



# The Three Rivers Road Report

June, 2014

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## Shaky Start, Fine Finish



At the end of the long, very long, drive, we all agreed, it was the worst drive ever. It was raining when we left the Meijer parking lot on Maysville Rd. about 7:15 am, and it was still raining when we pulled up in front of the Lion's Gate Inn in Wake Forest, North Carolina, 14 hours later. The only time it stopped in between was when we got out of our cars and went in to eat lunch. By the time we got back on the road, it was raining again. Then we got into the mountains, and the fog. But we made it, safe and sound, the 7 of us, Bob & Janice Derek, Ken & Lisa Long, Julie Bruggner and Darrell & Marilyn Post. (see picture above) And the next several days were all beautiful and sunny. After a lovely breakfast at the Inn the next morning, we headed to the Sarah Duke Gardens at Duke University in Durham, stopping by the campus to see the impressive chapel. After that, and into the next day, we browsed several antique malls and shopping areas, and explored quaint downtown Wake Forest. On our last night there, our hostess, Louise Howard, allowed us the use of her kitchen to prepare a big pot of gumbo to share. She also filled us in on the history of the Inn and all the work that went into making it the masterpiece we saw. Bill and Louise, former Three Rivers section members, spent 2 1/2 years taking the structure from a neglected house to an incredible showplace. It was, indeed, worth the drive.



Left: This was how we started out

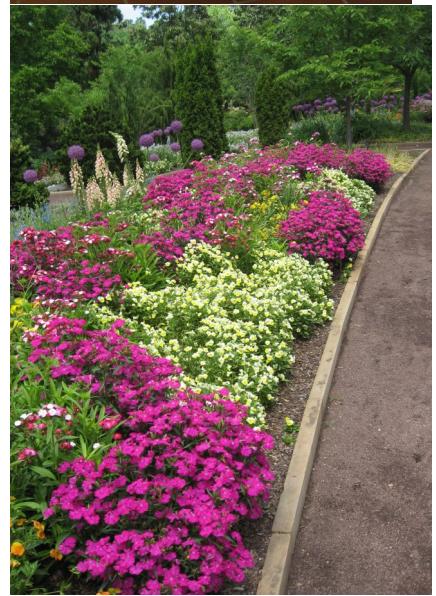


Left: Lisa strolls in front of the Inn



Right: Ken & Marilyn at Tamarack in West Virginia

Below right: part of the Duke Gardens





L to R, Top to Bottom:

At breakfast the first morning  
Julie, Janice and Lisa in Wake Forest  
Ken poses for Lisa at the Duke Gardens  
The Chapel at Duke University  
Darrell and Marilyn on the porch at the Inn  
Julie preparing gumbo  
Part of the Sarah Duke Gardens  
Bob, Louise Howard, Janice  
Lisa & Ken at the Gardens



# Who's Who in the Club

The Bogarts

By Jason Bogart



I grew up in South Bend and we moved to Syracuse, IN on Syracuse Lake. My parents decided to own and operate a marina on the lake. Lake Wawasee was a popular summer area. Thousands of people came from all over to enjoy being a "laker". Parking lots were packed with foreign luxury cars and I could always spot the Mercedes, BMW's, Audi's etc. I just thought they looked "special".

Growing up I remember there were several full time residents that had Mercedes. The lady down the street had a bright red 560SL, there was a man driving around in a yellow 560SEL (which I later purchased from him) and a lady named Jane who would often come into my parent's marina. She drove a 1983 300D, silver with blue leather. I used to clean my parents cars in the driveway and people used to say "do mine next". I started taking them up on their offer and charging to wash cars for people. I had extra cash! One day Jane asked me to clean her 300D. I was so excited, WOW! I lost that excitement when I opened the doors. OH wow! It was horrible. The carpet was nasty, there was trash on the floor. I said I would do it, but I was definitely losing money on this deal. I got enjoyment out of taking this filthy car and making it as flawless as I could. I took it back to Jane and she was so excited and proud to drive it again, and I did that. I continued to clean her 300D and other cars in the neighborhood. I was the only high school kid driving around in a doctors Jaguar XJ6 convertible. He just lived one street down on the lake but of course I drove the "LONG WAY" home with it. HAHA.

I noticed that Jane was not driving the 300D anymore and I saw it sitting in their back yard and she was driving a Cadillac. I asked her why she didn't drive the Mercedes anymore. She told me that they had the transmission rebuilt and it had not been right since. I asked if they wanted to sell it and she told me to come back later and talk to her husband. I went back later and he said he would sell it to me for \$600.00. I was so excited. I got it started and got it home with

the floor boards full of transmission fluid bottles. By then, the interior was even filthier than before. I detailed everything and brought it back to life. The carpet on the right is a result of me scrubbing and soaking it in my bath tub. Months later Jane saw me driving it and I think she was somewhat jealous that I brought the 300D back to life. I drove it for a couple years and then I decided to trade someone for an Audi (still regret that). A year later, the day Amy and I got married, our reception was at the Oakwood Hotel on Wawasee Lake. We were walking across the parking lot and I saw it. It was my old 300D! Amy asked "How do you know?" I

said I know the marks in the paint and the dent in the passenger fender; I knew it was my car. I wanted to leave a note or find out who was driving it and Amy would not let me. She said we had other things to do that day....It was our wedding day after all! Farewell my 300D... I have never seen it again.

We bought a nice BMW 325I, and Amy drove that for several years. We took good care of it and I liked it but it was never as luxurious as a Mercedes. I used to get it serviced at a place that had a 420SEL at the front of the lot for sale. I was always looking at it. It had more miles and it was older than our Beemer but I didn't really care. I liked the long body and the dark charcoal paint. I wanted to drive this prestigious car! It was awesome. You saw S-classes





like this in movies and I knew it was a special car. I wanted it. I asked Amy if we could get rid of the BMW and she said OK. I remember the shop owner's wife said Mercedes are a "boys car" I tended to agree because I was like how cool, I am going to own that awesome car. I copied the license plates off the Ferrari in the movie "Ferris Bueller's day off"



We got a call from the place where we traded the BMW. They said that the car was stolen from the lot! I said I don't have it. He said no, but we were the last registered owners so they will contact us. Sure enough we got a call months later and our car was being held in Oklahoma. I called the place and asked what condition the car was in, the man laughed at me. I asked him if I sent a camera would he take some pictures and send back to me (before digital). I was heartbroken. The car had fallen off a truck they were

transporting it on, rolled down an embankment and had been abandoned. The police found it. What a mess. It was TOTALED.



Back to the 420SEL, we brought our daughter home from the hospital in the 420SEL and we had it for 12 years, it was always under a 5 layer cover, never driven in the snow and always stored winters. I ended up regretfully selling my 420SEL. Amy talked me into it, telling me we will get a newer one. Over the years we have had 10 models and I love them. I tend to look at cars as crafted works of art more than just transportation. I believe that if you love the car you drive you will never grow tired of it. I like Mercedes-Benz not just the cars but the company itself. Over 100 years of automotive heritage, not many companies can say that. As a result they build cars that can exceed others mechanical limits.

I like to tinker with cars, I like fixing them and making them look their best. I have had several Mercedes Benz over the years, some great and others not so great. I have bought several that people have thrown in the towel on and have left them sit since the cost to maintain or repair was no longer an option for them.

I actually bought the yellow 560SEL I mentioned earlier. A man left it sit behind some old semi trailers and left it for dead. He told me if I get it to run I can have it for \$500.00. I only wanted the front bumper chrome off his. I switched out the chrome and sold his with my bad chrome for \$2500.00. I have had several Mercedes that I bought crazy cheap and driven them and then moved on. I have always made money on them and had a free car to drive for 1-2 years. Here are a couple more of the cars I have worked my magic on.



I purchased a blue '86 300E for \$500.00 that a co-worker of my wife had. He allowed it to sit in his drive for 2 years because it did not run. I brought it home on a Sunday and he asked my wife that Thursday "how's your husband getting along with that car?" She told him "he drove it to work today" I put some chrome rims on it and drove it for a year making improvements and I ended up selling it for \$4,000.00.



I later found a white '93 400E. I seen it sitting behind a Chrysler dealer all beat and looking sad. I called the next morning. They told me it was headed for the auction, it was a trade in. I said how about you sell it to me instead? I told them I wanted it for a parts car and I would give them \$600.00 He claimed it ran but needed brakes, a rear bumper and a laundry list of other things. It had 193,000 on it when I got it. I liked this car a lot. It was a great size and quick with a V8 in it. I didn't like the standard rims, I replaced the rims, replaced the busted up bumper covers and I painted the black bumper trim to match the car. I thought it gave it a cleaner look. I drove this 400E for two years and the transmission started slipping in reverse. I drove it a couple more weeks never parking where I had to back up. I had the perfect space at work, on a hill. So when I left I was on the incline and rolled back. I decided not to repair it and I wanted to sell it. I drove it home on a Friday and washed it and parked it in the yard for sale. I had it sold by Saturday afternoon for \$2,700.00 with a known failing transmission.



I then turned my attention to another Mercedes that was left to die. My dad and my brother kept prodding me to go look at this silver Mercedes Benz just sitting. I went to check it out on a Sunday and it was left unlocked. I took Amy, she came along reluctantly. I wanted it. I saw a lot of potential in this. I liked the Idea of owning another S-class. I ended up buying the S320. It needed a head gasket replaced and the man that owned it moved to Tennessee and had left it behind. I purchased it for \$2,500.00 had it repaired and I drove it for almost 3 years. I loved to drive it and I loved all the features the S-class provided. Self closing doors, Bose audio, automatic windows and sunroof with just a push of the keyless entry. It was a great car. It was also a LARGE car.



I decided that I wanted to get an M-class. I found the perfect one. Lauren and I set out for Chicago to check it out. I ended up purchasing it. I again did not like the stock wheels. If I am driving it I had to make it what I wanted. I bought new wheels and I tinted the windows and I liked my new polished up ML350. I was driving it back and forth to Fort Wayne (72 miles a day) and running \$400.00 + worth of gas through it a month. Amy was driving a Passat that I ended up selling. Amy wanted an SUV; I guess I am losing my ML350?

I checked with my new Russian buddy Igor in Chicago and he had a C240. It was smaller and more fuel efficient. He let me come to his house on a Sunday to test drive it. I decided it would be better on gas than the ML and I could save gas money. I have had it for three years and I am almost at 180,000 miles. I promised my daughter that since we already know it's a good car I would give her the C240 for her first vehicle. She will be able to drive in 6 months and I plan to purchase a newer E350 4MATIC. I like the C240 but I want a little more room.



My daughter Lauren is a straight A student. She is a sweet & respectful girl. I think she needs to have a dependable car to drive and I think this is a good reward for all her hard work.

I ended up watching Igor's website and I saw he had a 1986 560SEL in gold with brown leather. At first I didn't think it was like anything I had. Mine was a 1987 420SEL and it was charcoal and I loved it. I quit



looking at it. I saw it was still on the site and it was like no one wanted it. The price dropped, I had looked at several other W-126 body styles and never again would I find one as nice as my 420SEL. I kept looking at it, thinking about it... I never told Amy. I brought it up one day and she didn't hesitate and she said "go look at it". She said you always regretted selling the 420SEL. Again Lauren and I set off for Chicago. It was in rough shape, the window was taped up and the seat was trashed. I ended up buying it and I needed to come back for it. Igor said he had a guy who would ship it for \$150.00. Great! It took the stress out of me driving it home not knowing if it could survive the long drive back on the Dan Ryan.



The longer I owned it the more the brown leather grew on me. It was one of the more rare colors for Mercedes-Benz. I thought I could bring that old brown leather back to look like an old leather smoking chair. I found a used passenger seat skin and had it put on the driver side. I cleaned and tinkered with the 560SEL till I brought it back to life. It's 28 years old and not in perfect shape but I love driving it just as much as the others. It's a great car and I do a little bit each year to fix it up.

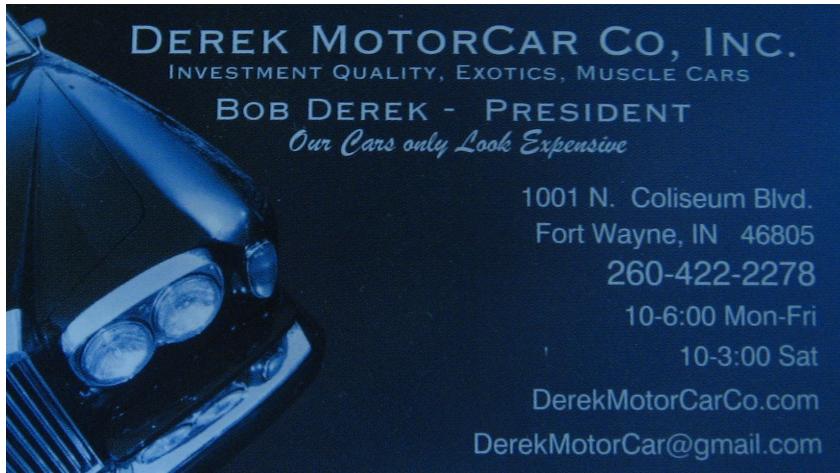
My wife Amy and I have been married for 16 years. We're both hard working individuals. Our daughter Lauren will be turning 16 this year and we could not be more proud of her & her accomplishments. We both grew up around the lakes and love being on the water. We live on Webster Lake in North Webster, IN. It is a great small town community with lots of tourism. We are Notre Dame fans and we love to go to home games and cheer on our IRISH. Amy does so much and I am proud of her. She is an amazing cook and baker. She started out as a hobby decorating cakes and she is so talented.

## 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



**Don't forget our meeting on June 1st. Be at Zianno's, 702 E. Dupont Rd (next to the new Earth Fare store) at 1:00 for final details on EuroFest and to discuss further plans for the summer.**

**The autocross is only a month away. Get your registration in soon. See the flyer attached separately to your e-mail.**

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Special message from the president:

### 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 **StarTech**), 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.



# extra DETAILS

By Jason Bogart



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

After a long hard Indiana winter with all the road salt and other chemicals they throw on our roads, we need to protect, restore and refinish some of our vehicles. I recently had to take my battery out of my 560SEL and I found a mess waiting for me. Sure, some of this rust was accelerated by a leaky battery. My battery tray was eaten away and there was no saving it. I located a fairly good used part out of a wrecked S-class. My original thought was to wash the part and paint it. I thought it would look better that way.



Used part before Powder Coating

I checked into powder coating the part so it would have a good solid coating and look nice. I found a guy who is reasonable and he did an awesome job.

Powder coat is applied using an electrostatic spraying process. A common factor with this process is that the powder particles are electrically charged while the object requiring coating remains grounded. The resultant electrostatic attraction is enough to allow the build-up of sufficient film of powder on the object, thus holding the dry powder in place until melting occurs with subsequent binding to the surface. The end result is a sealed durable coating. You can get a variety of colors and finishes like matte and gloss.

If you can remove the parts off of the car, they can be powder coated. They sand blast the part removing all the dirt and debris to get a clean surface and then the process can take place. He can do almost any part, from small pieces like the tabs that hold my battery into place, to a set of rims.





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## THREE RIVERS SECTION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS — 2014

**June 1: Meeting,** Our last meeting before EuroFest. Join us at Zianno's, 702 E. Dupont Rd, at 1:00 for details about the car show and other upcoming summer events.

**June 8: EuroFest,** Our European Car Show will be held at IPFW (2101 E Coliseum Blvd).

**June 13-15: "Second Annual ScottieDTV Traveling Charity Roadshow"** It will be held at Auctions America Auction Park, 5536 County Rd 11A, Auburn, IN.

**July 5: Autocross,** A driving event not to be missed. This will also take place at IPFW. If you've never participated in one, you really should try it. We'll have experienced instructors here to help and you'll only go as fast as you feel comfortable going. But you just might surprise yourself. I'll be sending the flyer for this event again soon.

**July 12: Three Rivers Festival Parade,** A favorite event returns for another year. Shine up your baby and bring it down-town to show off to all the admiring crowds. Meeting time and details to follow later.

**June 12-14, 2015: StarTech,** This National event, in Cincinnati, OH, is not to be missed!! Driving events, technical sessions, and social gatherings will provide something for everyone. Details to follow, but get this one on your calendar.

*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.*

*Please consult your current issue of **The Star** magazine for listings of upcoming National, Regional and Sectional events throughout the country.*

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.....

**SEARCH FOR: MERCEDES BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA THREE RIVERS**



A screenshot of a Facebook page for "Mercedes-Benz Club of America Three Rivers". The page header shows the club's logo and name. The main feed displays a scenic city skyline at sunset. Below the feed, there is a post from the club's page itself, which includes the club's logo and a brief welcome message. The page has 3 likes and 3 recent posts. The right sidebar includes links for "Create Post", "Admin Panel", and "Promote Page".