



"Oh Lord, won't you buy me a Mercedes Benz?"

Janis Joplin

Driver's Seat Showcase: Eric Meyer's 190SL

Every so often we like to slide back the shop doors and spotlight a customer whose car story is just too good to keep to ourselves. Welcome to the **Driver's Seat Showcase**—where we share the machines, miles and memories that make the Zakira's community tick.

Some cars stick with you. For Eric Meyer, that car was the Mercedes-Benz 190SL. His fascination with the model began as a teenager on a family trip to the Jersey Shore.

While other kids were busy with boardwalk attractions, Eric was captivated by the sight of a sleek black 190SL parked nearby. That image planted a seed that would take decades to fully sprout.

In the mid-1980s, Eric was living and working in Brussels, Belgium. He was young, career-focused and preparing to move back to the United States. While coordinating the shipping of his household goods, the idea struck—why not bring a little piece of Europe back with him? Specifically, a classic Mercedes.

Through a local Mercedes specialist in Brussels, he found a 190SL that had already undergone a color change from its original black to silver. Despite the repaint, the car had plenty of charm and potential. He bought it, loaded it onto the shipping container along with his belongings and sent it across the Atlantic.

Getting it to Cincinnati was the easy part. What followed was a tangle of red tape. Eric spent months battling the local title office to get the car legally registered in Ohio. After finally securing the proper documents, another surprise popped up. Procter & Gamble—his employer—alerted him that Belgian authorities were demanding unpaid taxes because the car's license plates hadn't been returned. The situation required several rounds of back-and-forth negotiation before it was finally settled, thanks to the help of Eric's determined secretary.

With the paperwork behind him, Eric could finally enjoy the car. For several years, the 190SL was his fair-weather cruiser around Cincinnati. He handled most of the maintenance himself and took pride in keeping it on the road. But as often happens, life moved on, and the car eventually found itself tucked away in the garage. It sat for more than a decade, untouched.

When Eric decided it was time to bring the car back out, he was met with an unwelcome surprise—a seized engine. Undeterred, he dug into the mechanicals himself and got it freed up and running again.

A few years later, Eric decided the car deserved a proper restoration. He sent it to a shop in Oklahoma, hoping to refresh the body and interior. Unfortunately, that shop wasn't able to complete the project. In April 2023, the mostly disassembled 190SL arrived at Zakira's Garage, thanks to a recommendation from Precision Motor Cars.

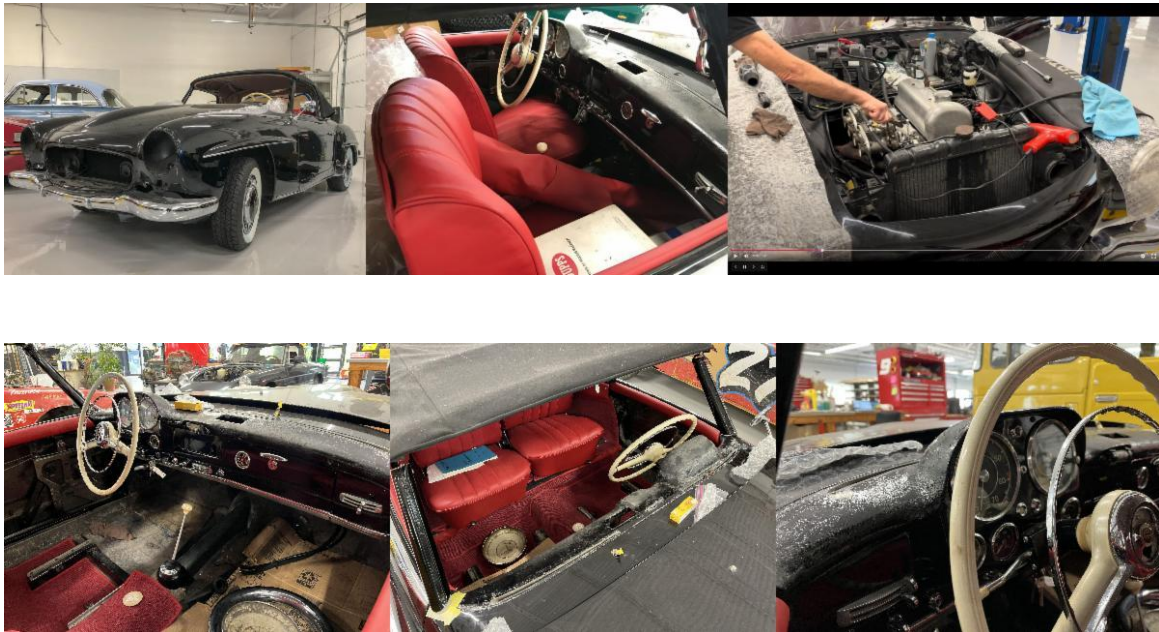
The car showed up with boxes of parts, incomplete wiring, missing trim and an engine that needed attention. It was clear this wasn't going to be a quick job. Our team got to work right away, starting with a careful assessment of every system.

We carefully went through the engine, addressing leaks, redoing brakes, correcting mechanical issues and dialing in the carburetors for proper fueling—no rebuild needed, just meticulous service to bring it back to life. From there, we tackled the wiring, sorting out the harnesses and restoring function to the lights, gauges and accessories.

The interior and body trim were reinstalled piece by piece, with missing parts sourced and refinished as needed. We aligned the suspension, verified all mechanical systems and test-fit every detail to make sure it functioned as intended.

By August 2023—just four months after it arrived—Eric’s 190SL was ready for the road again. Now finished in its correct black paint with a red leather interior, it looked just as striking as it did back in the day. And unlike many restored cars, this one isn’t destined to sit idle in a showroom.

Today, Eric’s 1960 Mercedes-Benz 190SL is a car with real stories behind it—stories of youthful fascination, overseas adventures, bureaucratic battles and decades of wrenching. It’s not just restored—it’s ready to be driven, just as it was meant to be.





Other Zakira's Nuts and Bolts



(A little bit of everything we've got going on.)

Glendale Gathering: First off, a big thanks to everyone who stopped by the Glendale Gathering last month. We always appreciate seeing familiar faces—and new ones—at local shows.

Upcoming Zakira's Events: Mark your calendars: our next Cars & Coffee is happening

Saturday, July 19th, from 9 AM to 11 AM in the back lot of Zakira's Garage. We're hoping for sunny skies and an even sunnier turnout. And don't worry—we'll have the service entrance open if you need to escape the heat for a bit.

Still on the Look Out: We're still on the lookout for another skilled mechanic to join the team. If you—or someone you know—has the right experience and a passion for wrenching, send a resume our way: hr@zakiras.com.

Club Tour: Lastly, we're excited to host the **Gassy Geezers** lunch bunch this month, celebrating 18 years of driving, dining and swapping stories. We're looking forward to having their crew stop by the shop for a visit.

The Final Pylon...

Thanks to everyone in the local car community for the steady support—whether you swing by Cars 'n Coffee, pop in for service, or just read along each month. Your enthusiasm keeps the shop humming. Until next time, keep it between the mayo and the mustard.



As always, if you need anything automotive, please call us at [\(513\) 272-2229](tel:5132722229), email us at info@zakiras.com, check out www.zakiras.com or just stop by the shop 9 AM - 5 PM Monday through Friday in Blue Ash at 4480 Lake Forest Dr., #314, Cincinnati, OH 45242.

***We thank you for your continued business
and wishing for cooler weather!!***

Regards,
your Team at Zakira's