



Vancouver Island Section Newsletter

July 2021

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Mille Miglia (Brescia/Italy), 1 May 1955. The eventual winners Stirling Moss/Denis Jenkinson on the track in the Mercedes-Benz racing sports car 300 SLR (W 196 S) with start number 722. (Photo signature of the Mercedes-Benz Classic Archives: R7527)



President's Message

Rob Watson

Wow! After an 18-month hiatus, we were final able to have an actual *event*. Twenty-two members gathered to revel on Farm Table Inn's patio for our Summer Solstice Dinner. Once again, we found ourselves leaving just as the sun was setting and darkness was setting in. Whatever happened to the idea of a solstice dinner meaning driving return home when it is still light?

You will have received a notice for the drive and picnic at Enrico Winery. The next scheduled event is the New Technology and Car Event at Three Point Motors on Sunday, 29th August. Chris Silveira, the GM, has invoked the faint hope clause that they will be able to showcase the new S-class.

The latest border news is that the Americans will review the restrictions on August 21 as they think opening the border still poses too great a risk. Odd, given that the risk is the other way around (i.e., higher risk for Canadians in the US). Regardless, I'm highlighting a tour organized by Tanya and Bob Willits from the Seattle Section of the Olympic Peninsula on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th of September. If you are interested in spreading your wings with driving and camaraderie, I can say, from personal experience, that their tours are definitely worth considering. See more details below.

At our last Board meeting, we had the dream idea to organize a group from our Section to attend the MBCA German Tour in September 2022. It is no small undertaking so we are gauging the amount of interest in participating in what we are sure would be a unique and exceptional experience.

Now, about events. We *need* your ideas. Although we are constrained by the geography of the Island and our individual schedules, our goal is to have as many of you as possible to at least one event where you can enjoy our collective experience. We've received feedback to plan events where there is more driving. With that in mind, one idea is the two-day loop up the Island and over to the Sunshine Coast. We also know we could do much better at organizing events for our mid-Island members. Is there something that we could organize for you up-Islanders that would be engaging (even if that means communication about Vancouver events that are more accessible)? In the fall, we will be putting together our 2022 schedule, so please give us feedback.

Except of course for September 2022, when we will all be in Germany. 😊

Jeff Shindler was re-elected by acclamation to be our Northwest Regional Director for the next two years. That will be his third and last term -- there is a limit of three two-year terms. He has been an important and able representative for our Section and the BC Stars (as well as the eastern Canadian Sections) as he is the only Canadian on the National Board. He has consistently brought forward Canadian interests to the National Board, and I have greatly appreciated his efforts.

Finally, the MBCA Strategic Plan has been approved. The Plan has four pillars: membership, organizational infrastructure, leadership, and culture and financial sustainability. The goals and strategies that flow from these pillars are logical and mostly make sense. My main concern is our Canadian interests and the support we receive from National. For example, I suggest you don't look at the revised rebates for new cars we receive from MB Canada as they are not significant. If anyone wants a copy of the Strategic Plan, please let me know.

Although we have made great progress over the last 1-1/2 years, the mantra be calm, be kind, be safe is still a good one to keep in mind.





From the recent articles in the Star about the R107, here is the interior of the next generation in the AMG SL. Note the new design of the central display – a feature appearing in the new Mercedes-Benz models. (Daimler Benz Media site)



And then the new EQS, the first all-electric luxury saloon from Mercedes-with EQ (intelligent electric). See our next newsletter in early October for more about the EQ models. (Daimler Benz Media site)



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 milestone between March and July.

10 Years

Cathy LeBlanc (July 2011)
David Bulinckx (July 2011)
Philip Early (July 2011)

20 Years

Martin Enright (April 2001)

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

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

Barrie Aldrich
Jeff Cohen
David Gramlich
Louis and Catherine Hobson
Bruce Kerr
Doug Logan
Helen Massingham and Paul Vincent
Jon Mills
Tony Morris
Barry Patchett and Gwen Jewett
David Rabii
Philip Topallan
Rob Watson and Linda Derrick
Gerry Woloshyn

Welcome to New Members (with month of joining MBCA)

Dennis Aitken (June)
Logan Fairburn (July)
Roger Lockwood (February)
Dave Ogilvy (April)
Andrew Tataryn (June)



2020 Tentative Event Calendar

<p>AUGUST <i>Monday 2rd: BC Day</i></p> <p>Sunday, 29th August New Technology and Car Event and BBQ at Three Motors Organizers: Dennis and Hazel Ostrowerka and Rob Watson</p>	<p>early NOVEMBER <i>Monday 11th: Thanksgiving</i></p> <p>Date: to be determined Three Point Motors Winter Maintenance or Technical Event Organizers: Dennis and Hazel Ostrowerka</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER <i>Monday 6th: Labour Day</i></p> <p>Saturday 25th or Sunday 26th September Tour of Coachwerks (to be arranged), AGM and lunch Organizers: Rob Watson and Alex Currie</p>	<p>early DECEMBER <i>Saturday 25th: Christmas Day</i> <i>Sunday 26th: Boxing Day</i></p> <p>Date: to be determined Christmas/Holiday Lunch Organizers: Linda Derrick and Cheryl Macdonald</p>

Upcoming Events

New Technology and Car Event and BBQ at Three Point Motors Sunday, 29 August, 2021

Since our last Tech event two years ago, much has been going on at Mercedes–Benz. There are new technologies, new hybrid models and the all–electric EQ (intelligent electric) models are on the cusp of being released. As well, global production for all car manufacturers has been hampered by a shortage of the chips used to manage the electronics.

Chris Silveira, the GM of Three Point Motors, and David Rabii, Sales Consultant at TPM, will discuss what is new with Mercedes–Benz and the cars and their technologies. They will also provide a sampling of cars to view and test drive. After the presentation from Chris and David, Dennis and Hazel Ostrowerka will wow you with their famous German sausage BBQ.

There is much to learn and ask – bring your questions to this popular event.

Summary:

Organizer: Hazel and Dennis Ostrowerka and Rob Watson

When: Sunday, 29 August

Time: 11:00 to about 15:00 (to be confirmed)

Where: Three Point Motors, 2546 Government Street, Victoria

Cost: \$5 to cover gifts.

Please RSVP by replying to this email or clicking this [link](#) by Wednesday, 25 August at 21:00 (9 PM).



Exploring the Idea of a Possible Vancouver Island Section MBCA Trip to Germany September 2022

At our last Board meeting we mused about the MBCA trip to Germany and to our surprise we all were interested in participating in it. This trip has been a mainstay of the Club for years and has received consistent rave reviews. We contemplated gathering a group of Vancouver Island Section members together to go the trip. After some discussion, we thought September 2022 after the summer tourist season would be good timing.

These member-only trips include the opportunity to experience a first-class European vacation and VIP tours that places you at the heart of Mercedes-Benz rich history. They provide direct and personal access to Mercedes-Benz facilities, museums, assembly plants and the many amazing European landmarks. Excellent descriptions of the tour and what is involved can be found from the Seattle Section Linda Gleadle's writeup (<https://gleadle.weebly.com/>) and an article from the March–April 2012 *Star* (https://www.mbca.org/sites/default/files/82813-marapr-2012_selected-pages.pdf).

Details for 2022 have not been worked out by National, however, the 2020 and 2019 Registration Forms provides insight as to what might be expected:

- ⇒ Registration is on a first-to-register basis and would typically open in the late fall or early winter
- ⇒ Those trips took place in the second week of September
- ⇒ The cost in 2019/20 was \$2,750 per person, double occupancy; \$3,000 per person, single occupancy
- ⇒ Depending on the specific trip, it included six- or seven-nights occupancy
- ⇒ Included in the trip fee was the motor coach between hotels and sites, six breakfast and dinners, four lunches
- ⇒ Not included: air transportation, personal expenses including alcoholic beverages, insurance

At this time, we are exploring whether there would be any interest from you with the idea of participating in the MBCA Germany tour in September 2022. If you have an interest, let us know by emailing Rob at our Section email address (mbca.visland@gmail.com) or talking with any of the Board members at our events and we can explore how we might make this idea a reality.



Mercedes-Benz Museum – 1930 Type SS



Rob and Linda at Sindelfingen anticipating the plant tour



Recent Events

Summer Solstice Prime Rib Dinner at the Farm Table Inn

Thursday, 24 June, 2021

Barry Patchett

Photos by Barry Patchett

On June 24, the Section held its fourth annual Solstice dinner at the Farm Table Inn, close to Lake Cowichan. Twenty-two members attended in a variety of Benzes, mostly newish ones from south of the Malahat. The oldest vehicle was the 1965 230SL of your faithful scribe, but it only had to motor in sedately from Chemainus. The dinner was arranged on the outdoor patio in tables of four or six, which made for scintillating conversations and significant inter-table visits. Departing late in the evening was relatively uneventful, except the venerable 230SL was passed on Highway 18 by two modern SL versions, both of which significantly exceeded its velocity. I attribute this to the 1960's vacuum drag effect caused by my top being down, but some may debate that theory. A good time was had by all, and we look forward to the next occasion in 2022.



Chris and Elsie Gray, Cheryl MacDonald and Hazel Ostrowerka



Leone Parkes, Lou and Catherin Hobson and Gwen Jewett



Gwen Jewett, Catherine and Lou Hobson, and Leone and Christopher Parkes



Hazel Ostrowerka, Cheryl MacDonald, Elsie and Cris Gray



Northwest Region and Seattle Section Upcoming Events

Olympic Peninsula Driving Tour

Saturday - Sunday, September 18 and 19, 10:00 am

Tanya and Bob Willits, Seattle Section

Over the years, several of our Section members have participated in events organized by the other Northwest Region Sections. In 2015, Bob and Donelda Wilson and Linda and I participated in a three-day/two-night tour of the Columbia Gorge around Hood River organized by Tanya and Bob Willits. Tanya and Bob were excellent organizers and the consummate hosts to the approximately 40 friendly members with their 25 cars who participated in this well organized and fun tour.

Once again, Tanya and Bob Willits are organizing a tour, this time to the Olympic Peninsula on the weekend of September 18 and 19th. You should strongly consider this opportunity for what will be a well-organized, enjoyable and fun-filled trip when you will meet other welcoming MBCA members who are passionate about driving and their cars.

The final details will be finalized in the next few weeks, and they will be forwarded to you when they become available. In the meantime, here is Tanya and Bob's preliminary itinerary:

Saturday, 18 September

10:00 am Leave Mercedes of Tacoma
11:00 am Arrive at Safeway in Belfair
11:15 am Leave Safeway
12:15 pm Arrive Geoduck Restaurant – Brinnon
1:45 pm Leave Geoduck Restaurant
3:00 pm Arrive Camaraderie Cellars
3:45 pm Leave Camaraderie Cellars
4:00 pm Arrive Westport Yachts
5:00 pm Leave Westport Yachts
5:15 pm Arrive Olympic Lodge
6:30 pm Arrive at restaurant TBA

Sunday, 20 September

9:00 am Breakfast at Hotel and check out
10:00 am Leave Olympic Lodge
11:00 am Arrive Hurricane Ridge
11:30 am Leave Hurricane Ridge
12:30 pm Arrive Nourish Restaurant – Sequim
2:00 pm Leave Nourish Restaurant
2:15 pm Arrive Brown's car collection
3:30 pm Leave Brown's
5:00 pm Arrive Kafé Neo Kingston 6:30 pm. End of tour



Links of Interest

Here is a short clip found by Barry Patchett of a 1913 Daimler Mercedes Rennwagen ‘moseying’ through the countryside ([link](#)) during the Vintage Sports Car Club (VSCC) Loton Park Hill Climb in Shropshire, England.

Car braking have become increasingly complex with the latest systems in electric cars using energy regenerative braking systems. We take these systems for granted, for example, we expect cars to have four-wheel brakes but that wasn’t always the case. Bob Wilson found another Daimler Benz first in an interesting article from the Daimler Benz Media Site when, 100 years ago, four-wheel brakes were first used ([link](#)).

There will certainly be some discussion about the new S-Class at the New Technology and Car event in late August when we may see a ‘live’ example. As a preamble, Bob Wilson forwarded this review from Hagerty Media of the 2022 Mercedes-Benz S580 ([link](#)). The official and spirited Mercedes-Benz overview of the S580 can be found on YouTube ([link](#)).

Philip Early found this wonderful review of the W124 500E ([link](#)), which the title of the YouTube video calls “the world’s most perfect sedan”. That sentiment is probably echoed by one of our Section members who is the owner of a 1992 500E.



If you go on the MBCA German Tour, you will also have the opportunity to visit the excellent Porsche Museum. There is also the opportunity for a Porsche factory tour (it is next to the museum) but it must be booked many, many, many months in advance. On the left, a 1953 356 America. On the right, a 1998 911 GT1.

