeable unless you look at it just right. \$200
- Contact Adam Lumsden - [adam@lumsdenlive.com](mailto:adam@lumsdenlive.com)

## Regional Fun Day Autocross--Car Show Defensive Driving Class

MBCA members from several sections met in Sandusky, Ohio for a fun day with an **autocross, defensive driving** class, combined with a fun concours. It was cool and breezy, but SUNDAY, May 16th, 2010 was a great day and a lot of fun for all who participated. Three cars from International Stars drove together to Sandusky for a full day of fun. There is NO BETTER way to learn and understand your car and have fun with it than this type of event. The opportunities do not come often, but hopefully you will make next years event.

## Lunch and Antique Show August 14, 2010

Join your fellow MBCA members on Saturday, August 14th for lunch at Zingerman's Road House in Ann Arbor, followed by a visit to the Ann Arbor Antiques Market. This is a FUN place, and you are sure to find something you like--all kinds of memorabilia, collectibles, antiques and more. Fun for the whole family. *Note that Zingerman's Road House is NOT the downtown location, it is by I94! See the attached flyer..*

## Pumpkin Color Tour October 16, 2010

Drive with your fellow MBCA members on our Fall Color Tour, from Chelsea to Hell! Hell, Michigan that is...we meet for lunch at the world-famous Common Grill in Chelsea, and follow with a drive through some beautiful small towns. We'll be joined by some other car clubs, so this should be a lot of fun. See the attached flyer, and come on out with a final drive before you prepare your car for a long winter's nap.

### 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!

## 2010 National Events

The MBCA National Event Schedule is always found at the following web address. All MBCA member are encouraged and invited to attend these events:

[http://www.mbca.org/pages\\_r/events.htm](http://www.mbca.org/pages_r/events.htm)

**September 27, 2010** Jim O'Sullivan (617) 879-0017 is host.

**August 13, 2010** Legends of the Autobahn:  
West Coast Summer Concours Contact: Laura Simonds (650) 592-7613

**September 24-29, 2010** StarFest® 2010 - Hosted by Greater Washington Section. Bill Hopper (202) 364-2852 or visit the Starfest website. This is the club's biannual premier event.

<http://www.starfest2010.com>

**Note this is only the *briefest* announcement and summary. Full details are on the national website, or contact the host as noted.**

**Check out the MBCA Forums!**  
[www.MBCA.org](http://www.MBCA.org)

## International Stars Upcoming Events

August 14: Lunch and Antique Show  
August 26: Woodward Dream Cruise. See note on previous page.  
September 11: Show & Shine (New members party) Centennial farm in Plymouth  
October 16: Pumpkin Tour to Hell (Michigan). Lunch in Hell.  
December 11: Holiday Party Event time and site to be announced.

***Note that events come up quickly on occasion, and we ALWAYS email flyers and information!***



MBCA International Stars Section  
 Michael Salemi  
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 Novi, MI 48375-4751  
**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Place  
 Stamp  
 Here

**MANY UPCOMING  
 EVENTS JULY AUGUST  
 SEPTEMBER...  
 OCTOBER...  
 IT'S ALL INSIDE!!**

**TO:**



**MBCA International Stars  
 Section Officers and Board**

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 Bob Beltz (989) 689-5241; Resi Feil (248) 545-1575  
 Chuck Hiller (313) 563-8980; Michael Mountain (734) 223-5557

**WELCOME**

We welcome the following NEW members to the  
 MBCA and International Stars, as of 7/1/10:

Michael Lumpkins, Detroit, Bill Mialki, Midland,  
 Vasgen Shamamian & Elke Jensen, Midland, Ed  
 Biernot, Port Huron, Patrick Boyd, Saline Scott  
 Greenwald, Freeland, Claude & Bonnie Jackson,  
 Detroit, Steve Reader, Waterford, Raj Sitaraman,  
 Okemos, Mark Colonese, Saint Claire Shores,  
 Gary Cunningham, Troy, Umesh Malhotra, South-  
 field, Peter & Cynthia Potter, Livonia, Steven Mel-  
 nyk, Haslett, Julian Moore, Flint, Henry Mehta,  
 Fort Gratiot, Walterine Roberts, Southfield, Mark  
 Rei, Bloomfield Hills, Norbert Granchi, Sterling  
 Heights.

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

**EMAIL IS OUR PRIMARY MEANS OF COMMUNICATION!**