



Vancouver Island Section Newsletter

March 2021

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Launch of the 2021 Mercedes-AMG F1 W12 with Lewis Hamilton, Toto Wolff and Valtteri Bottas.

The long 23 race Formula 1 season begins **this Sunday, 28 March at 8:00 AM (PDT)** with the Bahrain Grand Prix. It ends in the distant future on December 12th at the Abu Dhabi GP.

(Daimler Global Media Site)



President's Message

Rob Watson

The Covid-19 journey continues but with vaccinations well under way there is hope that our lives can return to some semblance of normal. I say "hope" because the variants may well have something to say about that.

The Section's Board, not being keen on following the Florida Spring break model, has decided to restart our events in late May with a drive and bring-your-own picnic. By that time, restrictions may have been eased enough that larger groups can associate. The event we are planning after that is our now-annual Summer Solstice Dinner at the Farm Table Inn on **Thursday, 24th June**. Pencil it in -- it is very popular. Barry will try to increase the number of reserved spots so more of us can participate. We've also had discussion with Chris Silveira, the General Manager of Three Point Motors and Mercedes-Benz Nanaimo, and he has suggested a visit to Coachwerks and a Section-only reveal of the new S-Class. As we see what unfolds over the next few months, we will try to incorporate those suggestions in our planning.

On the National front, the MBUSA new car incentive program was so successful that membership increased from 17,040 on November 30, 2020 to 19,816 on January 31 of this year. The key question is whether all these new members will renew in one year or is it a one-off to have access to the MBUSA incentives. The consultant for MBCA's strategic planning process conducted a strategic planning workshop with the Board in late January. The presentation of the consultant's work primarily summarizes the results of various surveys conducted with internal and a few external stakeholders. It lays a strong foundation for moving forward. If you are interested in seeing a copy of the presentation, let me know and I will send it you.

I am sure you received the notice of the incentives if you renew your membership between March 1 and May 1 this year. Together with some draws for renewing and enrolling in auto-renewal, membership is extended by one to three months with the associated one-to-three-year membership renewals.

Our next Board meeting is on Monday, 19 April and we will send out an update of our status following it. Last, our thanks to you, our Section members, for your patience and support of MBCA and the Vancouver Island Section through this time.



The new S-class and some of its predecessors. Which is your favourite?
(Daimler Global Media Site)



2020 – 2021 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
Website 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: mbsca.visland@gmail.com

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

5 Years

Don Lucas (February 2016)
Donna Donaldson (February 2016)

20 Years

Horst Loewel (March 2001)

If you have not received your Anniversary pin and would like to, please contact Rob Watson at our Section email. ([link](#))

Welcome to our New Member (with month of joining MBCA)

Roger Lockwood (February)

Thank you to these Members and Associate members who renewed their membership.

Richard Ediss
Christopher Grey
Edward Petro
Jeffrey Smith
Bruce Woloshyn



Editorial – Benefits of MBCA Membership

Barry Patchett

There has been some concern expressed recently in our membership regarding the primary American nature of our club, with a suggestion that a fully Canadian only club would be more attractive. There are several detrimental issues in this idea. There are only approximately 500 Canadian members of the MBCA. There is a (Canadian) Mercedes Benz Club of Canada, but it is primarily concerned with Ontario and has no known national ambition. Five hundred members of a national club would have significant service problems for members. We could not possibly afford an executive office comparable to the MBCA National office in Colorado. There would therefore be no *Star* Magazine equivalent and no National or Regional Event coordination. The classified and commercial adverts alone in *The Star* are valuable resources, which would not be available to a club of only 500 members. It is unlikely that we would enjoy the parts and service discounts we now receive, and we would probably have some difficulty in extracting the new car rebates that are now in place. The MBCA National office also maintains a website for our use, which contains several specialized groups for different classic and specific Mercedes models. These contain many helpful threads for problem solving and parts, including references to sources.

In brief, be careful what you wish for!

2021 Tentative Event Calendar – Version 2 (of 100?)

MAY and JUNE

End of May or early June: Cowichan Valley drive and bring–your–own picnic lunch
Thursday, 24 June: Annual Summer Solstice Prime Rib Dinner at the Farm Table Inn

Suggestions that may be scheduled:

- Tour of Coachwerks
- Reveal and overview of the new S–Class

JULY and AUGUST

To be determined!

SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER

Tour of Viking Air (to be arranged), AGM and lunch at Mary's Bleue Moon Café
Three Point Motors Winter Maintenance or Technical Event

NOVEMBER and DECEMBER

Christmas-Holiday Lunch



Links of Interest

Barry provided a source from the BBC that provides photos of the 2021 F1 cars from all the teams ([link](#)) to help you with identification when you are up at 5 AM to watch a race.

If you are nostalgic for past F1 seasons and have a subscription to Netflix, *Formula 1: Drive to Survive* is a series that provides an inside look at the drivers and races from the 2018, 2019 and 2020 F1 seasons. There are 10 shows for each season, and the series about the 2020 season premiered this month. (March 2021)

Bob Wilson provided a couple of links on the new C-Class. The first is from Hagerty Media ([link](#)) which focuses on the C's new engine configurations. The second from Automotive News Canada ([link](#)) provides a broader overview of the C as a mini-S-class. If you wish to review the nitty-gritty of the new C-Class (154 pictures, five videos, five documents), the press kit from the Daimler Global Media Site can be found here. ([link](#))



Exterior of the new C-Class sedan and estate
(Daimler Global Media Site)



The interior of the new C-Class with a centre console not dissimilar to another car manufacturer.
(Daimler Global Media Site)

For comparison, here is a musically-invigorating comparison from YouTube of the new 2020 S-Class against its predecessor. ([link](#))

And for something classic, again from YouTube, you can gaze at a walk-around of a 1971 Mercedes-Benz 280 SE 3.5 Cabriolet. ([link](#)) A beautiful car! If you want to look into this car in more detail, see Jay Leno's talk about his '71 280 SE 3.5 Coupé ([link](#)).

