



**Vancouver Island Section**

**October, 2013**

**In This Issue:**

Coming Events - Mark your calendar now! .....1

Adding an Associate Member.....2

Nanaimo Tech Event.....2

The Annual General Meeting.....2

Stargazing .....3

    Back-up Cameras .....3

The Back End.....3

**Coming Events - Mark your calendar now!**

**Oct 25, 7 PM: Oktoberfest.** Our annual homage to German culture at the Edelweiss Club, with dinner (optional), dancing to the music of S-bahn, and demonstrations of rhythmic athleticism by the Edelweiss dancers. Maybe this year our group will be able to field a contestant in the Schuplattler contest ([click](#))!

Last chance! We have two tickets left for this event. Please contact the organizer, Hazel Ostrowerka ([click](#)), if you'd like to come. Tickets are \$28 each, which does not include the delicious and reasonably priced dinner cooked by the ladies in the Edelweiss kitchen. Dinner starts around 6:30, with the dancing and demonstrations beginning at 8. Your ticket will be available at the door.

**Nov 10: Morning coffee, 10 AM, two locations.**

*Francelli's, 4444 W. Saanich Road.* Francelli's is in the Royal Oak Shopping Centre, just north of the Co-op gas station. The café faces the street. Francelli's got into the news over the summer because it was the weekly destination for an informal cruise-in by hotrod enthusiasts. The mall management eventually got tired of the resulting pressure on parking space and circulated a notice closing the parking lot to car clubs. Langford then announced that the hot-rodders would be welcome at their mall just north of the highway. A couple of weeks later the Royal Oak management sent another notice to say that car clubs were again welcome. I imagine we won't stretch their capacity. Organizer: Bob Wilson

**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](#)



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## Welcome New Members!

*Tim Palmer*  
*Jeff Wooder*

## Renewing Members!

*Barrie Aldrich*  
*Frits de Geest*  
*Nigel & Sherry Oddy*  
*Christo Pandelidis*  
*Charlotte Salomon*  
*Alex & Ann Wortmann*

**Thank you!**

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Saltair Train Station, on the right (east) side of Chemainus Road (travelling north), about 2 km north of the Oak Street roundabout (the new shopping centre). Organizer Barry Patchett

**Dec 14: Xmas party**, Union Club. Our annual windup party, with conversation, drinks, awards, significant draw/ door prizes, slide show, the predictably doomed attempt to deplete the Union Club's dinner buffet, and dancing. Organizer Cordelia McIntosh.

Tickets will be \$65 per guest. To reserve, please call Anne-Marie Graham at 250-385-6737.

Some members are in the habit of staying overnight at the Union Club to avoid the post-party drive home. You should book early if you're thinking that sounds a good idea, because rooms on the Xmas party weekend usually sell out early. Call the Union Club at 250-384-1151 to reserve; the \$99 rate for a standard room includes breakfast. You may need to

mention that your stay is sponsored by John and Cordelia McIntosh.

## Adding an Associate Member

The MBCA does not charge for Associate memberships, a good way to recognise the contribution that spouses and partners bring to our community. There are two ways to add an Associate member to your profile. On the website *mbca.org*, log in and then look for the link in the left hand menu bar under My Profile. Or you can call the NBO at 800-637-2360 and do it over the phone.

## Nanaimo Tech Event

*Article by Hazel Ostrowerka*

We had 9 members attending our first technical event and BBQ at the Nanaimo Mercedes-Benz.

Yoshi Hildebrand and his staff welcomed us to the new dealership and gave us an over view of the new technologies of the B, C, E and ML class for 2014.

We had our BBQ, the rains let up which was appreciated by all.

After our break we had a tour of the new shop facilities state of the art and service repair department.

The group was treated to a private sneak preview of the new 2014 CLA 250.

## The Annual General Meeting

Just nine Members and Associates attended the Section's 2013 annual meeting, held at the Union Club. After reports from the President, Treasurer and Membership Director, we discussed creating a Section website. Rob Watson, Jeff Cohen and Barry Patchett have agreed to look after this initiative. If you have any special talent in this regard and you'd be willing to help, please contact Rob ([click](#)). There were no changes at the Board level.



Thanks to Jeff Cohen for hosting us.

## Stargazing

### Back-up Cameras

A consumer group has the US government in court for failing to implement a 2008 Presidential directive to set rear visibility standards for cars and light trucks by 2011 ([click](#)). The US Department of Transportation has repeatedly put off the new regulation, which is expected to force automakers to install backup cameras in all new vehicles sold there. This would very likely affect the Canadian market as well.

A study in the US in 2010 reported an average of 292 deaths and 18,000 injuries a year from 'back-over' accidents, with 44% of the deaths being children under the age of five. The cost to manufacturers for adding a backup camera is estimated at between \$58 and \$203 per vehicle, and US carmakers have been solidly against the new rule. A backup camera with wide-angle lens is part of MB's Intelligent Drive technology but it requires the COMAND telematics display and is not standard on all vehicles.

### The Back End

Edmunds is impressed by the new S-class with a First Class package.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9vG0-oEsOc>

A cautionary tale about international shipping. <http://www.hagerty.com/classic-car-articles-resources/Features/Losses-and-lessons/All-articles/2013/10/01/International-Shipping>

Democratizing the Brand; The Globe & Mail writes about why the market position of the CLA and B.

<http://bit.ly/1gu06bm+>



*The W201 190E 2.5-16 Evolution II being campaigned by MB Classic in European historic racing. This model was the ultimate variant of the first C-class. It developed 373 hp from a 2.5 L 4-cyl engine.*

Daimler photo

