

Three Rivers Section / MBCA

# The Three Rivers Road Report

March, 2015

Volume 3; Issue 3



## Everyday Plastic Finds New Life



Eleven members of the Three Rivers Section and one guest, made Saturday, February 7th a day full of fun and camaraderie. Beginning with Breakfast and Benz at Fort Wayne's own Mr. Coney, the group enjoyed everything from fruity blueberry pancakes to hearty omelets. Following breakfast, most of the group drove to the Botanical Gardens located in downtown Fort Wayne, where they viewed the exhibit, Changing Tides, by internationally acclaimed artist, Sayaka Ganz. We were all captivated by the whales, jelly fish, dolphins, coral and plants created from everyday discarded plastic items including forks, bowls, zip ties, and even coat hangers. The tropical room and desert area were a welcome reminder that Spring and warm weather are coming.



Note the toy car body in the middle of this dolphin.







# Who's Who in the Club

## Ron & Mary Jane Hite



Mary Jane and I have been married over 50 years, we have 2 great children and 4 grandsons. I spent 25 years in management with Nabisco and Mary Jane spent 25 plus years in the medical field as an X-ray technician. We both spent the past 20 years working together in our own pizza business, retiring last fall.

I have had 2 main interests most of my life, cars and gardening. These both started out of necessity . Cars go back as far as I can remember, helping my father work on the family car just to keep it running, and this I enjoyed. I also had to help my grandfather and my mother plant and take care of a garden to help out on the grocery bill, but this I hated. I never would have believed these would turn out to be my hobbies. Mary Jane has enjoyed gardening, and most of the time cars, even though she probably would not admit it.

In the early sixties a friend of mine and I raced Corvettes, and through this we met a local road race driver. In the mid sixties he invited us to work on his pit crew at the Road America race. A couple of days before the races started we were in the pits getting the car ready when this auto carrier full of cars pulls in. A crowd immediately gathered around the carrier, we walked over to see what was going on. There was a tall guy walking around shaking hands with everyone. It turns out it was Carroll Shelby with 6 Cobras. We had no clue who Carroll Shelby was or what a Cobra was, but we soon found out as they won everything that weekend.

Over the years we have had many cars; a 33 Buick, 39 Desoto, 39 Ford, 65 Buick Wildcat convertible and many more. Mary Jane has been very tolerant of my hobby, however there have been a few times when she was not happy. If I remember correctly it was when she had to move cars around to get her car out or she could not park in the garage because of a project car. A number of years ago we decided to get out of cars and just focus on gardening.

For many years we just focused on gardening and landscape and in that time frame I completed the Master Gardener program at Purdue. We built a Koi pond with a large waterfall containing Koi and many varieties of water plants. It seemed like something was missing so we decided it would be neat to have a train running around the pond. What started out as a simple thing turned into a rather large 1:24 scale garden railroad layout. In the past few years they have both become more than we wanted to take care of so, sadly, we have eliminated both.



Guess what, we are back into cars and still doing some gardening. I have always liked the body style of the of the 1986-1989 560SL. We were lucky to find a low mileage all original 1988 560SL which we purchased and are enjoying very much. I like everything about the 560 but there was just something missing. It just did not make enough noise, accelerate fast enough and you could not burn rubber with it so we bought a 1946 Ford street rod. I now have a place to hang my 52 year old fuzzy dice. Mary Jane says the Ford is "just what every old man needs". She tolerates and rides in the Ford but her first choice to drive and ride in is the 560. I am enjoying the best of both hot rods and luxury.







# extra DETAILS



By Jason Bogart

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



**SNOW, SALT & SAND** the three dreaded “S’s” to harm our cars finish. With the cold and bad road conditions we can’t always wash our vehicles in the winter. I know we like to have clean cars but it isn’t always possible. One alternative is to power wash the sand, salt and snow away. Cars tend to start rusting in the lower front fenders, inside

the wheel wells, behind trim and of course at all body seams. Any little nick, scratch or chip in the paint deep enough to reach the metal is inviting rust. Local drive thru carwashes do a great job making our cars look good but are they really getting all the hidden salt from behind moldings, trim, and wheel wells? Not really! Any self-serve carwash cost about \$1.50 to \$2.50 to start it up and you can add more quarters if you like. Spray the body moldings and watch closely and you will see the dirt and debris that is trapped behind it run out. I think I tend to rinse mine off in the evenings or more than once a day depending on how bad it is. I don’t like my vehicle sitting all evening with all the salt and sand working its evil on the finish. Spray the wheel wells, the inside of the fenders and the



bumpers. Rinse up underneath, around the exhaust, and any other area where two parts come together. Spending a few minutes and a couple bucks every couple of days will help reduce the amount of salt that stays on your vehicle’s finish and reduce the risk of rust. Mercedes Benz builds durable reliable

cars but Indiana winters can sure eat away at anything made of steel. We need to do everything we can to keep our cars looking their best. Stay warm and think Spring!

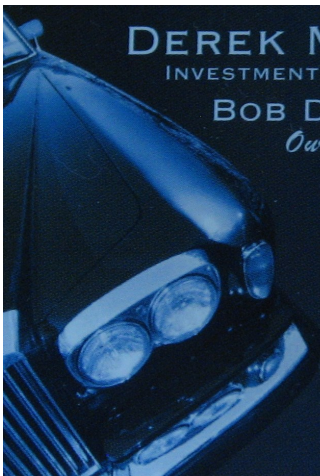




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## Advertising

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

**March 7: JK O'Donnell's**, 121 West Wayne St., Fort Wayne. A little early, but still our St. Patrick's Day outing in an appropriate venue. Meet there at 4:00 pm. Reserved spots for the 1st 20 people only.

**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. 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 Watch your e-mail for the flyer coming soon.

**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>

Another National Event 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](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](http://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](mailto:lalexander@winntel.net), or at 989-463-1274.**

You may also contact Paul Swope at [diana3001@charter.net](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:johnrb@comcast.net).



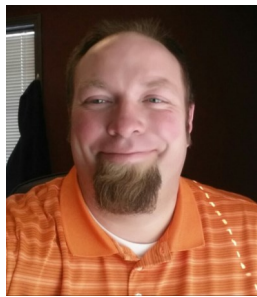
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