



**Vancouver Island Section**

**October, 2016**

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**CALENDAR**

**Oktoberfest, Fri. Oct. Oct. 28**  
**Annual Meeting, Sun. Nov. 13 (date change!)**  
**Holiday dinner, Dec. Fri. Dec 16**

**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) and dancing to the music of S-Bahn ([click](#)).



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 and demonstrations beginning about 8.

*Audience participation is a strong element of S-Bahn's performances*

### Annual General Meeting, Nov. 13

Vancouver Island's annual general meeting will be held on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at the Ramada Inn (formerly theTravelodge) 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. The location is the same as last year's.

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

### Year-End Party, Dec. 16

Our holiday party moves back to the Union Club on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, the weekend of the Union Club's holiday dinner and dance.



The Section has booked the downstairs Palm Court, a private room close to the buffet and next door to the main scene of action. Our bar will open at 6 and dinner will commence at 6:30. The Union Club offers an extensive and inexhaustible buffet of salads, cold and hot dishes, and desserts for this event. Overnight accommodation is available upstairs for those who prefer not to drive afterwards.

Our host at the Union Club is Jeff Cohen. Rob Watson ([click](#)) will be looking after the registration.



*Photo: Christo Pandelidis*

## Stargazing

### Electric Intelligence

MB showed the first in its new sub-line of electric vehicles in Paris last month. Called the 'Generation EQ', two letters which the company says mean 'electric intelligence', the vehicle had some of the hallmarks of a concept car: no outside mirrors and a futuristic interior that bears small resemblance to the company's other offerings. Nevertheless, the body and drive train could be close to production-ready.



On the outside the EQ prototype looks like a crossover, a bit taller than a sedan and with hints of the R class.

*Daimler photo*

The inside is a totally different story. The instrument cluster has been replaced by a 24-inch TFT screen with high definition. Two spokes in the steering wheel have OLED touch controls. The centre console, which is bordered in rose gold, has no mechanical controls. They have been replaced with touch-sensitive elements and the entire console looks like it floats between the front seats.



Daimler photo



The new generation of electric vehicles will be based on an architecture developed specifically for battery-electric models. It is scalable in every respect and usable across a variety of models. The battery will be mounted low and the floor will be flat. The construction materials include steel, aluminium and carbon fibre.

The Generation EQ has two electric motors, on the front and rear axles, with a power output of 300 kW. Zero to 100 km/h is said to be achievable in under 5 seconds. The lithium ion battery pack is scalable to 70 kWh, close to the maximum available in a Tesla Model S. It can be charged inductively, by driving the vehicle over a pad, or by plugging it in.

### Some Electrifying Numbers

Electrification can't come soon enough for the European makers of luxury sedans. Some revealing US sales figures for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2016 ([click](#); hat tip to Mike McBride):

Tesla Model S	9,156
BMW 7 Series	3,634
MB S Class	3,138
Audi A7	1,532
Audi A8	1,010

As you can see, sales of Tesla's Model S are about equal to the sales of these four other models combined.

Mercedes-AMG Chairman Tobias Moers recently offered this foreboding statement: *"There will be an AMG pure electric car but I don't know when. Because otherwise AMG will disappear as a brand."* As I've said before, the electric or hybrid powertrain is our future.

### MB's European Roadmap

While Mercedes-Benz passenger cars are produced at 28 locations around the world, the powertrain components come mainly from Germany. Engines, transmissions, axles and related components are produced in Untertürkheim. The focus of the Mercedes-Benz plant in Berlin is on the development and production of ultramodern components and parts as well as engine production. The Mercedes-Benz plant in Hamburg develops and produces axles and axle components, steering columns, components for exhaust systems and



lightweight structural parts. The MDC Power engine factory in Köllda in the German federal state of Thuringia, a one-hundred-per-cent subsidiary of Daimler AG, produces four-cylinder engines for Mercedes-Benz and Mercedes-AMG.

Engines and other major components are also produced outside of Germany. The Daimler subsidiary Star Transmission in Romania assembles transmissions and makes parts and components. The joint venture BBAC in Beijing, China, produces engines for the Asian market. As part of the strategic cooperation between Daimler and the Renault/Nissan Alliance, Infiniti produces four-cylinder gasoline engines for Mercedes-Benz at its US plant in Decherd, Tennessee. All these locations have been described in previous newsletters.



*Daimler image*

This month the company signed a partnership agreement to build a new engine plant in Jawor, Poland to expand the production of 4-cylinder engines. Jawor is located about 70 km east of Warsaw. The plant is expected to begin production in 2019 at a cost of about half a billion Euros.

## The Back End

Tony Whitney tests the S65 AMG coupe: sleek, sinewy, all you could want ([click](#))

*Road & Track* looks at how MB plans to win the luxury EV game ([click](#))

MB has reserved a spot in FIA's Formula E (electric car) racing for 2018 ([click](#))

The executive summary of this Canadian article on attitudes to and perceptions about self driving vehicles is an interesting read ([click](#))

Germany's quasi-senate has asked the EU to ban sales of new gasoline and diesel powered vehicles by 2030 ([click](#))



*The W113 230/250/280 SL is the classic most popular with VI members.*

*Photo: Pinterest.com*

