



Vancouver Island Section Newsletter

October 2021

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Many of us have had the pleasure of seeing classic SLs recently – here is one of the original models. Mercedes-Benz 300 SL prototype racing sports car (W 194) for the 1953 season. Exterior photo from front right. Monterey Car Week in Pebble Beach, 2012. (Daimler Benz Media site)



President's Message

Rob Watson

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our AGM was held at Coachwerks after our tour and before lunch on September 25, 2021. Our “captive” audience meant we had a record-breaking quorum of 23 members. My focus is on the engagement of members in our Section and specifically I look at the number of members who attend at least one event. We had only four events in the past year – all were held over the last four months beginning with the Farm Table Inn at the end of June. In that period, we had an amazing 41 of us (45% of our total primary and associate members) attend at least one event. Thanks to all who were able to attend; we appreciate your continuing support of the Vancouver Island Section.

As might be expected from last year, the financial side of our Section was straightforward. At the time of the AGM, we had CAD \$5,939 in our chequing account and USD \$683 in our US account. The significant expenses for the year were \$308 for the BBQ at the New Tech and Car event and \$167 for two complimentary memberships at Three Point Motors and Mercedes-Benz Nanaimo. During the year, MBCA National suspended our rebate of USD \$11 per Section member to help alleviate their financial problems. This meant a shortfall of about CAD \$1,000 in revenue for us. We are hoping the rebate program will be reinstated next year.

Alex Currie's membership report saw us finish the year with 74 active and 17 associate members, similar to September of last year. Alex focussed on the ways we can maintain and recruit more members. He has been actively placing brochures on windshields and talking directly to people he sees who have a Mercedes-Benz. Alex has developed an advertisement that can be used in a local newspaper and, although expensive, it is something the Board is considering.

I presented membership anniversary pins to several members at the AGM. Congratulations to Barry Aldrich (20 years, September 1999), Martin Enright (20 years, April 2001), John Wells (5 years, September 2015), James Troy (5 years, September 2015), and Donna Donaldson (5 years, February 2016).

The last item at the AGM and part of some conversations during lunch was a discussion about possible events over the next year. The Board will be reviewing the many ideas presented and develop an event schedule over the next several months.

New feature for the December Newsletter – My Mercedes-Benz

It is not surprising that our Section members own or have owned the occasional Mercedes-Benz! We thought of including a new feature in our upcoming December Newsletter where one of our members writes about their Benz: why it is special, some history and features, and what it is like to drive. Kevin Carlé has agreed to write the inaugural article about his 220S. See his piece coming up in December.

Reminder about the Germany trip

During the AGM, we reminded everyone of an idea the Board has kicked around to gather a group from our Section to go on the MBCA trip to Germany in September 2022, if it is scheduled. This trip has been a mainstay of the Club for years and has received consistently rave reviews. At our meeting, Barry Aldrich stood up and provided an enthusiastic first-hand account of his experience on his previous Germany trip, giving it a definite two thumbs up. As a reminder, the cost of the tour (excluding airfare) in 2019/20 for six or seven nights (depending on the specific tour) was USD \$2,750 per person, double occupancy; USD \$3,000 per person, single occupancy. More details are in our July 2021 Newsletter. So far, nine people have expressed interest.



The joys of being a VI Section Board member

One problem in our Section is we do not have enough members on your Board to be completely functional. For some time (seems like years), I have asked for volunteers to serve as Webmaster or Newsletter Editor, and now we have a vacancy for the Treasurer position. What has been missing in the past is a description of what is involved in being a part of the VI Section Board. So here is a run-down of what you might expect.

We have nine or ten meetings a year, running about an hour each. Meetings are usually held at Three Point Motors on Mondays but this year we expanded our venues to include some offsite locations. Regardless, we are flexible and schedule meetings to suit all Board members when possible.

Each board member has at least one functional responsibility. Those responsibilities are determined at the Board meeting following the AGM and typically remain the same from year to year. Our other primary role is to plan and deliver events. Each of us organize one or two events, usually with the assistance of help of other Board members as needed.

The basic time requirement to be on the Board is the time for Board meetings (plus driving). Time for planning and running an event varies depending on its complexity (ask Cheryl and Linda the craziness required to find a venue for our Holiday/Christmas lunch in our Covid times!).

The **Treasurer** is responsible for managing our small cache of funds including our bank accounts at BMO, collections, deposits and payments, and our signing authorities. The Treasurer must prepare two sets of reports in the year: one for our Societal year end at September 30, and a second for MBCA National at December 31. We run on a cash basis, so the reports are simple to prepare. A basic knowledge in spreadsheet software is required. The time for fulfilling this role would average about two hours a month.

The **Webmaster** maintains our Section website at National. This is an area that has fallen off the table with a loud clunk. This person keeps the information about the Section on the National site up to date. This includes adding write-ups and photos from our Newsletter (mainly event-related) and submitting event summaries to *The Star* for possible publication. Some Sections have elaborate websites but that is dependent on the skill, time, and interest of the Webmaster. Time required for this role is about an additional day every quarter.

Barry and I work jointly to prepare the Newsletter. This though, is an independent role on the Board and if someone were to volunteer to take the lead in the preparation of the Newsletter. Currently, we produce four Newsletters a year using a template and format that was first developed by Bob Wilson. The **Newsletter Editor** is responsible for gathering and writing articles, including relevant photos, and working on the layout for the Newsletter. While the Editor may write *some* of the articles, he or she will gather items from other authors such as the President (President's Message), Membership Chair for membership information, and event or technical write-ups from other Board members or Section members. The Newsletter Editor coordinates with the Webmaster. There is a great deal of scope for content and layout, and knowledge of word processing (preferably MS Word) is required. Time required for this role is about two days every quarter.

We all enjoy our work on Board. At least most days. Our roles have allowed us to deliver events that we know are appreciated by you, our members, as well as putting us in a unique position to learn more about the Mercedes-Benz marque and MBCA.



2019 – 2020 Section Officers

(The roles for 2021-22 will be confirmed at the next Board meeting.)

President: Rob Watson
Vice-President: Dennis Ostrowerka
Treasurer: *Vacant*
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: mca.visland@gmail.com



Section members (with the month and year of joining MBCA) who reached their Membership Anniversary milestone between March and July.

5 Years

Barry Goss (September 2016)
Christopher Parkes (September 2016)

10 Years

Bruce Woloshyn (August 2011)

If any of you have not received your Anniversary pin and would like to have it, contact Rob Watson [here](#).

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

Brent Baynton
Chuck Burkett
Kevin Carlé
Martin Enright
Barry Goss
Rudi Koniczek
Catherine LeBlanc
James and Janet Le Mare
Grant Luxford
John and Cordelia McIntosh
Robert and Donelda Wilson

Welcome to New Members (with month of joining MBCA)

Brigitte and Frits Nijs (August)



2021 Event Calendar

SATURDAY, 30 OCTOBER Three Point Motors Winter Maintenance Event Organizers: Dennis and Hazel Ostrowerka	SATURDAY, 27 NOVEMBER and SUNDAY, 28 NOVEMBER Annual Holiday and Christmas Lunch Organizers: Linda Derrick and Cheryl Macdonald
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Upcoming Events

Three Point Motors Winter Maintenance Event

Saturday, 30 October 2021

We drop our car off at Three Point Motors for servicing, pick up the loaner if you've arranged for one, and wait for a call to pick up our vehicle. Or, for the conversation that something has been discovered that requires (gasp!) more work. But what happens behind the scenes? At this event, Three Point Motors will provide a detailed overview of what goes into servicing your car. General topics that will be covered include review of your records, your vehicle's recall notices, and review of service and other codes through a computer analysis. We will also review winterization of cars, including tire choices and selection.

Our region has a varied and fickle climate. This is a good opportunity to learn or refresh your knowledge about your vehicle's maintenance and winterization.

Summary:

Organizer: Hazel and Dennis Ostrowerka

When: Saturday, 30 October

Time: 11:00 AM

Where: Three Point Motors, 2546 Government Street, Victoria

Cost: None

Please RSVP by replying to this email or click [here](#) by Wednesday, 27 October at 9 PM.

Annual Holiday and Christmas Lunch

Saturday, 27 November 2021

and

Sunday, 28 November 2021

COVID, as we know, has been a major disruptor of our lives (and even worse for some). New norms continue to emerge including how and where we can organize events like our annual Holiday Christmas Lunch. After extensive small-r research by Linda Derrick and Cheryl Macdonald–Currie, they quickly learned what a challenge it would be to secure a venue that would accommodate a large group such as ours.



After careful consideration of all factors including costs, we determined our best choice is to return to the Fireside Grill in Saanich where we last gathered for our Christmas lunch in 2019. Regrettably, due to constraints imposed by Covid we are **limited to 20 attendees per reservation**. Accordingly, we will divide attendees into two groups of 20 each – the first lunch will be on Saturday, November 27, and the second on Sunday, November 28. We will ensure there is Board member representation on both days.

When you reply to this email, please indicate what your first choice of days is and say whether you would be ok with attending the lunch on the alternate day. We will take all responses into consideration on a first come, first served basis once all replies are received.

More information about the menu can be found here: <https://www.firesidegrill.com>

Please bear in mind that under PHO orders, you will be required to show proof of full vaccination in order to participate.

Summary:

Organizers: Cheryl Macdonald–Currie and Linda Derrick

When: Saturday 27 November **OR** Sunday, 28 November

Time: 11:45 to 13:45 (Please be prompt. We are limited to a two-hour seating.)

Where: Fireside Grill, 4509 West Saanich Road, Victoria, BC (Tel: 250.479.1222)

Cost: Menu is a la carte. There will be an automatic 18% gratuity on your bill.

Please RSVP by replying to this email or click [here](#) by Wednesday, 24 November at 9 PM.

You must indicate your first choice of day and say if you could attend lunch on the alternate day.

Recent Events

Wine Tasting at Cherry Point Estates and Picnic Lunch at Enrico Winery Thursday, 24 June 2021

Rob Watson

Photos by Barry Patchett and Linda Derrick

Twelve cars and twenty people met at Serious Coffee in Mill Bay. We were delighted to meet four new members attending their first event – Dennis Aitken and Laura Hardman, and Theo and Antoinette LeRoux. We left in two groups to begin a casual drive in the brilliant sunshine around Shawnigan Lake and through Cobble Hill to Cowichan Bay and Cherry Point Estates. Well, sort of casual. First, your intrepid president noticed in his mirrors, that cars behind him were weaving to avoid a bin that had just fallen off the deck of a pickup going in the opposite direction. The defensive driving skills of our members proved invaluable – no hits, no damage! And after that, your now less-than-intrepid lead missed his turn to Cherry Point Vineyards to take his group on a “bonus” tour through Cowichan Bay. All was well though. We finally arrived at the Vineyards to meet up with Barry Patchett and Gwen Jewett for an enjoyable winetasting. Linda Derrick, not one for wine tasting, became engaged in conversation with a couple who owned a MB. They were unaware of MBCA and indicated they might be interested in joining our Section. Well, welcome Brigitte and Frits Nijs to the Vancouver Island Section! We hope to see you at one of our events soon.





Fifty-four years of SLK and SL history: 2009 SLK55, 1965 230SL, 1955 300SL, 1971 280SL and 1990 500SL



The SLK and SLs in reverse: 1990 500SL, 1971 280SL, 1955 300SL, 1965 230SL and 2009 SLK55

The next stop was Enrico Winery. They have a fabulous location in front of their pond for parking and the showing of cars. A possible site if, in the future, we have a Show and Tell. While Enrico wineries had some food options, choices were limited. Most of us enjoyed our own picnics on their very sunny patio or under the gazebo by the pond. Glasses of wine were available for purchase, and Enrico's had an excellent wine tasting option with five tastings which was enough to last through lunch. We had plenty of time for conversation and to enjoy looking in detail at the various cars on our tour. The party finally broke up mid-afternoon so we could (hopefully) avoid the Malahat battle or enjoy a leisurely drive home.



2005 CLK500, 2018 C43, 2019C43 and in the far distance a 2015 S550 4MATIC



True brothers: 2018 C43 and a 2019 C43





Elsie Gray, Linda Derrick, Alex Currie, and Edward and Kerri Petro



Alex Currie, Barry Patchett and Gwen Jewett



Leone and Christopher Parkes with Rob Watson



New members Dennis Aitken and Laura Hardman lunching and chatting with Theo and Antoinette LeRoux



Bob Wilson, our past-president with wife, Donelda Wilson, picnic-lunching with Cheryl Macdonald



Marilyn Hansen, Cathy LeBlanc and Donna Donaldson, sunning and lunching



New Technology and Car Event and BBQ at Three Point Motors

Sunday, 29 August 2021

Rob Watson

Photos by Christo Pandelidis and Linda Derrick

Thirty-one members and guests were greeted by Chris Silveira, General Manager; Dylan Jonsson, General Sales Manager; and Rylie Johnson, Sales Manager, in the garage at Three Point Motors. Chris provided an introduction and announced that TPM will be relocating to a new location at the old Canadian Tire site at Douglas Street and Summit Avenue. Dylan and Rylie provided overviews of several hybrid models with the highlight being a showcase of the new W223 S580 4MATIC, which has the 4.0L V8 biturbo with EQ Boost with 496 hp and 516 lb-ft of torque. It is head-spinning, there are so many new features on this model. Highlights include a more intuitive and easier-to-use “My Mercedes” voice command system; ten degrees of rear-axle steering that reduces the turning circle of the S-class to that of the A-class; the augmented “3-D” driver head-up display; digital high-definition headlamps that adapt lighting to see pedestrians, oncoming vehicles, changes in terrain and reflective road signs; and power-closing doors with retractable handles. Whew!

Following an overview of the new cars and their technologies, we had a draw for prizes donated by Chris and Three Point Motors. Then it was time for Hazel and Dennis’s excellent German sausage BBQ. For future reference, the sausages were purchased from Starke’s Deli & Sausage Factory in Sidney. This was a time for conversation, good eating, and comparing car notes.

We owe many thanks to Chris, Dylan and Rylie for spending a precious day off that Sunday to graciously host our members. The technologies and complexity keep advancing – very soon the EQ series of cars will be here.



Our large crew await learning about the features of the new cars.





Even more of the crew



A 20-year anniversary pin for the irreplaceable Horst Loewel, with wife, Doris Schaeckel



Photographer Christo Pandelidis and master chefs Hazel and Dennis Ostrowerka



Enjoying the BBQ lunch in the August sunshine

Coachwerks Tour, AGM and Lunch Saturday, 25 September 2021

Rob Watson

Photos by Barry Patchett and Linda Derrick

In among the rainy September days, a rare sunny Saturday found 30 members and guests hovering around the Coachwerks entrance on John Street. We were re-located to their entrance on Hillside Avenue where there is an off-street parking area.

Eric Cherneff (Restoration Specialist) and Dave Hargraves (Manager) met us, and we gathered amid their astonishing collection and works-in-progress. Eric provided an introduction while Dave acted as our sweep to ensure we didn't stray too far in their vast facility. There is so much to see and hear. Coachwerks specializes in Mercedes-Benz and Porsche but we also saw under restoration a Ferrari, Jaguar E-type, a VW bug, a VW camper and a Volvo station wagon.





Eric Cherneff and Dave Hargraves, the consummate Coachwerks hosts and guides



Gorgeous Ferrari Dino

Eric began the tour with a line-up of 300 SL Gullwings and roadsters. One of the Gullwings had only its body sitting on supports. Eric pointed out how careful they had to be when removing the body from the chassis because the body alone will fold in on itself. The car's chassis was being restored in another area. It was fascinating to view a "raw" Gullwing frame with its lattice of tubes, which made it easy to see the high door sill of the 300SL and explains why the 300SL ended up with its iconic Gullwing doors.

The tour continued with Eric highlighting a row of colourful Porsches spanning three decades of development starting in 1966. He pointed out how the styling and some parts such as headlights had remained essentially unchanged over that period. In the centre of the shop was a grey 1957 300SL Roadster. Eric discussed the exterior completion process and that after two days buffing the paint looks better than the original car when purchased. This car had some interesting custom modifications, including a non-original hard top and air conditioning, which required some special Coachwerks ingenuity to fit.

Our next stop was the body shop and a description of the painstaking work required to form the panels. Reminding us that restorations can cost up to \$500,000 (or more), Eric said that most restorations do not make economic sense and that clients will commission work, often for sentimental reasons. In some cases, clients have owned the vehicle so long that the current value exceeds the original cost plus the restoration costs.

The final stop and the conclusion of our tour was at the paint shop looking at the individual bays where such work is completed. In the centre of this area is their paint mixing room that contains hundreds of individual tints to create custom colours.

After the tour we conducted our AGM and relaxed to a wonderful selection of sandwiches, fruits, veggies and dip, and cookies purchased by Hazel and Dennis Ostrowerka.

We need to be mindful of the effort that our hosts take to host these tours and events, usually on a day when they should be relaxing with their families or friends. Our sincere thanks to Eric and Dave for their time and excellent tour.





Three decades of colourful Porsches



A 300SL Roadster nearing completion with an added hardtop and air conditioning



Eric explaining what makes the 300SL iconic. In the background is a 300SL's body on supports



The tubes of the chassis of the 300SL seen in the previous picture.



Some of the tints used to create the colour of individual cars





MBCA Anniversary Award pins: L to R: Barrie Aldrich (20 years), Martin Enright (20 years), John wells (5 years), James Troy (5 years), and Donna Donaldson (5 years)



A patient crowd during the AGM



Eager for lunch after an excellent tour and the AGM

Links of Interest

Rob W. was going to write an article about the new EQS but there is so much information coming out that it is simply not possible to condense it into a short missive. Instead, you can watch Jay Leno review the EQS [here](#). The Daimler–Benz media site also has a ‘truck full’ of resources: One for the EQS [here](#) and for the EQE [here](#).

Thought this video on YouTube of “Group C mercedes benz C11 lap record of lemans 2010” -- also known as “what not to do on the Malahat” [here](#) would provide amusement.

And for more entertainment not associated with Mercedes–Benz or four wheels, a lap by John McGuinness at the Isle of Man TT [here](#). Seventeen minutes of exhilarating and visceral motion. You might need something strong to calm your nerves at the end.

