



# The Three Rivers Road Report

February, 2017

Volume 5; Issue 2

## New Year, New Leader

# Breakfast & Benz



MBCA - Three Rivers



New President Jason Bogart started out the new year before the old one had officially ended with the first planning meeting on December 31. Seventeen members showed up at the Sunrise Café for Breakfast (& Benz) and to help fill in the calendar for the coming year with their favorite old events and lots of new ones. After enjoying the delicious food, we discussed all of the great ideas and worked out a plan to get as many as possible into the schedule.

Be sure to check out the calendar on page 7 of this newsletter to mark in a few of the dates we've already set. More are coming, so don't miss out on any of the fun.

# Dinner & Details

Keeping the ball rolling, we met again on January 21, for lunch at Casa's. More details were filled in for the next few events, including ChocolateFest on February 10, and the Chicago Auto Show on February 18. Besides the great food on the menu, we got to share Jaquie Dever's birthday cake. Thanks Jaquie!



## President's Message



Terry  
Kiwala

## A Family Affair

During my 23 years of Mercedes-Benz Club of America membership, I have noticed an increasing trend of families enjoying Mercedes-Benz automobiles and club events together. In every region of the country, it is clear that families enjoy the beauty of vintage cars, the incredible performance of new cars, and come closer together as Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts.

At StarFest® 2016, Ed Owen ran a spectacular concours event with a lot of help behind him, particularly from his son, Denton, who worked overtime to properly prepare and present customers' cars from European Auto Solutions. Denton worked hard all day and then walked up to the podium to receive awards for many absentee owners of the cars

that placed well in the concours judging. Even though he does not yet have a driver's license, Denton has a lot of enthusiasm for Mercedes-Benz Club of America, and I look forward to seeing Ed and Denton at our events for years to come.

In the middle of Amish Country in Pennsylvania, the Taylor family has taken part in club events for nearly 25 years. Larry and Mary Taylor have been avid enthusiasts and participants in MBCA events at the local, regional and national levels. As proud parents of their son Robert, the family enjoys attending Mercedes-Benz events on a regular basis. Robert even served as a Junior Judge at June Jamboree 2016; his father spearheaded the program which



Three Rivers' team of Amy (left), Jason and Lauren Bogart.

included several young enthusiasts. Be sure to take a look at Robert's inaugural column on page 80 of this issue. The Taylor family recently received a letter of appreciation for 25 years of membership and service, altogether fitting for their dedication to MBCA.

And in Fort Wayne, Indiana, the Bogart family is a cornerstone of the Three Rivers Section's success, and they make it a family affair. Jason, Amy (Three Rivers' Member of the Year in 2016) and their daughter Lauren are always working behind the scenes to ensure that every member who attends Section events has a positive experience. The Bogarts were the driving force behind each of more than a dozen events the Three Rivers Section hosted in 2016. Their efforts have attracted many new serial attendees, with undoubtedly many more to come as Jason takes the helm as Section President in 2017. As Three Rivers assembles its upcoming event calendar, the Bogarts plan to continue enjoying the cars, the people – and their family – by way of MBCA. It has been fun to watch this family together at MBCA gatherings over the years, and there are many more fun years ahead.

As for me, Mercedes-Benz enthusiasm has always been in my family. My grandfather, Dr. Edward Kiwala, was always a strong advocate for the quality and longevity of the brand. He purchased five different new Mercedes-Benz vehicles in the 1950s and '60s. According to the documents I have, he joined MBCA in the mid-1960s and wanted to participate in a German trip, which required a personal interview! Fortunately for me, there was no interview required for MBCA membership or participation.

If you are still reading to this point, my guess is that Mercedes-Benz enthusiasm permeates your family. Whether your car is old or new, I hope you use your membership in the club to spark interest among your loved ones. Keep up with the upcoming events calendar in The Star magazine and follow updates at the [mbca.org](http://mbca.org) website: And then go out and enjoy your car with your family. If you are organizing events, encourage families to participate and enjoy themselves in the company of MBCA members – and their cars. I hope to cross paths with you at an event this year and meet your family.



Julie

You recently asked me whether it was appropriate to republish my column from the most recent STAR Magazine. It is not only appropriate, but I would encourage it! As you and many of the Three Rivers Section know, the Bogart family has been an immense positive force in the growth and progress of Three Rivers membership and events. The public recognition was a small token of appreciation for us all to bestow on Jason, Amy and Lauren.

As you also know, I intend to be at your event on February 10th (of course, weather permitting after last year!) If you are going to be in attendance, please join me in extending personal thanks to the Bogart family for their long (and continuing) dedication to MBCA and the Three Rivers Section.

My best,

Terry

## President's Message

Jason Bogart

I can't believe that we are headed into February and we've had no accumulation of snow here in Northern Indiana. However, as I sit down to type this message to all of you there are big flakes of snow falling as if we were in a snow globe. I know most of you prefer the warmer weather. For me growing up in Northern Indiana all my life I embrace all seasons. I find ways to go out in the snow and have fun. I promise all of you with the warmer months to come we will all be having fun with the events that Suzanne, Lisa, and the Three Rivers Section Board have set up. Julie has updated our calendar of events and you can see what we have planned for this year.

If you have ideas, we want to hear from our members. You can always e-mail our event coordinators Suzanne at [suzanne@noblettgolf.com](mailto:suzanne@noblettgolf.com) & Lisa at [lisaalong1@comcast.net](mailto:lisaalong1@comcast.net). Also, if you have done anything with your Mercedes and want to share your story let us know. We can get your story and photos in the newsletter and I can get it on our sections Facebook page.

It has always been my goal to increase membership! How do we do that? How do we retain members while adding new members? We actively work to locate other owners and invite them. Offer them a business card, a brochure, or even invite them to an upcoming event to see what the MBCA is all about. I have even paid it forward (or backwards, LOL) in a drive through if there was a Mercedes behind me. I have paid for their lunch and asked the person at the window to provide them a MBCA brochure and tell them "your lunch was paid for by the Mercedes Benz Club of America."

Mercedes Benz Club of America has a Section Leadership Guide and one section that has always stuck in my head is acknowledging and making new members feel welcomed. I have copied that section from the leadership guide for you to read.

**"You cannot know the reason why I am here for this event or meeting. It may be as simple as just finding out about the Club's existence, or a move to your community, or as complicated as a personal crisis that leads me to seek friendships. In any case, I am here. And I will probably remain here and come back to meet with you at the next event and the event after and the event after that, if you will do some things for me. Won't you please . . .**

**Smile at me as I walk in the door. You are my first impression of the club during the first few moments that I am present, and this first impression will probably stay with me a long time. Help me find my place in the event. I will not find your help an intrusion. In fact, I will remember your kindness.**

**Speak to me during the social time. I know you want to see your friends or settle that piece of committee business, but I may find it hard to believe that you truly care for each other unless I first see evidence that you care for "the stranger in your midst."**

**Tell me good things about your club and your leaders. I want to believe that I have come to a place where people care about each other and where they believe that they are doing something important for the members**

**Tell me good things about your club and your leaders. I want to believe that I have come to a place where people care about each other and where they believe that they are doing something important for the members.**

**Notice me—even if I am not “a couple.” I don’t want to feel invisible just because I am unmarried, a single parent, a teenager, or an older person, or am not currently driving a Benz.**

**Talk to me again at the second event when I come back and the third and the fourth. I am still not a part of your club family. Please don’t feel you have “done your duty” by me just because you made a point of greeting me the first event I was here.**

**Invite me to become part of some club group or committee. I need to know that I am accepted and affirmed by a group of people within the club who know me by my first name and who care about me as an individual.**

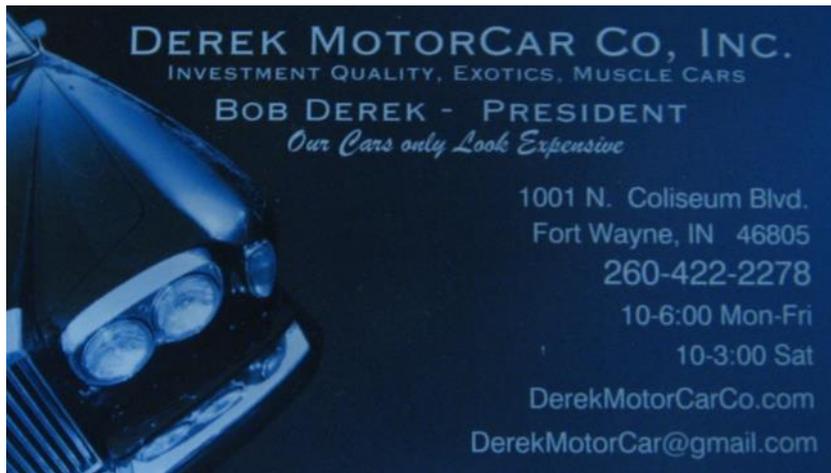
**If you can find it in your heart to do these things for me, I will come back . . . The second, the third, and maybe even forever. I will socialize with you, and I may join your committees, work at your events, teach technical lessons, contribute to your treasury, and will be a highly involved member of your club, and, in doing so, will find my own life enriched.”**

One person did just that for my wife and I when we joined the MBCA Three Rivers Section. Maxi Merkel noticed us when we arrived at our first club meeting and she was very warm and welcoming. She didn't know us but that did not matter. She came over and pulled us into the meeting. We continued to come back to meetings and events. Now years later I am the Section President and my wife is the Section Treasurer. I am not saying that will happen to all new members but who knows. LOL! Maxi is from Austria and splits her time between the US & Austria. I have never left the US or really Indiana for that matter but we are friends from two different parts of the world. I feel so fortunate to have gotten to know Maxi and her husband Ralph.



Sincerely,

Jason Bogart  
President  
Mercedes Benz Club of America ~ Three Rivers Section



## Advertising

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.

Business card ads are \$60/year or \$5/month  
1/4 page ads are \$120/year or \$10/month  
1/2 page ads are \$240/year or \$20/month  
Full page ads are \$480/year or \$40/month

Send ads and payment to:  
Julie Bruggner  
5526 Thornbriar Lane  
Fort Wayne, IN 46835

MERCEDES BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA ~ THREE RIVERS SECTION IS NOW ON FACEBOOK. "LIKE" US AND GET UPDATES ON UPCOMING EVENTS, POST PHOTOS AND GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER.....

[www.facebook.com/MBCATR](http://www.facebook.com/MBCATR)



Note: You can log in and look even if you haven't joined Facebook. Click on the link above the picture to go check it out.



## THREE RIVERS SECTION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS — 2017

**February 10: ChocolateFest**, Join us for the Kiwanis Club annual fundraiser for several local charities. \$27/person. Send your check to Jason ASAP (PO Box 533, Pier 28, North Webster, IN 46555) Chicken & Beef brisket for dinner and LOTS of chocolate.

**February 18-19: Chicago Auto Show**, Come for the day, or spend the night and go out to dinner with us. Contact Jason for details—jbab@embarqmail.com

**March 4: Breakfast & Benz, Kokomo Automotive Museum**, Joins us for Breakfast followed by a drive to Kokomo to meet up with the Indy 500 Section to tour the Automotive Museum. Details to follow soon.

**March 18: St. Patrick's Day dinner**, still to be determined, but save the date.

**April 8: Dinner at Father John's** in Bryan, OH

**May ??: Dinner Meeting**, time & location TBD

**June 24: Picnic & Show and Shine**, details to follow

**July 8: Three Rivers Festival Parade**, details to follow

**July 29-30: 39th Annual Concours de Elegance** in Plymouth, MI

**August 19: Breakfast & Benz & meeting**, time and location TBD

**September 2: A Day at Auburn**, Our annual picnic & day at the Auction Park

**October 21: Dinner & Meeting**, time & location TBD

**December 9: Christmas Party**, Our annual Holiday party at Autumn Ridge

*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](http://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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