



# The Three Rivers Road Report

March, 2017

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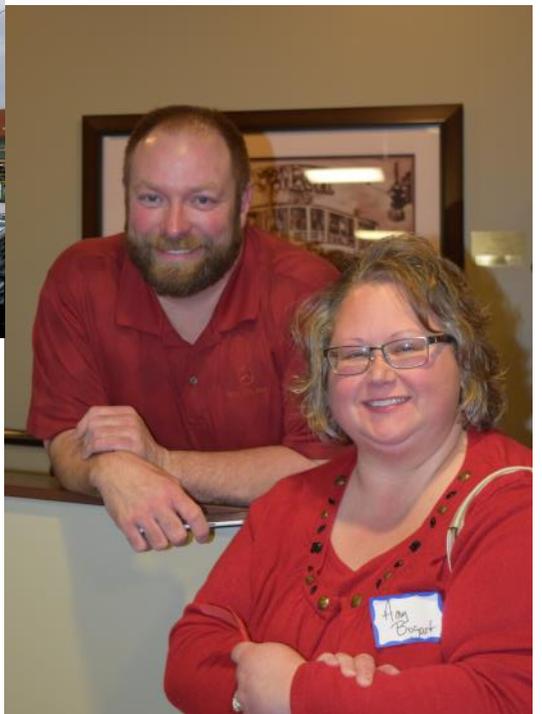
## Chocolate, Appetizer or Dessert?



Three Rivers section members showed up on February 10th at Parkview Field for the annual ChocolateFest, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club to raise money for several local charities. The event started at 6:00, but dinner wasn't served until 7. Good thing the chocolate fountains were flowing freely. With white, mild or dark chocolate to choose from and a large variety of goodies to dip in them (including bacon, although that didn't last long) no one was going hungry waiting for dinner to be served. There was plenty of time to buy tickets and decide which prizes to try for, and after dinner the drawings were held to decide who won.









"Welcome to the Chicago Auto Show!" marked an enormous globe hanging in the front entry of McCormick Place. New car smell was in the air and so was the excitement of thousands of spectators. Manufacturers both foreign and domestic shined up their models to have them on display for the 109th edition of the Chicago Auto show.

Three Rivers Section was there to take it all in. We had to start with the best of the best! We headed to the Mercedes Benz area. We checked out all the new models, features, & tried a few on for size.



It was fun sitting in all the parked Mercedes Benz, but it was more fun to ride in them. Mercedes Benz had an interactive display set up for the G Wagon. They had several G550's that were displaying its capabilities. The G550



is powered by a 416 HP 4.0 Liter Bi-turbo V8 engine. They start the climb on the steel rack and the front right tire actually comes off the ground but the G550 is able to continue on its way. They drive up to a 42 degree angle and they stop to show that the brakes are able to hold the G550 safely in place. The driver resumes the ride explaining that 450lb feet of torque will "launch" us to the top! The G550 is

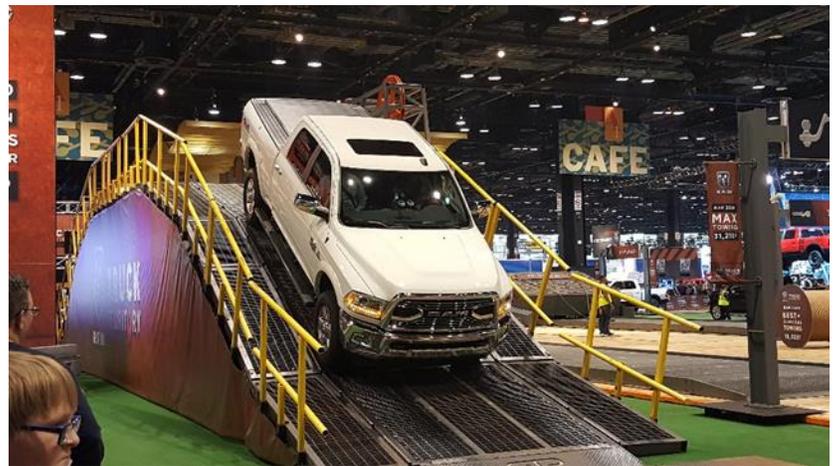


now at the very top and the track starts to tip to a downward position of 42 degrees to continue our ride back down. On the way back down the driver cranks up the Harmon Kardon sound system & releases the brakes for a quick drop & a little more excitement. The G550 was originally designed as a military vehicle and needed to be able to accomplish all these feats without the use of extra computers and sensors. The G550 has become a more popular and pricey SUV for the main stream public. I wore one of my club shirts and the man at the registration table called us V.I.P.'s. Little did he know how right he was. National Treasurer, Three Rivers Section President & Treasurer. He did a great job interacting with the riders and made it an enjoyable wait to get our chance to ride the MBMOUNTAIN!





There were more to see than just Mercedes Benz but I was honestly having fun at their exhibit. Audi, Mini, Jaguar, Toyota, Cadillac, GMC, Ford & Buick to name a few. One of the heavy hitters was FCA - Fiat Chrysler Automobiles. They had an interactive display for their whole line of cars. There was a Jeep interactive course and they had a thrilling drag strip set up where they would actually race their vehicles down a short drag strip indoors. They had a Yellow Charger, Orange Challenger, Blue Chrysler 300, Black Fiat convertible and a Burgundy Chrysler Pacifica racing down this indoor track. The Challenger and the Charger were the only ones making any noise. The Pacifica looked more like one of those crash tests you see being conducted by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.



They also had an interactive display for the Dodge Ram trucks. They displayed their towing capacity, torque and ride quality over rough terrain. The Ram course also had an incline ramp of 30 degrees or 16 feet up but was not nearly impressive as the MB MOUNTAIN. They had a large display of Ram trucks on hand. I was even able to find the one I wanted. The 2017 Dodge Ram 2500 Mega Cab Limited priced out at \$57,775. I was ready to drive it home, but since my wife is also the treasurer I was declined on my new truck.



There were many vendors on hand selling all types of items. State Farm was one & had a large display also. Jake must have been on a break so our Treasurer Amy filled in for him. She was modeling the bags that they were offering.



It was a great time and a fun outing for our section. There was so much to see. I have included many photos below from the rest of the show.





## President's Message

Jason Bogart

Here we are the end of February already. We have had no real amount of snow and spring is coming soon. The months are just flying by. Soon we will be out in the warm sun enjoying all the events.

As you can see the Chicago Auto Show was just outstanding and the MB Mountain climb was worth the wait to get to ride up the metal rack. Three Rivers has some exciting events set up as well. Not like that but we will be traveling to Kokomo this weekend to meet the Indianapolis 500 Section. Their new Section President, Ken, and his wife, Sarah, will be joining us. I was hoping for a little larger turn out from our section but we're going to go and have a good time. I realize that people have plans and with the fluctuation in the weather people tend to stay in.

Were headed into March and we have a lot going on. I know the events are listed below but please take special note of the March, April & May events. March 15th kicks off the pet drive. Donate some food or some cash to help out the shelters. They need supplies and we can help with that.

March 18th is Saint Patrick's Day dinner and were headed back to JK O'Donnell's for dinner at 6:00 PM. I hope you all join us the food was great and we had a good time.

April 8th we will be headed to Father John's in Bryan, OH. April 22nd I was looking at planning a Michigan trip if there was enough interest. Possibly going to Holland, MI, South Haven, MI or Grand Rapids to the Fred Meijer Gardens. E-mail me and let me know if you have some interest in going and we can set that up.

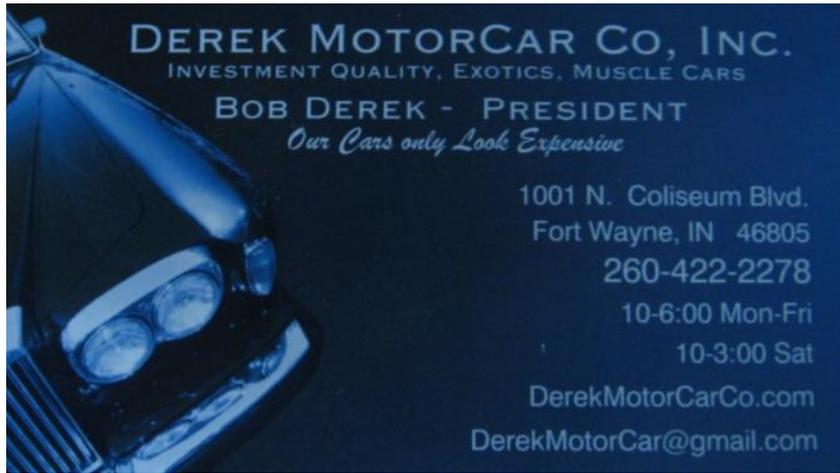
In May, we will be headed to Amish Country to Das Dutchman Essenhaus in Middlebury, IN. If you have never been to Essenhaus, this is your chance. The food is great and it is heading back to a simpler time. They have a bakery that sells some great Amish favorites like pies, cookies and whoopie pies. There is also a gift shop on the property. This is an event we need to set up in advance and we need a minimum of 15 people. Check your calendars and let me know if you would like to attend. The sooner you can e-mail me and the better. Lisa is working on the details. It is a Fried Chicken dinner served family style.

I know that everyone is not able to attend every event but we have plenty set up for the rest of the year. We will continue to get events e-mailed and updated in the newsletters for you. I guess what I am getting at is if you are a member and you haven't attended I personally invite you to come out, meet the other members, check out each other's cars, and have some fun. We all love the same thing and we all like to have fun.

I am hoping to see more new faces and the upcoming event's. If you can e mail me and let me know if you have interest in a Michigan trip or if you are interested in coming to Essenhaus send me an e mail at [silverstar560@gmail.com](mailto:silverstar560@gmail.com)

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

**March 4: Breakfast & Benz, Kokomo Automotive Museum,** Joins us for Breakfast at 8:00 at Bob Evans, Coventry Lane, followed by a drive to Kokomo to meet up with the Indy 500 Section to tour the Automotive Museum. It's not too late to RSVP to Jason at [SilverStar560@gmail.com](mailto:SilverStar560@gmail.com)

**March 15:** Our Pet Drive begins. Donate items for a local pet shelter to help our furry friends

**March 18: St. Patrick's Day dinner,** Meet us at J K O'Donnell's, 121 W. Wayne St, Fort Wayne, at 6:00 for some traditional Irish fare. RSVP to Jason at [SilverStar560@gmail.com](mailto:SilverStar560@gmail.com)

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

**April 22: TBD,** possible trip to Michigan

**May 20: Dinner Meeting,** drive to Das Dutchman Essenhaul, 240 US20, Middlebury IN. Details will follow.

**June 10: Defensive Driving/Autocross,** details to follow

**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

**September 15: Toys for Tots Drive begins**

**September 23: Toys for Tots,** handing out boxes

**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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