

# Mercedes-Benz Club of America Pittsburgh Section

January 2012



## Coming Events

- February 18,  
Pittsburgh Auto Show
- April 26 New Mem-  
ber Reception
- May 19 Coming Out  
of the Stars
- July 14 & 15 PVGP  
BeaveRun German  
Car Corral
- July 21 & 22 PVGP  
Schenley Park
- October 7  
OCTOBERFEST  
North Park

Yes Virginia There Really Is A Pittsburgh Section.

With apologies to the New York Sun's classic poem, we want to let you know that the club is alive but not so well.

For several years the section leadership has been asking for your input on events and your assistance to help drive the growth of our section. Several of those requests hinted that the current leaders were running low on "fuel" due to family, business, and health concerns. Well the dry spell we hit the last few months is the result of that lack of fuel. We have received very little input and even fewer offers to assist. This is by no means a complaint or accusation about any present or former director/officer, but it is a reality. This is not Dave, Dan, Bob, Ray, Marilyn or anyone else's club: It is as much yours as it is any other member or leader.

To keep things floating and begin to rebuild, we have made a few decisions.

To better comply with MBCA National Policy, we are moving our elections to the fall. The current officers have agreed to continue to serve until a General Meeting in the fall. Current plans are for that meeting to take place at OktoberFest.

Our 2012 schedule will include: Breakfast and Tour of the Pgh Auto Show on Feb 18, New Member Reception in April, A revised Coming Out of the Stars in May, PVGP show July 21 & 22 and Oktoberfest in North Park October 7. (Note: O-fest may change when the Steeler schedule is published).

We would like to see the Memorabilia Day, Winery Tour, Tech Session, Concours Clean Up Session, and other events return under new leadership. We can assist but we need new leaders to step up.

If at any time your offer of help was not taken up, please forgive us and TRY AGAIN.

Included in this newsletter are details of a new several day event in Central Ohio that does not include a race track or a Concours show. StarFest will take place in Phoenix, and many regional shows and festivals welcome our cars and drivers.

A writer explaining the classic poem I referenced at the start said: "It offers a connection to another, distant time. It is reassuring to know that what was appealing before remains appealing today. It is a cheery, reaffirming story: one without villains or sinister elements".

May the resurgence of the Pittsburgh Section be viewed in equally glowing terms when reviewers see what YOU have done.

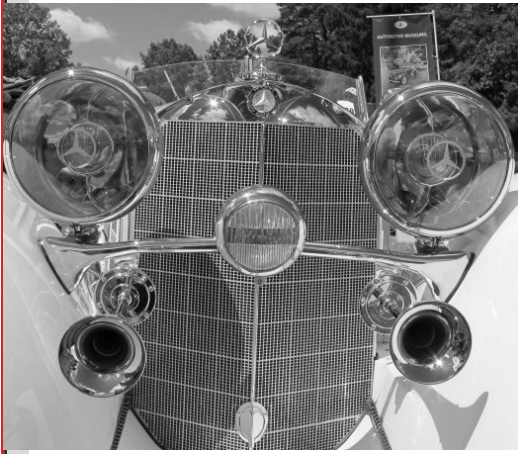
Let's Put the Pittsburgh Section back on our members maps and grow from there.

# A New MBCA Adventure

## THE OHIO BACKROADS ADVENTURE TOUR

*A Four-Day Metric Mille*

**Dates – 8/5/12 through 8/9/12**



**The Ohio Backroads Adventure** is a 2012 Great Lakes Regional event presented by the Western Reserve Section | Mercedes Benz Club of America. This is a four-day driving tour that will go through east-central and southeast Ohio featuring the “roads less traveled.”

While our dinners and event stops will require being time-certain, participants will tour at their own pace and on their own schedule. Spend as much time or as little time as you desire at the various stops along the way.

Our stops will be interesting and not always seen by the everyday tourist. A husband-wife team developed this tour for you. Don and Carol Velcio’s varied interests were used to balance the roads and the stops to satisfy everyone in your group.

The tour is not a rally, a race, or a speed contest of any kind. Everyone should observe all legal limits and their own personal limits as well. Readers of *Car and Driver* magazine have read about the editors’ well-loved but secret roads through Ohio’s Appalachian mountain foothills. On this tour, you’ll drive many of our well-loved roads. Be warned – some roads will seem like never-ending ups and downs curving right and left. These are drivers’ roads. This isn’t going to be a cruise control snore down the interstate. (You’ll love it). Participants will make their own hotel reservations at our suggested spots or any other of their own choosing. Blocks of rooms are being held for us thirty days prior to the event. Book early! Generous discounts are being extended to us from the normal rack rates. **Questions:** Call Don Velcio, work, 440-886-1660 or email, [velcio@aol.com](mailto:velcio@aol.com) Registration forms are available at [www.mbcapitt.org](http://www.mbcapitt.org)

## 2012 PITTSBURGH VINTAGE GRAND PRIX

Pittsburgh Section will once again highlight our summer by participating in the PVGP events.

In addition to the Schenley Park Weekend we are promoting the PVGP Rallye on July 1, and the German Car Corral at BeaveRun July 14&15.

The PVGP Rallye details will be available soon. The course is laid out by an experienced rallye master but the novice can still find their way and have fun along the way. Registration can be done online at [www.pvgp.org](http://www.pvgp.org) and then follow the Rallye Tabs.

The German Car Corral will take place at BeaveRun where the BMW club will host a lunch, informal car display and provide a great spot to watch the vintage races. Although some vintage racers compete at both venues, Schenley Park and BeaveRun offer many cars that only participate at one event.

Registration details will be available soon at [www.pvgp.org](http://www.pvgp.org).

We will hold our annual car show both days with judging and awards on Saturday only. Remember that your registration covers either or both days.

We all know the challenges we faced last year and ask that you trust us to improve things this year. We are working closely with the PVGP team and the Schenley Park management to assure that we have a dry solid area this year.

### **Mercedes-Benz Membership**

#### **Appreciation Benefit**

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.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org) or in the Star Magazine.

### **PITTSBURGH AUTO SHOW**

We will meet at the Rivers Casino at 8:30 on Saturday February 18th. They have a full breakfast menu and then they provide free transportation to the auto show at the convention center. Parking is free! After a stop at the Mercedes area you are free to tour at your leisure. Return Shuttles run all day. Call Bob Speer 412-953-9270 with any last minute questions. Please reply by e-mail: [respeer@comcast.net](mailto:respeer@comcast.net) or phone so that we know how many to expect.



## What is StarFest?

StarFest is the premier national event for members of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America (MBCA). Scheduled every two years, StarFest is the largest Mercedes-Benz enthusiast event in the country.

StarFest 2012 will be held **September 28th through October 3rd, 2012, in Phoenix, Arizona.**

An overview of events includes:

- Two Days of Mercedes-Benz Concours d'Elegance on the lawn at the historic Arizona Biltmore Resort
- Three Days of Track Sessions at Firebird International Raceway, including Acceleration Runs, Time Trials, Auto-Cross, and our Defensive Driving seminars
- Road Rallye through the Valley of the Sun
- Tech Sessions, Seminars and Clinics
- Trips, tours, golf and events for friends and family
- Cocktail Parties, Wine Tasting, Banquets and social events
- Club Store and Vendor Room

## Why Arizona?

2012 marks the 100th anniversary of Arizona's statehood, and also marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Desert Stars section in 1962. We are also celebrating the 20th anniversary of the 1992 StarFest, which was held in Phoenix, and still holds the record for the largest-attended StarFest in MBCA history.

## Who is Invited?

All members of the MBCA, of course, but all Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts are welcome to register. Specific events are also open to the general public, such as the second day of the Mercedes-Benz Concours d'Elegance on Sunday.

For More information visit [www.starfest2012.com](http://www.starfest2012.com).

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•May 19 Coming Out of the Stars

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•July 21 & 22 PVGP Schenley Park

•October 7 OKTOBERFEST North Park

All Events Subject To Schedule Changes. Visit our site [www.mbcapitt.org](http://www.mbcapitt.org) and follow us on Facebook: MBCA

Pittsburgh Section.

MBCA Pittsburgh

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