



The Three Rivers Road Report

January, 2015

Volume 3; Issue 1

A Very Merry Christmas Party



It was a great way to end up a great year. Twenty-four members gathered at Autumn Ridge Golf Club to celebrate in their holiday finery on December 12th. We started with cocktails and appetizers at 6:30 and then had a wonderful dinner. Afterwards, we held our elections for officers for 2015. Julie Bruggner remains President and Newsletter Editor. Jason Bogart stays on as Vice-President, Social Media Director and picks up the position as Webmaster. Janice Derek is still Secretary and Suzanne Noblett is still Event Coordinator. Amy Bogart is now our new Treasurer, and look for periodic reports from her in the newsletter. Once that business was out of the way, Julie happily presented Jason with the Member of the Year Award for the Three Rivers Section. Jason has done a lot this year to promote the club and it's activities, including starting

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Above Left to Right:

Jack & Jaquie Dever, Ken & Lisa Long, and Regional Director John Briggs & his wife, Trish

Center: Marilyn & Darrell Post with Mary Alice & Frank Cozza and Ken Long, John & Debbie Groulik



Lower Left to Right:

Frank & Mary Alice Cozza

Maria & Dave Shouweiler

Suzanne Noblett with her door prize



our Facebook page and keeping it updated with all of our events and pictures. Check it out at www.facebook.com/MBCATR. Giving Jason that award made a nice segue for former Regional Director Frank Cozza, new Regional Director John Briggs, and National President Terry Kiwala as they surprised Section President Julie Bruggner with the Regional Officer of the Year Award for the Great Lakes Region. After Mary Alice Cozza talked briefly about **Gemutlichkeit**, a National Event taking place in Pittsburgh in August (see the schedule page for more details), Jason led the group in a rousing game of Musical Chairs/Scavenger Hunt, which provided a lot of laughs to end the evening. Jaquie Dever proved to be the quickest at finding the items she needed to win the grand prize. Throughout the evening Santa Jason gave away some gifts, for the naughty and the nice, and Julie called out numbers for various door prizes. In all, it was a fun evening and everyone had a great time.

President's Message

Terry Kiwala brought it up at our Christmas Party after I received my award and he's using it in *his* President's message in this next issue of the Star, but I said it to him when I was driving around the track at Heimatfest in October. "THIS IS SO MUCH FUN!" I thoroughly enjoyed serving as President of the section this past year and I'm pleased that you all thought I did a good enough job to retain me in that position for another year. Even if I hadn't been reelected, I would still be having a great time. For me, the club is the people. Yes, we all have Mercedes, and that's what brought us all together. I've traveled to quite a few regional and national events since I joined 6 years ago and what I really enjoy about them is meeting all the great people. One member from another section once said to me that for years she never went to events with her husband because she thought it was a bunch of old men sitting around talking about their cars. That couldn't be further from the truth. It's people from all walks of life, some who have always had great cars (and the money to buy a lot of them) to those who have had to scrape up enough to get one because they appreciate the value of them. It's people who love to show their cars, and look at others'. It's people who love the thrill of the driving events. (I'm one of them now!) And it's people who just love getting together with friends doing a variety of events. So, we've tried this year to come up with events that appeal to everyone at one time or another. We're going to continue to do that. The bottom line is that it's about the people. That's YOU! The people in this club are the *reason* for the club. Honestly, the cars won't care if we get together or not. It's pretty cool to see them all gathered together as we meet to have some fun though. So, let's keep having fun.



Above left: Julie Bruggner accepts her award from Frank Cozza as John Briggs and Terry Kiwala look on.
 Above right: Jaquie Dever reacts to her prize from winning the scavenger hunt game
 Left: Julie Bruggner and Jason Bogart display their awards with Terry Kiwala



Left: Marilyn & Darrell Post
 Center: Jason & Amy Bogart
 Bottom Left: The dessert table
 Bottom: Trish Briggs makes Terry Kiwala laugh as they get their picture taken with Janice Derek



Who's Who in the Club

by Jack Dever



A client of ours was driving a 1983 300D and was downsizing their garage. The car was low mileage, in mint condition, and was priced right. Reggie knew the car and recommended the purchase. One of Jaquie's daughters was off to college and needed wheels so the Buick was delegated to the kid and we bought the diesel. The car was a tank and gave us good service for many years. This was the first M/B among many American cars of various makes and models. The car had about 150k miles and needed a

paint job. One of our clients was a transporter of medical supplies and needed a fast, inexpensive to operate, and reliable car. He was transporting transplantable organs from hospital to hospital. A trip from Louisville to Chicago was the usual route right up I 65. The car was perfect for such duty...The last time I saw the car it had recorded almost 500k and still needed a paint job. The only major repairs was the A/C and radiator. We were hooked on M/B.

Not too long after selling the 83, on a trip to the airport, we saw an SL on a used car lot. We decided that if the car was there when returning, we would take a look. Sure enough, it was still there and the salesman had no idea what he had or what it was. A quick chat with Reggie and he knew the car and gave it a blessing. It was a "Gray" car....and came with baggage. The car was another tank but was rather a rare car. Apparently that 1983 500SL was a short production run. The big engine made it a rarity as most SL's were 380's. The insurance carrier went crazy trying to get it covered as it really didn't exist. Repairs too were a problem, but between Reggie and Werner, they figured out what part worked. The car is still the summer convertible.

With the good experiences of the 83 300D and the 82 500SL, we purchased an 87 S300. This car was a real good reliable ride and made many trips back and forth to St. Joe, Michigan, where we lived on a 40' boat.

At a little less than 200K, we upgraded to a 94 320S. M/B must have made lots of changes in models as this car was no comparison to the 87 model. We finally got tired of replacing sensors and many other parts. We traded for a new 03 E320. This car was everything M/B advertised and then some. When the 4 year lease ran out, we just owned the 82 500SL. We tried a Rolls and an AMG, both disasters. We reluctantly went back to Caddy's, where parts are available at a grocery store. Have you ever tried to find a M/B part in the middle of South Dakota? The 500SL is driven about 2000 miles a year and is in it's original condition. It has 136k miles and is still going strong. Even though it has a "Historical" license plate, it still a classic, rare, and enjoyable ride. We don't want to be buried in it and just hope the grandkids and great-grandkids will appreciate it's legacy.





Treasurers Report

By Amy Bogart

Throughout the year we have some events that we intend to generate revenue for the club. We try and make some of that revenue available to absorb a portion of the cost of club events for members, charitable contributions, and things we may want to purchase for the club.

EUROFEST is a big event for us. In 2014 we made some changes and we had some challenges. The weather was damaging to the event. The rain may or may not have dampened our earnings but not spirits. Three Rivers Section will move forward in 2015 and we will make this year's EUROFEST even better. Lessons learned carry over from year to year and there's always room for improvement. 2014 marked the first year we formed a small committee to help create the event. We are looking for members to get involved in this year's 2015 5th Annual EUROFEST. We are asking for you, the members, to get involved. Please sign up at the January 25th club meeting or e-mail Julie by that date to be on the committee. We really need volunteers, we can't do it alone!

The Toys for Tots drive was also a first in 2014 and was successful. No, we didn't stuff a truck but we made a contribution and a difference in some children's lives. Our goal in 2015 is to double or triple the participation. We are also looking to do some type of animal/pet fundraiser. If you have ideas or suggestions please get with Suzanne. If members have ideas on raising money for the club, ideas are ALWAYS welcome!

Of course we would love to have the club that pays for everything, but we can't expect rewards without some hard work. If the events are viewed as too costly then we need to do something to offset those expenses. Clipping coupons, working deals and working on a budget will only get us so far. At some point we need money coming in.





extra DETAILS



By Jason Bogart

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

There are people who drive cars as a mode of transportation! A way to get from point A to point B. What ?? I know right! Then there are some of "us" that see a vehicle as an engineered thing of greatness! Each mechanical part designed to make a perfect fit, each line in the body not only has a purpose but it makes it beautiful. The leather chosen and the wood color to match. From the perfect amount of chrome to add that flash down to the gear ratio of the transmission to put that zip in the pedal.



What happens when you have a little damage to these vehicles we love? Do we have the vehicle taken in for repairs immediately or just continue to drive this defaced machine? After all it's just a car right? It still runs, just drive it! Some people don't share the love or the passion for the vehicle as we do. We watch where we park, we wash our cars all the time and we purchase the best wax to protect our finish.

We, as "car people", don't understand when someone just uses a car to get around. They get some body damage and they continue to drive the vehicle as if nothing happened. It probably hasn't seen a bath except the last time it rained.



It's sad to see this 190E in the bad shape that it is in. This car didn't fail the owner: the owner failed the 190E. The body isn't rusting away. The body is bent, busted and bruised by the owner not taking care of it. They just use it as transportation.



It often makes me wonder when I see a vehicle like this, let alone a Mercedes Benz. What went wrong? When did they stop caring? Did they ever care? Is that pine cone scented air freshener covering up more than just the smell of those nasty carpets? I think we, as Mercedes Benz owners, take above average care of our

cars and we respect the three pointed star on our hood. We care about what we drive. A lot went into building this machine and it will take a lot to keep it that way for years to come.



The moral of the story is respect the star, enjoy the drive!

THREE RIVERS SECTION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS — 2015

January 10: Breakfast & Benz, Detailing Clinic, Breakfast at the Sunrise Café, 10230 Coldwater Road (in the Pine Valley Shopping Center) at 8:30 followed by a Car Detailing Clinic at 10:30 at Praxis Detailing, 1629 S. Wayne St, Auburn, IN

January 25: Zianno's, Lunch and Meeting: Our first official meeting of the new year will be at 1:00pm at Zianno's, 702 E. Dupont Rd., Fort Wayne

April 18: ACD Museum: We'll be host to the Cincinnati Section and the Indy 500 Section when they come to visit the museum. Details to follow.

June 6: 5th Annual European Car Show

July 11: Three Rivers Festival Parade

Ideas welcome

National Events Coming to This Area!

Next year, **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 Star**Tech**), 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>

Another National Event, just announced, will be in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on August 20-22. 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 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.....

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.



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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.

Business card ads are \$60/year or \$5/month
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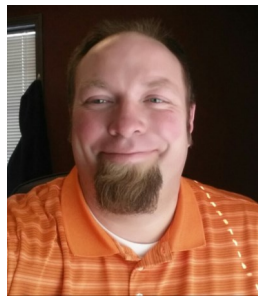
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