



Vancouver Island Section Newsletter

September 2020

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Hungry drivers and their passengers at the Farm Table Inn waiting to order brunch. (Photo by Barry Patchett)



President's Message

Rob Watson

We had two well attended events over the summer, the Summer Solstice dinner and the Pacific Marine Circle route, both of which were 'outdoor' events, thanks to the weather and patio seating at the Farm Table Inn. For the AGM in September, we were planning to have a tour of Viking Air followed by lunch at Mary's Blueu Moon Café. Not surprisingly, Viking Air has cancelled all tours for the foreseeable future, so we needed to go back to the drawing board.

Your Board, with all of this, is becoming increasingly unsettled and uncertain about holding an event indoors this fall, whether it's a tech type one at TPM or lunch at a restaurant. It appears that risks around Covid are ramping up as a result of the number of large gatherings, opening of schools and universities, general 'Covid fatigue' (who doesn't have that!) and the upcoming flu season. As a result, we decided to cancel events where we are in close proximity for the balance of this year. We still have the Christmas/Holiday lunch scheduled but it goes under the 'faint hope' clause. So, unless something significantly positive occurs, we will not be going ahead with it.

Regardless, we are still required under the *Societies Act* to hold an Annual General Meeting, so we are scheduling a virtual Zoom AGM meeting on Sunday, 9 November at 11:00 AM. See more on the AGM below.

As you have seen from your emails, there has been a lot of activity from MBCA National. The consultant's survey and their subsequent withdrawal from their engagement was a surprise. A healthy and active Club should have a variety of opinions about how to operate, but I didn't realize that the problems would be serious enough at the National Board level to cause a consultant to resign. Very disappointing. It appears that Julie Bruggner, the President of MBCA, is working hard to be transparent about the results in her emails, and I'm looking forward to the work by Richard Simonds and Jim O'Sullivan to help the Club move forward.

Over the last few years there have been pieces in our Section's newsletters about the benefits of Canadians participating in the MBCA raffle. Past advice has been for Canadian members to look closely at costs and benefits before purchasing a ticket. The MBCA raffle is based out of Michigan and their winners' reporting form requires that members be US citizens to be eligible to win. Jeff Shindler, our Regional Director from Vancouver, purchased a ticket recently for the Pagoda SL raffle and, with this 'constraint' in mind, had his ticket refunded by National. As a result, we can no longer support the purchase of the National raffle tickets. Canadians with dual US citizenship may be eligible to win. Even then, if you are a Canadian resident, there are tax and car import cost implications that need to be investigated.

Another item to come out of National over the past few months was the negotiation of the rebate with MBUSA on new vehicles purchased in the USA. We have a similar program here with MB Canada through the "Professional Associations Program." You can find details [here](#). The ad on page 75 of the recent issue of the *Star* refers to this program – on the MB Canada website the incentives actually go up to \$2,000 for an S-Class. We will discuss how the MB Canada rebate program is applied with Three Point Motors and MB Nanaimo and report back by the AGM.

National has organized a number of virtual presentations using Zoom. I hope some of you have participated. They can also be seen on YouTube [here](#).

I hope you enjoy the photos we have included. Anything to take our minds off Covid for a while, don't you think?



2019 – 2020 Section Officers

President: Rob Watson
Vice–President: Dennis Ostrowerka
Treasurer: Philip Early
Secretary: Hazel Ostrowerka
Membership Chair: Alex Currie
Newsletter Editors: Barry Patchett and Rob Watson
Dealer Ambassador, Victoria: Dennis Ostrowerka
Dealer Ambassador, Nanaimo: Barry Patchett
Honorary Vice–President: Peter Trzewik

Northwest Regional Director: Jeff Shindler (jeff.shindler@shaw.ca)

Section e–mail: mbca.visland@gmail.com

Section members (with-month and year of joining MBCA) who reached their Membership Anniversary milestones

5 Years

Murray Bradley (August 2015)
James and Janet Le Mare (August 2015)
Bruce Kerr (November 2015)
James Troy (September 2015)
John Wells (September 2015)

10 Years

Jeff Cohen (September 2010)

If any members have not received their Anniversary pin and would like to, please contact Rob Watson here [link](#).

Thank you to Members and Associate Members who renewed their membership in July.

Bob and Margo Allen
Brent Baynton
Chuck Burkett
Kevin Carlé
Barry Goss
David Gramlich
Cathy LeBlanc
Grant Luxford
Robert Maitland
Jon Mills
Christo Pandelidis
David Rabii
Don Simmons
James Troy
Bob and Donelda Wilson



2020 Tentative Event Calendar

NOVEMBER <i>Wednesday 11th: Remembrance Day</i> Sunday, 9 November A Zoom Annual General Meeting Organizer: Rob Watson	NOVEMBER <i>Wednesday 11th: Remembrance Day</i> Sunday, 22 November Christmas/Holiday Lunch (tentative!) Organizers: Linda Derrick and Cheryl Macdonald
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Upcoming Event

A Virtual Annual General Meeting with Zoom

Sunday, 9 November, 2020

Rob Watson

As described in the President's Message, we will be holding our Annual General Meeting virtually through Zoom. Our plan is to hold it on Sunday, 9 November at 11:00 AM. We will send out a Notice for the AGM in mid-October which will include the agenda and the annual reports from the President, Treasurer and Membership Chair.

The focus of this year's AGM will be planning events for next year. Obviously, this year has been difficult as we managed only three events with only one being pre-Covid. As well, there are obvious uncertainties around whether public events such as GAIN's Concourse d'Elegance will be held next year. Your general feedback, ideas about events and how to proceed are very important. If you cannot attend the Zoom AGM, please email your written ideas to our Section Gmail account at mbca.visland@gmail.com.

We continue to ask if you would consider volunteering for the Board. In particular, there is a need for a Newsletter Editor: Barry and Rob have been working on the newsletter off the side of their desks for some time. We also require a webmaster to keep our site at MBCA refreshed, informative and up to date. The current Board has provided long, dedicated service which cannot last forever (Covid fatigue notwithstanding). It is always valuable to have members take a turn at participating on the Board to provide fresh perspectives and ensure continuity.

Summary

Organizer: Rob Watson

When: Sunday, 9 November

Time: 11:00 AM

Where: Virtual meeting through Zoom

RSVP: Not required, but we would appreciate you letting us know if you are going to participate by responding to our Section Gmail address [here](#).



Recent Events

Pacific Marine Circle Route from Lake Cowichan to Port Renfrew and Victoria with Brunch at the Farm Table Inn

Sunday, 23 August, 2020

Rob Watson and Barry Patchett
with photos by Barry Patchett and Linda Derrick

The week before our drive, the weather looked uncertain (who wants to be in a SLK or SL with the roof down in the rain?) but thankfully it cleared up and we were greeted with just-right temperatures and clear skies. Twenty of us in ten cars, including new members John and Lisa Mallett (welcome John and Lisa!) gathered at the Farm Table Inn for brunch on their patio. Tables of four were well spaced and the friendly and helpful staff did an excellent job; all were wearing clear face masks. The resident orange tabby and chickens were welcome (but not hungry) observers. We were fortunate to have Brunch at the Inn that day, as the owners had decided to suspend Sunday brunch for the rest of the year. They made a point of telling us how impressed they were with how respectful and cooperative our large group was.

As seems to be the case at all our events, conversation flowed. We had a leisurely brunch and gathered together around noon to get the drive underway. With only one driver deciding to return to Victoria, the remaining nine cars carried on to Port Renfrew. Alex Currie was in the lead as his was the vehicle that had a problem the last time he was on this drive. We figured this time, there would be at least eight cars to back him up if he decided to repeat the 'issue.' Smiling as usual, Alex led us at a comfortable pace and the increasingly scenic road was in good condition until about Lizard Lake when it became bit 'lumpy.' For your future reference, Lizard Lake is a small campground and a perfect picnic spot for one or two cars with several picnic tables overlooking the small, scenic lake. We knew Port Renfrew would be busy on a Sunday but when we arrived it was crazy busy. After a leg stretch and more chatting, we decided to continue on to Jordan River.

At Jordan River, we found the last bit of parking at one of the small camping areas off the road next to the ocean for a much-needed rest. It didn't take long for conversations to start up again and although we certainly weren't 'starving,' people enjoyed a snack of sandwiches from Red Barn as well as mini quiches, made by new member, Lisa Mallett. After a leisurely break basking in the afternoon sun, the group broke up and everyone made their way home. A wonderful day of driving and renewing connections.



From left. Cheryl MacDonald, Alex Currie, Gwen Jewett and Barry Patchett. (LD)





From left. Bob Allen, John Mallett, Lisa Mallett, Margo Allen. (LD)



From left. Doug Symond, Leo Vanderven, Rita Vanderven, Heinz Mueller. (LD)



From left. Edward Petro, Doug Logan, Brenda Waksel, Kerri Sheridan. (LD)



From left. Chris Parkes, Linda Derrick, Leone Parkes, Rob Watson. (LD)



Hanging out in Port Renfrew with a historical selection of an SLK and SLs. (BP)

Port Renfrew on this Sunday was exceptionally busy. The Mercedes-Benz Gang stretching their legs, chatting and planning an invasion of Jordan River for afternoon snacks. (BP)





It was a busy Sunday everywhere – scrabbling for parking space in Jordan River. (BP)

A sunny, warm day in August, chairs to relax in for those who remembered to bring them (!), more food, great people . . . a perfect day to get away. (BP)



Links of Interest

Barrie Aldrich forwarded a video by the entertaining Supercar Blondie on the Mercedes AVTR and you can see her overview of it on YouTube [link](#). This car would light up any driveway at night as well as being an eye-catcher during the day.

Bob Wilson forwarded a link to an article about the new 2021 S-Class, which led to looking up the short, official, flash-and-bang video of the new S-Class [here](#), as well as the 20 minute, more detailed infotainment video about the car [here](#). This car may not be for the techno-phobic given this description by one of the presenters who said, “And look at the technology that is packed into this car. There is more computing power packed into this car than any car ever.”

As an antidote, here is a video of Nico Rosberg doodling in and around Monaco in his 300SL Gullwing [here](#).

