



The Three Rivers Road Report

May, 2015

Volume 3; Issue 5

3 Star Event a 5 Star Success



It was a BEAUTIFUL day to take a leisurely drive, as members from the Cincinnati and Indianapolis Sections of the Mercedes Benz Club, met with the Three Rivers Section, at the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum in Auburn, Indiana on Saturday, April 18.

It was a great day, starting with a guided tour in the magnificent art-deco showroom. We walked across the terrazzo floor, lit by art deco chandeliers and sconces which highlight the elegance, beauty, and depth of this impressive space, as it did in 1930. We looked in awe at the classic cars, rich history, technological innovation, luxury, and beauty of the era. We saw Auburns, Cords, and Duesenbergs, along with many other interesting classics: Dillinger's 1933 Essex Terraplane, a Sunbeam Tiger, Postwar Rolls- Royce, 1929 Stern-Knight, a 1961 Dragmaster as well as an unrestored 1957 Mercedes-Benz 300SL Gullwing Coupe!

We then took a scenic drive to Fort Wayne, and had dinner at Ziano's, as we got to know one another - discussing the cars at the museum, and of course, ending with our own Mercedes-Benz, and why we love them so much.





Who's Who in the Club

Robert L. Derek

I worked at *Arthur Murray Dance Studio* for 7 years, Managing several studios. I travelled to studios to teach the teachers new dances.

In 1958 I started in in the car business in Detroit at the *Volume King Shalla Chevrolet*. We sold cars all over the country and were the largest Chevrolet Dealer in the U.S. We delivered 600 to 1200 cars a month. After ten years of managing two Chevrolet, then one Ford dealership, I was given the chance to purchase a *Chevrolet/Cadillac dealership* in Marietta, Ohio. They were selling an average of 25 a month. I had to promise to build a new facility in 3 years. The old one was a carriage repair shop on the start of the Erie Canal - I hired and trained a staff - we took off from there. Twice a year Chevrolet had a contest where they put dealers of like size, 6 or 8 in a group, winner wins a trip. *Derek Chevrolet Cadillac* never lost a contest, which allowed me to travel all over the world.

Then I decided Florida was warmer in the winters, so I bought a *Datsun Dealership* in Ocala, Florida. After 3 months I won a trip to Spain, but after a year and a half, I thought there were too many bugs and it was too hot, so I bought a *Pontiac-Buick-Cadillac-GMC* dealership in Maysville, Kentucky.

After 3 years I found that the Mercedes-Benz dealership was available in Fort Wayne. I always wanted to sell Mercedes, so I sold the Kentucky dealership in 1979 and bought the *Linz Auto Haus* Dealership in Fort Wayne which was the Mercedes-Benz/Volvo/Fiat/Peugeot. Peugeot and Fiat left the US. Mercedes and Volvo would allocate cars to us.

Never having been in the situation where we had only limited number of cars to sell, where supply would not keep up with demand, in 1983 I sold to Bob Jackson Ford in New Haven, and my son and I moved into the old Ehlerding motorcycle building on Estella and 24/30, and started the FIRST premier highline pre-owned center in Fort Wayne. We had Ferraris, Porsches, Roll Royces, Bentleys, Mercedes, Muscle cars and Classics. In 2005 we moved to 1001 N. Coliseum Blvd North in Fort Wayne. In June 2013 my son, Bob Jr. took over. We're still selling cars.

"If it's not nice, it's not at Derek MotorCar."

I joined the Mercedes Benz Club in 1979, and served as President two different times.

That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

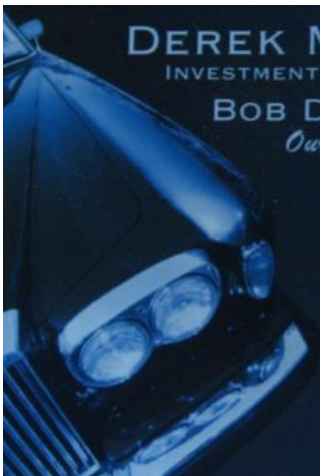




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Advertising

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.

J Lee Dever Accountancy Corporation

JACK L. DEVER, PA

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Business card ads are \$60/year or \$5/month
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THREE RIVERS SECTION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS — 2015

May 17: Ziano's, meeting, 4:00pm. Join us at the Dupont Ziano's for the last full meeting before EuroFest.

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.

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 johnr@comcast.net.



THREE RIVERS SECTION

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