

From The President:

WOW What A PVGP



To all of our members who attended the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix I would like to say thank you for attending. It has been a favorite of many for years. However, this year we had to endure some major problems at this “normally wonderful” event. For those who did not attend or this was your first time to this event, I will explain.

We were moved from our regular spot due to Porsche being the Marque of the Year and required double the space they normally would use. It rained very hard Friday night & Saturday morning. We were placed up the hill which you would think would dry out from the rain faster than being in our normal low lying area. There must have been an underground spring along with the rain which made our parking area a nightmare and dangerous when trying to park the cars in this squishy mess. Under our tent was a quagmire where you would slip, slide and your chair would sink into the ground.

Most of you know, this being my first year as president, I want everything to be perfect and this was the last thing I wanted to happen. It was just not right that our club members had to sit in this muddy mess for two days. So I want to apologize to the members who came and thank them for sticking around under these conditions.

I do need to thank many board members and others for their help or this would have been even more of a disaster. So, thank you to Dave Fabyonic, Ray Smetana, Dan Spinazzola, Paul Mundorff, Ted Shaffer, Mal Levy for tent duties, parking, etc. Thanks to Gil Zuber for being chief judge and all those who helped judge and scribe. Also, all the ladies who handled the paperwork to keep everything straight, Janice Fabyonic, Marilyn Smetana, Pat Shaffer, Ellen Engstrom, Angie Levy, Donna Spinazzola and Betsy Marcin.

We have been assured that this will be changed for next year. After lots of frustration I started to think why we are here. Yes, of course we are car people, but the main reason is for people with autism who just can't change their lives like we can change our tent spot. Wish it was that easy. So here is to next year's PVGP, may it be dry and fun again.

PS: The **upcoming** Oktoberfest is on September 25th and **we eat indoors**. The Parking area is paved. (No Mud) So, I hope to see you all there.



Photo by Matt Little

From
The Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix

As a long time Mercedes-Benz Club member and the Showside Director for the PVGP, I am occasionally put in an awkward spot. When we needed to expand the Porsche area, I made the call to relocate the Mercedes Club to what I thought was a better area. After consulting with the leadership of the club we made the move. (how's that for sharing the blame!!)

When we erected the tent on Friday the ground under the tent was as dry as could be. We were faced with some soft ground between the tent and the track but we saw no problem setting up the show. Wow how things change in a few hours.

On behalf of the PVGP I apologize to you the member and guests of the Pittsburgh Section. We have not experienced such a mess in that area at any time. I want to commend the officers and helpers for putting the best face on a really bad situation. I also want to add my thanks that not only did many members come both days but there were many wonderful cars there as well.

We will be working to assure that we do not have a repeat of that mess in any area.

The 2011 PVGP is going to likely set a record for funds raised. Thanks for being a part of the success.

Bob Speer

E-MAIL UPDATES REQUESTED

Pittsburgh Section will send e-mails containing information about events and reminders as those events get closer. We will NOT provide your address to any group, individual, or Mercedes-Benz Dealer.

All e-mails are sent as Blind Copies so no addresses are shared. Please e-mail Bob Speer respeer@comcast.net with your current address even if you think we have it.

MBCA and the PVGP - 2011

Well as most years in the past, it was hot and we had rain. What else is new? We still had over 60 cars on the field and over 100 members for lunch on Saturday. We also had a few more members coming in from Ohio and West Virginia for their first time at this event. Thank you for driving all this way for this worth- while charity event.

Thanks to Bobby Rahal Mercedes, Mercedes-Benz of Pittsburgh, Bud Smail Mercedes and John Sisson Mercedes for supplying Saturdays lunches to our members
It was very much appreciated!

We had our Concourse Judging on Saturday and here is a list of the well -deserved winners. Remember the big rains on the way in took its toll on all the tedious work put into these beautiful cars previous to the rains and muddy field. Lots of re-cleaning being done in this humidity was draining. Here is the list of **Street Class winners:**

First Place: ***Brad Badali*** with his 1973 - 280SE, ***Wayne Reck*** with his 1988 – 560SL, ***Adam Parness*** with his 1981 – 240D, and ***Dan Marcin*** with his 1999 – C43 AMG.

Second Place: ***Dan Spinazzola*** with his 1986 – 300SL, ***Ron Swenson*** with his 2008 – E550.

Third Place: ***Robert Kormus*** with his 2008 – C63, and ***Paul Mundorf*** with his 1985 – SL380

Sunday we returned for the races and lunch.

Thank you all for bring your beautiful cars out into the elements and supporting your club and the charities.

Join us next year at our regular spot.

Trackside

by Dan Marcin

Well, it's been a good while since I have done a track event. **Boy what an event it was!!!** For you Formula 1 watchers, you will know exactly what I mean when I say "SPA ". This world famous track **SPA-Francorchamps** is in Belgium. It was built in 1922 with a length of 9.2 miles. There have been more than 40 World Championship Grand Prix's on this track. The track has been shortened to 4.35 miles and is now closed to local traffic. You see, many parts of the track actually went through some of the neighboring towns and they would just shut the roads down during race and practice days. Due to the dangers, they kept making changes to the track. They shortened it and started to change it over to strictly a racing track. The new track included the "Bus Stop" chicane which actually was a bus stop when normal traffic used most of the circuit as public roads until the year 2000. This great track event was put on by AMG Driving Academy. It's one of many events around the world. Just think how terrible you would feel if **you** were forced to use a 2012 CLS63 AMG, SL63,C63, to move you around the track or even worse yet, an SLS Gull Wing ;-)
The nerve of them! Everything is first class, like our hotel just outside the gate of SPA. The instructors were fantastic also, like Bernd Schneider, a 5 times DTM champion. It was just like SPA to pour down the rain, but that didn't stop us. They run rain or shine. We just ran a little slower 80-100mph. That will make you a little nervous. You learn a lot and fast. This track throws everything but the kitchen sink at you. This is why most of the famous drivers will say this is one of their favorite tracks in Europe. You go through hair pin turns, uphill, downhill, lefts, rights, off camber corners, etc. You get the idea, the kitchen sink! You go from the pits down a steep hill and through "Eau Rouge". That's the area where the downhill bottoms out and goes steeply up into the mountains. The only problem is that someone placed an off camber right hand corner in there just as you start up the mountain. Now for the Pros of F1 who scream down this hill with the gas pedal to the floor and not lifting off, bottom out and start up the other side with this crazy corner stuck in there for fun. (About 189mph) For me, *mister no guts*, went through there around 90- 100 mph. The only problem with that *wimpy* speed was trying to hit my **goal speed of 150 mph** while climbing this long hill with a sharp right turn at the top. Unfortunately, I never made it but did get close, 148mph before jamming on those massive brakes to make the corner. I guess if there is a bright side to this, would be that I now have to find another track in the future to conquer for my goal of 150mph! So, until the next adventure, remember my favorite saying :

"Life is not a spectator sport"



**Mercedes-Benz Club of America Pittsburgh
Section
PRESENTS
OKTOBERFEST IN NORTH PARK**

**NEW LOCATION - Ice Skating Rink
Note: Banquet Room on 2nd Floor – 20 Steps**

**SUNDAY September 25th 2011
11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

**BUFFET LUNCH - Lunch will be served at 1:00 PM
(German Meats, Sauerkraut, Potato Pancakes)**

**Registration Fee: \$22 – Includes Car, Buffet & Beverage for One
\$18 – Each Add'l Person For Buffet & Beverage**

Peoples's Choice Balloting: 12:00 PM-2:30 PM

General Club Meeting & Awards Presentation 2:30 PM

Entrants Choice Awards

No point judging

All who register may cast one vote in each category

2 Categories

Open – Convertibles - all years

Closed – Sedan and Coupes - all years

50/50 raffle and more

NEW MEMBER FIRST EVENT RECOGNITION AWARDS

Please Register Early

After entering North Park – Follow signs to Ice Skating Rink

Oktoberfest in the Park

New Location – North Park Ice Skating Rink

Note: Banquet room on 2nd floor – 20 steps

There is no elevator or ramp to the second floor.

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

MEMBER NUMBER (Printed on mailing label) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

IS THIS YOUR FIRST EVENT WITH MBCA PGH? _____

MERCEDES - MODEL _____ MODEL- YEAR _____

MERCEDES DEALERSHIP YOU USE _____

REGISTRATION FEE (Car & Driver) \$ **22.00**
ADDITIONAL BUFFETS _____ @ \$18.00 \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: MBCA Pittsburgh Section

MAIL TO:

*Betsy Marcin
811 7th Street
Oakmont, PA 15139*

***NOTE: FOR ON SITE REGISTRATION ADD \$5.00 PER CAR AND \$5.00
PER PERSON.***

No guarantee of food with in park registration

Contact: Betsy Marcin

E-mail betsy-mbclub@comcast.net

Phone: (412) 828-9013

OKTOBERFEST IN NORTH PARK
September 25, 2011

Mercedes-Benz USA is offering a \$1000 rebate to any member buying or leasing a new Mercedes. Your membership must be in effect for one year prior to the sale date to qualify.
Please see the full details at www.mbc.org or in the Star Magazine.
This is a good time to visit an authorized Mercedes-Benz Center and let the newest offering tempt you.

Mercedes-Benz Membership
Appreciation Benefit

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