

A close-up photograph of the front of a dark-colored Mercedes-Benz truck. The image focuses on the grille, a round headlight, and a fog light. The Mercedes-Benz logo is visible on the upper right. The text 'STAR REFLECTIONS FALL 2021' is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font. The fog light has 'MERCEDES-BENZ' printed on its lens.

STAR

REFLECTIONS

FALL 2021

CHICAGOLAND MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings all and Happy Fall!

First I want to start by thanking you for the warm welcomes. I have so enjoyed meeting many of our Club members in person and via Zoom and also exchanging emails and calls. Please continue to reach out any time via email at gretaglimm@yahoo.com.

Next up I want to thank those who've participated in the membership survey. This is a really useful tool in collecting feedback and helping to strategize and plan. I will be analyzing the results with the Board when they're available and then I intend to share the information with everyone as transparency is important to me and there is no better way to truly thank those who participated than to take your ideas and comments into consideration in the future. While the survey is anonymous, for those who've mentioned interests in event planning and other topics, please come forward so we can work together!

By the time this issue goes to print we will have had our Coffee & Cars event in Mundelein at Big Door garage suites as well as the trip to Lexington, KY. Hopefully we connected at those events and we will have photos to share in the next newsletter. Till then in this edition we're sharing a recap of the Concours d'Elegance event and brunch at Stockholms in Geneva, the Oktoberfest event at Two Brothers Roundhouse in Aurora and the trip to Michigan for the DeutscheMarques event at the Gilmore museum.

As we get closer to the holiday season I will remain grateful and thankful to our members, both new and existing. Events will slow down a bit in the colder months but the time will be used to start planning for 2022. Ideas are welcome always!

Happy driving!
Greta Glimm

CONTENTS

Special Announcement, 3	A special thank you to our sponsors!
New Club members, 4	If you would like to advertise in Star Reflections, please contact Bob Schuldt at bobschuldt@comcast.net
Board Member Profile: Ronald Roush, 7	Star Reflections is the official Newsletter of the Chicagoland Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America. For questions, comments or suggestions please contact Bob Schuldt at bobschuldt@comcast.net
Chicagoland Section Club events, 8	
Michael Olesen: The Million Mile Man, 12	
Alex's Corner: AMG-GT vs. Porsche 911, 14	Please see the special announcement about digital delivery of the next issue.
At Your Service: Fred Crudele, 15	

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Our next issue of Star Reflections will be sent to you via email and posted to the main Mercedes-Benz Club website.

If you are not able to view the newsletter electronically please email Bob Schuldt at bobschuldt@comcast.net and we can assist you in printing a hard copy.



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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the new members to the Chicagoland Mercedes-Benz Club. Our club is a group of drivers united by our passion for highly engineered, elegantly designed, safe, luxuriously appointed automobiles.

For us, getting there is way more than half the fun. Our club enjoys road trips, dinners, tours, car shows and importantly fellowship with each other. We welcome you to the Club!

Jennifer Anaya
Saurabh Agarwal
Adrian Barber
Morgan Battley
David Benck
Harold Bentley
Michael Bondi
Mariola Bourtseva
Emily Bourdet
Michael Broton
William Brown
Anthony Browning
James Capparelli
Steve Cliff
Steven Cohn

Matt Degnan
Emily Destefano
Matthew Fiascone
Mike Florek
Dolores Foreman
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BOARD MEMBER PROFILE



Ronald E. Roush

Cowboy, Architect, Professor, Outrider, Auto restorer, Exotic Car Sales Executive: Ronald Roush has truly done it all. And that doesn't include his role as Mercedes Club president!

Ron was born on the south side of Chicago and attended Calumet High School. After graduation he went to work as a real Cowboy in Wyoming at a cattle and Dude ranch before entering college back in Chicago. He graduated from Harrington Institute of Interior Design and began his career with the Architectural Division of the National Council of YMCA. He completed several buildings for the YMCA across the country. Later he became the Senior Designer for Continental National Bank in Chicago.

This led to Ron opening his own firm, Inter-Tec, in Wheaton, IL. His work with Inter-Tec included the Sears Tower SkyDeck, Wheaton College Cafeteria, and retail stores in Chicago and Northbrook. He started teaching design classes part time at two local colleges and then full time at Columbia College Chicago.

In addition to being a car enthusiast, Ron also loves horses. He purchased a horse property and rode as an outrider for a nearby farm's pre-Olympic young riders program.

Another Chicago area business Ron opened restored classic and specialty automobiles. He partnered this company with an auto sales company and an executive there introduced Ron to the Chicagoland Mercedes-Benz Club.

He joined the Club and soon became the local president, a role he kept for over eight years. One of the most memorable events he planned for the club was a 15 day drive from Chicago to Key West Florida. On this trip he met his friend Susan and this adventure continues!

Ron is currently a Sales Representative for Bentley Downers Grove which covers the sales of Bentley, Rolls Royce, and other premium marques. He still finds time to drive his prized SL. Ron continues to contribute to the Club and recently organized a club trip to Kentucky horse and bourbon country.



CLUB EVENTS

Our summer was full of events for the Club this year. This was especially welcome with the lack of in person events last year.

Chet Szerlag started the summer lineup by hosting a trip to the Deutsche Marques Car Show at the Gilmore Auto Museum on July 10. This annual event that is held in Michigan draws members of clubs from around the Midwest.



CLUB EVENTS

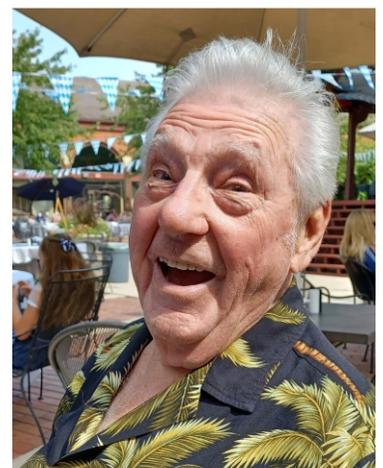


On August 22 the Club gathered for the annual Geneva Concours d'Elegance in downtown Geneva, IL. Members displayed their cars in a group just outside the show. Later we enjoyed brunch around the corner at Stockholm's Restaurant hosted by club member Michael Olesen.



CLUB EVENTS

On September 19 our Club was transported to Germany. Well, not quite, but celebrating Oktoberfest at the Two Brothers Round House Restaurant in Aurora, IL. made it feel like Germany. We had fabulous weather which allowed outside dining and entertainment. Excellent food and beer, oompah band, dancing, stein holding and German attire contests all within the interesting historic open area of a roundhouse from the 1800's. Don't despair if you missed it this year because we want to repeat our great experience again next year.



On October 2 the Club met in Mundelien, IL at the recently opened Big Door garage suite community. Several members attended the event and we were grateful for the hospitality of the Big Doors staff and the good weather. Garage space is no longer an excuse for not being able to buy another Mercedes!



CLUB MEMBER PROFILE



The Million Mile Man

Michael Olesen knew from a young age that hard work and dedication was the best way to acquire the finer things in life. His passions include cars, alcohol & food, theatre, and philanthropy. It is his financial acumen that enables him to enjoy and expand these pursuits. In fact, Michael set goals early, remained patient, and seized opportunities in his quest to own, “A Bar, A Benz, and A Brokerage Firm”. His story is incredible.

Michael is the proud owner of a 1986 560SL MB Convertible named Tammy which has 909,581 miles and counting. As a teenager, Michael spent time detailing his neighbor's 1971 280 SE. He was so impressed by the car's quality, that he decided he would own a Mercedes Benz by the age of 25. At age 24, Michael's bid to purchase a Bar (the future Stockholm's) fell through. He instead used that money to purchase the 1986 560SL that he still owns today. The cost of that car in 1986 was \$56,780.

He has no regrets and he loves that car. Michael accumulated the high mileage by making over 600 trips to Georgia visiting his daughter during her first 18 years. He will be a first-time Grandfather in October and plans on

making many more drives to Georgia to see his growing family. The One Million Mile achievement is coming soon! Michael has already received the One Million Kilometer medallion, which he proudly displays on his car. Having survived a few accidents as well as wear and tear from its incredible mileage, just about every part in that car has been repaired, replaced, or rebuilt over the years.

It continues to be a safe, dependable and a beautiful trustworthy vehicle. Tony Gregory, MB Service Advisor and great friend, is one of the key people in maintaining the Benz throughout the miles and years. This car has quite the personality! It came with a slight knock in the engine. No mechanic could find the cause, not even Tony. And when the engine was rebuilt, the knock remained.

Michael owns two other convertibles: Nellie; a 1966 and 1968 Mustang Convertible. The '68 has always been in Michael's family. An avid wine enthusiast, Michael's dream Drive Trip would be to cruise RT 66 and then circle up to California's Wine Country.

In 1981, Michael's childhood career goal as a Military Officer was changed when he sustained

an injury on a training exercise at Fort Benjamin Harris in Indiana.

Michael obtained a job bartending while attending the University of Illinois. He fell in love with that business and was determined to own a bar and make this his new career. In 1986 at age 24, Michael attempted to purchase a Geneva Bar named Lencioni Firehouse 5 (which would later become Stockholm's). The deal fell through and Michael used that money to buy his Benz instead. In the spring of 1987, he left the bar and joined a regional investment firm. In 1991, he opened his own investment brokerage company, Geneva Investment Group.

An opportunity arose in 1998 to obtain his coveted Geneva bar (future Stockholm's). It took 3+ years of legal issues, but Michael finally signed the lease and opened on May 1, 2002. He finally got his bar. His first customer was Tony Gregory, his Mercedes-Benz Service Advisor and one of the key people that kept Michael's Mercedes running for 900,000 plus miles.

Michael loves the restaurant business, especially the "bar side of the business". The official name is Stockholm's Vardshus (tavern in Swedish) Inc. The restaurant has an Old Tavern Feel with an upscale menu. "It's white tablecloth quality without the stuffed shirt". Everything is "to the nines": best ingredients, freshest foods, great spirits, extensive wine selection, and the brewery is the tri - cities' oldest (19yrs). The staff is dedicated and professional. Three of the kitchen staff have been with the restaurant since the beginning - 19 years. And most of the others have been there for over 10 years. It is this great crew that afforded Michael the freedom and flexibility to be a good dad while exercising visitation with his daughter in Georgia.

Michael is a self-taught brewer, usually brewing a batch once a week for Stockholm's. He enjoys great wines, especially vintage Port wines of which he has a well-stocked cellar. He is a published Poet and has also authored articles in both restaurant and investment publications. In fact, if and when he retires, his dream would be to become a fiction writer. Over the years, Michael has developed a love of dancing, and has performed in the local charity's version of "Dancing with the Stars". He has a deep appreciation of theater, and Shakespeare in



particular, and regularly travels to Canada to attend the annual Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, Ontario. Michael is vested in his local community. Currently he serves on the Board for the Geneva Chamber of Commerce. He has also served on charitable boards and supports local causes independently as well as through various fundraising efforts at Stockholm's.

Michael believes in quality, doing things right the first time, and buying things once to reduce needless waste. When purchasing his MB, he planned to maintain it as his primary car for 25 years . . . he is now on year 35!

Michael is a great Host for MBCA of Chicago, and he welcomes us into Stockholm's every year during the Geneva Concours d'Elegance. So, take a trip out to visit Stockholm's in historic downtown Geneva – they're open for lunch and dinner seven days a week. Enjoy their scratch made food, handcrafted beer, and cozy atmosphere. Chances are pretty good that you'll get a chance to have a conversation with Michael himself.



Choices! Mercedes-AMG GT versus the Porsche 911

When the Mercedes-AMG GT came out in 2016 it had to compete with a slew of fast and powerful entry-level supercars; the McLaren 570S, Aston Martin Vantage, Nissan GT-R, Ferrari California T, and Jaguar F-Type are a few examples. The GT indirectly replaced the SLS GT and has been praised for handling dynamics and stylish looks. Some say it looks way too much like a Porsche (is that a bad thing?) thus triggering a series of 911 and GT comparisons. Well, here's another. Let's meet the Mercedes-AMG GT. The M178 Twin-turbo 4.0L V8 is the heart of this car, and over the course of 6 years we've seen the GT, GTS, GTC, GTR, GTR Pro, and the Black Series. Today you can get the GT, (523 HP) GTC, (550 HP) and GT Black Series (720 HP). And, for open top fun you can the GT and GTC in roadster form. I'm sure you're familiar with the legendary 911. For the 2022 model year Porsche offers it in Carrera (379 HP), S (443 HP), GTS (473 HP) and the GT3 (502 HP). Again, we're talking about the RWD models, so no Turbo, or Turbo S. AWD is optional on all trims except GT3 for \$7,300.

I mentioned styling on the GT earlier. But the look of any Mercedes' supercars (SLS, SLR, and GT) have the same formula. They're long nosed with the cabin to the back. In my opinion, they all have intriguing designs that stand out from similar more conventional mid-engine competitors like the Murcielago, 458, and 600LT. The same can be said for the 911. All 911s look the same from the beginning to now. I think that the 992 looks more substantial than the 991 and brings the 911's look truly into the future. (The 996 is my personal favorite.) There is also something that must be said about the shape of the 911 as it contributes to the car's iconic status and most likely is a part of the 911's of past strong (and expensive!) resale value. Note that both Porsche and Mercedes-AMG have models which they say are like four door 911 and GT's.

For this next comparison we will focus only on the 911 GTS and GTc. The GTc hits 0-60 MPH in 3.6 seconds. The Porsche on the other hand does it in 3.2 seconds, with Porsche's Sport Chrono Pack. And in a sports car world where



weight matters to have a faster car, the GTS is 359 Lbs. lighter. Comparing prices, the GTS is \$16,800 cheaper than the GTc. (I'm using the 2022 911 model and 2021 GT model, as both are currently on sale). As stated, before the GTc's engine is more powerful than the GTS'. And if you love the sound of a V8 you can't get that in a 911. If you spend time on both Mercedes and Porsche's GT and 911 configurators respectively, you'll notice that The GTc's configurator has much less features than the GTS, less even than the S63 Coupe's. Why is this? Well one obvious reason is Porsche is well known for their exquisite options. I'll also say that the 911 has to compete with the GT as well as the S63 Coupe. Meaning that the 911 has sort of become a luxury car, at least in terms of the available features. It would be nice to see a modern day 928 from Porsche, so that the 911 can solely compete with sports cars.

Like I said earlier, the entry-level supercar game is a large automotive segment to enter. It is expanding at a rapid rate. For Mercedes-AMG to enter, and then create a "best in class" type of car is huge. Right now, both cars are at the point where electrification is starting to take over the whole supercar field. Mercedes-AMG is developing an 800+hp sedan. There are rumors that Porsche is creating a 911 E-Hybrid.

In a sense both cars are winners. They're driving experience is outstanding. The 911 will always be around, that's why The GT is so great. It's a instant classic, and it wins this comparison. ---Alex Schuldt is a freelance automotive journalist based in the Chicago area.

BnzHaus: Chicago's Mercedes-Benz Performance Connection

One of the best kept secrets for maintaining, and tuning Mercedes-Benz automobiles in the Midwest is located in Lincolnshire, IL. Fred Crudele opened BnzHaus several years ago to help the discriminating driver get the most enjoyment out of their prized Mercedes-Benz.

Fred Crudele is Founder and CEO of BnzHaus Mercedes in Lincolnshire, IL. Fred started BnzHaus based on his passion for quality workmanship and the performance of Mercedes-Benz automobiles. He appreciates every car that comes through his doors. BnzHaus services every Mercedes model from the classic 300SL Gullwing, 300SL Convertible, 600 Pullman, Pagodas and more all the way up to the 2021 models. His company does full restorations on mechanical, body and paint and uses the most current technologies and OEM parts from Mercedes-Benz.

Fred grew up in Deer Park, IL and attended Carmel High School in Mundelein, IL. He then received his Applied Science Associates degree in Automotive Studies from the College of Lake County. He is a Certified Factory Mercedes Technician and started his career at Knauz Motors, a local premier Mercedes dealership, in 1998. BnzHaus recently created a new division dedicated to the Mercedes enthusiast. BNZHAUS Performance Division will design, engineer, and fabricate custom high performance parts for your Mercedes-Benz and everything is done in house. This includes full exhaust systems with valves to regulate the sound at the push of a button, custom heat exchangers and inter coolers, and air intakes. BnzHaus has their own line of turbochargers for almost every Mercedes engine whether it is a 12, 8, 6 or 4 cylinder. The list of performance parts and upgrades is endless!



Fred currently owns a 2006 CLS 55 AMG, a 2012 CLS550, and a 2005 SL65 AMG. However, his SL is no ordinary Mercedes. He has tuned the engine to deliver supercar performance with 760 h.p. and over 920 lbs of torque; a reason this SL is also his all-time favorite Mercedes. His ultimate road trip would be driving one of his Benzes with his wife Jelena to the Black Hills of South Dakota and then on to Yellowstone National Park.

Whether you want to maintain your daily driver Mercedes, prepare your classic for a Concours D'Elegance, or are looking to take your car's performance to the next level, you'll want to see what Fred and his crew can deliver for you at BnzHaus.





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