



The Three Rivers Road Report

July, 2014

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EuroFest Makes Local News



We were all more than a little worried. Those of us sitting in the empty lot in the pouring rain at 8:30 the morning of the show anxiously checked the weather forecast on our phones. "It'll clear up", we kept telling each other. And, finally, it did. The rain slowed down to a light mist and we scrambled to get the tent and tables set up for registration. People came rolling in and by lunchtime the sun was shining and so were the cars. 61 of them, to be exact. Mercedes (of course) and VW's dominated the lot, but they were joined by many other makes. And this year we made the local news. The Journal-Gazette sent a reporter out to cover the event, and we ended up with a story on the front page of the paper the next day. News15 was also there, and put the story on their newscast that night. Maybe the publicity will help us get to 100 cars next year. Will yours be one of them?



Top left: Phil (who provided our music) decks out his "bug" as a time capsule

Top right: The first line of Mercedes



Left: Janice Derek's hood ornament

Below left: Why do I always end up with a picture of Bob Derek with food?

Below right: The trophies lined up for distribution

Bottom left: Food trucks at the end of the lot

Bottom right: Julie Bruggner with former club member Larry Spedden





And the Winners Are:

1939-1978

- 1) Dale Zinn 1952 MG TD
- 2) Bruce Loos 1953 MG TD
- 3) Mark Boyd 1969 Morris Minor 1000

1979-1989

- 1) Larry Thil 1988 Barrion Buggy
- 2) Ron Hite 1988 Mercedes Benz 560SL
- 3) Randy Rodenbeck 1986 Porsche 951

1990-Present

- 1) Dream Makers 2012 Audi R8
- 2) Janice Derek 2003 Mercedes-Benz CLK430
- 3) Keith Klemm 2001 Porsche Boxer



Best in Class

Dream Makers 2012 Audi R8

Best Rims

Jake Grimm 2008 VW GT1

Best Sounding Horn

David Strasburg VW Bug

Best Custom

Randy Rodenbeck 1986 Porsche 951

Best Time Capsule

Steve Allen Volvo PV544

Cleanest Car

Dream Makers 2012 Audi R8

Best Convertible

Eric Smith 1974 Triumph

Most Miles

Suzanne Noblett 1983 Mercedes-Benz
1983 300TD Wagon 341,290 miles



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Who's Who in the Club

For My Brother

By Julie Bruggner



Some of you may have read the article in the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel a few weeks ago and know part of the story about my car. But that wasn't the whole story. It's only the middle part. The beginning is really an end. The end of my brother's life. He had a Mercedes for a few years, although I can't even tell you now what year or model it was. He was quite a bit older than me and he retired in the spring of 2005, sold his house in Maryland, just outside of Washington, D.C., and bought one in Delmar, Delaware. Six months later, in November, he died of a heart attack. He had sold his Mercedes, and bought a new Toyota Avalon. On my first trip there, to begin the paperwork for the estate, I drove that home and that's what I drove for the next several months. Then, one fateful day the following May, I was with someone who wanted to stop in the Mercedes dealership and see what was on the lot. It was a Sunday, so he reasoned he wouldn't have to talk to a salesman. I walked idly around while he checked out a few cars.

As we started to leave, I noticed one very different from the others sitting in the corner of the lot. When I asked, he said that was the SL, with the retractable hard top. Whoa! Now I was interested. I'd always wanted a convertible, but thought it wouldn't be practical here in Indiana. We walked over to check it out and discovered the doors were unlocked. Not one to miss an opportunity, I climbed in to check it out. Just then a van pulled up behind us and a woman got out. She introduced herself, said she worked there and commented that the cars weren't supposed to be unlocked. Laughing, we said yes, we realized that, but not to worry, the keys weren't in it. Then she offered to let us take it for a drive. Did I mention I don't like to miss out on an opportunity? She went inside, got keys and a plate, and off we went. Oh my!!! What a ride! I don't think I made it a block before I found my self saying, "I've got to have one of these". But that is not the kind of impulse purchase to make. At least not the kind I can make.

So I left. But I could not get it out of my mind. I did some research. I checked out the prices of used models and looked at various color combinations. I knew I had some money coming from my brother's estate, and he would want me to do something with it to enjoy it. So I went back to the dealership, told them exactly what I wanted and to call me when they found it. A few weeks later, they did. A 2003, Firemist Red, with Stone interior, 22,400 miles on it. They shipped it up from Atlanta, and I bought it, in September 2006.

My brother was also a docent at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. He carried a key ring with the Cathedral on it. So I carry my Mercedes key on his key ring, in honor of him. To remind me, I wouldn't have this car if it hadn't been for him. It's starting to get a little worn now. But I'll carry it as long as I own this car.



I've put another 117,000 miles on her (her name is Mercy), and I'm still enjoying it as much as when I first got it, almost 8 years ago now. I've driven it to Alabama twice, North Carolina twice, Boston, and numerous smaller trips. I've taken her on the Talladega track at 123 mph and the ride was just as smooth as a ride on I-69. (Maybe smoother, no potholes) Sometimes on those snowy, wintry days, it will cross my mind that maybe I should get something more suited to Indiana winters. Then the first warm spring day comes along and I put the top down, step on the accelerator, and think, "Nah, I'm good with this. I'm not giving this up."

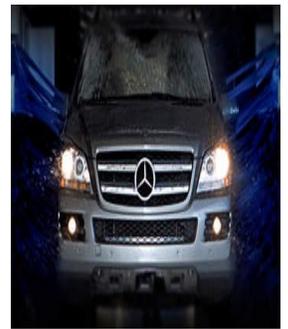


And now, here I am, in a club I never knew existed, with other Mercedes owners, having a great time, and trying to encourage others to get out and do the same. These cars were made to go somewhere, not sit idle. So, let's go somewhere!! I'm ready.





extra DETAILS



By Jason Bogart

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

It is important to keep the internal part of your engine clean as it is to keep the outside of the vehicle clean. Oil is the life blood of our engine. Oil allows internal engine parts to move against each other, metal on metal without wear or damage. Dirt particles can build up in the oil and the filter is there to collect as much as possible for a period of time. If it is allowed to go on for too long the filter will become clogged and no longer able to filter the oil. As oil becomes dirtier and dirtier it will thicken and become abrasive causing abnormal engine wear and damage. Metal parts wearing against each other without proper lubrication will get so hot they will actually weld themselves together and seize the engine.



Some of you may take your vehicle to a repair facility or a dealer to have your oil changed. Others, like me, may get satisfaction from doing the oil change yourself. Depending on Mercedes Benz recommendations for your model, you may want to follow that service schedule or you may want to adjust that schedule if you travel in a more rural or dusty area. I change my oil every 5,000 miles. I like to use synthetic oil. It is able to withstand higher temperatures and it will not break down like conventional oil. Synthetics can last as much as three times longer than conventional oil. I use synthetic oil in all of my vehicles and I have noticed quieter engine performance.



Of course synthetic is not cheap at a cost of approximately \$25.00 for a five quart bottle and with our Mercedes Benz vehicles requiring almost 8 quarts, it can be costly. With the extended mileage you gain out of an oil change with synthetic, it outweighs the expense. I think that it is protecting our investment. So in a small way changing your oil is one more thing you can do to keep your wonderfully engineered Mercedes Benz clean and in peak performance. It doesn't hurt to polish the star when you close the hood either.

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THREE RIVERS SECTION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS — 2014

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.

July 12: Three Rivers Festival Parade, A favorite event returns for another year. Shine up your baby and bring it downtown to show off to all the admiring crowds. Meet at Liberty Diner, 2929 Goshen Rd, at 8:00am. We will be leaving exactly at 8, so don't be late. We'll be tailgating in the parking lot while we wait for the parade to begin, so bring a dish to share. \$10/car

July 26-27: Concours d'Elegance at St. Johns, See your flyer for details or contact Julie Bruggner at juleslb@msn.com

August 9: A Summer Place, Take a 90-minute drive with us to step back in time. \$15 cost includes cheeseburger, fries, soda, banana split, movie, and tour of the town. Time and meeting place to be determined.

August 30: ACD Festival, It's our day at the Auction Park. Join us for special parking at the event, free admission to the auction, and lunch with the club. \$10/person Details to follow.

September 20: Nappanee Apple Festival, Details to follow

December 12: Christmas Party, Our annual Christmas Party will be at Autumn Ridge Country Club this year. Don your holiday finery and join us for a festive celebration. Details to follow.

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.

*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 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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