



Vancouver Island Section

August, 2013

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Coming Events - Mark your calendar now!

Aug 11: Regional Show ‘n Shine, Seattle. “Pride of ownership” — that’s what shines through every year as club members from around the Northwest converge on the beautiful grounds of the Nile Golf & Country Club just north of Seattle for our Annual Regional Show & Shine. This year’s event will showcase not one, but TWO Mercedes-Benz’ that have been featured on the cover of The Star magazine. In addition to the largest area display of Mercedes owned by MBCA Northwest Region members, this event offers People’s Choice voting with awards & trophies, local dealer & vendor displays, gift basket ticket sales with proceeds to support our charity of the year, and door prizes & demonstrations.

Now is the time to pre-register your cars and to reserve an All-American BBQ lunch by O’Callahan’s Catering featuring your summertime favorites: Quarter Pound Burgers & All Beef Hot Dogs, Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Boston Baked Beans, Red Potato Salad, Chips, Ice Cold Watermelon, Soda, Water & Dessert.

The Nile Golf & Country Club is at 6601 244th Street SW, Mountlake Terrace, WA. Take exit 177 (State Route 104) off I-5. Travel west 3/10ths of a mile and make a right into the club. The event starts at 10.

Registration Fee: \$15 per person for lunch, \$10 for registration of your first show car and \$5 for registration for each additional car you place in the show. Hotels: Embassy Suites, Lynwood; La Quinta, Lynwood. Contact Ian Gleadle ([click](#)) **before August 8th**.

Section Officers

President: [Bob Wilson](#)

Vice President: vacant

Secretary: [Hazel Ostrowerka](#)

Treasurer: [Rob Watson](#)

Membership: [Jeff Cohen](#)

Director at large: [Dennis Ostrowerka](#)

Newsletter: [Bob Wilson](#)

Hon. Vice President: Peter Trzewik

Past President: [Barry Patchett](#)

Welcome New Members!

Ron Drane

Jamie Graham

Russell Heslep - '86 560SL

Renewing Members!

Martin Enright - '06 C230; '03 S430, '67 230SL

Kenneth & Joan Loga - '84 500 SEC

Hal Neumann & Maureen Rivers- '61 300 SL

Gareth Rees - '75 450SLC

Leo Vanderven

Thank you!

Aug 18: Victoria City Rally and Tour: Come join us on a route that will provide you with a scenic tour of Victoria, friendly competition amongst members, and a few challenges of skill, observation and patience! Some members from the Seattle and Portland Sections will be in Victoria that weekend and will be attending.

Itinerary for Sunday, August 18th, 2013

8:00 am We will be meeting for breakfast at the James Bay Inn – Banquet Room. 270 Government Street, Victoria, BC.

9:00 am Driver's Briefing

9:30-10:00 am Staggered Start (we may be able to get underway early depending)

11:30 am-Noon Arrival at the Finish Line

Noon Prizes and Lunch

Rules & Regulations and instructions for the route will be provided (as well as maps for Seattle/Portland participants). The car must leave the James Bay Inn and complete all assigned 'Legs'. The clock will begin when the car has left the James Bay Inn at the designated time. To complete a 'Leg' you will be required to answer a question and/or complete a task at the 'Leg' destination. Proof of completion may be in the form of a picture (please bring a camera or smartphone), an answer to a clue, or an item to obtain.

Prizes will be awarded to the Vancouver Island Section car and Seattle/Portland Section car with the best overall time/score.

An entry fee of \$10 per car will be collected upon check-in. The fee will be applied to the cost of lunch and prizes.

If you would like to participate, please confirm with Jeff Cohen at j.cohen@shaw.ca or 250-818-3267 by August 15th, 2013. We would like to make sure that we have enough Rules and Route instructions for all participants. When you confirm, please include your name, contact information, and car. Also, please let us know if you are attending breakfast and the tour or just the tour.

Hope to see you there!

Sep 8: Mercedes-Benz in the Park, N Vancouver. The BC Stars Section invites Island members to their annual event at Waterfront Park in North Vancouver. I went across last year and enjoyed the day, seeing some unusual older models that we don't have in our Section, and the hosts made me feel very welcome. Organizer: Louis Fourie ([click](#)).

Sep 15, 10 AM to 4 PM: VI Motor Gathering 2013. The annual show on the grounds of the Queen Alexandra children's hospital ([click](#)) includes classes for modern and classic cars and is the best opportunity in the car show calendar to display your Mercedes-Benz in Victoria. With several activities for kids, this is one of the most family-friendly shows around as well as the one with the most exotic cars. In past years, the QA show has featured a choice selection from Rudi Konicek's collection.

VANCOUVER ISLAND MOTOR GATHERING 2013



Motorsport and Car enthusiasts, mark your calendars!

The 2013 Vancouver Island Motor Gathering, presented by the German Auto Import Network [GAIN], will take place September 15, 2013 from 11 am to 4 pm and will be in full support of the Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver Island. Hosted on the Queen Alexandra grounds at 2400 Arbutus Road, it will host hundreds of spectacular cars and motorcycles of all makes and models, live entertainment, food and fun for the entire family!

- When: September 15, 2013
- Where: 2400 Arbutus Road
- Time: 11am – 4pm
- Family Activities Including: Face Painting | Pedal Car Races | Remote Control Cars | Bouncy Castles | Crafts Stations and so much more
- Exhibitor Categories: Vintage | Classic | Custom Build | Motorcycles | Choppers | Modern | Rare | Muscle | Hot Rods | and more!
- Exhibitor Pre-Registration: \$25 (Payment required Prior to event)
- Spectator Admission: By Donation (\$2 min. per person)

The show is a charity benefit for the Children's Health Foundation and is organized this year by GAIN-Vancouver Island, the dealer group of which Three Point Motors is a part. We are being offered a section of the grounds on which to position Club member's cars, and I have been in touch with several who plan to attend. If we haven't already been in touch, please let me know if you plan to register ([click](#)) so we can organize ourselves.

You must also pre-register on-line with GAIN-VI ([click](#)) even if you've spoken to me. In the space on the entry form provided for Comments please indicate that you are an MBCA member, in case this gets printed on your vehicle card. Any non-members displaying an MB at the show will be grouped in our area.

Along with other members' cars, we'd like to display the 6 generations of SL. I do not, however, know a member with an R230 SL, the generation that was made from 2003 to 2012. If you can bring one, please drop me a note soon!

And if you aren't interested in displaying your car, consider joining us for a picnic on the QA grounds around 12:30.

Sep 22: Mid-Island BBQ and Event. Open house and a barbecue at Three Point Motors' new facility in Nanaimo. Stay tuned for further details. Organizer: Dennis Ostrowerka

Oct 19: AGM: Discussion of the event calendar for 2014 and election of officers. Union Club. Organizer: Jeff Cohen

Oct 25 or 26: Oktoberfest. Our annual homage to German culture at the Edelweiss Club, with dinner followed by entertainment and dancing to the music of Vancouver's S-Bahn. Maybe this year our group will be able to field a contestant in the Schuplattler contest ([click](#))! Organizer Hazel Ostrowerka. Registration details will be forthcoming.

Nov 10: Morning coffee, locations TBA. Organizers: Bob Wilson (Victoria) and Barry Patchett (mid-Island)

Dec 13 or 14(?): Xmas party, Union Club. Date subject to confirmation. Organizer Cordelia McIntosh

Stargazing

Trends

I don't often comment on trends in the Canadian car market, partly because results for the last several quarters have been monotonous, with MB Canada setting one sales record after another. I'm also unconvinced this is appropriate content for this newsletter. However, I'll climb out of my shell and comment on sales figures for the first half of 2013.

For the first six months of 2013, new vehicle sales overall were up 2% in Canada, the increase being driven mostly by stronger demand for pickup trucks. MB's sales were down 2%, or 4.5% when Sprinter vans and Smart cars are removed. The new B appears to be poaching customers from the C, which is now six model-years old and, unusually, handily behind the new BMW 3-series in volume.

A new C-class, the W205, will be unveiled at next spring's Detroit auto show. It will be the first to use MB's new rear-wheel drive architecture called MRA, the complement to MB's MFA architecture that underpins the front-wheel drive A and B classes. MRA will become common across the rwd/4-Matic vehicles, including SUVs, as present models are replaced. The W205 C-class will be longer and wider than the current one; engines will include a new two-litre, 4-cylinder codenamed M274, based on the M270 engine in the new B-class and with just over 200 hp. A hybrid electric with the same 4-cyl is also part of the rumor mill, and we may actually see a diesel.

This seems the appropriate spot to relate that the Section's Honorary Vice-President, Peter Trzewik, has said that the final model year often provides the best opportunity for a new MB purchaser. Any early problems will have been ironed out and the final configuration is generally the best one.

Ahead Two More

MB has just introduced the all-new 9G-tronic automatic gearbox on the E 350 in Europe. This 9-speed transmission is designed to improve fuel economy, leaving the engine turning just 1,350 rpm at 120 km/h in top gear. The box will also have quicker and more responsive shifts than the outgoing 7G-tronic, which has been with us for the last nine years or so. It will arrive here in Canada in the fall.

W196 Race Car Sets a New Record

Until Friday, July 12, the most expensive car ever sold at auction was a 1957 Ferrari Testarossa prototype, sold by Gooding & Company for US\$16.4 million in 2011. That now seems a relative bargain compared to the \$29.65

million realized by Bonhams last month for the Mercedes-Benz W196R that helped legendary Formula 1 driver Juan Manuel Fangio achieve his second championship in 1954. It sold to a private buyer over the phone.

The sum more than doubles the previous record for a German automobile sold at auction, \$11.77 million for a 1936 MB 540 K Special Roadster in 2012. Still, there is good reason for the W196R achieving that staggering price: not only was it driven to two grand prix wins by Fangio himself, but it is the only W196 in private hands.

Even without the direct link to Fangio, calling the car historically significant is a bit of an understatement. Following Fangio's time behind the wheel, the car was driven by Hans Hermann and later by Karl Kling. On its retirement from racing, it was restored and displayed in the Mercedes-Benz museum and later shown throughout Europe, before being pressed into service for tire development and testing. It was also the favorite testing car of the legendary Mercedes-Benz engineer, Rudolf Uhlenhaut, who in late 1969 had it reserved at all times for his personal use. *(content from hemmings.com)*



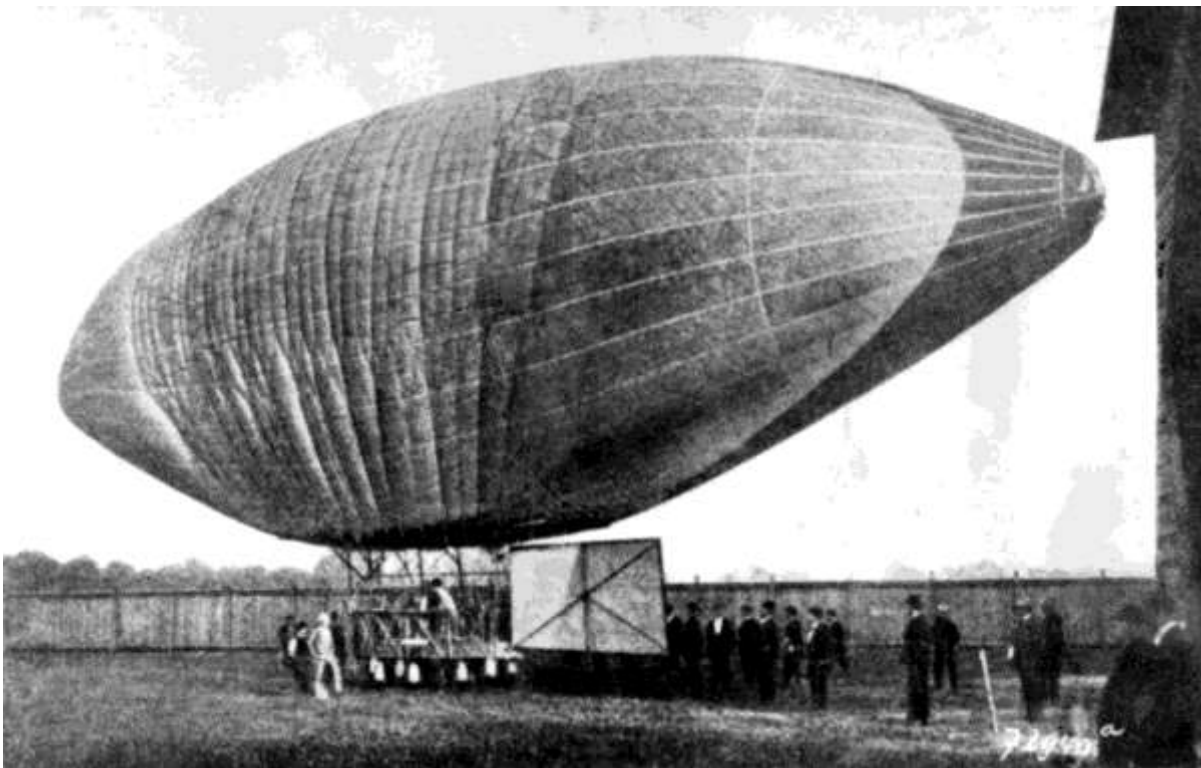
Nice to see the less than perfect condition. Photo: bonhams.com

While the price of classic cars in general seems to be going only upwards, I see a worrying (to me) sign that the market could be entering a bubble. An outfit calling themselves the Historic Auto Group ([click](#)) has developed a market index for classic cars to “track this alternative asset class accurately for the first time, using rigorous financial methodology usually associated with more traditional investments.” Just like the stock market, the HAGI has a number of sub-indices, including one for classic Mercedes-Benz models. The MB sub-index, which was set to 100 in December 2011, now stands at 132.17 excluding the sale above. The four biggest gainers have been the W198 300 SL roadster, the W113 Pagoda SLs, the W198 300 SL coupe, and the W121 190 SL. HAGI's Top sub-index, which tracks the rarest and most expensive cars, is published monthly on the website of the Financial Times. You can't trade the index, at least not yet, and that's a good thing in my view.

Take Off, Eh? History.

Our hat tip this month is to the 125th anniversary of powered flight using an internal combustion engine. At 9.00 a.m. on 10 August 1888, this new era in aeronautics began at the factory yard of the Daimler Motor Company in Cannstatt. A balloon slowly lifted above the company premises and flew off with an audibly clattering four-stroke Daimler engine in a north-westerly direction, the first successful flight in history using a combustion engine to drive the propeller(s). Power came from a single-cylinder, 2-hp engine, made by Gottlieb Daimler, called the Grandfather Clock engine for the physical resemblance of its upright form. It turned two propellers, one a horizontal pusher and the other mounted vertically under the pilot's platform to control the balloon's lift. The airship, belonging to the Leipzig-based bookseller Dr Friedrich Hermann Wölfert, flew ten kilometres from the factory yard and returned.

Wölfert was killed along with his mechanic in 1897, when his latest balloon caught fire in the air and crashed. The Company's engines went on to power a variety of performance aircraft, most notably before and during the two major wars of the last century.



This is the 1896 evolution of Wölfert's steerable balloon, powered by a 2-cyl Daimler Phoenix engine making 7 hp. As in 1888, the rudder was in front of the pilot's platform. Daimler photo.

The Back End

Left behind at the July BBQ: a black sun hat and a cake spatula. To claim, please call Cordelia at 250-656-5656.

Informative test comparing the Dodge Viper SRT and the AMG SLS63 Black Series.

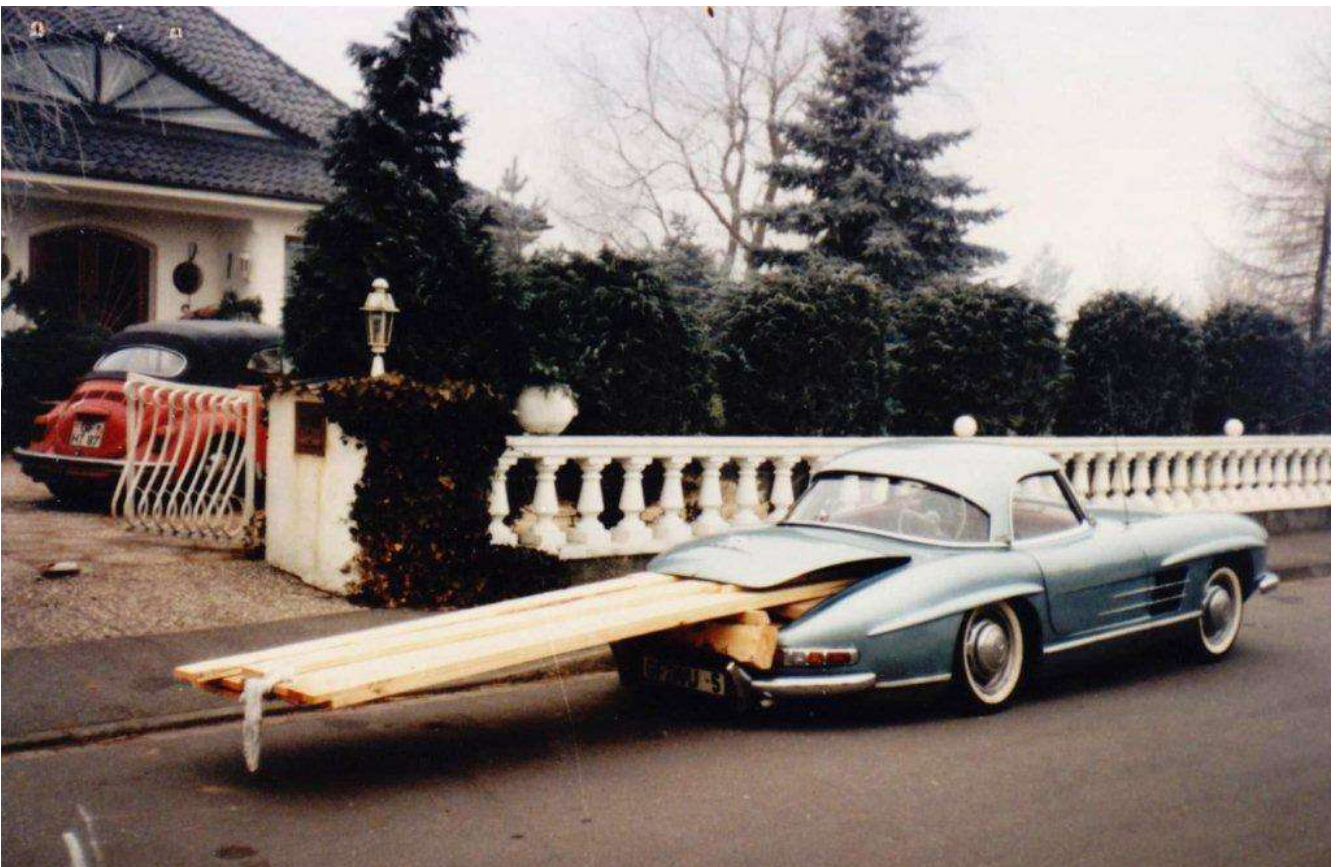
<http://mbworld.org/articles/mercedes-benz-sls-amg-black-series-versus-srt-viper/> (hat tip to Alex Currie)

Taking a Ponton on a challenging outing. <http://www5.mercedes-benz.com/en/history/peking-paris-on-the-trail-of-life-ponton-classic-oldtimer/>



Karl Wendlinger in a 1934 W25 GP car at the 2012 Goodwood Revival

Daimler photo



SL = Somewhat Lumbered. Who knew?? Photo: Mercedes 300 SL Gullwing & Roadster

