



The Three Rivers Road Report

August, 2014

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Thank you, Mr. President!



Our National Club President, Terry Kiwala, along with Indy 500 Section President Ken Salter and Treasurer Paul Bailey, traveled to Fort Wayne recently to help us set up and run an autocross. It all happened, once more, on the beautiful IPFW campus, and we had a wonderful time. The weather was perfect, and so were the cars. The morning saw us perfecting our skills and learning what our cars could do, and what we could do with the cars, on a defensive driving course. Then the cones were reset and we put it all to work on the autocross course. Pictured above are, left to right, International Stars member John Ball, Paul Bailey, Mike Toth, Lisa and Ken Long, Ken Salter, Terry Kiwala, Julie Bruggner, new member Bruce Helton (Welcome Bruce!!), Bob and Janice Derek, and Jason and Amy Bogart. See more pictures and the results on pages 3 & 4.

Another Parade, Another Admiring Crowd



It was supposed to storm that morning, right around parade time. The predictions were dire enough to force one member to back out for fear of having her car in a hailstorm. But it never happened. In fact, it was a beautiful, sunny day and the parade went on as scheduled, with our 15 cars included. Having to wait almost 2 hours in the staging area could be tiresome, but we easily passed the time with a tailgating party. Everyone brought food to share and before we knew it, it was time to line up for the parade. We even heard a couple of comments from the Corvette group across the parking lot that they were jealous and would plan their own party next year. See more pictures on page 5.





Left: Lined up and ready to go
Above: Paul Bailey and Ken Salter



Left: Terry, with Paul's assistance, explains the defensive driving course
Above: Julie Bruggner swings around for the "gate"

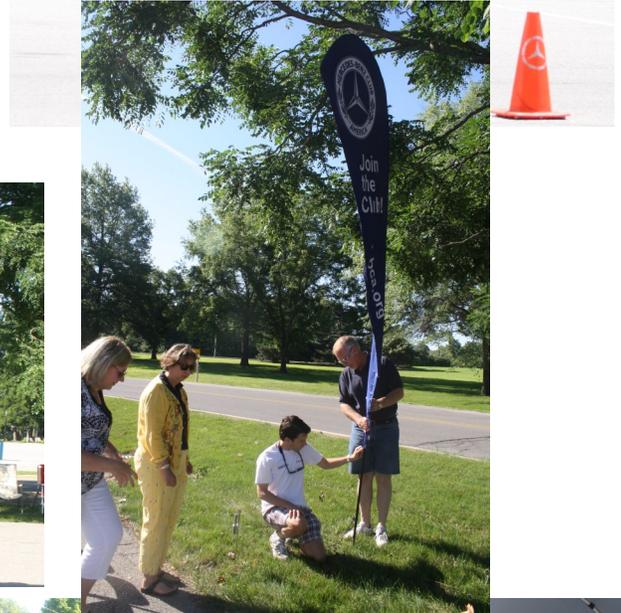


Left: Lisa Long runs the course (Don't blink, Lisa)
Above: John Ball changes his tires before the start while Ken looks on



Left: Janice Derek learns what her car can take
Above: Lined up for the next turn

RANKING	NAME	TIME
1	John Ball	39.30
2	Bruce Helton	41.95
3	Ken Salter	42.70
4	Mike Toth	43.80
5	Bob Derek	44.34
6	Julie Bruggner	45.22
7	Ken Long	46.17
8	Jason Bogart	47.56
9	Janice Derek	48.48
10	Lisa Long	53.62





Just so everyone was clear on who was parking there, Jason brought his sign to display in the staging area.

Above: Leon & Diane Giannakeff in front of their SL.

Below: Irma & Werner Niederholtmeyer with their grandchildren



Oops, there's Bob Derek, Jr. with food again. Sorry, Bob, I couldn't resist



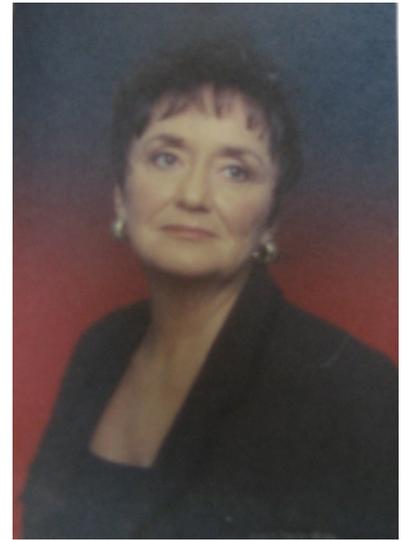
Jason Bogart with his daughter, Lauren.



Our new magnetic signs drew lots of attention, and, later, many "likes" on our FB page. Left: Janice Derek poses while she waits our turn to move.

Who's Who in the Club

Mona Cade



I have always wanted a Mercedes roadster. My first foreign car was a 1962 Red MGA that my father almost had a heart attack over when I bought it. I had a lot of fun with that car.

Next was a 1965 Black Jaguar XKE, fast back. I just loved that car, but my kids were growing so fast, and they didn't fit in sports cars. So I had to go traditional American cars. Most all were convertibles, except when they stopped making them for a while.

My husband, who has his dream car, a 1966 Shelby 427 Cobra replica, decided I should have a "toy" also. We went to the car corral at the Auburn Fall auction. I figured I would get an old Jaguar. As luck would have it, I found the 1989 560SI in my favorite color, black. The lady selling it had been the original owner and never had the hard top off. It was in almost perfect original condition. I took it for a drive with her. She was shocked that I knew so much about Mercedes, the quick steering, the buttons and whistles, etc. She was asking a very reasonable price, so I gave her the down payment on the spot. She lived in Kalamazoo, had no way to get home, so we picked it up there the next day. My son-in-law, a professional car painter, repainted it for me, and added 3 coats of clear coat. It makes it look like new. I drive it all summer, unless it's raining. I'm in heaven when I'm driving it. I still can't believe I have it. I never really wanted a new one off the assembly line.



Thanks to my wonderful husband, Dan Cade, I got my dream car 50 years later for my 70th birthday!!!

extra DETAILS

By Jason Bogart

This section is dedicated to the upkeep and detailing of our wonderful German vehicles.

Car shopping can be a daunting task. It's hard to make a decision on what kind of car to buy. Is this car in good shape? How do I know if this car was taken care of? You're buying a "new to you" car and you don't want a whole lot of repairs. That's the whole reason to upgrade.



There are some things that I like to pay attention to when looking over a used vehicle. You want a good looking car with a solid body and frame but you also want that car to run well. I would start with appearance. Start checking things on the outside of the car like dents, door dings, rust or any obvious broken parts like mirrors, door handles, etc. Check tire tread and see if the brake pads look good? That is not easy depending on the rims. You can always ask when the brakes had been serviced.



Rust is a big one. You can't really turn back the hands of time and it's not going to go away so unless you anticipate doing a lot of bodywork on your new purchase. Check in the wheel wells, around the quarter panels, and in the front fenders. Check under the trim, inside doors, hood and trunk lid. Rust can creep out from anywhere. I would check

for imperfections in the paint, clear coat peeling, and signs of body work. Things you can spot as body work would be sanding marks in the paint, "orange peeling" this would appear to be a little bit blurry and it would look like the skin of an orange. This is possibly evidence that some body work was done. See if a body panel appears to be a shade different in color from the others or maybe very glossy and the others are not as shiny. Feel the lip of a door or hood by the windshield and if it has rough edge it could be that body panel has had some paint work done.

Mechanically you want to make sure you're getting a good sound car. I never tell a dealer "I am on my way". I don't want them to have the opportunity to get the car "ready". Cars act differently at a cold start up. If you do let them know you're coming I would tell them you are coming to look at the black BMW 5 not the white C-class. You're allowed



to change your mind. :) I like to check the oil. Is it clean? Is it up the correct level? I check the oil change sticker. Did this dealer change it or did another place? I also check the transmission fluid (when up to temp). Is it red or brown (burnt fluid)? Check the engine for any obvious leaks. I also check underneath the vehicle for any wet spots. If the dealer has a garage, I would ask them to put it up on a lift so you can see underneath. I look for wet spots (that would be leaks). Look for any damaged metal or rust. If a dealer is not willing to work with you then this may not be the car for you.

You have looked the car over well; now comes the fun part. Let's take it on a test drive. Ideally it is best when they let you take the car on your own and can drive as you normally would. Drive the car until it is up to temperature. I like to drive the car a little rough. I would accelerate hard and I also would brake hard to see if the car has any issue that you may not find on a leisurely drive. It is better to find out now before it's *your* car. Stop at a gas station and check the fluids. Check again on the engine for any leaks now that it is up to temperature. Take this time, whether you're on the test drive alone or with the sales person, to check everything, including operation of the windows, seats and mirrors. I have even taken a CD to make sure the player works correctly, got to have your tunes. I would identify all the problems before you negotiate a price or repairs they can make before you buy. Remember, take your time and look the car over well. The salesman may be with you 30 minutes but you're keeping this car for years. I hope this helps you make a more informed decision on your next used Mercedes Benz purchase.



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We have reinstated advertising in our newsletter. Newsletters go to all current members, so if you want to promote your business or maybe sell your Mercedes, this is the place to advertise. We'll keep it to the calendar year, so rates will be adjusted for the remaining months.

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THREE RIVERS SECTION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS — 2014

August 9: A Summer Place, Take a 90-minute drive with us to step back in time. \$15 cost includes cheeseburger, fries, soda, banana split, movie, and tour of the town. Time and meeting place to be determined.

August 30: ACD Festival, It's our day at the Auction Park. Join us for special parking at the event, free admission to the auction, and lunch with the club. \$10/person Details to follow.

September 20: Nappanee Apple Festival, Details to follow

October ?: We're thinking about a fall drive to Sauder Village. Plans in the works.

November: Still open. Got a suggestion? Let us know.

December 12: Christmas Party, Our annual Christmas Party will be at Autumn Ridge Country Club this year. Don your holiday finery and join us for a festive celebration. Details to follow.

National Event Coming to This Area!

Next year, **June 12-14**, StarTech will be taking place in Cincinnati, OH. If you've never been to one, a national event takes all the things we love about club events and raises them to a whole new level. There's always some sort of driving, or track, event, technical sessions (hence, the name Star**Tech**), social events, people from all over the country, and lots and lots of cars. In 2013, in Alabama, there were 230 registered participants. I strongly suggest you get these dates on your calendar now and plan to attend. I'll be there.

*Please consult your current issue of **The Star** magazine for listings of upcoming National, Regional and Sectional events throughout the country. Or log on to the National website at mbca.org and check out what's coming under the "Our Community" tab.*

More events will be added as they are scheduled and details for each event will be forwarded as needed. Ideas for events are always welcomed and encouraged. Contact any board member with suggestions.



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