



**Vancouver Island Section**

**April, 2017**

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**CALENDAR**

- Lunch, Unsworth Winery, May 7**
- Okanagan wine tour (BC Stars Sec.) May 19-21**
- Electroshine tour and lunch, Jun. 17**
- Cowichan Valley picnic, July date tba**
- Total eclipse viewing in Oregon (Seattle Sec.) Aug 21**
- Motor Gathering, Aug. 27**
- Track event and AGM, Sept 10**
- Chemainus Theatre, Sep. 30**

**Section Officers**

- President: [Rob Watson](#)
- Vice-President: [Dennis Ostrowerka](#)
- Secretary: [Hazel Ostrowerka](#)
- Treasurer: [Philip Early](#)
- Membership: [Bob Wilson](#)
- 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

### Lunch, Unsworth Winery's Restaurant, Sun. May 7

What better way to start the spring driving season than a leisurely drive into the Mill Bay countryside for a lunch with friends?

Located off a picturesque country road winding through the working farms and rolling hills in the heart of Cowichan Valley's wine country, Unsworth Restaurant is nestled in a restored early 1900s farmhouse – warm and welcoming with plenty of charm and heritage. The dining room and outdoor patio overlook vineyards, an ancient apple and walnut orchard, and the restaurant's organic herb and vegetable garden.

Unsworth's has a selection of small plates for those who prefer smaller portions, or for tables that like to share. It also offers more traditional bistro classics. The wine list features wines from Unsworth Vineyards and a selection of BC wines.

Unsworth Vineyards is located at 2915 Cameron Taggart Rd., Mill Bay. **Our reservation is for noon on May 7. RSVP by Tuesday, May 2 ([link](#)), so we can confirm numbers.** Rob Watson and Linda Derrick will lead a caravan up from outside the Tim Horton's at 739 McCallum Road (Gateway Shopping Centre, Langford, near Home Outfitters). You could meet us there about 10:45 in time to grab a coffee before the 11:15 departure, or drive to Unsworth's on your own. Let me know if you have questions!



image: [unsworthvineyards.com](http://unsworthvineyards.com)



## Okanagan Wine Tour, May 19-21

This is a three-day **BC Stars Section** event, held over the Victoria Day weekend. Their Okanagan Wine Tour will focus on wineries in the region at the southern end of Okanagan Lake – Naramata Bench, Penticton and Summerland.

The organizers say that the white wines will have been recently released, and so they expect a bouquet of delights for the palate to be on offer. Of course there will also be plenty of reds for those inclined in that direction.

Details and registration are at [www.mbcawinetour.com](http://www.mbcawinetour.com).

## Electroshine Tour and Lunch, June 17

On Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, MBCA-VI will visit Electroshine Metal Refinishers. Electroshine is located in the industrial area by the Victoria airport, at 2071 Amelia Ave. This is one of only three chrome plating shops remaining in BC. It specializes in triple plating for high quality restorations, numbering Rudi & Co. and Coachwerks among its regular clients. As well as steel parts, Electroshine also restores and plates pot, or white, metal parts, carefully buffing and filling the pits in a difficult and painstaking procedure. We will be shown the entire process through which corroded and damaged old parts are turned into gleaming adornments for Pebble Beach.

Chrome plating businesses have been put through the wringer by every level of government concerned with health and safety, and liquid and atmospheric emissions. Let me add that the scrutiny is justified by the toxicity of some of the chemicals they work with and by the truly nasty conditions in the few small plating shops I remember from my youth. Electroshine's controls on contaminant discharge are complete and will be of interest to anyone with an environmental bent.

The tour starts at 11 and we'll go somewhere in the area afterwards for lunch. **Numbers are limited for this event so please RSVP if you intend to come ([link](#)).**

## New Models and Technology 2017

*Photos from Christo Pandelidis*

Twenty members and guests turned out on April 2<sup>nd</sup> for our annual look at the new models and technology from Mercedes-Benz. Member David Rabii again walked us through the changes using a number of models arranged for us in the service area at Three Point Motors. Like almost all other manufacturers, MB is downsizing engines: fewer cylinders and lower displacement have become the order of the day. AMG now has the 43 series, which offer more-than-adequate power from four- and six-cylinder motors.

Much of David's talk, and the question and answer session that followed, were concerned with the enhancements to MB's suite of technologies called Intelligent Drive. David gave us a special presentation on this topic last fall and the additions keep coming. For example, two forward-looking cameras have been

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### Welcome New Members

*James Gnitecki - Parksville*

### Renewing Members!

*Dallas Chapple - Brentwood Bay*

*Claire Foley - Victoria*

*James Land - Parksville*

*John McIntosh - North Saanich*

*Anthony Morris - Sooke*

*François Panetta - Courtenay*

*Jim Peters - Qualicum Beach*

**Thank you!**

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integrated into the rear view mirror at the top of the windshield. Mercedes-Benz is quite close to selling vehicles that will be self-driving under most, if not all, conditions. You'll find a link in the next section to a company document that outlines the technology that will be coming with the new S-class, this fall.



*David Rabii stands beside a GLC 43 AMG. Test drives after the talk showed this vehicle to be pretty quick.*



*Besides organizing the event, Hazel and Dennis Ostrowerka arranged and cooked our lunch, as they have done for many years. Thank you!*



*Our group appreciated the bratwursts and European wieners cooked up for this event and served with a variety of accompaniments.*

*Betty Beaton looks out somewhat wistfully from a new C300 convertible.*



## New Board Member

Vancouver Island Section welcomes long-time member Philip Early to the board of directors. Philip, another director from north of the Malahat, drives an S450 and a first-generation CLK 320 cab. Philip takes over from Rob Watson as the Section's treasurer, while Rob moves to the position of president, and Dennis Ostrowerka steps in as vice-president.

## Links of Interest

The next enhancements to Intelligent drive will arrive with the new S class in the fall ([link](#))

Daimler's media release on the introduction of the new S class ([link](#))

Half or full day track packages are available at the Vancouver Island Motorsport Circuit; their car or yours ([link](#))

Why a chapter of the BMW Car Club of America has said cars equipped with certain advanced driver assistance aids can't participate in their track days ([link](#))

