



The Three Rivers Road Report

May/June 2019

Volume 7; Issue 3

"Meeting" in a New Place



Twenty-two members attended our dinner meeting on April 20. We were joined by Alex & his wife, Walli, from the Northwest Ohio Section and a new member in our section, Samuel.

We covered our new club assets that we acquired and our club tent that we will be purchasing shortly. We also released our new T shirt for 2019 that is a fundraiser for the Three Rivers Section and our continued clubwear collection. A couple of members won some chocolate bunnies during the evening as well.

We also discussed our section's upcoming events that include our Autocross for 2019, our annual Labor Day event "A Day At Auburn" The Fall Car Collectors Auction, and our year end Christmas Party that is one of our signature events.

We were in great hands: the staff members at Auburn City Steakhouse were great. We heard nothing but positive comments on the food and the service.

I appreciate all the members who attended this evening. Your continued support is the reason our section stands out... THANK YOU!





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jason Bogart

Moving forward in the club!

It's no secret that Three Rivers is a smaller section. However, we are an extremely active section. I've always considered us "small but mighty". We don't grow by leaps & bounds, but we maintain about the same number of members & associate members annually. It would be nice to increase our membership numbers this year. I feel like an increased membership in our section would make our events bigger, better, & most importantly, more FUN!

The mindset that the club focuses on pristine show cars may deter potential members. Mercedes Benz is innovative & on the cutting edge of technology, so we need to be as well. There is a common thread between Mercedes Benz cars. Whether it's 10 years, 20 years, or a century old, a Mercedes Benz feels the same way. Engineered with durability & quality, the cars they build today hold the soul of the cars that started this brand so long ago.

As a member passing out many brochures, I have learned from the general public that they are not interested! They don't understand what they need to be in a club for! They feel that they don't have a show car, "I just drive my Mercedes." Great! So do we! We need to overcome the pretentious perception that you have to own a pristine, award winning vehicle to belong to the MBCA. That is simply not true! Don't get me wrong, we need to cherish and enjoy all the cars that have stood the test of time and are in amazing condition, but we cannot overlook the new Mercedes Benz owner that may lease the car for the first time or the pre-owned buyer who has always wanted to own a Mercedes Benz. We need to welcome and include all types of Mercedes owners.



I am taking this moment to ask for your help. If everyone would make an effort to try and sign up just one new member in the remainder of 2019, I would really appreciate it. I have MBCA Brochures and if we need more, I can easily obtain those from the National Business Office. If everyone tries to get one new member and we are able to get even 5, 10, or 15 new members collectively, I would consider it a success. Also, be the first member to sign up 3 new Three Rivers members between June 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019 and we will pay your (one year) membership renewal.



Mercedes Benz Club of America



THREE RIVERS SECTION
PRESENTS



AUTOCROSS



Saturday July 13th, 2019 / Start time: 9:00 AM

Registration cost is \$30.00 / Box lunch available for \$15.00 pre-order

**THE AUTOCROSS WILL BE HELD AT P.F.W. CAMPUS
IN PARKING LOT #4
PURDUE F.W., 2101 E. COLISEUM BLVD, FORT WAYNE, IN**

CONTACT JASON BOGART - E-MAIL: silverstar560@gmail.com - CELL: 574-457-6541

Or

CONTACT JULIE BRUGGNER - E-MAIL: juleslb@msn.com - CELL: 260-348-1369

NAME: _____ ADDRESS _____

YEAR: ____ MAKE: _____ MODEL: _____ EMAIL _____

PHONE: _____ Pre-Registration \$30.00 Box Lunch \$15.00 each

TOTAL: \$ _____ Please pre-register by sending to **MBCA, P.O. Box 25571**

Deadline for pre-registration and box lunch orders July 5th, 2019 Fort Wayne, IN 46825-0902

Please send Check or Money Order payable to **Mercedes Benz Club of America Three Rivers Section**
include this bottom portion

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By Jason Bogart

Ever heard of Seven Sons? Have you noticed Mercedes Benz Sprinters with their logo driving around the Fort Wayne Area?

Our Three Rivers Section Event Coordinator, Lisa Esquivel Long visited the farm. While at the farm, she took notice that Seven Sons used Mercedes Benz Sprinters for delivery vehicles. The Mercedes Benz Club of America, Three Rivers Section was excited to see that a local family-owned business utilized these great German vehicles. We wanted to find out more.

Meet the Hitzfeild Family. Lee and Beth and yes – there are actually Seven Sons... There is Blake, Blaine, Brice, Brock, Brooks, Bruce, and Brandt. Seven Sons is a family livestock farm in corn belt country located just outside Roanoke, IN. They produce Pasture Raised Beef, Pork, Bison, and more.



Our Mission:

Like many others, after being frustrated by the lack of transparency in our food system, we embarked on a simple mission to produce nutrient-dense foods that heal and nourish our land and those who eat of its bounty.

Radical Transformation:

Nearly 30 years ago we operated a fully conventional farm. However, as a result of a family health crisis, we became convinced that how we manage our soil, plants and animals will directly affect the health of those who consume the products of our farming choices.



A New Vision:

In the late 1990's we embarked on a radical journey to transition to a regenerative pasture-based farm. Due to overwhelming support from our loyal patrons, our vision was eventually realized as a farm-to-fork food venture that serves thousands of families with nutrient-dense foods grown from healthy regenerative soils.

"The vocation of bringing food to your table is more than business to us – it's a personal ministry and responsibility that we take very seriously!"

-Lee & Beth Hitzfield (Founders)



We spoke with Brooks, the companies C.O.O. of Marketing and Distribution. He explained that they currently have three Mercedes Benz Sprinters. The first Sprinter is a 2012 and it currently has approximately 142,000 miles on it and still going strong. Obviously, it is Mercedes Benz engineering and build quality behind that three-pointed star. Mercedes Benz is all about longevity of every vehicle that is on the road. Seven Sons considers the Sprinters good, reliable vehicles to entrust their deliveries to. They use the Sprinters to deliver their goods to homes and businesses in Fort Wayne and surrounding areas. Brooks explains that they put roughly 18,000 miles on the Sprinters annually. Since their first Sprinter, they have now expanded their fleet to welcome two more refrigerated Sprinters, a 2015 and a 2018 model year.

Mercedes Benz is a German global manufacture of luxury cars, SUV'S, convertibles, buses, coaches, and trucks. Located in Stuttgart, Baden-Württemberg, Mercedes Benz has over a hundred years of automotive heritage and a brand known all over the world for their engineering, durability, and safety.

We appreciate the Hitzfield Family sharing their story with us. The Mercedes Benz Club of America, Three Rivers Section wishes them well and continued success in their business.

If you are interested in ordering product from Seven Sons Farm please check out their website below for more information.

www.sevensons.net

Seven Sons Farms
15718 Aboite Road
Roanoke, IN 46783
260-797-1350

Learning About Windmills



Three Rivers Members traveled north on May 11 to the Mid-America Windmill Museum. Sara, our tour guide, provided us with a rich history of windmills, old & new. One of the original companies, Flint & Walling Manufacturing, started making windmills and is still in business

today. However, now they are known as F&W and they no longer make windmills. They make pumps & filtration systems. Members were allowed to explore the property & exhibits. The museum is a not-for-profit and has 21 board members that keep it going. Windmills came from Europe in the 1600s & were popular for transferring the power of wind into grain mills & water pumps. The water pumps were used to load the steam engine trains across the country. Mid-America Windmill Museum celebrates it's 25th Anniversary this year. What a perfect time for Three Rivers Members to attend.





Who's Who in the Club

John Hooper

My passion for cars started with Linda Carter and her driveway. Yes, THE Linda Carter. Wonder Woman herself lived about a mile from my house when I was a kid living in Great Falls, Virginia. How lucky was I? My mother was a private nurse during the late eighties and was at Linda Carter's home about once a week. I remember my mom bringing me an autographed picture back home and I immediately



hung it up in my room. From that point on I had my first crush. I would bicycle down to her long driveway and luckily, the gates were always open. The first couple of times, I chickened out and did not actually go up to the house. To this day, I remember it was a sunny warm Sunday that I got the nerve to actually bike down the driveway and knock on her door. As I passed the garage doors, I noticed there was a white two-door convertible that caught my eye. It was the iconic Mercedes 380SL. I remember staring at the Mercedes Star in awe. I wish we had cell phone cameras back then because I would have a huge amount of photos! I did end up knocking on Linda Carter's door that time and many others. Sometimes getting Linda and other times getting her housekeeper. Linda must have known I had a crush on her. Why else would a 10-year-old boy be knocking on her door every week? She was always gracious by letting me in and talking for a while, and always had a smile on her face. I was upset for a couple weeks when she moved to Maryland, but I eventually had to move on.

For the next few years in the early to mid-nineties, I got into reading all the popular car magazines. I read Car and Driver and Road and Track while riding the bus to middle school and high school drooling over my favorite cars such as the Lotus Esprit S4 and the Acura NSX. I always kept myself busy waxing and detailing my mom's cars, keeping them spotless. I was patiently waiting for my 16th birthday so I could get my driver's license. Finally, it was two days before my 16th birthday and I just could not wait any longer. I had received a large inheritance from my father passing and had discussed buying a car with my mom for over a year. She knew I was obsessed with cars and it was a true passion of mine and not a "phase" I was going through. We agreed to go looking at cars together. My mother wanted me to get a sedan so she brought me to the Mercedes/Jaguar dealership in Vienna/Tysons, Virginia. The very first car I drove would ironically be a car I would own later on in life. This car was a new (at the time) 1998 C280. My mother loved the car and wanted me to get it, however being young; I wanted a fast sports car.

We left the dealership after a long test drive and on the way home, I saw a shiny new Nissan 300ZX in the right hand lane. I immediately knew from that moment I wanted to test drive it. We ended up at the Nissan dealership purchasing a white, demo model 300ZX (non-turbo unfortunately). I named her Christine and waxed her up for the next couple of days. After getting my license, I remember having a great time every time I drove that car. I dived deeper into car history and learned a lot about every single current car on the market in the 90's.

For the next couple of years, my 300ZX was in and out of car shows in the Northern Virginia area. One day however, I was sitting dead stopped in traffic with my girlfriend at the time with the T-tops off, and a car behind us slammed into me going about 45mpg pushing us under a Nissan Pathfinder in front of us. Luckily, everyone was ok including my girlfriend and me. However, my 300ZX was completely demolished. I remember that awful feeling in my stomach looking at Christine totaled and the seeing her taken away. I knew that an era for me had ended because I loved that car so much! If there were camera phones back then I would have hundreds of photos!

My next list of cars were short lived due to me trading them in within a year or two of each other. I did not have the passion I had with any of these cars that I had with my 300ZX. I did love them, but they did not have the special place in my heart. Some of these cars were 94' Toyota Supra Turbo (green with ivory leather), 1991 Acura NSX (black on black), Mitsubishi Diamante (black on black), Mitsubishi Eclipse Spyder (black on tan), Honda Civic R, Ford Mustang (dark purple on black) and a couple others that I am forgetting at this moment. While I did enjoy these cars, none of them rekindled the passion inside that I had with my 300ZX.



Seven years ago, I met the car and brand that would rekindle that passion again. I found a perfectly kept 1998 Mercedes Benz C280 that was spotless. This was the exact year and model of car that my mother and I drove so many years ago. I guess life comes full circle sometimes! It was bright white and I got the windows tinted immediately. The doors felt like vaults and even being an older Mercedes, there was not one squeak or rattle. I showed everyone how solid the car was and even made videos. She was serviced exclusively through the local Mercedes dealership here for the seven years I would end up having her for. I really loved that car but after seven years, but I decided that it was time for a convertible. Call it a midlife crisis? I immediately wanted to stay with the Mercedes brand and only one model came to mind. If I was going to get a convertible, why not the iconic SL? I have always admired the R129 model from the 90's but I felt like I wanted more of the updated look. The R230 was for me. I honestly think it is the best-looking SL ever made. I searched around for months looking for a white SL500. I finally found a 2004 SL500 in Alabaster White w/tan leather in the local area (the exact color combo I wanted). It was meant to be! I bought it the first day I looked at it and picked it up the next day on March 30th, 2019. I had already made a 5% limo black tinting appointment before I even bought the car in anticipation of the purchase. I immediately took it to our local Mercedes dealer and spared no expense getting her 100% perfect. My 6-year-old daughter named her Marie (the white cat from The Aristocrats Disney Movie), and repeats the exact make/model and year of Marie to her friends. She is becoming a Mercedes lover as well! My SL stays in the garage like my 1998 Mercedes did, and only used on warm sunny days. I have my everyday/winter driver 4x4 SUV for most days. I can honestly say that I smile every time I go in the garage and see my SL500. I love showing her off and detail her every day. She does not leave the garage unless she is spotless and detailed, including the tires being "tire-wetted" and shiny black! Since I only put on about 1000 to 2000 miles a year tops on my sunny day car, this SL will last me a lifetime. As I mentioned before, my first crush was Linda Carter. Now I feel like I have the sexy Wonder Woman of convertibles sitting in my garage!



ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A 2019 MERCEDES-AMG GT 63 4-Door Coupe



MBCA's 2019 Spring Raffle

Details & Dates

- Prize: 2019 Mercedes-AMG GT 63 4-door Coupe
- MSRP: \$136,500
- Tickets are \$50 (US) each
- Last day to purchase tickets is Wednesday, June 5, 2019
- Drawing is Thursday, June 13, 2019
- For more information and to purchase tickets, visit 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 \$102,375 (US) will be sent. The winner will shop for their vehicle at the dealership of their choice. If fewer than 5,450 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 Number R52158.

Image in contest promotional materials does not entirely represent actual prize being won.
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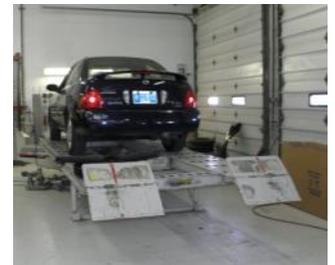
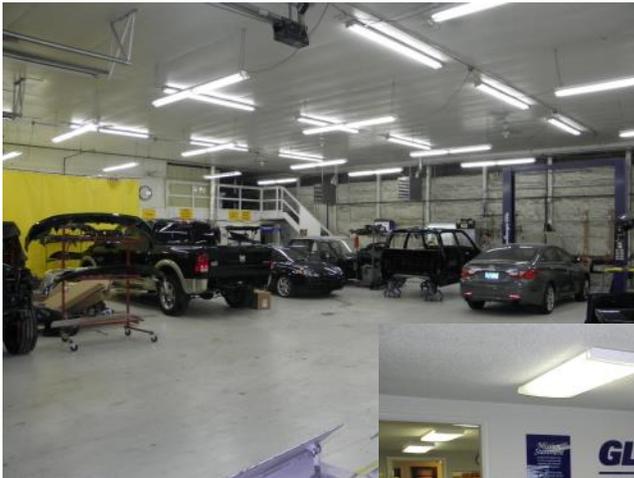
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THREE RIVERS SECTION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS — 2019

June 23: Lunch/ Meeting at Ziano's Italian Eatery. Meet us at 1:00 at 702 E. Dupont Rd., Fort Wayne

July 13: Defensive Driving/Autocross, a day of learning and fun driving at PFW. See flyer on page 5 for details.

July 21: Dinner, location and time TBD

August 4: Breakfast & Benz, meeting, location and time TBD

August 31: A Day at Auburn, our annual event at the Auction Park with a picnic and lots of great cars

September 1: The start of our annual Toys for Tots drive. Donations will be collected until November 16

September 21: Three Rivers Distilling Company, details to follow

October 12: Dinner/meeting, details to follow

November 16: Moose Lake dinner, 3:00, details to follow

December 14: Our annual Holiday Party. This year it will be held at Biaggi's, so save this date.

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.

For Sale – Price Reduced

Selling complete set of factory Mercedes Benz rims from a 2007 SL550. These were my rims for winter use and have like new Dunlop Tires 255 45 R17's with around 7000 miles on them. Asking \$500 or best offer. The tires cost me more than twice that. These will fit other model years in this body style. They are used, but in good condition, with a few small scratches and normal wear and tear.

Call 260-348-1369.





Are you interested in advertising in our newsletter? Does your business offer goods or services that would appeal to our members? Our newsletter goes to all current members & associate members, so if you want to promote your business, this is the place to advertise.

1/4 page ads are \$120/year or \$20/ Bi monthly

1/2 page ads are \$240/year or \$40/ Bi monthly

Full page ads are \$480/year or \$80/Bi monthly (includes monthly posting of your ad on our Facebook page.)

Are you looking to sell your Mercedes? Check out these two classified options below.



Mercedes Club of
America Three Rivers



Visit us at:

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www.threerivers.mbca.org

**This is a classified ad in a newsletter/Facebook posting and is in no way guaranteeing the sale of your vehicle, no dealer vehicles allowed, this is an advertisement for a private seller. MBCA reserves the right to cancel the ad for false information

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.

Please submit your photos and information to us at silverstar560@gmail.com

E-mail your ad to our newsletter editor, Julie Bruggner juleslb@msn.com or silverstar560@gmail.com

Please make payable to: **MBCA THREE RIVERS**

Payments can be sent to: **Mercedes Benz Club of America Three Rivers Section
P.O. Box 25571
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