



Vancouver Island Section

January, 2016

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CALENDAR

Holiday Party, Sat. Dec. 12
Board meeting Mon. Jan. 11
Lunch, Sun. Jan 17
Coffee and tour of Coachwerks, Feb 20 or 21
New Models and Technology, Sun 20 March
V.I. Motorsport Park, half day, late April
Interior detailing, Sun. May 15
Annual picnic, Sun. Jun. 26
MBCA Regional tour, Jul. 8-10
Motor Gathering, Sun. Aug. 21
Tech talk: Intelligent Drive, Sun. Sep. 18
Oktoberfest, Oct. date TBA
Annual Meeting, Sun. Nov. 6
Holiday dinner, Dec date TBA

Section Officers

President: [Bob Wilson](#)
Vice-President: [Jamie Graham](#)
Secretary: [Hazel Ostrowerka](#)
Treasurer: [Rob Watson](#)
Membership: [Jeff Cohen](#)
Newsletter: [Bob Wilson](#)
Website: vacant
Dealer Ambassador, Victoria: [Dennis Ostrowerka](#)
Dealer Ambassador, Nanaimo: [Barry Patchett](#)
Director at Large: [Ron Drane](#)
Hon. Vice President: Peter Trzewik



Coming Events

Sunday, January 17: Lunch and Annual Awards

This event will take place at Forester's Restaurant, in the Olympic View Golf Club, 643 Latoria Road. Our reservation is for 1 pm. We'll be ordering from the menu and paying individually.

The Section's annual awards will be presented at this lunch.

Please RSVP to Hazel Ostrowerka ([click](#)) by Tuesday, Jan 12, if you plan to come.

Christmas Lunch

Our annual Christmas gathering was held at the Med Grill in Royal Oak. Members met for a late lunch and natter. The company and food were both great and the affair was quite informal.

Photo: Christo Pandelidis



This was the Section's last event of 2015. We held 12 events averaging close to 20 people at each. Almost half the membership came to at least one event. It's rewarding for all the Executive to see attendance increasing year-on-year, and that new members are joining in. If you didn't join us, and even if you did, make it a New Year's resolution to come out this year. Thanks to all our event organizers!

Welcome New Members!

Bruce Kerr - Victoria

Renewing Members!

Phil Hoult

Colin & Jennifer Bell - 83 300SD, 85 300TD

Philip Topalian

Alex Wortmann

Thank you!



Stargazing

Back to the SLC

From 1972 to 1981, MB offered a coupe variant of the R107 SL Class. It sat on a stretched wheelbase and had a quite useable back seat, offering stylish touring for two or four people. The exterior features were a slim roof line, evolved from the pagoda-roof W113 SLs, and a shark-like set of gills located inside a second set of rear quarter windows. Never common, these cars still look pretty today but typically sell for less than their more usual convertible cousins. The factory briefly used the coupes for international rallying but their success was hampered by their size and weight.



An R107 350 SLC from Europe (small bumpers, Euro headlights). photo: wikipedia.org

Consistent with MB's new badging policy, a revised R172 SLK will be introduced next spring as an SLC. As well as the SLC350, Canadians can expect to see an SLC300 powered by the company's 2-L 4-cyl making 241 hp and 273 lb-ft of torque. It will have the revised nose and diamond-faceted grille of the SL Class. The SLC's folding metal roof will have an automatic trunk partition that senses if there is enough room to open the roof, and which can be operated at speeds up to 20 km/h.

It will get MB's new 9-speed automatic and the Drive Select system, which toggles between comfort, sport, sport-plus, eco and individual modes. The system adjusts the throttle, steering, suspension (on cars with adaptive damping) and exhaust note (on cars equipped with the sports exhaust). Interestingly, a mechanical limited-slip differential will be available.

Responsibility extends to the SLC45 AMG, which makes do with a 362 hp, twin-turbo V6 instead of the present V8. Sixty mph comes up in 4.7 seconds, only 0.1 slower than today's SLK55 AMG, and is accompanied by considerably better fuel economy.





The new 350SLC

Daimler photo

CarPlay

MB is making Apple CarPlay available on certain models with production dates from December 1 2015 (*hat tip to Mike McBride; [click](#)*). While the link takes you to info from MB USA, a little work on MB Canada's website reveals that the same feature is offered here. The first group of models to get CarPlay will be the B, CLA, and GLA, in which it will be part of the Premium Package that includes COMAND navigation. In the USA this initial group also includes the E and CLS classes but I couldn't find matching information on MB Canada's rather difficult website. As mentioned in the November issue, MB's implementation of CarPlay includes the iPhone's main functions: telephone, SMS messaging, navigation, music, audiobooks and music. Third-party music apps like Spotify will also be supported. Apple's navigation feature might be redundant, because the cars already have nav, but the app will let a driver program a destination into his phone while indoors, and then transfer it to the car when they get in. Apple's assistant SIRI is used for voice control.

Changing the Safety Standards

In the wake of changed crash test procedures by the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety (IIHS), the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is proposing to revise the US government's testing procedures for 2019 and beyond. While both of these bodies are American, changes made there will ripple across the border.

The IIHS introduced the partial front overlap test (*Sep. 2012 issue*) to recognise perhaps the most common type of head-on collision. In this test a vehicle is thrown into a stationary barrier across the driver's side front quarter. Though the IIHS is not a regulatory body, its safety ratings influence consumer purchasing decisions. The first round of testing showed up problems with some vehicles in which the integrity of the driver's footwell and seating area were seriously compromised. Manufacturers worked quickly to strengthen their platforms and improve performance but this test still separates the good from the dubious.

Among the changes proposed by the NHTSA are evaluations of pedestrian impact, a procedure now several years old in Europe and responsible for the blunter nose found on current MBs. These tests evaluate damage in city-speed collisions to a pedestrian's limbs and torso. The agency will also begin to test driver aids for effectiveness—they presently just list them—and introduce an angled barrier collision. The new regulations are at least a year away from their final form and the proposed implementation date may well be pushed off.



The Back End

Bling! The GLE AMG 63 has fake exhaust tips ([click](#))

Production of the S Class convertible has started in Sindelfingen ([click](#))

Autoweek peeks into the luxurious interior of the new E Class (*hat tip to Mike McBride*; [click](#)). The car premieres in Detroit on Jan 11.

Driving.ca has some inside tips for buying used cars ([click](#) and [click](#))

...and they also offer 10 achievable new year's resolutions—for your car ([click](#))

Uh-oh. Chinese researchers have built a car controlled by human thought ([click](#)). Will it have to be made in two flavours?

I didn't find an appropriate picture to end with this month, so I thought I'd re-run the one that started this section. From the July, 2013 issue:

This MB rear clip is made entirely of paper. It's displayed in the window of a leather-goods shop in New York. Note the badge. Photo: John McIntosh

