



November-December 2010, January-February 2011

The BenzScene

The newsletter of the MBCA International Stars

Forward Ramblings: Notes from your President, Peter Williams

Happy New Year!! 2011 is the 125th anniversary of Mercedes-Benz. I have had the distinct pleasure of being invited to attend planning meetings at *Mercedes-Benz Financial* for the Mercedes-Benz 125th Celebration. I know MBCA will be celebrating this history through *The Star* this year, starting with the January-February issue you just received recently.

The two meetings I've attended certainly have had a "WOW" factor to them. Their budget starts at \$500,000 and potentially goes up to \$1.5 million! M-B Financial Services, Corporate Marketing & Events is the lead on this project. I am in discussion with them on how MBCA can participate.

Initially I suggested local MBCA representation, but when I found out the scope of all of the Daimler USA business units which will be participating (MBUSA, Freightliner, Thomas Bus, Western Star, Smart and various MB and Daimler offices), I thought that the national MBCA must also be involved. Community leaders, Non-profits, media, and employees will be involved in this "once in a life time event".

The dates for the capstone event are **July 21 - 23, 2011**. The main event will be held in the Detroit Metro area. There may be other events around the country as well, but we have not discussed that possibility yet.

Here is a taste of the activities we have been discussing: Breakfast, Road Rally, Facility Tours (in various metro Detroit communities), Saturday Black Tie Event at the Detroit Institute of the Arts also celebrating a 125 year anniversary.

There will be several events throughout the year which will build to a crescendo at the July event. Each event is supposed to be a "WOW". The theme which matches the MB theme this year is: "**The Best Or Nothing**".

I will keep you informed as things progress. The dates were chosen by MB Financial. Things are very much in the planning stage at this time. I've only given you the "tip of the iceberg" as the rest of the events / activities have not been defined. I feel fortunate to be asked to participate and represent MBCA.

I believe that the July event will be one "not to be missed". I am sure many of you would not want to miss this celebration either. Don't be left out!

MBCA National Board Meeting

Our section will host the national MBCA board meeting in November 2011. Mike Salemi, Adam Lumsden and I participated in the vetting process. Mike Salemi put a bid package together and submitted it to the board for their approval. Some of the suggestions that were in the package were a formal reception at the DIA with a docent led tour of the Rivera Murals, a tour of the Rouge Plant (just featured on CNBC's "Mad Money" program) to see how vehicles are manufactured, and a final dinner at the *Automotive Hall of Fame*. We are very excited to be chosen as the hosts. As I've stated before...we live in a unique area of the country. In spite of perceptions, the Detroit Metro area has many wonderful attractions. Many other areas of the country don't have these treasures.

Keep tuned in to our communications. Email is the best way to find out the latest information. Don't forget the **www.MBCA.org** website event pages – for coming and past events. The November date has not been finalized.

Always the best, *Pete Williams*

Pre-Thanksgiving Pot Luck November 20, 2010 Event Review

A sincere debt of gratitude to hosts **Trish and John Briggs** of Brighton, who opened their lovely home to the club for this Pre-Thanksgiving social event. Our Pot Luck Party was a very nice intimate event with 18 MBCA members attending. We started with refreshments upstairs and then moved down the wide, sweeping staircase to the dining area. Many of the guests traveled a significant distance and were rewarded with a traditional Thanksgiving experience. Our hosts hail from the United Kingdom, where they don't have a Thanksgiving holiday but they put together a fine event anyway! Our President, Pete Williams, wore celebratory head gear. He might have been mistaken for the main course – a turkey. It showed that he believes in having fun and poking fun at himself. It was a lot of fun as members socialized. The food was fantastic. We would like to do it again this year, and hope that you can attend. It is a good way to meet great people.

Progressive Holiday Dinner Party - December 5th Event Review

The International Stars Holiday Progressive Dinner Party was a huge success. We had the best member participation of any event this year. Our Regional Director, **Frank Cozza** and **Mary Alice Cozza**, National Board Secretary, came to our event from Ohio.

We started at the *Fieldstone Winery* at 5:30 PM where our guests were able to sample five wines, and appetizers. Everyone enjoyed the atmosphere and the friendship. At 6:45 PM we moved on to our dinner venue.

Ann and Scott Lumsden hosted the dinner portion of our event. **Resi Feil** participated by being the chef. The sit down meal was delicious. Ann, Scott, Ryan and Adam removed almost all of their household furniture to allow us to place tables in their living room and family room. After dinner there was presentation of awards. Our Member

of the Year is **John Briggs**. Board Members were presented with certificates of appreciation. The hosts of our dinner and dessert were also presented with certificates of appreciation.

Our Regional Director, Frank Cozza, also had two presentations to make. **Pete Williams** was presented with the Regional Officer of the Year plaque. Frank said that other section Presidents had nominated Pete. **Adam Lumsden** was awarded the *MBCA Checkered Flag Award* jacket. Frank said: *"As I travel around, I often see MBCA members doing extraordinary things and many times they do not receive the recognition they deserve. For this reason, I created the Checkered Flag award to recognize members who go out of their way to help others, those who willingly give of themselves to help fellow members and MBCA. Adam is a young man who is juggling a college career as well as more than one job and still has time and energy to devote to helping MBCA. He has given so much of his time and talents to not only the International Stars Section, serving as Vice President, but to National as well, working on the development of the MBCA website. He is also willing to give of his time to answer website questions from members. I felt Adam deserved to be recognized for his unselfish service to MBCA."*

At about 8:30 we left the Lumsden's to proceed to our dessert host's, **Johnny and Charlotte Carson** home. The Carsons had their whole family involved in the event. Each guest received a string of seasonal beads and had their picture taken just after their coats were whisked into a closet. We proceeded to the lower level where the pool table was dressed in a bright red table cloth. Each guest set out the dessert they had brought on the pool table. The array of seasonal desserts was awesome. The party continued for a couple of hours and members were able to take home sampler plates of goodies. This event was fantastic. Both the Lumsden's and the Carson's opened their home and we all had a wonderful time. The attention to detail was great. A big Thank YOU to both of our host couples and their families!

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 coming in 2011, more than usual. Here is just a sampling--*visit the website regularly for updates and contact/registration information.*

StarTech National Technical Event April 29-May 1, held in conjunction with the National Board Meeting in the Milwaukee WI area.

Gemuetlichkeit 2011 May 21-24, Mansfield, OH. Concours, Track Driving Banquets and more--all close by in central Ohio.

MBCA [in conjunction with] **Concours of America** at St. Johns July 30 & 31. Even closer, at St. Johns in Plymouth, MI. Driving instruction, autocross, car show and Concours.

Star Trails 2011, August 17-21, Ouray, Colorado. National special driving event in the Rockies.

2011 Legends of the Autobahn: West Coast Summer Concours, August 19. Carmel Valley, CA. A Pebble Beach event.

2011 Lake Huron Mille Driving Tour, September 24-30. Drive around Lake Huron, national special driving event.

Let's see you there!

Check out the MBCA Forums!
Give and Get Answers
www.MBCA.org

2011 Monthly 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: February 1, March 1, April 5, May 3, 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 open for all members!***

International Stars Upcoming Events

January--Eastern Market. See flyer attached.
February--Antique Show, Southfield
March--Tech Event, tentative
April--Wine Tasting
May--Driving Event, Tour
June--Museum Tour
July--Regional Driving Event
August--Ann Arbor Antiques Show, Woodward Dream Cruise.
September--Show and Shine
October--Color Tour
November-Thanksgiving Pot Luck
December--Holiday Party

Many of these events are only in the early planning stages. As we get closer, there will be more information available and 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



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Place
 Stamp
 Here

**2011: SURE TO BE
 A LANDMARK
 YEAR FOR MBCA
 EVENTS!**

TO:



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EMAIL IS OUR PRIMARY MEANS OF COMMUNICATION!

WELCOME

We welcome the following NEW members to the MBCA and International Stars, as of 12/14/2010: Edmund Meurer, Farmington Hills; Scott Manning, Rochester Hills; Jason Perkins, Ypsilanti; Basim Shina, West Bloomfield; Mark Lemko, Plymouth; Carol Masse, Swartz Creek; Emery Williams, Detroit; Kara Stoltze, Brighton; Naeem Haider, Brighton.

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!**