



Vancouver Island Section

August, 2016

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CALENDAR

- Show ‘n Shine, North Vancouver, Aug. 28 (BC Stars)**
- Cars ‘n Coffee, Oak Bay Marina, Sep. 11**
- Tech talk: Intelligent Drive, Sat. Sep. 17**
- Motor Gathering, Sun. Sep. 18**
- Oktoberfest, Fri. Oct. Oct. 28**
- Annual Meeting, Sun. Nov. 6**
- Holiday dinner, Dec. date TBA**

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Coming Events

Sunday, Aug 28, North Vancouver Show 'n Shine

Vancouver Island members are encouraged to attend this BC Stars Section event on the North Vancouver waterfront. The MBCA Shipbuilders Square Show & Shine is dedicated to the preservation, restoration & enjoyment of the Mercedes-Benz automobile. Celebrating 130 years of Mercedes-Benz, the show features fully restored classics, current projects and modern AMG beasts. Expect to be welcomed by like-minded enthusiasts with their families, pets and cars. There will be plenty of food and beverage options to choose from... bring the family out for a Sunday Fun day cruise to Shipbuilders Square at Lower Lonsdale, North Vancouver.

This is a fun event in beautiful surroundings with lots of nearby things to do. Registration information is at <http://landing.bcstars.ca/register/>

Saturday, Sep 17, MB's Advanced Driver Assistance Technologies

Are you uneasy about the trend toward increased automation of driver functions? Do you know what the latest technology can do? When I visit a Mercedes-Benz showroom now I'm seduced by the design, the materials, the finish and the name. But, dear member, if you did not grow up comfortably adapting to the latest generation of electronics, you may feel uneasy about the level of technology these cars now embrace. You may wonder if it's for you.

A presentation on MB's advanced driver assistance technologies has been arranged for Saturday, September 17th at 5:30 pm, in the delivery bay at Three Point Motors. Its purpose is to help members feel more comfortable with the active safety systems incorporated into current models. The presentation will be made by an expert on the 2017 E-class, the model that has MB's most advanced automation technology. Features will be illustrated with videos, helping you feel more comfortable with the increasing level of automation that I've been writing about. This presentation should help us all understand the capabilities and limits of today's vehicles.

A light meal catered by chef Castro Boateng will be available during the presentation, for which there is a charge of \$28.

For this event we are piloting the online registration and payment system offered by motorsportreg.com. This site is the official event registration host for the MBCA and a number of other car clubs, including those supporting the other German manufacturers. Look for an email soon from Rob Watson with details of the registration process.

Sunday, Sep 18, The Motor Gathering

The Motor Gathering is the only car show in Vancouver Island Section's annual calendar. The show is organized by the GAIN group of dealers, which includes Three Point Motors and Mercedes-Benz Nanaimo. MBCA-Vancouver Island plays a supporting role in helping to coordinate the presentation of our favourite cars. We will have a marquee and display as well.

All proceeds from this event go to charity. This year the event supports the David Foster Foundation and the Cowichan Valley Hospital Foundation. During the show, MBCA-Vancouver Island will present a cheque to the Cowichan Valley Hospital Foundation for \$1,320, the proceeds of May's track event.



The venue has changed over the years. Initially on the grounds of the Alexandra Hospital on Arbutus Road, the show moved in 2014 to a location beside Victoria's airport. This year it will be at the new [Vancouver Island Motorsport Circuit](#). Cars will be parked on the track.

The Motor Gathering is a show for participants who have a car of any make that they're proud of, regardless of condition, and for spectators who wish to see them. It is not a concours d'elegance, though judging is optional for those who wish it.

The show runs from 11 am to 2 pm on Sunday, September 18th. The gates open at 8 and entrants must be on the field outside Duncan by 10 am. Food will be available on site with 100% of the proceeds going to the event's two charities. You could also bring a picnic if you wish.



The Club's display at the 2015 Motor Gathering GAIN photo

Participants should register on the event website, www.motorgathering.com as early as possible. I'd appreciate a note to let me know you'll be coming once you've completed the form there; this will help us plan the arrangement of cars.

The Vancouver Island Motorsport Circuit is located at 4063 Cowichan Valley Highway (Hwy. 18). This is the road north of Duncan that you take to get to Cowichan Lake. You'll find the track on the right-hand side about 700 metres west of the Duncan Meadows Golf Course.

Stargazing

Maybach Coupe Concept

Daimler showed pictures of a low, sleek concept coupe in advance of this month's Monterey car week. The car consciously pays homage to the aero coupes of the 1930s, some of the most elegant cars of all time.

Almost 6 m long and 1.3 m high, the coupe has a full electric powertrain. The drivetrain has an output of 550 kW (750 hp) and four electric motors. An underfloor battery allows a range of over 500 kilometres according to the NEDC (over 200 miles according to EPA).



Sleek, sensuous. Those big wheels are 24". Daimler photo



The dashboard wing curves across the front of the seats into the doors, creating what Daimler calls a “360° lounge”. The seats look like lounge chairs and the floor includes enough elm wood to remind the occupants that they’re in a land yacht.

Green Trucking

Daimler has released details of an all-electric truck platform supporting a range of short-radius uses. In customer testing over the last two years, the truck performs the same as a diesel and will go up to 200 km on a charge. The platform comes in several configurations, from a dual-axle vehicle with a load capacity of over 20 tonnes to the light duty truck (6 tonnes) pictured below.



The Fuso E-Motion urban delivery truck. Daimler photo.



Daimler says that series production will be possible by 2020. There are few all-electric trucks of this size and capacity elsewhere in the world and a large potential market in cities having emissions restrictions.

A Separate Sub-Brand for EVs?

Citing Bloomberg as its source, *Road & Track* reported this month that Mercedes-Benz is considering the creation of a separate sub-brand for electric vehicles ([click](#)). No name has been chosen but MB's plans include two electric sedans and two SUVs. The company plans to show an electric SUV prototype at the Paris motor show in September. AMG and Maybach are MB's two existing sub-brands.

A Visit to the CAFE

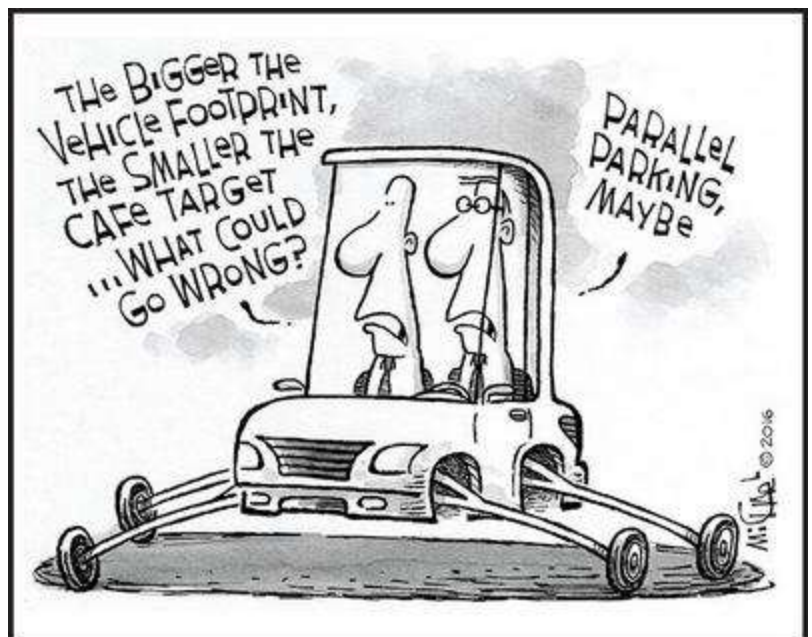
As part of a government-wide initiative in the United States, NHTSA (the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) had to update its penalties to ensure they continue to provide an adequate deterrent to rule-breaking. The updates affect auto manufacturers' plans to meet NHTSA's regulated limits for Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE). NHTSA is revising the CAFE penalty from \$5.50 per 0.1 mpg shortfall to \$14 per 0.1 mpg shortfall. That sum is then multiplied by the number of vehicles sold each year by each manufacturer to determine an annual fine in the event the target is not met.

The manufacturers participate in a kind of tactical game with the CAFE target. NHTSA has separate targets for cars and light trucks. Because the averages are calculated separately across that manufacturer's fleets of cars and trucks, sales of a relatively fuel-efficient model can cancel out a potential penalty for a model that doesn't meet the target. The idea is to net them all out to a positive credit.

While manufacturers like Ford and GM have been able to achieve or better the CAFE standards consistently, Daimler and its predecessor companies have been consistent scofflaws since the program began. An annual penalty has become, in effect, part of Daimler's cost of doing business in the USA. For 2014, the last year for which data are available ([click](#)), Daimler's target for its fleet of cars was 32.7 mpg. Daimler achieved 33.7 mpg across a sales volume of 278,176 cars, leading to a penalty of \$55 per unit. Daimler's target for light trucks was 25.7 mpg. The company achieved 27.3 mpg across a sales volume of 92,312 trucks, a penalty of \$88 per unit. These penalties are very small compared to the sales price of Daimler's vehicles and were likely passed on to consumers. Fair enough. In aggregate, the fine Daimler paid to NHTSA for 2013 was \$16.3 million, but this amount is set to rise by a factor of 2.5 going forward. The more the company sells, and Mercedes-Benz USA continues to set one sales record after another, the more they pay.

Expanding a car's footprint -- the wheelbase multiplied by the track width -- gives it a lower mpg target to meet under US corporate average fuel economy standards. Cartoon by Leo Michael via autonews.com

Actual corporate average fuel economy is worsening across aggregate vehicle sales in both



the USA and Canada. This is despite steady improvements to the fuel economy of individual models. Average fuel economy is declining as buyer preference shifts from cars to light trucks, which are heavier than their sedan cousins and tend also to have bigger engines. Not so long ago, the sales ratio of cars to trucks was 50:50. In 2016, 65% of the new vehicles sold in Canada during the first half of the year were trucks.

Manufacturers seemingly have three alternatives to satisfy the CAFE requirements, which increase by about 50% between now and 2025. The first is to continue improving the fuel economy of gasoline- and diesel-powered vehicles, and to broaden both the range and appeal of the electric vehicles and hybrids in their fleets. This alternative is consistent with what we know of Daimler's plans for future models. The second alternative is to make non-compliant models increasingly expensive as the CAFE target rises, providing a disincentive to consumers. The third is to pay the fines as an ongoing cost of doing business. In practice, I suspect we'll continue to see all three.

The Back End

Enrico Bernardi at the Automobile Club of Verona: a rival for the title of first automobile? ([click](#))

Watch this YouTube video to learn why consumers should favour synthetic oil over conventional oil ([click](#))

Very different new battery chemistries are coming ([click](#); hat tip to Mike McBride)

The way the CAFE targets are calculated is an incentive for manufacturers to make individual models larger than their predecessors and, surprise, that's what's been happening ([click](#))

New Audis can communicate with traffic lights and relay the signal's intentions to drivers ([click](#))

A 300SL in mid-restoration is suspended over its chassis in part of Coachwerk's display at the 2015 Motor Gathering. Will we see something similar this year? GAIN photo

