



Mercedes-Benz Club of America | International Stars Section

Do you have an event to suggest? Contact Pete Williams at pwmbca@aol.com

STARS News, March, 2011 The inside scoop on the MBCA | International Stars

2011 Coming Attractions

Mercedes-Benz 125th Anniversary July 21-23



1930s
Grosser
770. See
the link
below for
the
source.

Mercedes Financial (formerly Daimler Financial) has let us know that they are still in the planning stages for this big celebration. There have been several changes to the original concept. The DIA Gala remains, but the date of the event is in flux. They are working on the details of the event and the proposed budget numbers.

We will let you know when things have been finalized. We will be representing MBCA and trying to get you as much information as possible.

This looks like it will be a fantastic event! I'll let you know more as soon as I can. More at the following link: <http://www.luxist.com/2011/01/28/mercedes-benz-celebrates-125-years-of-automotive-excellence/>

The \$1,000 Car

This month the \$1,000 car blew out the driver's side front brake caliper. The car suddenly would pull to the right as the rotor and brake pads were soaked with brake fluid on the left side of the car. We made a quick trip to the Pick-n-Pull (salvage yard) and harvested two almost new looking calipers for both front brakes. The pads also looked new. We installed both of them as well as new flex brake lines.

The rear axle half shaft axle boots will be replaced next as they are either cracked or leaking. This will necessitate opening the differential, removing two "C" clips, removing the bolt in the wheel hub on each side and then removing the half shaft. (and then replacing all we have taken apart) We are fortunate to have access to a loaner flex boot gun. This tool stretches the axle boots so they fit over the "cans" which house the bearings. We will be doing this in early March.

Also in March I'll be getting my rear seat back from Scott Manning (MBCA member) who runs J & M

Canvas. He will be replacing the disintegrated seat backing (which I vacuumed up) and the MB Tex vinyl which had several rips. The rest of the seats are very good.

The exhaust system has been replaced as well. The large hole in the exhaust pipe was going to be replaced with a small replacement patch pipe. However when the tech took apart the system it broke at the front and rear of the resonator and muffler. (NUTS!) I had them replace it with a straight pipe. Since it's a diesel it isn't as noisy as a gas car... but it is a tad loud at certain RPMs. I think the car has a touch more power as it is not restricted by the resonator and muffler.

So the \$1,000 car certainly isn't worth \$1,000 anymore. Could I get what I have invested in it? I think so. Stay tuned... I'm sure there will be more fun.

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 2: TBD Tech Event – Still working on this.
- April 17: Crank Up Tour the Dick Kuhn private collection – 4 buildings (Livonia area) see flyer
- May: Spring Driving Tour: Nichols Arboretum
- June 12: Car Show Participation (Cars R Stars).
- July 21-23 M-B 125th Anniversary (see article)
July 30-31 MBCA Regional Event 2 days in Plymouth area
 - July 30: Defensive Driving / Auto Cross,
 - July 31: Mini car show in the parking area of the Concours D' Elegance of America (formerly Meadow Brook) at the new location.
- August: Ann Arbor Antique Show & Lunch
- September: Show / Shine / New Members party at the Shooting Club – Auburn Hills
- October: Pumpkin Color Tour with other car clubs
- November: Date TBD National Board Meeting, tours and parties; Pre Thanksgiving Pot Luck
- December: Progressive Holiday Party

If you have any event ideas, let us know.

Seats Need Recovering or a Panel Replaced? Convertible Top Need Replacement?

MBCA | International Stars member Scott Manning is the owner of J & M Canvas. He has been in business for over 20 years. His specialties are: Custom Upholstery; Convertible Tops; Leather and Canvas work; Specialist in vintage cars and boats; Custom interiors and seat fabrication. You can usually find him at his shop in his home in Rochester Hills. His contact number is 248-852-0384. Scott is also an auto collector. He has several cars in his collection.

Gemütlichkeit 2011- May 20 - 24



The Western Reserve Section of Ohio is excited to present this oldest MBCA national event at Mansfield, Ohio using the internationally famous Mid Ohio Sports Car Course.

The Western Reserve Section has developed a reputation for hosting fun, quality events with activities that appeal to both the veterans and the first-timers alike. Saturday and Sunday activities will include the concours, defensive driving, autocross, welcome reception, concours banquet, and plenty of social time to allow you to make new friends and to get reacquainted with old friends. On Monday and Tuesday participants will have the opportunity to attend our performance driving school at the world-renowned Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course and participate in time trials and acceleration runs on the track. Never driven on a track before? No problem--our team of experienced instructors will guide you every step of the way to help you learn the course and the performance characteristics of your Mercedes-Benz.

The event includes banquets, receptions, track time, classes, a flea market and an Amish Tour. It's in close by Mansfield, Ohio.

Registration for Gemütlichkeit 2011 is now open! The eight page registration information can be downloaded from The Western Reserve Website: <http://benzclub.org/info/gemutlichkeit-2011/gemutlichkeit-2011-registration/> Questions? Contact Sue Morrison slm2teach@aol.com or (330) 673-7885

Please see the MBCA website at this link for more information. <http://www.mbca.org/event/2011-05-21/gemutlichkeit-2011-may-21-24>

Officers

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Membership: John Briggs johnrb@comcast.net
This issue's content was provided by Pete Williams. Want to participate?
Send your article to pwmzca@aol.com.

Want to help? We need a Secretary. Drop me an email...
pwmzca@aol.com

New MBCA Website? www.mbca.org

What's out there right now?

Have you looked at the new MBCA website yet?

This month we are going to look at the Tech Talk Tab The full descriptions are available on the club website (see above) Click on Tech Talk and then in the drop down box click on Tech Talk Home. You don't even have to sign in to read more...
<http://www.mbca.org/tech-talk>

There are other Tech Talk sub groups as well.

They are:

- Tech Talk Home
- Ask the Experts
- Tech Talk Articles
- Technical Forums
- Technical Q & A
- MBUSA Resources
- Useful Sites
- Submit Technical Question
- All Tech Talk

There is a lot of information there to help you with your Mercedes-Benz questions. You can also pose questions for other MBCA members to respond to. All in all it's a great site.

Free Waste Veggie Oil Sources Perishing

In the February 15, 2011 edition of the Wall Street Journal there's an article about biodiesel and waste vegetable oil. (by Jeffery Ball) In the article Mr. Ball states that free sources are being greatly reduced as biodiesel gets more popular. He states that the restaurants and businesses that have waste veggie oil are now getting paid by biodiesel refiners for this once free product.

In some states where waste oil was free, it now is very scarce. This means that the days of free waste oil are coming to an end. It would be a poor idea to invest in the equipment to clean waste veggie if you can't get it for free. Read the article at: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703960804576119871385049448.html>

TECH TIP – by Roy Hunter

Emergency (starter failure) tow starting a gasoline or diesel engine with automatic transmission 1990 and earlier*

I strongly recommend using a tow strap for this operation. Even if you have towed before, be sure the person working with you understands exactly how to do this...

Check out these two links:

- How To Properly Use a Tow Strap
<http://autorepair.about.com/od/roadsiderepairs/ss/tow-strap-howto.htm>
- How To Tow Your Classic
<http://classiccars.about.com/od/maintenancetips/qt/towing.htm>

The tow start process:

- 1) Place the selector/gear shift lever in "N", remember to hold the brake pedal until the tow begins.
- 2) Turn the key into steering lock position #2.
- 3) 3a) On older diesels with an idle speed adjuster knob, first turn the knob counter clockwise against the stop.
3b) On vehicles with the Stromberg carburetor, briefly turn the key to the start position and depress the accelerator pedal firmly to the floor once.
- 4) Begin towing vehicle up to speed...

Warning / NOTES:

- Begin trying to start at 19 MPH on a cold transmission, and 31 MPH on a warm transmission.

Warning / NOTES continued...

- Towing over 35 MPH can burn out transmission components.
- You have roughly 30-60 seconds after the engine starts cranking before the transmission must go back into "N" to cool off.

- 5) Place the selector/gear shift lever in "2", "L" or "S" to crank the engine over, be aware you have roughly 30-60 seconds after the engine starts cranking before the transmission must go back into "N" to cool off.

Gasoline Warning / NOTE: Only touch the gasoline accelerator pedal when the engine is cranking over.

Diesel NOTE: Stomp the accelerator pedal to the floor and hold it there, until the engine starts...

- 6) Be prepared to immediately place the selector/gear shift lever back in "N", when the engine starts.

Diesel NOTE: The engine needs to warm up / idle for a couple minutes before disconnecting and driving off.

Remember that the person in the towed vehicle must pay close attention and be prepared to stop at a moment's notice so they don't smash into the tow vehicle! Be very careful of traffic and other hazards.

* **Note:** This won't work on vehicles produced after the 1991 model year as the secondary pump was deleted from ALL automatic transmissions in 1991.

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: Mar 1, Apr 5, May 3, Jun 7, Jul 12*, Aug 2, Sep 13*, Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6.** (* = 2nd Tuesday Meeting) **(Our February meeting was canceled due to a blizzard.)**

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.

April Dust-Off / Crank-Up Auto Collection Tour

April 17, 2011 we have been invited to tour the Richard (Dick) Kughn auto collection. Mr. Kughn is a pre-eminent collector of a variety of classic cars. For many years he had a collection called Car Rail which only included selected vehicles and toy trains. Car Rail no longer exists. In the interim, Mr. Kughn has sold some of his cars and bought some more. His collection is exceptional and is not open to the general public. This tour will include his multiple storage buildings in the Farmington, Livonia and Plymouth area. If you have ever been to Car Rail, and wondered where the rest of the collection was located, you will see it on this tour. The tour starts at 10 AM with lunch at about 2-3 PM. **See the flyer included in this STARS News.** We will be joining VMCCA and Buick clubs. Bring your camera!



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Southfield Antique Show

Saturday, February 26, 2011 Starting at 10 AM.

Lunch on site

\$8.00 entrance fee

Discount of \$2.00 if you present the printed page at the following website: <http://search.antiquet.com/m&m/> (good all three days)

Note: This antique show's dates are Feb. 25 – 27 Times:

Friday: 2 PM – 9 PM

Saturday: 10 AM - 6 PM

Sunday: 11 AM – 4 PM

Address:

Southfield Civic Center, 26000 Evergreen Rd., Southfield, Mi. 48076

Adam Lumsden will be our MBCA Host.

➔ **RSVP by February 24 to Adam at either:
adam@lumsdenlive.com or 248-505-4832**



Mercedes-Benz Club of America | International Stars Section

April 17, 2011 (Sunday)
Dust-Off / Crank-Up Auto Collection Tour

With The Buick Club and the VMCCA – Detroit Chapter

Richard (Dick) Kughn Auto Collection

Mr. Kughn's collection is exceptional and is not open to the general public. The tour will include multiple storage buildings in the Farmington, Livonia and Plymouth area. If you have ever been to Car Rail, and wondered where the rest of the collection was located, you will see it on this tour.

Starts at 10:00 am

Meet at: 22456 Orchard Lake Rd, Farmington, Mi 48336
North of Grand River and South of 10 mile. It is on the East side of Orchard Lake.

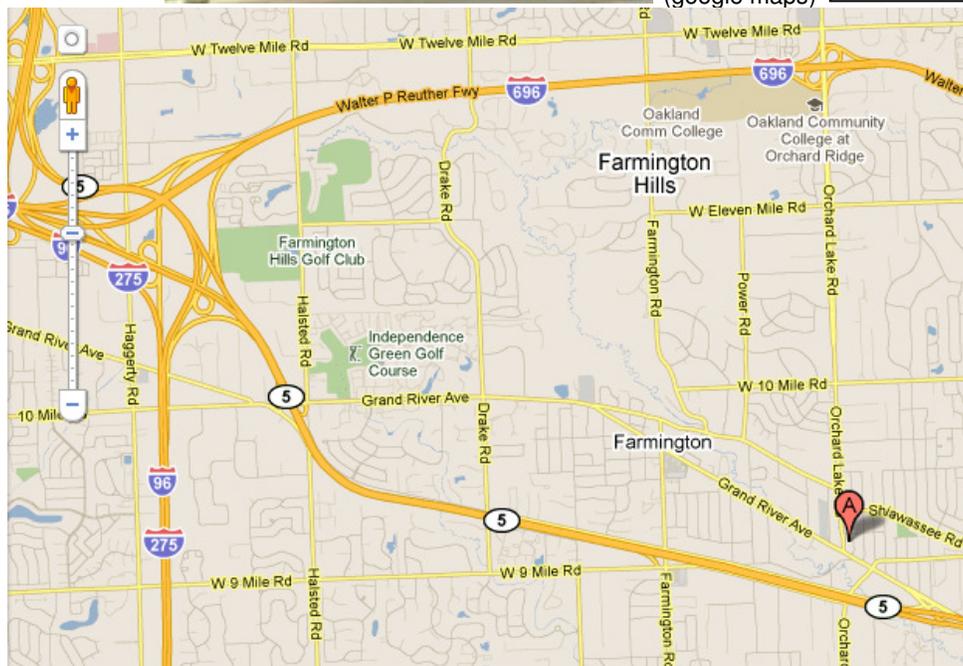


(google maps)

Subsequent destinations will be announced at the first destination.

For insurance purposes RSVP to Pete Williams at 586-293-0935 or via email pwmbca@aol.com

By April 14, 2011



PARKING:
Only antique cars park up by the first garage. Modern cars can park all around across the street etc.
No sense getting there at 9 because they won't open till Ruth & Don & Pete get there at 10 AM

Lunch will be at about 2-3 PM at **Thomas's Dining** 33971 Plymouth Rd (south side of the street between Farmington and Stark Rd) 734-261-8890

This is a great way to start the collector car driving season.