



# The Three Rivers Road Report

May/June 2018

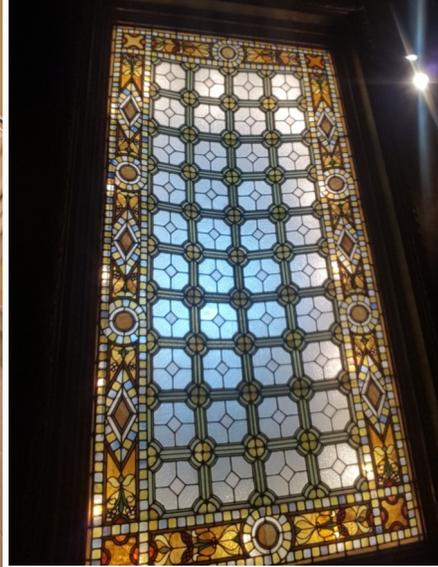
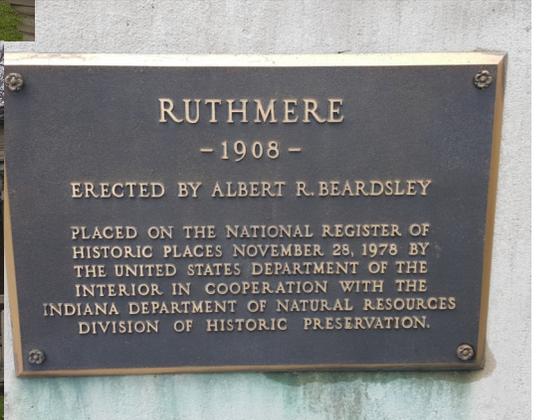
Volume 6; Issue 3

## First Road Trip of the Year



Fourteen members made the journey to Goshen, IN, on April 14 to start the day at the Olympia Candy Kitchen. Lunch was topped off with some of their great ice cream desserts before we got back in our cars to head to Elkhart to visit the Beardsley Residence, now known as the Ruthmere Mansion. This beautiful and opulent 35 room home was once the private residence of Albert and Elizabeth Beardsley and sits directly across from the Elkhart River. Albert is responsible for the formula for what we now know of as Alka-Seltzer. Completed in 1910, the mansion was named for the couples only daughter, Ruth, who didn't survive her first year. The home is filled with incredible artwork, Tiffany lamps and Louis XV furniture.





# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Jason Bogart*

*LOOKS LIKE SUMMER IS IN FULL SWING!* I am looking forward to this summer with the fun events coming up. We will be starting out with some fun in Nappanee, IN at Nappanee Raceway to watch some old fashion harness racing. This is something we have never attended before, but we will see what it's all about. See you all this Saturday.

In July we will be enjoying the day at the lake for our Three Rivers Section Picnic. Vice President Darrell & his wife Marilyn have invited us to spend the day with them at their lake home. They will provide games and lake fun. It will be a great relaxing day.



August brings more lake fun and a popular outing to Webster Lake to enjoy dinner on the pier just in time for the water ski show to start. The North Webster Ski Bees put on a terrific display of tricks and water skiing talent. After all the excitement things slow down as we board the Dixie Boat. This historic, 1929 Sternwheel Excursion Boat makes it's way around beautiful

Webster Lake for a relaxing cruise at sunset. Learn the history of the boat and Webster Lake and view all the beautiful properties around the lake.



We want to make sure that the Three Rivers Section is a fun and relaxing time for all. If you have not attended an event I urge you to come out and have some fun. The event coordinators work hard to set the events up and we would like to see the members enjoy themselves. If you have an event or an idea for an upcoming event please let me, Lisa or Julie know.



## Farm to Table, Fair Oaks Style



On May 5 Three Rivers Section members spent a day on the farm. We had nice weather and a leisurely two and a half hour drive before we arrived at Fair Oaks Farms. Members were treated to an amazing lunch at the Farmhouse Restaurant with food produced on the farm. After lunch we toured the grounds and later boarded a bus for our Dairy Experience! After riding the bus through the middle of the barns, we headed to the milking building. Cows follow each other onto a carousel and they are milked while they rotate. At the end of the carousel they know to walk off backwards. They provide 3 gallons per milking. It was a very interesting and educational day, learning about the scientific process they use to create the feed for the animals as well as the secure environment that they have in place to keep the public from bringing in contamination to the animals. As a self-sustaining system, they grow most of the feed for the animals, then recycle the "waste" by processing it. The solid portion is reapplied to the land as fertilizer for the next set of crops and the methane gas that is produced is used to power the entire farm, including the visitor center, restaurant, and the processing center where they make the wonderful cheese and ice cream available for sale. We had the ice cream there, and brought some of the cheese home to enjoy later.



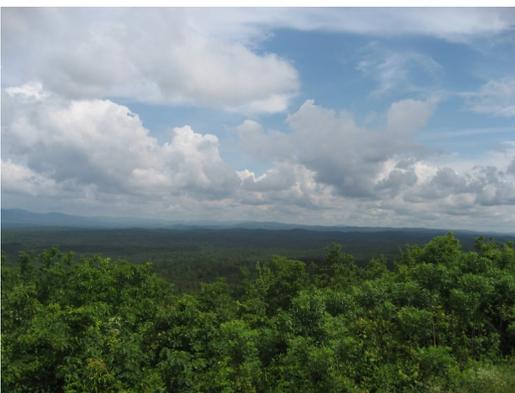




By  
Julie Bruggner

It's hard for me to believe it was less than four years ago that I first drove my car on the Barber Motorsports Track. I've been on two other tracks since then, but the 17 turns and multiple elevation changes on Barber was the most fun. So the trip back there for StarFest 2018 this year was particularly meaningful.

I remember going to Talladega in 2009 and driving 123 mph on the oval and loving it. However, a road course is entirely different and the thought of cars passing me while I was trying to negotiate all those turns scared the crap out of me. But Terry Kiwala convinced me to try it, saying, as he usually does, "you'll be fine". Not only was he right, but by my second practice run, I was hooked. Where else can you drive fast, and have *real* fun on the turns without endangering someone else or getting pulled over and getting a ticket. The funny thing was, not only did I bring back the love of the track events, but, more importantly, I brought back a better understanding of how my car handles and how to control it.



So when StarFest was first announced and I learned there would be an event at the Barber track, I knew I was going to be there. As it turned out, that was only one day of a fun filled week. I started the beginning of the week driving a rally that was one of four they had planned out for us. Driving the back roads of Alabama, with all the turns and hills, in amongst the trees, or by some amazing scenic overlooks, was a fantastic experience.

The next day I boarded a tour bus that gave us a tour of Birmingham before we got to the Arlington Antebellum Home, a former plantation dating back to 1840. After our tour of the home, we had lunch on the grounds as we were entertained by Miss Alabama, Jessica Procter. After lunch we were taken to the Museum of Art, where we spent the afternoon.



Friday was my day to take the tour of the Mercedes-Benz Factory. The fire in Michigan that caused supply issues for more than one automaker also affected the MB plant in Tuscaloosa. They had shut down the 3 SUV lines, but,

because the Club was holding it's National Event that week, they kept the C-class line running just for us. It was my 3rd tour of the plant, but I still find it fascinating and I learn something new every time.



We were back at the plant grounds, in front of the visitor's center, the next day for the Concours. Almost 80 cars competed in various classes for the beautiful awards handed out that night at the banquet, and another 22 were judged for the Silver Star Award. It was incredibly hot that day, but all of the participants were having a wonderful time showing off their cars, checking out everyone else's, and getting to know each other.

On Sunday we arrived bright and early at Talladega, eager to get our cars onto the 2.66 mile track with a 33 degree bank. We lined up in the garage, ready to be led out in groups for the Autobahn laps. With firm instructions to keep up (no dropping back) and follow the group, we headed out and proceeded around the track. Now, I'm generally a "rule follower", but I sometimes have a problem with that speed limit thing. So having paid event fees to drive around the track, I felt like I wasn't really getting my money's worth to be only going 85-90 mph. I'm not admitting to anything, but let's just say my car has now been up to 136 mph. For the record, the cars behind me were pretty happy with my plan and kept right up with me.



After lunch, we were back at the track for several simultaneous events. On one of the straightaways on the track, acceleration runs were taking place. These are pretty simple. It's just how fast can you get from point A to point B from a dead stop. I brought home a second place trophy for my class, beat out by Gene Long from the Niagara Section. Congratulations Gene, but wait until next time!

In a lot on the other side of the grounds, SDSF (Safe Drivers, Safe Families) instruction was taking place. Formerly know as Defensive Driving, it's a course designed to help all drivers learn what their car can do and what they can do with their car when something unexpected happens. Always free, I recommend every one take this every time they get the chance.

Next to that was the Autocross course. Putting to use all the skills learned in the SDSF instruction, participants follow a course through the cones (hopefully not knocking any over) trying to improve their times and their driving skills.

That brings us to Monday, track day at Barber Motorsports. After the required classroom instruction, we were divided up into groups (instructors, novice, intermediate and advanced, and those who opted for the "Performance Driving Experience") and issued the appropriate wristbands so the track workers would know we were going onto the track with the right group. The PDEX was a pared down version where the pace is slower and drivers first ride along with their instructor before getting behind the wheel themselves. Although no one could see it behind my helmet, I was grinning from ear to ear as I headed out.



Now, I have to admit, not long after I first joined the club, there was a track event at Mid-Ohio. I participated in the acceleration runs, but didn't even consider driving the whole track. I was so sure that wasn't for me. I've heard much the same from quite a few people in the last few years, and realized they had some of the same perceptions I had before I tried it. It's not anything at all like the races you see on TV. No one makes you go any faster than you are comfortable with. You can always have an instructor with you if you want one. The whole idea is to help you learn how to be a better driver. It just happens to be a blast too!

These laps were not timed, so I don't know how I did compared to anyone else. But after a few laps around, you can feel if you're doing better or worse on that lap. Starting your turn too soon or too late affects how you are set up for whatever comes next, and you realize immediately if you just cost yourself some time. By the end of the day, I knew exactly what I was supposed to do. Not that it always worked out perfectly as I drove it, but that feeling, that *rush*, when I knew I had done it just right, was the thrill I signed up for. I hate to repeat myself, but **"This is so much fun!"**

I've written almost 3 pages about all of the daily events and how much fun they were. But, the real enjoyment I get out of these big events involves the membership. Seeing friends we've met at prior events and haven't seen in a while, or getting to know someone we just met, that's what drives (no pun intended) these events. Because, as many have said before me, the cars bring us together, but it's the people that keeps us coming back. With social events every night, including cocktail hours, receptions and banquets, there was plenty of opportunities to meet up with our fellow enthusiasts and share stories. I can't wait for the next one!



# Time is Running Out! Deadline is June 13!



*Image in contest promotional materials does not entirely represent actual prize being won.  
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## ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A 2018 Mercedes-Benz S560 Cabriolet

### MBCA's 2018 Spring Raffle

#### Details & Dates

- Prize: 2018 Mercedes-Benz S560 Cabriolet
- MSRP: \$133,300
- Tickets are \$50 (US) each
- Last day to purchase tickets is Wednesday, June 13, 2018
- Drawing is Thursday, June 21, 2018
- For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [raffle.mbca.org](http://raffle.mbca.org), call the NBO at 800-637-2360 or check your mailbox for an official mail-in order form.

Open to MBCA Members only. Must be 18 years of age or older. No limit on the number of tickets one member may purchase. The winner will choose an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealership where a check in the amount of \$99,975 (US) will be sent. The winner will shop for their vehicle at the dealership of their choice. If fewer than 5,250 tickets are sold, the raffle prize will be one-half (50%) of the gross raffle ticket sales - less Federal withholding of 25%, or at least \$5,000 (less withholding), whichever is greater. Vehicle featured in this ad is representative only. Odds of winning depend on the total number of tickets sold. Must be a current Member of MBCA at the time of purchase and day of the prize drawing. Members may attend the drawing (not required to enter or win). 100% of net raffle proceeds shall be devoted exclusively to the lawful purpose of MBCA International Stars Section. Raffle license: R36432



# GLENBROOK



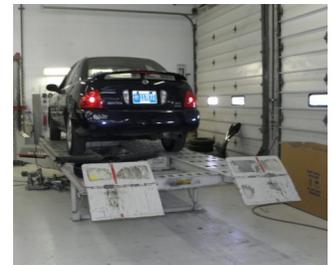
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## THREE RIVERS SECTION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS — 2017

**June 9: Nappanee Raceway** Come with us to watch the harness racing

**June 23: Breakfast & Benz** Time and location to be determined. Details to follow.

**July 21:** Picnic at the Post's. Cookout, potluck, games and lake activities. Details to follow.

**August 4: Dinner, Dixie, and Ski Bees** in North Webster. Details to follow.

**August 18: Dinner meeting** Details to follow

**September 1: A Day at Auburn**, our annual event at the Auction Park will turn into a multi-section event this year as other sections have expressed an interest in joining us.

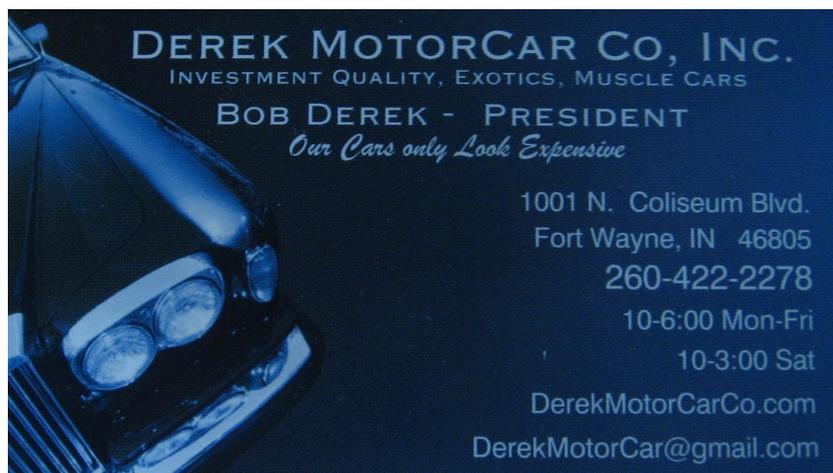
**September 22: Northeast Indiana Wine Tour** Visits to the local wineries. Details to follow

**October 20-21:** Train ride to Chicago. Come do some early holiday shopping.

**November 11: Friendsgiving at Tippecanoe Place** Sunday brunch in South Bend

**December 8** Our annual Holiday Party

*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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## Can we help?

If you're interested in showcasing your vehicle to the largest group of Mercedes Benz enthusiasts perhaps we could help, we are the Mercedes Benz Club of America. We would like to offer you a classified posting on our Facebook page as well as our monthly newsletter "The Three Rivers Road Report". Our Facebook page consists of 650+ followers. If you have purchased another Mercedes we would like you to consider joining Mercedes Benz Club of America.

- \$15.00 will allow two photos. One exterior photo and one interior photo will appear weekly on our Facebook page for 4 weeks with your contact information and brief description. It will also appear once in our monthly newsletter.
- \$25.00 will allow two photos. One exterior photo and one interior photo will appear weekly on our Facebook page for 8 weeks with your contact information and brief description. It will also appear two months in our monthly newsletter.

Please submit an interior/exterior photo of your vehicle, a brief description including mileage, your sale price and your contact information. MBCA Three Rivers will be displaying your information for people to contact you directly.

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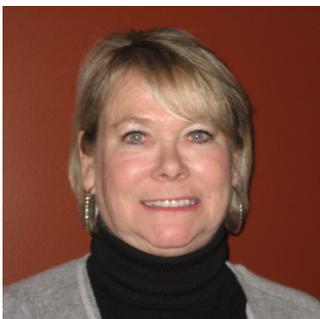
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