

# Star Reflections



The Chicagoland Section Newsletter

Fall 2009



## Oktoberfest

Sunday October 18th 2009

Chicago Yacht Club

Don't miss it. Details inside.



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Don't miss our final 2009 club event.

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## Board of Directors

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# Star Reflections

The Newsletter of the Mercedes-Benz  
Club of America  
Chicagoland Section

Fall 2009

## Calendar of Events

### October 18 Sunday Brunch Chicago Yacht Club

**Contact: Ron Roush – 708-989-8130**

#### Location:

**400 E. Monroe Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60603**

**Cost: \$50.00**

### Election for 2010

**Final Board meeting to be held at  
(630) 932-9339**

#### Anyways

**5 E Roosevelt Rd  
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181**

**Final date TBD**

## Star Reflections



Editor & Layout: Irene Burnett  
Production: Tony Kowollik

Star Reflections magazine is published by the Chicagoland Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc. as a benefit to MBCA membership.

We invite you to submit written articles of interest to our membership and to comment in response to articles covered in recent issues. Please send contributions or photographs to the attention of the editor by mail or E-mail. The editor reserves the right to accept or reject submissions at her discretion and further reserves the right to edit all submitted material published in the magazine.

Advertising rates are available upon request from the editor. Please direct all display advertising inquiries and "Garage Sale" ads to the editor.

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## ***Calling all Members to be involved !!!!!***

Your local chapter Mercedes Benz Club is looking for your interests! All members please participate by voting for your favorite function (Vote by emailing us). We have a wide variety of suggestions including activities with neighboring clubs, road trips, car shows, fund raisers, dinners and black tie social events. Please contact our Vice President Ron Roush to be included in our future club plans. Lets make our Mercedes Club Chapter the best around.

### 2010 Event Suggestions

- Door County Road Trip
- House on the Rock
- Arlington Race Track Event
- Frank Lloyd Wright (Taliesin)
- Covered bridge tour of Indiana
- Union Illinois Railway Museum
- Galena / Iowa Club Events
- Brookfield Zoo
- Possible future involvement in Barrington Concours d'Elegance
- Historical Destinations
- Winne Tasing
- Casino Night
- Knauz Museum

Interested members please contact Ron Roush

Email – [ron.roush@comcast.net](mailto:ron.roush@comcast.net)  
Phone- 708-989-8130

## **Farnsworth House Tour & Drive Meis van der Rohe**

Our August 1st caravan began early from our Oakbrook Illinois gathering point. We continued westward through the countryside to Plano Illinois where one of the most important examples of 20th century architecture rests. The event was well attended with over a dozen members and guests. They were driving a variety of Mercedes models and years, which provided quite a surprise for other westerly drivers on Illinois Route 88. While our day began in welcome sunshine, a few dark clouds and light rain reached us as we arrived at our destination. The rain, now spotting the well cleaned and polished automobiles in our caravan, could not dampen anyone's spirits.

The tour started in the visitor's center. We watched a documentary movie about the architect, the process of design, and construction. Then we proceeded to the grounds of the house, which demonstrated the "sculptural simplicity" that Mies van der Rohe sought in his masterpiece of timeless design.

After completing the tour some members met for lunch in Elburn, others pressed on with Saturday duties as the weather began to clear. I know that all in attendance enjoyed the drive and tour. We are planning a wide variety of interesting "events" that you can add to your 2010 calendar. We want to offer everyone access and experiences only a Mercedes club membership can provide. We always want to hear suggestions and ideas for future events, so the club is responsive to its members. Please send your suggestions to me at [ron.roush@comcast.net](mailto:ron.roush@comcast.net).

## Board Member Elections for 2010

Board member elections will be held later this fall. If you attend the Oktoberfest event Sunday October 18th you can meet your local chapter board members and future candidates.

We are currently accepting nominations for our board of directors.

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Membership director

If you or someone you know has interest in becoming a board member please contact us.

Ron Roush: ron.roush@comcast.net 708-989-8130 Bill Denton WRdenton@trane.com 630-400-4322

## Membership Drive

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- Membership includes a yearly subscription to the star magazine.

and: your local chapter quarterly newsletter and email updates on a regular basis

## Get Involved! Announcement Of Club Positions

We need volunteers to help our board members with activity development and other club member needs. Listed below are the resources needed to bring the best possible club experience.

**Web Master:** To improve and expand our online content and manage the clubs E-Mail list.

**Newsletter Contributors:** Members who may provide articles, written and or photo's reporting on club activities. This position is open to everyone for a onetime or continuing opportunity.

**Activity Volunteers:** Members who would assist in the creation, preparation and execution of events and activities.

**Newsletter Editor:** Overall management and development of content, graphic presentation and distribution.

**Membership Director:** This position is for the initial Club contact /enrollment of new members .The issuance of a welcome letter and phone contact with new members and or continuing members who may have questions.

If interested please contact one of the board members.

## Oktoberfest Yacht Club Lake Michigan

We are holding our final event for all members at Chicago's celebrated Chicago Yacht Club !!! " Join us for Brunch at the Lake ! "

The club is located in downtown Chicago at Monroe street and Lake Shore Drive on the lake across from Millenium Park.

One of our clubs very early members ( Commodore ) Gibby Vartan is the sponsoring member at the club and will be an interesting guest speaker .

Our private room overlooks a spectacular view of the lakeshore, the club's property ,dock and navy pier.

**DATE:** SUNDAY,OCTOBER 18th, 2009

**TIME:** 12:00 NOON

**LOCATION:**CHICAGO YACHT CLUB  
400 EAST MONORE DRIVE  
CHICAGO ,IL.



**Cost:** \$50.00 per person, in advance. We must have our final count of attendees by October 12 seating is limited so reserve early!

**Mail To:** Ron Roush at 15700 s. Sunset Ridge Ct. Orland Park Il 60462 (708-989-8130)

**Note:** The first 20 attendee's payments received will include a FREE parking pass to park at the chicago yacht club itself. All others must park at the Millenium parking lot across Lake-shore Drive just a few steps away.

**Order of Event:**

- 12:00pm** Arrive for champagne Welcome adress by our president and introductions
- 12:30 pm** "Fantastic Brunch"
- 1:30 pm** Guest speakers
- 2:00 pm** general meeting and overview of proposed activities for 2010 and raffle

Make this a beautifull day to experience Chicago , it's lakeshore , parks, museums ,and more. Bring your family and friends !

McLaren 722 GT at the Autobahn  
By Chet Szerlag

The weekend of July 24-26 was the inaugural date for Harrah's Grand Prix 2009 event staged at the Autobahn Country Club. The 3-day Autobahn event marked the arrival of organized road racing to the Chicago area. For those of us who enjoy road races, Road America was long the only option. With the Autobahn circuit's nearby location in the southwest suburbs of Chicago, it gives us yet another exciting local venue for enjoying road racing sports action.

The Autobahn C.C. continues the long-term initiative to re-make the Joliet area into the motor-sport capital of the Midwest. Three distinct motorsport venues now occupy nearly 1,700 acres along historic Route 66 (AKA, Route 53) a few miles south of Joliet. The Autobahn C.C. track joins the \$130 million dollar Chicagoland Speedway, a hugely successful 1.5-mile tri-oval, NASCAR track with 75,000 seats, as well as the Route 66 Raceway, a state-of-the-art, 1/4-mile drag strip and 1/2-mile dirt oval track facility. These three motorsports venues now form Illinois' largest sporting venue.

Sunday's races featured seven different racing classes, including the SCCA Pro Racing SPEED World Challenge GT (with the racing McLaren), Formula Atlantic Championship, Ford Mustang Challenge, VW Jetta TDI Cup, Star Mazda Challenge, Playboy Maxda MX5 Cup, and the Patron GT3 Challenge.

For those of you who have not yet had the opportunity to see the Autobahn facility up close, it is a unique concept catering to motorsport enthusiasts, with two private circuits totalling 3.6 miles. Members join much in the same way you might join a private golf club -- with a membership fee -- and can use the race circuit to indulge your passion for driving on a track. The club's two circuits were combined into one large course for the Grand Prix event. (Only Road America in Elkhart Lake, WI has a longer road course, at 4.0 miles)

I was motivated to check out the Autobahn CC when I read about the planned north american debut of the racing version of the McLaren 722 GT. The McLaren was wearing the livery of the TRG group, and the driver was TRG's Spencer Pumpelly (see accompanying pics) One of the unexpected pleasures of attending this event was that the crowds were very manageable, and not only could you see the action up close, you could also visit the race teams and see their cars and drivers up close. As a result, I was able to get some good pics of the McLaren and Pumpelly, and also chat informally with crew members.

The "song" of the McLaren supercharged motor on the track was unlike any of the other race cars. You knew it was coming by its distinct sound ---- a very throaty, powerful sound reminding me of the motors used by the unlimited hydroplanes racing on the Detroit River, which I watched as a kid growing up in the 1960s. in Detroit. For a full report on the McLaren's race performance at Autobahn, you can go to the following link: <http://www.world-challenge.com/news/story.php?ID=1397>

Many thanks To Bill Denton and Jeff Garbaciak for publicizing the Autobahn event to Chicagoland MB Club members. Perhaps the club will be able to stage some driving events there in the near future!!

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