



# The Three Rivers Road Report

March, 2014

Volume 2; Issue 3

## New Winery & New Members



Fourteen members joined in the fun at Two EE's Winery on Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Less than a year old, the winery is fresh and modern looking and the staff was helpful and knowledgeable. After the free tasting in the tasting room, we adjourned to a private area set up for us to enjoy our chosen wines and a selection of appetizers prepared by club member Julie Bruggner.



**Welcome to new members Darrell and Marilyn Post!**  
(above)

Ralph & Maxi Merkel enjoy their samples of delicious wines.



Julie Bruggner, Janice Derek, and Lisa Long (left to right) set up the appetizers to go with the wines.



Top left: Lisa and Ken Long pose in front of the barrels of wine.



Top right: Jason and Amy Bogart



Left: Ron and Mary Jane Hite



Above: Suzanne Noblett, Janice Derek, Maxi Merkel and Julie Bruggner



Left: the tasting room at Two EE's

Below: on the way to the winery



Left: Bob and Janice Derek, surrounded by wine



Above: The group enjoys the wine, the food and each other's company





# Who's Who in the Club

## Why German? Why Mercedes?

By Suzanne Noblett



How did it start?

How did my love for cars? Or my love for Mercedes start?

It started when I was about five when my Dad took me to my first car show. I don't remember what kind, foreign or domestic—the important thing was it was time my Dad and I spent together!

You see, we are shaped by our experiences and the people in our lives. And that's me.

My Dad and I had three favorite things we liked to do and they've continued to be a big part in my life to this day. We loved to play golf. I was fortunate to have the skills and with hard work, I was able to pay my way to college by earning a golf scholarship. After college I took it to the next level and played professionally on several tours. Today, I'm able to do what I love every day and that's coach people helping them play their best and reach their ultimate potential in this great game, golf. I wouldn't trade 'my office' for anything!

My Dad and I also loved to go to dog shows. So whenever there was one in my hometown of Evansville, Indiana we would go to the national guard armory and see all the breeds. Big, small—it didn't matter! Once, we were able to go behind the scenes with one of Dad's friends who was a breeder/handler, what an impression that made!

We also loved cars! We would go to weekend shows both inside and outside. Inside shows were usually held at Washington Square Mall in Evansville—which at the time it was built was the second largest shopping mall in the state—second to Fort Wayne's Glenbrook. Every make foreign and domestic, and vans painted with wizards and dragons, those were the during the 70s. Funny cars and classics too! I've always been drawn to the classics.

My Dad always had a special love for German cars. Now, you can see where this is going. The first car I remember was a 1960 Volvo, not German, but still very well made. My parents had it for almost 12 years—we would still see it from time to time driving around Evansville even as late as the middle 1980s. Then, it was nothing but German, except for two cars we didn't talk about much, a Peugeot 505 diesel and a Toyota Camry—enough said. Dad had three BMW 2002's, each time he'd buy one, someone else would fall in love with the car and he'd sell it and buy another—he had two whites and a red. A fond memory I have is Dad driving them not with his hands, but with his knees—a little scary, but fun when you're 7 years old! Following the 2002's was a 1977 BMW, frost metallic green, 530i. That was a really fun one too—I still remember the orange glow of the dash instrument panels. There was a Volkswagen beetle in there also, originally



purchased for my Mom, but she didn't want to learn how to drive a stick so it was gone after about a year. Dad had the 530i for about six years and then downsized a little and went to the BMW 320i, this would have been early on in the 320i's introduction, we didn't have it very long either, too small after going from the 4-door 530i.

Dad replaced it with a 1982 Mercedes-Benz 300sd turbo diesel. I absolutely loved this car! It was a pale yellow with chocolate running trim and chocolate leather interior. This car commanded a presence! I still remember him driving me to school and pulling in front to let me out, and it was like everything stopped, time stopped and everyone was noticing the car. That's what I love about the 1980s and prior model Mercedes, they're so distinctive and they weren't like anything else on the road, then or now. They had character. If you know me, you know I don't like to be like everyone else, I don't like to dress like other people and I don't want what I drive looking like every other car on the road either. Some people may view the 1980s differently than I do, but I remember them with great fondness, I could go on, but lets just say I miss the 80s.

Dad owned another 300sd, a gun metal gray one, but it wasn't the same as the yellow.

Car enthusiasts have long known the reputation of German engineered vehicles. Whether you are a Volkswagen, BMW, Opel, Audi, or a Mercedes fan, you can't go wrong. During the time of massive recalls, I think since I've been a fan of German cars, I can only remember one recall in 40 years!

That says something about the craftsmanship of these automobiles, not to mention the fact they are safe. I would want to be the one in a Mercedes if I were in an accident, not the one on the receiving end. How many times have we heard of those who were the lucky ones and were able to walk away?

Dad's last Mercedes was the only one he named. His name was Augie. He is a pale yellow 1977 240d. The last few years of my Dad's life I took care of him and Augie. Having two cars already at the time, the 1982 380 SEC coupe my Dad picked out for me on the lot at Werner's and the 1983 300TD turbo diesel station wagon I purchased from Werner to act as my work vehicle and 'truck' to haul all my equipment back and forth between the two locations





where I coach; I just didn't have room for Augie, along with the expense it would take to bring him back to the condition he deserved. So, as much as it 'killed' me I sold him. Dad would often ask, "Where's the yellow car? Why can't we drive him?" That made it even more painful. If you are a true car person you'll understand this—we become emotionally attached to them, and each has a story complete with many memories.

It will be two years ago this April my father passed away. A year ago Chunk, my dog, and I were taking a drive in the Panzer wagon, the 300TD on a Sunday. We often take drives on the back roads where you can just putter—it's quiet and a great time to think. While on one of our drives, we're taking a curve, and out of the corner of my eye, I see it! That distinctive pale yellow only found on Mercedes from the 70s-80s. You know I have it bad if I recognize colors! I first see a wagon like mine, yellow. Then, I see a sedan like Dad's, also yellow. Chunk and I decided we would go back after we went to the antique shop we were planning to visit. As we drove up to the little house on the dead end street with the two Mercedes I got out of the car and slowly walked towards the sedan, and began to look for the 'Augie signs'. One a funky aftermarket antenna—it's got it. Two, the bumper had two marks on it from where someone had guards originally—check. Three, gaudy speakers in the back window, I tried in vain to get Dad to change those, definitely aftermarket—it had em'! Chunk and I found Augie!

The next evening, Lee, one of Werner's seasoned mechanics who worked on Augie, and I went on a mission to rescue my Dad's car. I didn't care how much it would cost, all I knew was he wasn't going to sit outside under pine trees and abandoned. I was able to buy him back at a very fair price and after Werner and Lee were able to fix what the 'wanna be' German mechanic, last owner had done, he is now being resurrected at Werner's by Roger his body shop specialist. I know people think I'm nuts for doing this, but as I tell everyone who asks, 'it's like having a little piece of my Dad with me'.

And I know my Dad would have loved it that Augie was rescued and is being returned to his former glory.

*Note from the editor: We didn't have any pictures of Augie for this article. However, when he's ready, we'll be sure to include some in a future newsletter.*



## New Feature

Starting with this issue, we are going to try *another* new feature in the newsletter. Look for Jason Bogart's "Extra DETAILS" article every month as a great resource for information for parts and/or service for your car. See page 6 for the first in this series.



# extra DETAILS



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

With the high prices of “Everything” we could all use a break. This section is a resource center for detailing ideas, used part dealers, discount parts and possibly hard to find parts for our older Benz. If you have anything, websites or phone numbers that you find helpful and would like to contribute please E-mail the information to Julie Bruggner @ [juleslb@msn.com](mailto:juleslb@msn.com) we would be happy to add your useful information.

## SERVICE / PARTS

**MERCEDES BENZ OF FORT WAYNE 7227 West Jefferson Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46804 PH: 260-432-7200**

Kurt, Jason & John in Service // Mike or Scott in Parts Dept

**WERNER'S GARAGE, INC. 7804 Fritz Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46818-9306 PH: 260-489-9306**

**PROGRAMA 3303 N. Dixie Highway, Boca Raton, FL 33431 PH: 1-866-531-8665**

They sell remanufactured electronic parts that may no longer be available. [www.programainc.com](http://www.programainc.com)

**ALPINE AUTO SOUND 140 Hirschfield Place, New Milford, NJ 07646 Jimmy Chen PH 201-312-2317**

Mercedes-Benz sound system specialists [alpineautosound@yahoo.com](mailto:alpineautosound@yahoo.com) Repaired my radio in our ML and works great and saved a lot of money.

**Nationwide Auto Recycling, Inc. 1410 Lunenburg Rd, Lancaster, MA 01523 PH: 1-866-534-0477 EXT 309 SCOTT**

Used parts in some cases work just as good if they are new and save a lot from the cost of new. This place seems to have a lot of Mercedes. [www.buynationwide.com](http://www.buynationwide.com)

**BRICK YARD IMPORTED CAR PARTS 550 South Main Street, Brooklyn, IN 46111 PH 317-831-2627**

They specialize in all foreign cars and have lots of Mercedes parts for newer vehicles

## DETAIL

It feels like winter is never going to end. This winter has been extremely hard on our cars. I try to go through the manual wash and spray off what I can, rinse out wheel wells and blast between trim and parts where salt and grime can get caught.



I also like to clean up the inside. The leather in your car may not look too dirty but it can hold dirt. I love the leather conditioner by Turtle Wax (see photo, it's in a bright green bottle) and a soft scrub brush. Lightly mist the leather and work the conditioner around with the brush. Then use a soft dry cloth and wipe the dirty excess away. It conditions and protects but it is not “greasy” and leaves an awesome leather smell. You can get it at Wal-mart or other retailers. (*Armor All* is fine for tires and on the *outside*.)

## THREE RIVERS SECTION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS — 2014

**March 1: South Side Soda Shop,** Join us for a drive to Goshen, IN to go to dinner at an old-fashioned soda shop. Meet in the parking lot of the Meijer on Lima Rd. at 3:00pm

**March 16: Dinner,** Flannigan's (6525 Covington Rd.) will have some great St. Patrick's Day Specials for us to enjoy. Join us at 6:00 pm. for a fun evening.

**May 15-18: North Carolina trip,** We'll be travelling to NC, to stay at the Lion's Gate Inn, a beautiful Bed & Breakfast owned by gracious hosts Bill & Louise Howard, former local club members. A separate e-mail will be sent with more information.

**June 8: EuroFest,** Our European Car Show will be held at IPFW (2101 E Coliseum Blvd).

**July 5: Autocross,** A driving event not to be missed. This will also take place at IPFW.

**July 12: Three Rivers Festival Parade,** A favorite event returns for another year.

*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 from the list below.*

*Be sure to check The Star Magazine or [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org) for information on Regional or National Events.*

## THREE RIVERS SECTION

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