

# The Three Rivers Road Report

September, 2015

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## Lunch at the Lunchbox



Seventeen members, including new member Russell Bell (pictured right), showed up for lunch on Saturday, August 15 at the Lunchbox Cafe. It was a nice day to get out for a leisurely lunch of delicious soups, salads or sandwiches, including Russell's and Jack's (see picture next page) humongous tenderloins. Clearly everyone enjoyed the food, company and the conversation, as they lingered well into the afternoon. Not to mention the pie!







## **BREAKING NEWS: A Shining Star for the City of Mishawaka.**

*Article by Jason Bogart  
Photos by Mary Chapa*



Tuesday August 11, 2015 marked a celebration of the Star we all love. Mishawaka, Indiana based AM General Commercial Assembly plant rolled the first of many Mercedes Benz R-Classes off the assembly line. The production of the R-Class is in full swing.

AM General, known for the Hummer H1 military vehicle (Humvee) will now manufacture the German based Mercedes Benz R-Class at the Mishawaka facility. In 1992 AM General began selling a Civilian version of the Humvee and in 1998 General Motors purchased the brand name and marketed three vehicle choices. The H1 based off the military Humvee the H2 & H3 a smaller GM version. In February of 2010 GM had a failed sale of the brand and announced that the Hummer brand would soon shut down. April of 2010 GM officially shut the Hummer SUV brand down.

In January 2015 AM General announced that Mercedes Benz would be moving the production of the R-Class to the Mishawaka, Indiana facility beginning in the late summer of 2015. The R-Class was produced by Mercedes Benz from model year 2006 to model year 2012 and officially canceled from the 2013 US model year line up. The R-Class was produced in Tuscaloosa, Alabama where other SUV's were manufactured. Mercedes Benz R-Class was going to continue in the China market and the Tuscaloosa facility was not able to handle the increased demand because they were at capacity. Mercedes Benz contacted AM General about the future production of the R-Class. AM General and Mercedes Benz partnership required AM General to hire additional workforce, make upgrades and install new equipment.

All of the R-Classes that are manufactured at the Mishawaka facility will be sold exclusively in China. The demand for luxury SUV's there has increased dramatically. This partnership between the two companies have created more jobs for Hoosiers in Northern Indiana. The Mishawaka production facility is the only full start to finish assembly plant in the US.

There was celebration launch today at the Mishawaka facility to commemorate the first R-Class to roll off the assembly line. In attendance were Executives, Media, employees, and Elected Officials including Gov. Mike Pence, U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly and U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski.

I would like to give special thanks to my friend Mary Chapa (in photo at left) for providing these photos from the celebration. Mary is a paint shop associate for AM General, she inspects the vehicles after they have been primed for any defects and corrects them before the vehicles are painted.



Mercedes-Benz  
Club of America  
Three Rivers Section  
A Day At Auburn



September 5, 2015

# Diesel Fitter

by Gene Long

I struggled with the title for this article. Diesel Engine Evolution? Diesels and Computers? Not Your Father's Diesel? What's So Great About Diesels? Dispelling Diesel Myths? So I gave up and settled on the title above, taken from an old joke I tell sometimes... you know the one.

Much has been written about this subject, and it has been discussed so many times that the details are well known. I myself have explained the new diesel technology to anyone who will listen since I attended StarTech in 2002 and heard a speaker from Mercedes-Benz German headquarters describe how MB has brought technology to bear and products to the marketplace.

So rather than review the tech stuff, I decided to highlight the benefits and debunk the old myths about diesel engines.

<u>OLD MYTH</u>	<u>REALITY</u>
Diesels "Smell Like a Bus"	Mercedes-Benz Bluetec engines have exceeded emissions standards for all 50 states since 2007. If you stand behind a MB you can breathe deeply and not know it's even running! The latest Ultra Low Sulfur diesel fuel, which is now required for use in cars, assists greatly in meeting the Federal standards. By the way, busses don't smell that way anymore either.
Diesels "Sound like a drum full of ball bearings"	Yes, during hard acceleration you can hear a purring sound. (Purring is good.) While idling or cruising, it's so quiet and sedate you probably wouldn't even know it's a diesel.
Diesels are Slow	In reality, what makes a car accelerate is not horsepower but Torque. Diesels have an abundance of torque over a wide range of RPMs. Consequently, a diesel will outrun the gasoline version with the same size engine. And when increasing speed on the highway, the diesel tends to accelerate smoothly without downshifting.
Diesel Fuel is Hard to Find	Lately, most gas stations have at least one diesel pump. Furthermore, the range (distance you can go before running out) is much greater so the need to find a pump is not as urgent.
Diesel fuel is so expensive, compared to gas	A little more expensive, yes. I like to think of it this way... I pay 5% to 10% more for the fuel, but I get 50% more miles! That's a win!
Maintenance is more expensive	Not really. Newer Mercedes (since about 1995) have electronics built in to monitor the service intervals. Today's diesels are no exception. A Bluetec requires a refill of its Adblue tank at each oil change and may need extra filter replacements occasionally to keep lots of fresh air going into the engine. Not a big problem, and well worth it in the long run.
They cost more	Only a little more, in most cases. Well worth it though.

I hope that this information will open your mind a bit to the advantages of the new Bluetec generation of engines. MB is offering Bluetec power in GL, ML, GLK, E, S Class vehicles in the US, and a lot more in Europe. It has been said that 75% of the new cars sold in Europe run on diesel fuel, and for good reasons. Hopefully the US will catch on, leave the old myths behind and enjoy the benefits.

Maybe a Diesel will "Fit You" too!

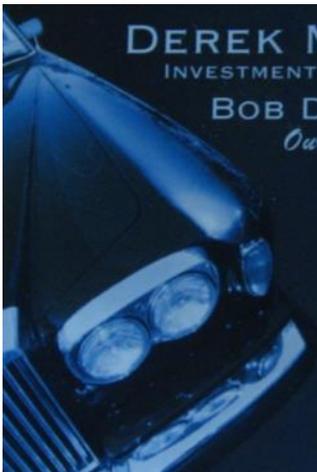
Note: I met Gene in Pittsburgh at Gemutlikeit and he kindly offered to share this article.



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## THREE RIVERS SECTION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS — 2015

**September 5:** The annual Club day at the ACD Festival. The flyer for your windshield is on page 4 of this newsletter. **Be there no later than 10:00**, or you won't be able to get in the gate. **NO exceptions!** Bring your own chairs, drinks and a dish to share. The club will provide pulled pork sandwiches, tableware and water. There will be 2 golf carts to share as well.

**September 19:** Nappanee Apple Festival. A repeat of last years lovely drive to a fun street fair. Details will be coming soon, so watch your e-mail.

**December 12:** Our Annual Holiday Party will be at Autumn Ridge again this year. Details to follow.

*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](http://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.*

MERCEDES BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA ~ THREE RIVERS SECTION IS NOW ON FACEBOOK. "LIKE" US AND GET UPDATES ON UPCOMING EVENTS, POST PHOTOS AND GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER.....

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