



Vancouver Island Section Newsletter

July 2020

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President’s Message

Rob Watson

After a long event hiatus, 20 members and guests attended the Summer Solstice Prime Rib Dinner at the Farm Table Inn on a warm, sunny evening outside on their patio. I promoted the event by reminding everyone that since it was on one of the longest days of the year, we should be able to drive home while it was still light. As it turned out however, many of us chatted so long into the evening that twilight was morphing into darkness by the time we arrived home!

Our idea of a wine tasting tour in July did not materialize when, after making enquiries, we learned the wineries were not conducting tours because of justifiable concerns around being able to control physical distancing. Our schedule this year did not include any long driving events so with GAIN’s *Concourse D’Elegance* cancelled, we have planned a drive of the Pacific Marine Circle Route from Lake Cowichan to Port Renfrew and Victoria on Sunday, 23 August. Dennis, Hazel and I test-drove the route in mid–July. We found it to be in good shape although the section between Port Renfrew and Jordan River is still ‘lumpy.’ The bonus though is that scenery is even better as a result of tree growth since the last time the Club drove this route. See details on page 5.



For the balance of the year we will continue with our Tentative Event Calendar. “Tentative” continues to be the operative word as we monitor how Covid-19 evolves here on the Island. As we are now seeing, Dr. Bonnie Henry is concerned about some of the effects resulting from the easing of restrictions.

You will have received an email notice from Julie Bruggner, the President of MBCA, about the Club’s financial pressures and the decision to engage an outside consultant to complete a strategic plan. Part of the data gathering will be a survey to all members which will be launched August 3. Note the short timeline! Responses must be received by August 11. I strongly encourage you to complete and return the survey. Your feedback is critical in helping MBCA move forward.

As might be expected, financial problems in the automotive sector currently have a broader scope than just MBCA. Bob Wilson has an interesting article about Daimler–Benz cutting production of sedans in US and Mexico as a result of a recent quarterly loss ([link](#)).

For those who may be interested in taking advantage of the auto–renewal of MBCA membership fees, I have included a notice from Doug Geganto, National Membership Chair on the subject.

And finally, we are experiencing our long-awaited warm summer weather. I hope you are able to get out and enjoy it. Please continue to take care.

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 the month and year of joining MBCA) who reached their Membership Anniversary milestones

5 Years

Brent Boyd (July 2015)
Vivian Weldon (July 2015)

25 Years

Jeffery Smith (July 1995)

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

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

John McIntosh
Barry Patchett
Linnea Turnquist

2020 Tentative Event Calendar

<p>AUGUST <i>Monday 3rd: BC Day</i> Sunday, 23 August Pacific Marine Road from Lake Cowichan to Port Renfrew and Victoria with Brunch at the Farm Table Inn Organizers: Barry Patchett and Rob Watson</p>	<p>OCTOBER <i>Monday 12th: Thanksgiving</i> Sunday, 18 October Three Point Motors Winter Maintenance or Technical Event Organizers: Dennis and Hazel Ostrowerka</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER <i>Monday 7th: Labour Day</i> Sunday, 13 September Tour of Viking Air (to be arranged), AGM and lunch at Mary's Bleue Moon Café Organizers: Rob Watson and Alex Currie</p>	<p>NOVEMBER <i>Wednesday 11th: Remembrance Day</i> Sunday, 22 November Christmas/Holiday Lunch Organizers: Linda Derrick and Cheryl Macdonald</p>



MBCA National

Auto Renewal is Here, Opt-in Today

Letter from Doug Geganto, National Membership Chair



Auto Renew is Here, Opt-in Today!

By

Doug Geganto, National Membership Chair

COVID 19 has totally disrupted our lives and many of the activities we've become accustomed to doing. Things like getting together with our friends, enjoying attending section events and getting out and meeting with fellow club members. However, one thing that has been severely affected is our ability to meet other Mercedes-Benz owners, tell them about the club and encourage them to join. We expect new member growth to be severely impacted this year because of our inability to host recruiting events. How can you help ensure that we stabilize our membership losses?

Have you opted into Auto-Renew yet? When it's time to renew your membership, it's now easier than ever. Simply log into your MBCA account, select the **Renew** link at the top of the page and click on the **Yes** button in the renew section. Your best deal is to renew for 3-years. That's all there is to it!

Why Auto-Renew?

- Never worry about your membership lapsing.
- Don't miss an issue of the Star® Magazine.
- Stay informed of local section and national events via your local section's newsletter and the national Click announcements.
- Have a chance to participate on one of our annual Germany trips to visit Mercedes-Benz headquarters in Stuttgart.
- Have a chance at winning a new Mercedes-Benz by participating in our annual raffles.
- Lastly, by having your membership Auto-Renew each year, you help the club stay financially sound and help to stabilize our membership losses.

Our Auto-Renew option is new this year. Our goal for 2020 is to have 50 to 75 percent of our members sign up for Auto-Renew. Right now, we're at 5 percent with 831 members who have already signed up. We need your help to reach our goal this year by signing up for Auto-Renew today.

That's it. If you have any problems opting in or questions, contact the NBO at 1800- 637-2360, and a member representative will be happy to assist you in getting enrolled. I encourage you to sign up for Auto-Renew today.

Thank you for being a member of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America.



Doug Geganto
MBCA
National Membership Chairman
dgeganto@charter.net
404-754-9955

Note: the link in the notice does not work. To auto-renew, log-in to MBCA and click renew where you will see a radio button that gives the option to use auto-renewal.



Upcoming Event

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

Sunday, 23 August, 2020

It has been several years since we attempted the Pacific Marine Circle Route and this time, we have settled on tackling it counterclockwise from Lake Cowichan to Port Renfrew. We will drive the route on Sunday, 23 August. After our successful Summer Solstice Prime Rib dinner, it seemed logical to start our adventure with brunch and sustenance at the Farm Table Inn. We have made a reservation for 20 people at 10 AM. Note that once again, it will be 'first-to-respond, first reserved.'

This is a scenic route that, with brunch and a pit stop in Port Renfrew, takes about 7½ hours, door-to-door. The route has been in existence many years and I almost feel old when I say, "I remember having to drive through the hairpins in gravel on my motorcycle." Gravel of course, is thankfully no longer an issue on this now-paved road. That said, it IS a driver's road because together with its scenery it includes nearly all road conditions to test our skills. It contains a 100 km highway, an abundance of curves, narrow and wide sections, and the ever-present lumpy bits from Port Renfrew to Jordan River. At least on a Sunday there should be none of the logging trucks Dennis, Hazel and I encountered on our test drive.

If you have not been on this route, it is pretty much a local driving must-do. The following should give you an idea of the timelines needed to complete the drive.

Planned Schedule

???	Leave home
10:00	Arrive at Farm Table Inn
10:00 to 11:30	Brunch at the Farm Table Inn, Lake Cowichan
11:30 to 13:00	Drive from Farm Table Inn to Port Renfrew
13:00 to 14:00	Pit stop at Port Renfrew Hotel
14:00 to 15:45	Port Renfrew Hotel to Jacklin Road/Highway 1A intersection, Langford

Summary

The drive and brunch will take up most of the day.

Organizers: Barry Patchett and Rob Watson

When: Sunday, 23 August

Meet for brunch: 10:00 AM

Where: Farm Table Inn, 6755 Cowichan Lake Road, Lake Cowichan

Cost: a la carte (see menu: <https://www.farmtableinn.ca/menu>)

RSVP: to Barry and our Section Gmail address by clicking [here](#)

Deadline: Wednesday 12 August. 'First-to-respond, first reserved.' Limited to 20 people.



Recent Events

Summer Solstice Prime Rib Dinner at the Farm Table Inn

Thursday, 18 June, 2020

Rob Watson and Barry Patchett

Photos by Barry Patchett

It was a five-month patch between the Section's first two events of the year . . . brunch at the Malahat Inn and our third Summer Solstice Prime Rib Dinner at the Farm Table Inn near Lake Cowichan. Weather in June can be iffy, but we were met with a near-cloudless sky on a temperate day that allowed the 20 who registered to have dinner on the Inn's patio. We were the only ones on the patio (some others were inside) and were seated at well-spaced tables of four.

There is something calming and relaxing about an outdoor meal full of conversation on a pleasant evening when one can escape for a short time from all that is going on. Even the Inn's well-fed orange tabby found solace and lots of scratches on Willem Vanderven's lap. Hard to tell who was happier as both the cat and Willem seemed to be purring! We welcomed new members, Cris and Elsie Gray, who reside in Duncan. We were happy to see them attending their first Section event.

The plan for the end of the evening was for everyone to be able to arrive home while it was still light out. After all, we were only two days away from the summer solstice. We must have been too relaxed as we chatted away though, which meant the sun was setting by the time some of us departed. Thank goodness for 'nautical' twilight!



Table 1 (foreground) Gwen Jewett; Cheryl MacDonald and Alex Currie;(empty chair of photographer, Barry Patchett)

Table 2 (back left) Linda Derrick and Rob Watson; Edward Petro and Carrie Sheridan

Table 3 (back right) Doug and Brenda Logan; Leo Vanderven and son, Willem





Foreground: Barrie Aldrich and Donna Mollin; new members, Cris and Elsie Gray



Hazel and Dennis Ostrowerka; Murray and Sheila Bradley

