



The Three Rivers Road Report

March, 2015

Volume 3; Issue 3

No Green Beer, but Great Food



On March 7th, twenty-one members met at JK O'Donnell's for an (early) St. Patrick's Day celebration. Some wore assorted shades of green, some didn't. But everyone had some version of the delicious Irish cuisine served up at the downtown restaurant. Bangers and Mash, Corned Beef and Irish Stew were some of the popular choices. The food was great, but the lively conversation is what kept us sitting around the tables long after the plates were empty.



Who's Who in the Club

Jim Eaton

Jim recently transferred from the Gateway Section in Missouri and contacted me about joining us for our events. I'm afraid I blindsided him at our first meeting and asked him to be the next feature for this article. He kindly provided photos and shared his reason for relocating and joining our section.



The Gateway section met in Columbia, with others from Missouri, for brunch on the dinner train. Mine is the second car, nestled in with some other beauties. The caravan from St. Louis to Columbia is a trip I've done many times, but never quite that fast.





Sofia Violins

My career has taken me around the world, seeking the best violin makers in Europe and Asia. This past December, after having retired, I purchased Consort International, an Indianapolis company which makes fine violins right in Indianapolis, and moved back to our home in Elkhart. Some of these photos show, in addition to our workshop, several views of the Stutz Building in which it is located. It is the building in which the Stutz vehicles were made and has numerous historic vehicles sprinkled about, including a Stutz fire engine.

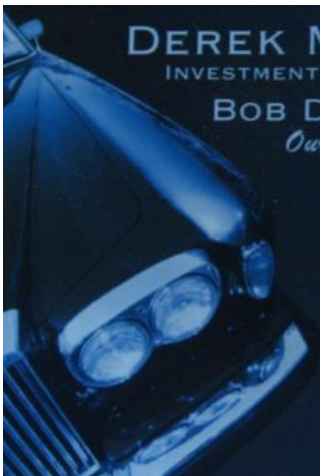




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Advertising

We have reinstated advertising in our newsletter. Newsletters go to all current members, so if you want to promote your business or maybe sell your Mercedes, this is the place to advertise. We'll keep it to the calendar year, so rates will be adjusted for the remaining months.

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THREE RIVERS SECTION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS — 2015

April 11: Gangster Grill: Our next Breakfast & Benz will be at the Gangster Grill in Hudson, Indiana. We'll leave at 9:00am from the parking lot of the Carmike Theater on Dupont Rd.

April 18: ACD Museum: We'll be host to the Cincinnati Section and the Indy 500 Section when they come to visit the museum. Meet at the museum, 1600 Wayne St, Auburn, IN, any time between 2:00-2:30. Or come earlier if you want. Guided tours will start at 3:00. Discounted price is \$10.50.

April 25: Gilmore Museum: 9:30-2:00. An invitation has been issued by the Western Michigan section to join them at this event. See insert in newsletter for more information. (next page)

June 7: 5th Annual EuroFest, 10:00am-4:00pm at IPFW Check your e-mail for the flyer, or contact Jason.

July 11: Three Rivers Festival Parade Details to follow.

July 31-August 2: Fun in the Fort, Great Lakes Regional Event, Social events and driving events will fill this exciting weekend

National Events Coming to This Area!

June 12-14, StarTech will be taking place in Cincinnati, Ohio. 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. This year there won't be any driving events, but there will be lots of 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. <http://www.mbca.org/event-notice/2015-06-12/startech-2015>

On **August 20-22,** another National Event will be in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Gemutlichkeit will include 3 days full of defensive driving, autocross, a driving experience on Pittsburgh International Raceway, Concours d' Elegance, rally, banquets and tours of the Pittsburgh area.

*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://www.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.

-- UPCOMING SPRING EVENT --

Gilmore Car Museum Tour and Program
Saturday, April 25, 2015
9:30am - 2:00pm
6865 Hickory Road, Hickory Corners, MI 49060

The Western Michigan Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America is excited to announce the 2015 season opening event. We have partnered with the Gilmore Car Museum (GCM), to offer all automotive enthusiasts an exceptional activity.

The GCM began in 1963, founded by Donald Gilmore. The museum opened to the public for the first time on Sunday, July 31, 1966. Today, the GCM campus includes many historic structures, and automobiles, including vintage dealerships, and a recreated 1930s Shell gas station. Over 300 vehicles are displayed from several museum collections, ranging from The Model A, to Pierce-Arrows and Duesenbergs. For more information about the Gilmore, go to their website at www.gilmorecarmuseum.org.

For our event, the museum staff is preparing a special day. It will be open not only to MBCA members, but all automotive enthusiasts. The powerpoint program presentation is, indeed, specific to Mercedes-Benz, but the balance of the day is enjoying the Gilmore collection and grounds.

The Gilmore team will provide **a guided tour** of certain collections in the morning. After lunch, **the Gilmore Education Staff will present a program on Mercedes-Benz, "History of the Marque"**. The day has been specially planned for our Club.

All MBCA members are invited. Also invited are any other automotive enthusiasts that would like to pre-register.

The day's agenda follows:

9:30am - 10:00am - Registration
10:00 - 12:00pm - Escorted Tour
12:00pm - 1:00pm - Lunch
1:00pm - 2:00pm - Program presentation on Mercedes-Benz
2:00pm - 6:00pm Open, to enjoy museum grounds

Cost for the day includes museum admission and lunch. Upon conclusion of the organized program, at 2:00 pm, all visitors are welcome to tour the grounds and collections, until the museum closes at 6:00 pm.

Event cost is:

Mercedes-Benz Club of America members - \$20
All other visitors - \$25
Visitors under 18 yrs. - \$16

Lunch will be provided by the Gilmore Food Service staff, and is included in the event price.

Our menu choices come with chips, cookie, and choice of drink. **We must choose, in advance**, from the following menu:

Regular Hot Dog
Chicago Style Hot Dog (onion, relish, pickle, celery salt, tomato, and hot peppers)
BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwich
Egg Salad Sandwich
Chicken Cold Plate Salad

Providing the Gilmore Staff an advanced attendance count is necessary to assure a smooth day for tour, presentation, and lunch. **Event attendees must PRE-REGISTER, including their specific lunch choice, BY FRIDAY, APRIL 10. No prepayment is necessary.**

To pre-register, with lunch choice, or with any additional questions, contact Larry Alexander at lalexander@winntel.net, or at 989-463-1274.

You may also contact Paul Swope at diana3001@charter.net.

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.....

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.



ANNOUNCEMENT OF INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP DUES

It has been a busy year at Mercedes-Benz Club of America (MBCA). We have been working hard to enhance your membership experience and are committed to making your membership a valuable and memorable experience.

To properly serve our members, the Board of Directors has approved \$6 increase in annual membership dues, effective July 1, 2015. This increase reflects rising costs and expansion of member services, particularly event support. Multi-year membership discounts will continue to be offered. We encourage all existing members to lock in the current rate by renewing for one, two or three years prior to July 1, 2015. Currently, the cost for 1 year is \$49. If you renew for 2 years, it's \$95 and you get 2 extra months free. If you sign up for 3 more years it's \$139 and you get 3 extra months free. If you're not sure when your membership expires, you can check online, or e-mail Julie at juleslb@msn.com and she'll look it up for you.

If you have any question specific to the membership dues increase please contact your Regional Director, John Briggs at johnrb@comcast.net.



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