

Three Rivers Section / MBCA



The Three Rivers Road Report

September/October

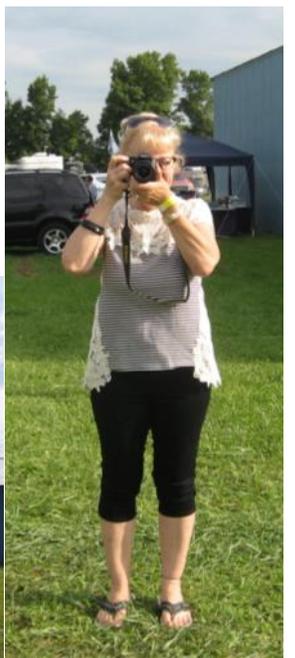
Volume 6; Issue 5

Another Day at Auburn



On September 1st, Three Rivers Section held it's annual "Day At Auburn" - A Labor Day Tradition. We were thrilled to have members from the Indianapolis 500 Section, International Stars Section, and Central Ohio Section join us. Thirty-four members came out for this event and enjoyed a tailgate-style luncheon before heading over to the auction grounds. You could feel the excitement of the auctioneers calling out the highest bids on these beautiful & amazing vehicles. Steel, glass, wood, and leather are all engineered into these works of art from all over the world and you can see it here at Auburn. Especially noteworthy was that the highest selling car of the whole weekend was a 1957 Mercedes-Benz 300 SL, with a final price of \$852,500. If you were looking for anything car related, this is the place to find it. From private owner cars for sale in the car corral to a swap meet with car parts to old dealership signage. Truly a car enthusiast's dream.

Late in the afternoon, everyone was scrambling as a quick, but strong, downpour moved in. Cars were dried off and the fun continued. Three Rivers Section holds this event annually and we are very thankful to Auction America by RM and their accommodating staff for welcoming us back every year. We are the only car club allowed on the grounds.







Goldie

(Dave Gilbert)



In the spring of '17 I decided that I needed yet another retirement project. So I started looking for an older Mercedes. I was fairly confident that I could manage most of the issues with an older car since years ago I did some SCCA road racing and did all the mechanical work on my race cars.

Initially I just browsed the internet reading about older Mercedes, watching YouTube videos (Particularly Mercedessource.com with Kent Bergsma). Somehow I decided that a W123 was in my future. These seemed to be bullet proof and I really liked the idea that the reference of Mercedes “Built Like A Tank” began with the W123. In talking with club member Bob Derek he recounted how the Mercedes representatives came to the dealership with movies about the design and engineering that went into the W123. He tells of movies about dropping the car on its roof, rolling over and crashing into barriers while keeping the occupants safely secured. More research found the claim that this was the first (or one of the first) cars designed with engineered crumple zones.

Nan and I traveled around the regional area looking at every W123 that I could track down. Acting on the advice of Ken Bergman I always traveled with a sheet of cardboard (for lying on the ground for under carriage inspection), a flash light and pair of gloves. I found a lot of diesels and a lot of rust. Rust in the wrong places on a W123 is a serious deal breaker and I found a bunch. Some potential seller's enthusiasm for a potential sale evaporated as soon as I pulled out my cardboard and crawled under the wheel wells and rocker panels. If they passed the underbody rust check I would then pull up the carpets while checking the interior etc. After a while I became somewhat proficient at assessing these cars.

One day in September I found a Craigslist ad for an unusual W123 located in Toledo Ohio. The ad claimed “runs and drives great, almost perfect interior.” It was identified as a 1984 230E. In my studies I had not seen or recalled a 230E so back to the internet and I found that this was a European model not sold in the US. A gas 4 cylinder model quite popular in Europe not sold here due to emissions requirements. So this was a Grey Market car brought here by the original owner. Now I was interested and off we went to Toledo.

It did run and drive great and the interior was beautiful. The car had obviously been well cared for. The only negative was that the right rear corner had some damage due to an accident that caused the insurance company to scrap it out. There was some minor rust around the bottom of the doors and blistered paint behind the front bumper mounts. I thought I could deal with these so the car came home to Fort Wayne. A new battery and some fuel injector cleaner and it was just fine.

One day I drove over to take my 90+ year old dad to breakfast and took the 230E. He took one look at it and said, "Hey look at Goldie". He admired the interior, the ride and how quiet it was and needed to hear the whole story. The name Goldie stuck.

Over the next several months I did fix rust spots, replace worn items and had Werner's repair a couple of things that were out of my league. In May I decided to tackle the blistered paint near the front bumper mounts. Off came the bumper and then the surprise that the blistered paint hid two large holes where the rust had eaten everything. Fortunately none of this was structural, just cosmetic. Rust/metal removal, rust preventer, primer, fiber glass, sanding & more sanding, primer and paint. Didn't look too bad for an amateur. Getting the bumper back on was a bit of a pain but it was looking good, er.... Well, better.

A couple of weeks later I was driving to pick up dad for breakfast going north on Lima road. I had just set the cruise control to 42 mph. A driver traveling south decided to make an ill timed/ill considered left turn and did not see me approaching the intersection. I and my Goldie T-Boned a large SUV.



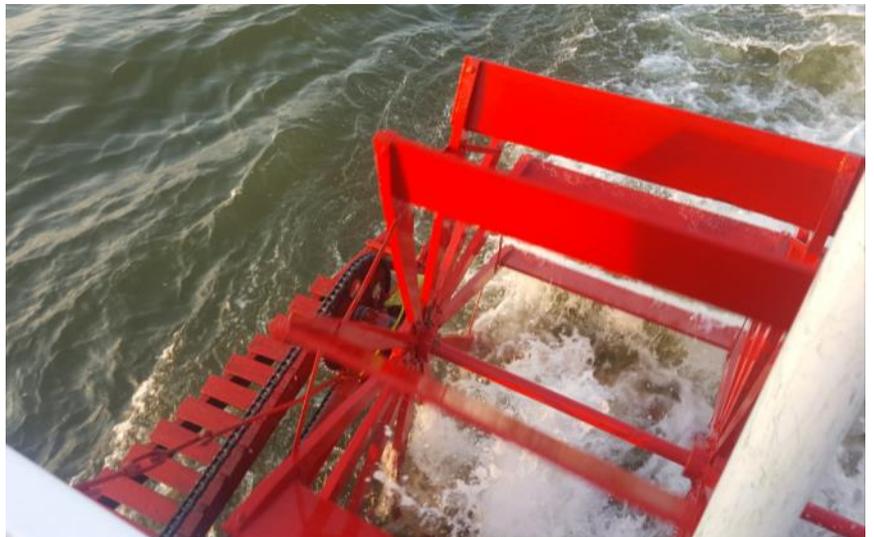
Goldie was toast and I was off to the ICU for a few days. I had a bystander find my phone and photograph the car. When I was able to view the pictures and later the car I realized that those W123 engineers had saved my life as the crumple zones worked perfectly. That design also included a way for the engine and transmission to move rearward under the car and not enter the passenger compartment.

Built like a tank. I'm glad it was; Goldie saved my life.

Dinner, Dixie & Ski Bees



One of our most popular events for Three Rivers members is Dinner, Dixie & Ski Bee's. Members enjoyed dinner on the pier at the Lakeview Diner and after dinner, the Webster Ski Bee's performed their amazing water ski show. The Ski Bee's have been entertaining crowds on the Webster Lake shores since they were organized in 1953. After the show, members boarded The Dixie Boat for a sunset cruise around beautiful Webster Lake. Built in 1929, The DIXIE is Indiana's Oldest Sternwheel Excursion Boat. The Dixie traveled the shore of the lake offering Webster Lake's history & beautiful sunsets. Thank you to all the members who came out this evening.





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jason Bogart

LONGEVITY, LONG LIFE, LONG EXSISTANCE OF SERVICE - SOMETIMES USED AS A SYNONYM FOR THE LIFE EXPECTANCY OF SOME ONE OR SOME THING. My 1986 Mercedes Benz 560SEL is 32 years old and I love driving it. I like to keep it shined up and I am always washing it or polishing something on it.

One Sunday back in August I just finishing drying out the door jams on my 560SEL and I remembered the service sticker in the driver's side door. I never took it off the car. It is from a dealer in Anaheim, CA and I thought I would leave it as part of the history of the car. I got the idea to see if this dealer "Caliber Motors" was still in business. I finished up detailing the car and I didn't really follow up on it. August 8th of this year I was at work and I drove my 560SEL that day. I took a break and stepped outside and for some reason I thought of that sticker. I went out to take a photo of the service sticker. The vehicle received a "LOF" (Lube, Oil & Filter), the Next service recommended was 55,000 miles, and the Technician was # 28. The date of service is what really blew me away. 8-8-1991. Why of all days 8-8-2018 did I remember to go out and look at that sticker?



It motivated me to find out more, since it was so coincidental that I remembered the sticker on the very day that it was completed some 27 years ago. I contacted the phone number on the sticker and to my surprise the number was still good. The dealership Caliber Motor was now known as Mercedes Benz of Anaheim. I explained to the receptionist why I was calling, I asked if they had someone I could e mail my story to. She provides me an e mail address and I sent the information about my car and the oil change sticker that came from them 27 years ago.

The next morning, I received an e mail from the dealerships service manager in response to my e mail. He had a surprise for me. *“Dear Mr. Bogart, Thank you for taking the time to send these great photos. The Technician that filled out the lube sticker 27 years ago on 8/8/91 was Mike Williams and he started working for Mercedes-Benz in 1978 and he’s been working at Caliber Motors, Mercedes-Benz of Anaheim since October 1987 and still going strong!”* That is amazing that the actual technician still works for them. A few more e mails were sent and one thing lead to another. Mercedes Benz of Anaheim was willing to share this story on their Facebook page with photos of Mr. Williams.



Mercedes Benz of Anaheim shared the story and posted: *“We love hearing from Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts... this story was so great that we had to share! Yesterday, we were contacted by the owner of a 1986 560SEL. Jason is a Mercedes Benz enthusiast and also the President of his local Mercedes-Benz Club section in Northern Indiana. As the owner cleaned the car, he noticed that the service sticker in the door said, Caliber Motors. The car was in for service 08-08-1991... 27 years ago yesterday! The best part of it all? The technician, Mike Williams, who worked on that car 27 years ago is still with us today and going strong!”* Mike Williams, who worked on that car 27 years ago is still with us today and going strong!

I am honored that Mercedes Benz of Anaheim shared my story. Mercedes Benz always states that they build vehicles of extraordinary durability. It's not just the owners that have longevity with Mercedes Benz but the men and woman who stand behind this brand. Mr. Williams and many others that have invested a lifetime to a career with Mercedes Benz.

It was interesting to me that this service sticker was able to piece together some of the history of my beloved W126 Mercedes Benz 560SEL.



2018 marked the 45th Anniversary of the Mercedes Benz Club of America - Three Rivers Section. As the current Section President, I want to thank all of you, our members, for your longevity in this section. I appreciate your commitment to the Mercedes Benz Club of America and look forward to many years to come.

THANK YOU

-JASON



Silver Stars & Golden Aspens

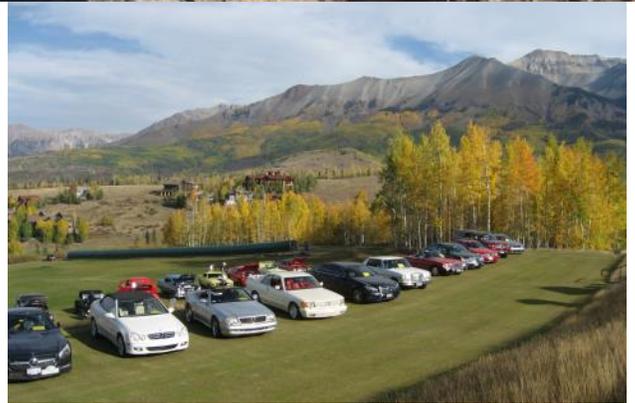
Last month I was lucky enough to participate in another National Event, the Silver Stars and Golden Aspens. Never having been to Colorado, but with it high on my "bucket list", I was eager to go from the day it was announced almost a year ago. It certainly did not disappoint. The event consisted of 3 days of driving through and around the mountains and ending in Telluride for a car show framed by the mountains and the



beautiful Aspen trees, which were in full color. I was in awe every day at the views around me. Not to mention that the drives around those mountain roads were really fun! A little nerve-wracking sometimes, with sharp turns, no guardrail, no shoulder, and a sheer drop off down a cliff, but still fun. Must be the adrenaline rush! We could stop as we wished to see the views or stroll through the small towns.

There were social receptions every night for members to share stories and get to know one another. Another opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones. After all, isn't that what the club is all about? Once again, I encourage all of you to venture out there and attend some of these national, and regional, events. You just might meet your next best friend, or find your next Mercedes.





GLENBROOK



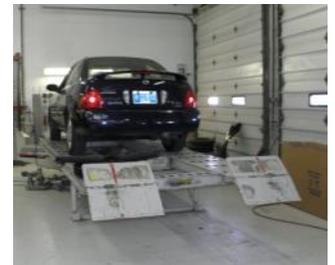
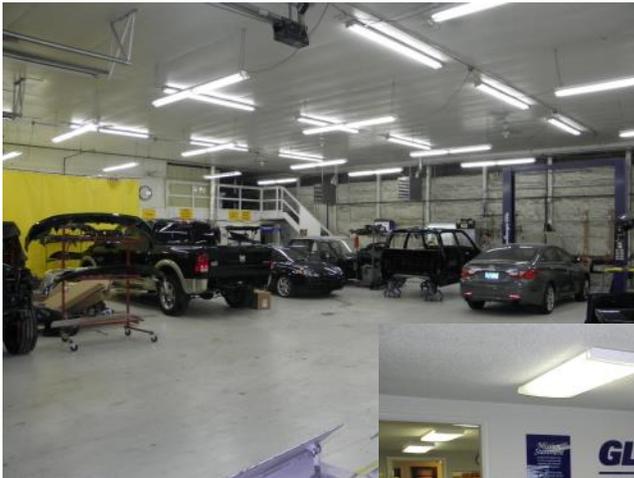
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www.facebook.com/MBCATR



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

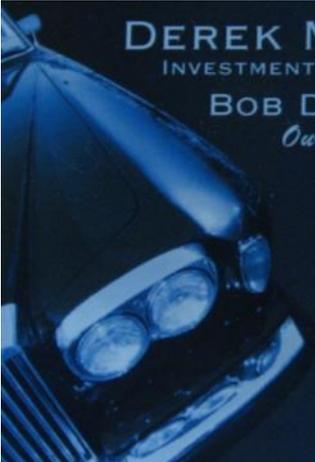
October 13: Northeast Indiana Wine Tour Visits to the local wineries. Details from Jason in your e-mail.

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

December 1: Our annual Holiday Party, this year at Chop's, with great food and great fun. Your invitation is coming soon, so watch your mailbox.

We are already thinking about events for next year. If you have any ideas, please pass them on to Julie, Lisa, or Jason. Find their contact information on the last page of this newsletter.

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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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



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**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
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