



**Vancouver Island Section**

**September, 2016**

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**CALENDAR**

**Oktoberfest, Fri. Oct. Oct. 28**  
**Annual Meeting, Sun. Nov. 13 (date change!)**  
**Holiday dinner, Dec. Fri. Dec 9?**

**Section Officers**

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



## Coming Events

### Oktoberfest: Oct. 28

On Friday Oct. 28, we're bringing back our annual homage to German culture at the Edelweiss Club, with dinner (optional), dancing to the music of S-Bahn ([click](#)) and demonstrations of rhythmic athleticism by the Edelweiss dancers.



We've reserved a table at this popular, always sold-out event. Please contact the organizer, Hazel Ostrowerka ([click](#)), if you'd like to come. Tickets are \$35 each, which does not include the delicious and reasonably priced dinner cooked by the ladies in the Edelweiss kitchen. Doors open at 7. A schnitzel or bratwurst dinner is available for purchase, with the dancing beginning about 8. Beer is optional too, but you'll want a stein to accompany S-Bahn's drinking songs.

*Audience participation is always a strong feature of S-Bahn's performances.*

Photo: [www.victoriaedelweiss.ca](http://www.victoriaedelweiss.ca)

### Annual General Meeting, Nov. 13

Vancouver Island Section's annual general meeting will be held on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at the Ramada Inn (formerly the Travelodge) in Duncan (on the Island highway; [click for location](#)), starting at 11:30, with lunch to follow. This is a week later than previously advertised as the hotel was unable to accommodate our original date.

**Nigel Matthews will be our guest speaker after lunch.** Nigel is the Global Director of Sales and Marketing at Hagerty Insurance, a company specializing in agreed-value coverage of collector cars and boats. A sought-after concours judge with appearances in Europe, the Middle East and at Pebble Beach, Nigel was ICBC's founding gatekeeper for the collector car licensing program. He's an entertaining speaker and an expert on the world's rare, unusual and exotic cars. You'll want to add this event to your calendar.

As always, we'll make an attempt to keep the mandatory agenda brief. The main item for discussion will be next year's event list, for which the Board always welcomes members' input. This meeting will also select a new section president.

A lunch of soup, sandwiches, dessert and coffee/tea will be served at a cost of \$20 per plate, a great deal. Please RSVP to Bob Wilson ([click](#)) **by Tuesday November 8** so we have a count for the lunch.

### Year-End Party

Our holiday party moves back to the Union Club this year. The tentative date is Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. A confirmation of the date and more information will follow.



## Tech Seminar Recap

*Photos by Barry Patchett*

Fifteen members and guests gathered in the delivery bay at Three Point Motors to benefit from a seminar on Intelligent Drive. Adam Mikasko took us through MB's implementation of this suite of technologies for the 2017 E-class, the model that currently has the most advanced version. To refresh your memories, Intelligent Drive offers a suite of safety and convenience features, including adaptive cruise control, blind spot monitoring, active lane-keeping, attention assist, cross-traffic monitoring and collision avoidance.

Adam stressed that all this technology is always under the driver's control. By applying even a slight counter-



pressure on the steering wheel, she can over-ride an automated steering input. If the driver should become unresponsive, for example to attention assist, the car will automatically brake itself to a gentle stop in its current lane, turn on the four-way flashers, and put the gearbox into Park.

Adam's talk was illustrated with slides and videos on a large screen. The audience's level of interest was high and Adam answered lots of questions throughout. Members I spoke with afterwards praised the presentation.



After a short break we enjoyed a buffet dinner prepared by Chef Castro Boateng, the chef for the Paddock Lounge at the Vancouver Island Motorsport Circuit and the interim executive chef for the renovated Villa Eyrie Resort, located on the Malahat. Incidentally, I understand that the Villa Eyrie, including its restaurant, opens to the general public on September 28<sup>th</sup>. You can find out more about the resort and make reservations for the Summit restaurant at [villaeyrie.com](http://villaeyrie.com).

## Motor Gathering Recap

The day of the show dawned to clear skies, much to the relief of the 550 participants in GAIN's 2016 Motor Gathering. Bright and perhaps a bit early for a Sunday, several Club members met at the Serious Coffee in Mill Bay and drove together to the Vancouver Island Motorsport Circuit, picking up a couple of up-Island members along the way.

Inside the gates to the track we were ushered straight into two lines for registered participants. Processing was rapid and we soon found ourselves parked as a group along one edge of the track. The Section anchored one end of the 'German' line, which was convenient because late MB arrivals could park at the open end.

Led by Ron Drane, Board members set up a marquee tent at the top end of the line. We now had a base from which to talk with passers-by. Membership information, brochures, *Star* magazines and more were offered from two tables along the sides of the tent, and a running dialogue took place with those who stopped. A draw for a year's membership in the Club provided a winner, André Chabot from Saanichton (congratulations!), and lots of leads to follow-up.



Photo: Barry Patchett

All the food at the concessions was donated by Quality Foods, an Island-owned supermarket chain. Staffed by volunteers, these concessions had reasonable prices. A large area with tables and chairs was packed pretty well throughout the day. Toilets, often the weakest part of car show logistics, were in good supply.

The Motor Gathering is an all-makes show. American, British, German, Italian and other cars were displayed by nationality on separate areas of the field. Best-in-Show was won by the owner of an immaculate 1958 Cadillac Eldorado Brougham Biarritz convertible.

The Section President was called up towards the end of the awards presentation to present a cheque for \$1,550 to the Cowichan Valley Hospital Foundation, the proceeds from our track event in May.





This was a satisfying show. We were fortunate in having good weather. The open nature of the track accommodated the 550 participants comfortably. The contribution of GAIN's many employees and their families to the smooth running of the event made the show a pleasure to attend. And the event raised a total of \$153,128 for its two charities, the Cowichan District Hospital Foundation and the David Foster Foundation. Those in attendance are looking forward to 2017, when the event takes place over two days, August 26-27. Mark your calendar now!

## Stargazing

### Going Topless on the Open Road

MB has introduced two roadster variants of the AMG-GT, the company's top-line sports car. Both are powered by a 4-L V8 with twin turbochargers. The AMG 7-speed dual clutch gearbox is fitted into a rear transaxle. The base model has 476 hp while the AMG GTC has 557. Curb weight for the base model is 1595 kg (3509 lb) and 1660 kg (3652 lb) for the GTC. Besides more power the GTC has a wider rear track and active rear-axle steering. The side vents in front of the doors are automatically opened and closed to maintain good cooling while minimizing aerodynamic drag.



*Daimler photo*

The fabric roof opens and closes in around eleven seconds, and can do this at speeds of up to 50 km/h. One of three soft top colours, black, red and beige, can be chosen to suit the eleven exterior and ten interior colours. The three-layered fabric soft top is supported by a lightweight magnesium/steel/aluminium structure, which helps to keep the centre of gravity low. Additional rollover protection is provided by an integrated aluminium cross-member with rollover bars.

These are serious sport cars showcasing the best of MB's technical prowess. Their lucky owners can count on years of open air fun.

### Roaming the Congested Streets of Town

*With text from Elizabeth Behrmann, Bloomberg.com, and Autonews.com*

To help end the blind search for a parking space in crowded city streets, Mercedes-Benz cars will start giving each other a heads-up when a space is free.

Drivers often pass by vacant spots when they're not looking to park and that information will be noted by the car and uploaded to help others, under a pilot project in Stuttgart between MB and parts supplier Robert Bosch, the two companies said Friday in a statement.





*Several manufacturers are pursuing ways to reduce the time and stress of looking for a parking spot, which is also a burden on cities as the search adds to traffic congestion and pollution from the vehicles making loops to find an available space. Photo: BLOOMBERG.COM*

The digital map-making company HERE says it will roll out a real-time mapping service early next year. HERE is jointly controlled by a consortium of Daimler, Audi and BMW (*August 2015 issue*), who bought in for \$3.1 billion last year. The service will warn of traffic hazards and help find parking spaces by using onboard sensors and cameras, with vehicles of all three manufacturers contributing data.

### **Rescue from a Serious Accident**

When a vehicle is involved in a serious accident, first responders want to know certain details about its construction before they launch an operation to rescue the occupants. Where is the gas tank? How can the battery be disabled safely? Daimler has recently taken a significant step in improving our safety in this regard, and I'll quote their press release:

"When an accident occurs and the vehicle is seriously damaged, the first thing the rescue services must do is free the occupants. This can be dangerous for all those involved if information about the vehicle is not available. So for the rescue workers, quick access to the rescue card is important. It contains all the construction details specific to that vehicle model, such as the location of airbags, battery and fuel tanks, so that equipment such as a hydraulic cutter can be used safely. Already today all manufacturers have rescue cards available for fitting on all their vehicle models.

"Daimler is the world's first car manufacturer to offer direct access to vehicle-specific rescue cards by means of a QR code. "Electronic access by means of a QR code enables Mercedes-Benz to support in the rescue of accident victims", said Christian Treiber, Director, Service & Parts for Passenger Cars at Mercedes-Benz Global



Service & Parts. "The sticker is easy to retrofit to second-hand cars. So this safety benefit is something we can offer not just to owners of new Mercedes-Benz vehicles." The QR code has been fitted as standard in all new Mercedes-Benz cars since the end of 2013 and is also fitted to Smart cars.

"With immediate effect, the QR code can be installed in all Mercedes-Benz and Smart vehicles manufactured from 1990 onwards. The fitting must be done by an authorised Mercedes-Benz or Smart service station. Treiber: "In many countries, we are offering our customers the chance to have the QR code retrofitted free of charge." For ease of access, the QR code stickers are attached to the fuel filler flap and the B-pillar on the opposite side. Accident investigators have established that these two areas offer easy external access and only in rare cases are both of them seriously damaged.

"The black-and-white, scannable symbol of the QR code can be seen practically everywhere today: on ads, packaging and even on business cards. It comprises a string of characters that enable a quick response (hence QR) and take the user to a predetermined web address. When the code is scanned with a smartphone or tablet, with an existing internet connection the rescue card can be quickly accessed to provide safety-relevant vehicle informations. Mercedes-Benz has waived its right to make a patent application so that the technology will be available for everyone."

If you are interested, you could ask your Service Advisor about it at your next visit to the dealership.

## The Back End

You couldn't make this up: MB's 'mothership' will transport robot workers to deliver packages ([click](#); *hat tip to Mike McBride*)

A Vancouver company unveils a three-wheeled electric commuter car ([click](#))

The Paris auto show, on now, is all about electric, with MB and other German manufacturers trying to take a bite out of Tesla ([click](#))

The auto industry's strategic direction means changes ([click](#))





*The 1928 W06 SSK in its natural habitat. With a top speed of about 190 km/h it was the fastest car of its day. These racing sports cars helped create the Mercedes-Benz legend long before AMG came onto the scene. Curb weight was 1,700 kg, about the same as many of today's cars, but power from the 7.1 L supercharged six-cyl was only 200-300 hp. Photo: [emercedesbenz.com](http://emercedesbenz.com)*

