



First Quarter 2018



Indianapolis 500 Section Star



Indianapolis, Indiana

LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR NEXT 2018 EVENTS

As you can see from the picture above, Sara and I are looking forward to our upcoming events in 2018. We are enjoying lunch at the fabulous restaurant at Fair Oaks Farms in Newton County, location of our April 14th event. The food is plentiful and a treat! The tours sound extremely interesting and we hope everyone puts it on their calendars. Our event planner, Dan Blaney says it's a great event to bring your grandchildren to. They will enjoy that, the Nature Conservatory and Dan's personal snow mobile museum. So, please make plans now to attend in April.

Our next event will be our annual Valentine's Day Brunch February 11th at George's Neighborhood Grill. Should be another fun "eating" event and we will again feature our 50-50 Raffle with half going to the lucky ticket holder and the other half to our treasury. You should have already gotten an email blast with an RSVP.

Coming up in March is an event I am really looking forward to. I have been to the museum once before, many years ago, and am anxious to see it again. It is a visit to the Wright Patterson AFB Museum in Dayton, OH. We'll be heading east on I-70 the morning of March 24th from a restaurant on the eastside (TBD). We'll be led by retired USAF Col. Dan Blaney who is now lining up the tour with the museum. Let's keep our fingers crossed for good weather so we can enjoy all the outside displays.

Hot on the heels of our WPAFB Museum tour will be our first tech session in a couple of years. Member Russ Jeffrey and wife Linda will be hosting the event April 7th on their spread at 6851 Dean Road. We'll have interior repair, alloy wheel repair, minor dent repair, full detailing and headlight restoration, all at discounted group prices. We'll be catering in lunch, so it should be a fun and productive day. Watch for full details and sign-up to come.

Following our Tech Session will be our "Newton County Tours" including lunch and tour at Fair Oaks Farms, tour a Nature Conservatory and see a snow mobile museum. Sara and I visited Dan Blaney, our host for this event last week for a taste of the Fair Oaks Restaurant (incredible!) and a preview of his Snow Mobile Museum. I had no idea there was so much to learn about snow mobiles. More details inside!

Inside This Issue

Message from the president	1
MBCA Information	2
Calendar	3
Sara's Notes	6
Ads	5
News	6
Pictures	7

Welcome New Members

Sharon Rich
Stephen Tarr
Bill & Lyndi Walker

Thank You, for Renewing Loyal Members

John Carney
Terry & Rose Fenimore
Robert Freeman
Royce & Jean Gaha
Jorn Kollum
Richard Lindseth
Christian & Cynthia Meyer
Andy Theal
Kevin & Cyndy Williams

NEWSLETTER NOTES

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Questions

Call your Section President Ken Koehler at: (317) 669-2072
Call your Central Regional Director Rick Siefert at: (314) 435-1903
Call the National Business Office at: (800) 637-2360
M-F, 8am - 4:30pm MT

<p>JANUARY 2018</p> <p>Jan 13th Indy 500 Section Board Meeting</p> <p>New Member Breakfast Jan 20th, 2018 10am Original House of Pancakes 1518 W 86th St Indianapolis, IN 46260</p>	<p>FEBRUARY 2018</p> <p>Valentines Day Brunch Feb 11th 1pm George's Neighborhood Grill 6935 Lake Plaza Drive Indianapolis, IN 46220</p>	<p>MARCH 2018</p> <p>Tour March 24th 9am WPAFB Museum Wright-Patterson AFB Dayton, OH</p>
<p>APRIL 2018</p> <p>April 7th Indy 500 Tech Session 6851 Dean Road</p> <p>Newton Co Tours April 14th</p> <p>Fair Oaks Farms Nature Conservatory Snowmobile Museum Morocco, IN</p> <p>April 28th Indy 500 Section Board Meeting Panera Bread 2902 W 86th St</p> <p>4th Saturday 9am-12pm Cars & Coffee Gateway Classic Cars 4400 W 86th St Indianapolis</p>	<p>MAY 2018</p> <p>May 14th—21st MBCA Starfest Birmingham, AL</p> <p>4th Saturday 9am-12pm Cars & Coffee Gateway Classic Cars 4400 W 86th St Indianapolis</p>	<p>JUNE 2018</p> <p>June 10th Cincinnati Section Concours d'Elegance</p> <p>SVGA Jun 7-10th, 2018 Open Wheel World Challenge, Indian- apolis Motor Speedway, IN</p> <p>SVGA Jun 10-17th, 2018 Brickyard Vintage Racing Invitational, Indianapolis Motor Speedway, IN</p> <p>4th Saturday 9am-12pm Cars & Coffee Gateway Classic Cars 4400 W 86th St Indianapolis</p>
<p>JULY 2018</p> <p>July 14th Indy 500 Section Board Meeting</p> <p>July 21st Rush Co Covered Bridges Shelbyville, IN</p> <p>Michigan Concours d'Elegance</p>	<p>AUGUST 2018</p> <p>August 5th, 1–3pm Show n' Shine 11th Anniversary Location TBD</p> <p>Griot's Garage Tour TBA</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER 2018</p> <p>Drive And Dine Story Inn TBA</p>
<p>October 2018</p> <p>October 20th Indy 500 Section Board Meeting</p>	<p>November 2018</p>	<p>December 2018</p> <p>December 2nd Holiday Party TBA</p>

THANKING DONORS TO OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY

I wish to say a special "Thank you" to all the restaurants and members who donated to our Christmas Party Raffle door prizes. With their help we were able to donate over \$270 to United Christmas Fund, a children's charity here in Indianapolis and help replenish funds in our club treasury. Many thanks go out to Eddie Merlot's Restaurant, Sullivan's Steak House and members Dave and Carole Weaver and Romeo and Marie Zamberletti. With the help of these supporters of our club we had a very successful raffle and I believe all members who participated went home with great prizes to benefit both our charity and the Indy 500 Section.

I firmly believe our club is picking up momentum and with all the great events scheduled for 2018, I'm looking forward to a fantastic year. With the help of our newly formed planning committee we've placed something on the schedule that will be fun and interesting for all our members.

I'd also like to say "thank you" to our Vice President, Kevin Williams, who was able to secure the contributions from Eddie Merlot's and Sullivan's. If any of you know of businesses that might be interested in donating door prizes for our future events (or purchasing an ad in our newsletter), it would always be greatly appreciated. And, I will always recognize and thank donors for their support in our upcoming newsletters.

Thanks again and here's looking forward to a great 2018! Ken

2017 CHRISTMAS PARTY PICTURES



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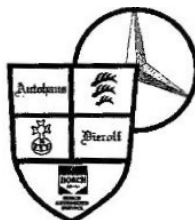
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SARA'S NOTES

Musings on Road Trips and Life by Sara Koehler



You may recall a popular book of the late 90's, *Blue Highways*. It was William Least Heat-Moon's recounting of his travels on the back roads of America. My husband, Ken, and I share William's fascination with exploring parts of our land we've never traveled. I'll be retiring from teaching in a few months, and Ken and I are dreaming of more trips to feed this hunger for the road. Recently I picked up this author's fascinating account of his boat trip from the Atlantic to the Pacific, much of it following the route of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, called *Riverhorse*. Now I am completing another of William's works, *Here, There, and Everywhere*, a compilation of stories from his travels. A few of his quotes remind me of the reason being a member of a car club feeds this need of ours to travel, especially by car, across our land. "We're a mobile nation because of where we are from, where we are, what we are, and what we hope to become. On the very backs of our hands, just under the skin, lie looking ever so much like little road maps, and as we age, those charts grow more pronounced as if to jog a memory of the journey we unceasingly undertake in our decision to continue to live."

"In a secular age, the classic American road trip yet remains a timeless metaphor of passage through life, a chance to move from me to thee and from thee to us and on beyond to all. Going forth can be a form of religion-free prayer, an entreaty for reawakening, reanimating, rekindling, rebalancing, and reharmonizing a pilgrim. In America, our prayer wheels are pneumatic tires with vulcanized, nonskid tires."

I appreciate William's way with words, but as a person of faith, I see God's beauty and diversity around every bend of the blue highways and hope to enjoy my impending retirement with many reawakening journeys.

LONG TIME INDY 500 SECTION MEMBER SUGGESTS SOME GREAT IDEAS!

Last fall Ken got a letter from a long-time member of our Indy 500 section, Dan Blaney, suggesting an idea for an outing for our club. Ken invited Dan to come to our Planning Committee meeting to tell us about his idea. Dan is an attorney in the small northwestern Indiana town of Morocco. A few miles from his home is Fair Oaks Farms. Some of our members have visited there and had great things to say about it, so Ken and I were anxious to check it out for ourselves, since we're always up for a road trip.

In January, the bare, snow-covered fields of Newton County made us city-folk feel like we were in the middle of nowhere, but Fair Oaks Farms is a first-class attraction. In fact, it brings in so many visitors that Marriott is presently building a hotel on site – it's going to look like a big red barn to match the other buildings. If you check out their website, you will see that they offer three "adventures". One features the thousands of cows that are milked every day, one teaches all about pigs, and a new one is about crops grown locally. We thought it might be good to visit one of the animal exhibits before lunch and one after lunch. Ken and I didn't have time to take one of the tours on our trip, but we ate at their amazing Farm House Restaurant. Much of the beef and pork they serve is raised right on the farm. As you can see in the picture of our outing, Ken had a BBQ beef sundae – truly "layers of goodness". I had to bring half of my brisket and bourbon onion sandwich home it was so large. We were also able to go to Dan's law office in a building his grandparents used as a retail store many years ago. When you go through the back door of this building, there is quite a surprise. Dan has been collecting old snowmobiles for many years, and he has an entire Snowmobile Museum in that building. Dan also told us about The Nature Conservatory which has a field of bison for visitors to see and learn more about. The surprises in rural northwestern Indiana just kept coming! Watch for more details on our Fair Oaks Farms outing, scheduled for Saturday, April 14.

NEW MEMBER BREAKFAST A BIG HIT!

On Saturday January 20 a large, fun breakfast was held to welcome new members at The Original Pancake House on 86th Street. Two long tables held 17 members enjoying all kinds of breakfast delicacies. Dave Swenby took pictures as people were beginning to chow down. Larry Laczkowski started talking to a family seated in a booth behind him. We must have sounded like a fun group because they asked Larry for an application to join! We'll see if they do, presumably, they have a Mercedes.

Two new couples were welcomed to the group. Bill and Lindy Walker, who are neighbors of member, Katherine Benedict. Katherine suggested they check out the club, which they did, and ultimately joined. This reminds us all to tell other Mercedes owners about our club. Roy Gaha got Ken interested in the club when he and Ken happened to be pumping gas into their Mercedes's at the Sam's Club gas station one day. It's a good idea to carry applications in your car and Ken tries to bring a stack to each of our events.

Also new to the club are Andrew Urban and his wife Domini Martin-Urban. We "talked cars" for quite a while and then found many other topics of interest. A favorite topic emerged as people began talking about the kinds of dogs they owned and started showing cell phone pics of their pooches to everyone. Katherine Benedict suggested we plan a Mercedes Dog Event – perhaps a picnic to which members could bring their canine family members. Wonder if any other clubs have tried that! Ken says someone else would have to plan that event as we are "dogless"!

2018 NEW MEMBER BREAKFAST PICTURES



HAPPY NEW YEAR, Central Region Section Members !!

It has been enjoyable visiting with many of you this past Fall and into the Holiday Season. Two of my favorite aspects of being your Regional Director is having the opportunity of attending your Section holiday parties and being there for the many awards that you have received, both individual and National Section honors !

In October, I had dinner with the Indianapolis 500 Section board and had the privilege of presenting Section President, Ken Koehler, with the 2017 Member-of-the-Year award. During this same weekend, I joined the Cincinnati Section for a super fun karting event and luncheon in celebration of their being the recipients of the 2016 Section-of-the-Year award !



National Board members gathered together in Kalamazoo, Michigan, for the MBCA National Board meetings in November. What an honor it was to present David & Kimberly Hagood



with the Cincinnati Section's well-deserved 2016 Section-of-the-Year award. And, the "icing on the cake," for the Central Region, was when our Memphis Section received the 2017 National Communication's award.

The first weekend in December, Patti and I enjoyed holiday parties with the Porsche Club on Saturday, where many of our St. Louis Gateway Section members also participated. And on Sunday, the SLGS had a large turnout of members at their holiday dinner. Jennie & Aaron Hible received the 2017 Members-of-the-Year award.



Mike and Anne Marsh graciously hosted the Mississippi Section board at their home for a wonderful dinner during the second weekend in December. The entire Section gathered together for a holiday luncheon at the Jackson Yacht Club. It was here where I was honored to participate in the presentation and award of the Central Region's Officer-of-the-Year, Scott Boone, and Mississippi Section, 2017 Member-of-the-Year, Daniel Hughes.



At the end of December, Patti and I traveled to Knoxville, Tennessee where we joined the Smoky Mountain Section for their holiday party. I also had the opportunity to visit with Karen Cooper, Service Manager for Mercedes-Benz of Knoxville and dealer liaison for the Smoky Mountain Section.



During the second weekend in January, Patti and I visited with the Nashville Section, having dinner with Randy & Brenda Bibb and Ed & Karen Johnson on Friday evening. On Saturday we had a wonderful lunch with the Section, where Naomi Wheatley was presented with the 2017 Member-of-the-Year award.



Randy announced to members that with 2018 being the 40th anniversary of the Nashville Section, their board has agreed to host the 2018 National MBCA Board meetings in November. This will be a GREAT opportunity for members throughout the Central Region to visit the wonderful city of Nashville, Tennessee, while enjoying the camaraderie of our National Board members !

PICTURES FROM 2017





MBCA 500 Section

6168 Ruthven Drive
Noblesville, IN 46062

To the Mercedes-Benz Enthusiast:

NEXT EVENT

Valentine's Day Brunch

Sunday, February 11th

1:00pm

George's Neighborhood Grill

PLEASE RSVP TO KEN!

UPCOMING 2018 EVENTS!

Valentines Day Brunch

February 11th @ 1pm

This year we will meet again at George's Neighborhood Grill , 6935 Lake Plaza Drive, Indianapolis (E 71st & Binford Blvd) for our fun brunch. George's has become a regular meeting place for our club and everyone has a good time. We'll meet to have fun, conversation and a look at what's coming up in 2018 for our section.

Wright Patterson AFB Museum Tour

March 24th @ 9am

Whereas final details are still to be worked out, we plan on meeting for breakfast on the east side of Indy and then jump on I-70 for the 2 plus hour drive to Dayton and the WPAFB Museum. This should be a fabulous day led by retired Col Dan Blaney, USAF.

Indy 500 Section Tech Session

April 7th @ 8am

Join other members and three local auto repair vendors for a day of minor repairs at discounted group pricing, club swap meet, lunch and conversation. Vinyl Tear Repair (interior vinyl and leather repair and re-dying), ER Alloy Wheel Repair (curb rash, straightening and repainting) and Indpls Dent Co. (paintless and minor touch-up dent repair, full detailing and headlight restoration) will be at Russ Jeffrey's home at 6851 Dean Road @ 8am for a day of fix up for your Mercedes. Plan on joining us for lunch and a day of talking and refreshing our cars!

April 24th — Newton Co Tours