



500 SECTION STAR



Summer

**Mercedes-Benz Club of America
Indianapolis 500 Section**

Sept 2014

Concours d'Elegance at French Lick Resort • October 3 - 5, 2014

Some of the rarest, most elegant and historic collector cars from across the country will be showcased on the beautiful grounds of French Lick Resort October 3-5. The Concours d'Elegance at French Lick Resort will bring together top exhibitors, seasoned judges and enthusiastic sponsors to celebrate the "competition of elegance" - and to raise money for Kosair Children's Hospital.

How would you like to see Carroll Shelby's personal 67 GT Convertible or a 68 Lamborghini built for, owned and driven by Feruccio Lamborghini? Those cars just scratch the surface of the automotive excellence at the 2014 Concours d'Elegance at French Lick. By the time you make your way through all 16 classes of almost flawless (at least to the untrained eye) beauties, you will be looking at cars valued at well over \$100 million dollars.

Whether you're a hard core car enthusiast or just someone who appreciates the beauty of the classic, the horsepower of muscle cars or the cars with celebrity connections, you will find plenty to keep you entertained at the 2014 Concours d'Elegance.

Friday, October 3, 5:30-7pm
Welcome Reception - Invitation only
Upper Garden Terrace (Event Center)

Saturday, October 4
Driving Tour - \$50 per person

Check-in 7:30am, Departs West Baden Springs Hotel at 8:00am

Indiana Automotive Heritage Day
2:00pm Featuring Donald Davidson, Indianapolis Motor Speedway Historian

Mad "Vin" Gala - \$175 per person
6:30pm Cocktails/7:15pm Dinner
West Baden Springs Hotel

Sunday, October 5
10am - 5pm Concours d'Elegance
at French Lick Resort
\$15 in advance/\$20 at door

Featured Marques: Cars from Shelby America/Classic Cars Made in Indiana
The world-class collector car event returns to the beautiful grounds of French Lick Resort for one day only, October 5. Over 150 cars in sixteen different classes, including the featured marques of Shelby American and Classic Cars Built in Indiana, will be displayed on the resort's Valley Links Golf Course. Walk the grounds and take in automotive excellence valued at well over \$100 million dollars.

Be on hand as Chief Judge John Carlson and his esteemed line-up of experts, including John Kefalonitis, Chief Judge for the Classic Car Club of America; Myron Vernis, past Chairman of the Glenmore Gathering and nearly a dozen Chief Judges or Mayors of other notable Concours, have the difficult task of choosing the coveted "Best of Show."

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Welcome New Members

Chad Beckett
Kelly Brown
Fred Carter
Matt Garrison
Cary Gutwein
C Archibald Hawkins
Kenneth Koehler
Keith Washington
Leo Williams

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Show N Shine/Concours Regional Event in Indy by Steven Rae

Sunday, August 3rd brought a beautiful day for the 500 Section to host a car show in Indianapolis as we gathered in Carmel West Park. This year we wanted to raise the bar and provide judging to make this a Regional Event, with a total of 19 cars representing 3 states entered. Serving as judges were freshly minted graduates of Pete Lesler's Judging School the previous day who were eager to apply all that they had learned. For the training class, Pete put on a great show designed to teach prospective judges how to score on a 100 point system, along with compensation for age and mileage (of the cars). He also served as chief judge for the Concours with capable scoring assistance from his wife, Josie.

Preparing for the Concours took more than a simple wash and dry for the drivers. Attention to detail, cleanliness, and condition were the watchwords as owners polished, preened, and buffed their cars. Alas, no one ever finishes, time just runs out.

While judges were inspecting the cars, Steve Rae was busily preparing burgers, brats, and hot dogs on the grill, supplemented by side dishes and desserts pitched in by owners and visitors alike. Conversation flowed in the shelter house as we

enjoyed our meals while the judges judged. In due time, inspections were completed, the results were tabulated, and Ken Salter, our section President, announced the winners as follows:

First Place: Steve Rae, 2003 E320
Second Place: David Hagood, 2001 E320
Third Place: Henry Riley, 2006 E500 Wagon

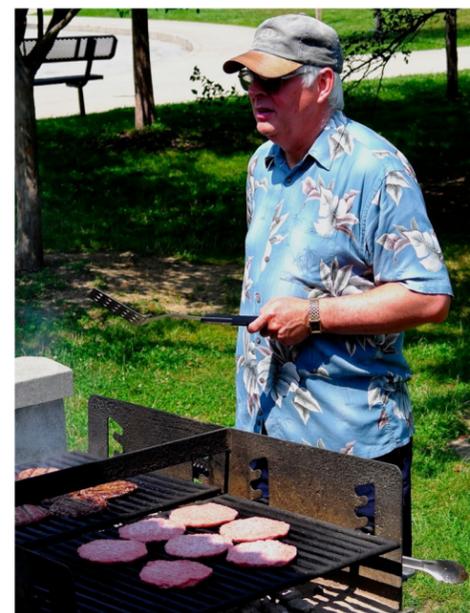
Winners were allowed their choice from a variety of prizes

Kudos:

Our thanks to these judges: David and Kimberly Hagood (Cincinnati); Paul Bailey, Ken Salter, Dave Swenby, Dave Weaver, and Henry Riley (500 Section); Julie Bruggner (3 Rivers)

Thanks to Kevin Williams for making park reservations and donating food, to Ken Salter for his leadership, and special thanks to Pete and Josie Lesler for traveling here to help us with our Concours. What a day for food, fun, and friendship.

- Steven Rae



500 Section Defensive Driving and Regional Autocross 2014 by Steven Rae

The June air was unusually cool as we began setting up tents and cones for what promised to be a beautiful day for defensive driving and autocrossing at Center Grove HS south of Indianapolis. As cars arrived, Pete Allen completed safety inspections, inflated tires, torqued wheels to specs, and notified drivers to remove all loose items from their vehicles. Safety first.

As the 24 drivers consumed donuts provided by Autobahn Connection, Ken Salter welcomed everyone to the event and then introduced Terry Kiwala and Paul Bailey who provided key instructions for the Defensive Driving course. There were to be a series of stages designed to teach avoidance or emergency maneuvers that are encountered in the real world. As drivers completed the stages, we learned how our cars handled in extreme conditions, which just might save lives in the future. Thanks to Terry and Paul for an excellent job.

While drivers were completing the Defensive Driving course, Rick Schue "coned" the autocross course again this year. To help drivers navigate the course, he laid down a wide chalk line for drivers to follow through the gates, and it helped because it's easy to get confused when staring at a sea of cones. We were looking forward to watching the Miata with the throaty V8 on the autocross course, but it was not to be as the driver was called home at lunch time. Something about a wedding anniversary....

After a break for lunch, Rick led us all on a walk through the course while the timing equipment was primed for action. Drivers were divided into two divisions, which ensured we had corner workers to shag cones, and then it was time to start our engines! Drivers were given 3 practice laps with instructors on board and then had 3 timed laps. Time penalties were applied for cones that were knocked out of their respective boxes.

If huge grins, laughs, and smiles were signs that drivers were having fun on the course, then this was a fun day. Some drivers tried to be smooth but quick, while others attacked the course with gusto indeed. Next year, I'm going to wear ear protection from the squealing tires though.

When the smoke cleared and the smell of burning rubber abated, the results were announced. Bill Denton showed us all the fastest way around the track this year in his 2002 C32 AMG. Congratulations to Bill! Second Place went to Peter Myers in his Audi S5 but we're pretty sure he's going to need new tires very soon. Third Place went to Michael Davis in his 2012 Mustang. Full results can be found on the 500 Section web site. Upon further review, all drivers who participated today were winners!

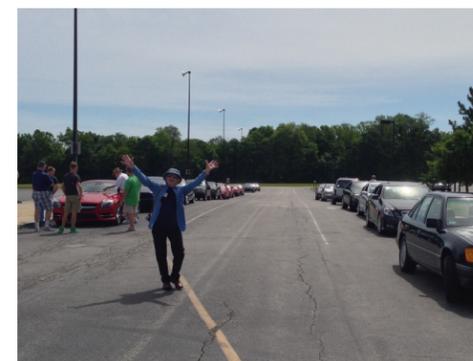
The toughest part of the day was the teardown in the heat of the afternoon but we were buoyed by the satisfaction that our event was a hit. I almost had a free pair of chairs until the Patees returned to retrieve them. Maybe next year.

As always, it takes a large team of people working together to pull off an autocross. Thanks go to Terry Fenimore for making arrangements with Center Grove, to Bob and Nancy Rece who came up from Kentucky just to help, to Autobahn Connection for sponsoring the event, to Rose Ann Fenimore for delivering the lunches (Rumor was that she earned a shopping trip for her efforts), to the Patee's for setting up the road signs, to Jim Gallimore for scoring, and to Ken Salter for putting on another successful event. Prevailing sentiment from drivers wasn't, "Same time next year", rather it was, "Same time next week!" Yes it was a lot of effort, but our section knows the ropes and we staged another safe and successful event.

- Steven Rae



In Memoriam - Bill Denton 1938-2014



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2014 EVENT SCHEDULE

For the latest event information see our website - www.mbca500section.com

<p>OCTOBER 2014</p> <p>Louisville Concours d'Elegance West Baden, IN</p> <p>2014 Northeast Ohio Fall Leaf Tour Western Reserve Section a Three-Day Driving Tour Ohio Amish Country Friday, October 17, 2014 - 8:30am - Sunday, October 19, 2014 - 2:30pm www.benzclub.org for complete details and registration.</p>	<p>NOVEMBER 2014</p> <p>Open for suggestions</p>	<p>DECEMBER 2014</p> <p>Holiday Party Sunday, December 7th Chateau Thomas Winery 1pm - 3:30 pm</p>
<p>JANUARY 2015</p> <p>Board Meeting Location Open</p>	<p>FEBRUARY 2015</p> <p>Valentine's Day Brunch Open</p>	<p>MARCH 2015</p> <p>Board Meeting Location Open</p>
<p>APRIL 2015</p> <p>Annual Tech Session Pitch-In Russ Jeffrey's Garage</p>	<p>MAY 2015</p> <p>Indianapolis 500 Event(s)</p>	<p>JUNE 2015</p> <p>Defensive Driving/Autocross Saturday 6/6/14 Center Grove High School 2117 S. Morgantown Road 9am - 4pm</p> <p>STARTECH 2015 6/12/14– 6/14/14 Cincinnati, OH</p>
<p>JULY 2015</p> <p>Joint Event with 3 Rivers</p>	<p>AUGUST 2015</p> <p>Show n' Shine/Concours Carmel Clay Park West</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER 2015</p> <p>Joint Event with Cincinnati</p>

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Mercedes to boost Alabama plant capacity to 300,000 units



The Vance, Ala., plant began production of the C-class coupe in June.

September 5, 2014 - 4:00 pm ET

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. -- Mercedes-Benz plans to increase production capacity at its Alabama plant to 300,000 vehicles by the end of 2015, Daimler CEO Dieter Zetsche said Friday.

Last year, the plant in Vance, Ala., built 185,000 M-, GL- and R-class crossovers. It began production of the redesigned C-class sedan in June. This year, the plant will add 60,000 vehicles. A fifth vehicle, a coupe version of the M class, will be built here starting next year.

Zetsche would not break out separate production figures for the C class or the M coupe. The ML and GL crossovers will also have "major face lifts" in 2015, he said. The total plant investment between 2010 and 2015 will be about \$2.4 billion, Zetsche said.

Zetsche also confirmed that Mercedes is considering changing the names of some vehicles. Specifically, he said the redesigned GLK debuting next year may be re-named the GLC because of its similarity in size to the C class sedan.

Source: [Automotive News](#)

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**Concours d'Elegance
at French Lick Resort**

October 3 - 5, 2014

To the Mercedes-Benz Enthusiast:

Green Stuff vs Orange Stuff

Green Stuff vs Orange Stuff by Steven Rae

Do yourself a favor right now. Go out and look at the color of the antifreeze in your Benz (Make sure the engine has cooled before opening the coolant cap). Is it by chance GREEN? If you have anything other than the pale orange Mercedes antifreeze in your cooling system, please read on because you may be harming your engine! As a bit of background, antifreeze is in many ways a miracle formulation, because it not only lowers the freezing point of water, it also raises the boiling point, assuming the correct 50/50 mix of antifreeze and water.

George Murphy, a member of the MBCA National Technical Committee, strongly urges that only genuine Mercedes antifreeze (properly mixed with water) should be used in your car because it contains special additives to keep the coolant from corroding your engine block, radiator, and engine heads. Apparently Mercedes antifreeze contains buffers to keep the pH of the coolant as close to neutral as possible, which then prevents corrosion and leaching of the engine. pH is a measure of the relative concentrations of acids versus bases in a liquid. Other name brand formulations, while claiming to be specifically formulated for aluminum engines, do not contain the correct pH buffers.

While genuine Mercedes coolant is a little more expensive at \$10 a gallon vs \$6 for the "Green Stuff", think of it as extremely cheap insurance to extend the life of your M-B investment. Also note that Mercedes recommends changing the coolant at least once every two years. Promise yourself you will check your coolant and have it drained and refilled with the Orange stuff. Those of you with the correct fluid, pat yourselves on the back and worry about collecting your 155,000 mile pin.

- Steven Rae, Technical Advisor