



Vancouver Island Section
February, 2018

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- National event, Rockies, Colorado, Sep. 25-29**
- Annual meeting, Oct. TBA**
- Open for suggestions, Nov. TBA**
- Holiday Lunch, Dec. TBA**

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Coming Events

Brunch, Farm Table Inn, Sunday Mar. 25



The Farm Table Inn is a charming Bed & Breakfast, Restaurant and Farm located in the Cowichan Valley, outside of Duncan ([link](#)) not far from the Vancouver Island Motorsport Circuit. The meal will be the Sunday buffet brunch at a cost of \$29.95 for adults and \$26.95 for seniors (65+). Chef George Gates is a Red Seal Chef who has spent many years in the food industry. He's very passionate about food; each dish he creates is made with love.

Please RSVP with numbers to Barry Patchett by March 18th ([link](#)) and also would you please let him know whether you would be interested in an organized scenic drive up from Victoria. Our

reservation will be for the only sitting, which starts at 11 am.

Chemainus Theatre, Apr. 14

Our annual trip to the Chemainus Theatre is on April 14 this year for the final matinee performance of *Million Dollar Quartet*. That sum might sound low today but it refers to the period performances of Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Johnny Cash. This will be a rocking, musical afternoon tribute to four of the greatest American musicians of the 1950s and '60s.

We have yet to see a poor or embarrassing performance at Chemainus Theatre. The Club orders a block of tickets at a discount and lunch is included. The lunch starts at noon and the performance at 2.

Prepayment is required for this event. Please send a cheque for \$75 per person, a 15% discount from the regular price, payable to MBCA Vancouver Island to:

Rob Watson,
#518 - 6880 Wallace Drive
Brentwood Bay, BC V8M 1N8

Rob must receive your payment by March 30. The cost includes the dining room gratuity. The Section's executive are looking into electronic payment options for other events in the future.

National Event, Colorado, Sep 25-29

The MBCA is offering a rare national event in the west. The Pikes Peak Section will host **Silver Stars and Golden Aspens**, a five-day driving event through the spectacular Rocky



Mountains with a stop at the Telluride Festival of Cars and Colors ([link](#)).

The route has been laid out and the stops planned. This drive will cover 620 miles over 3 days of driving and end at the Telluride Festival of Cars & Colors. There is no more gorgeous scenery nor more challenging driving anywhere else in the world, they say. The Pikes Peak Section has a proven track record of hosting driving events. **Silver Stars & Golden Aspens** continues that winning streak, this time on pavement.

If you don't count the annual meet during Monterey Speed Week, where the focus is certainly not on MBCA activities, I think this is MBCA's first on-road, national event in the western half of North America in well over a decade. Donelda and I are thinking about driving down but we'd like company. Let us know if you'd also like to make the trip ([link](#)).

The LeMay Museum—America's Car Collection

Donelda and I drove down to Tacoma on the February 3 weekend for a two-part MBCA Seattle Section event. Part 1 was cars 'n coffee at Griot's Garage in South Tacoma. Griot's is in the business of selling their proprietary car care products and detailing customers' cars. They even run a detailing school!

Griot's South Tacoma is located in a former Coca-Cola bottling plant. Accustomed as I am to the laid-back cars 'n coffee gatherings in Victoria, we arrived fashionably late, around 8:45 for an 8 AM start. We had to park on the street almost a block away. Griot's parking lot was already full with maybe 150 cars, and the inside was buzzing. Large boxes of massive, sugary donuts and huge flagons of coffee, hot water etc. were available free in the kitchen. Clothing logos readily identified a group of MBCA members and we got ourselves on the list for Part 2.

We also went shopping. In exchange for the coffee and donuts, Griot's appears to do a steady business in shop and car care products. I like the products I already use but picked up a new wash mitt and a tire pump that works off a lighter socket. Our C class coupe had a similar pump that I found useful, but it left us with the car a few years ago.

I believe Griot's runs this event regularly on one Saturday a month. Even with a heavy overcast and a forecast of rain the attendance was fantastic, and a walk around the parking lot gave us a good show. It's hard to imagine how busy it would be on a fine summer's day!

Welcome New Members

Fedele Disalvo, North Saanich
Anthony Hamilton, Victoria
Andrew O'Keefe, Victoria

Renewing Members!

Michael & Sandra Baldwin, Victoria
Wilfred & Elizabeth Beaton, Chemainus
Frits De Geest, Victoria
David Holgate, Victoria
Neil Mahady, Cobble Hill
James Troy, Victoria

Thank you!





Part of the kitchen at Griot's Garage. Notice the clever use of shop storage drawers, though I won't be suggesting this at home.

Part 2 took place at the LeMay Museum, which is sub-titled America's Car Museum. Mr. LeMay made a lot of money in the garbage collection business and, it is said, never saw a car he didn't like. At his death a few years ago he had thousands arranged in tiers around the walls and down the middle of several large warehouses. His heirs have built a striking display space for a subset of the collection, essentially an underground parking garage with a fancy superstructure.

With few exceptions, the cars and trucks on display are American. That's not a bad thing. There are dozens of landmark and coachbuilt cars: Duesenberg Model J's (two!), Marmon, Stutz, Cord, and vehicles from every decade of the 20th century. There is a mouthwatering display of supercars on the ground level, and perhaps a half dozen Mercedes-Benzes on the lowest level. I remember a 220S cabriolet, a 280SE coupe, a 190SL and a good, unrestored 300SL gullwing.

Seattle section's organizer had arranged a tour guide who took us through the highlights of the museum in about two hours. After the tour we had a sit-down lunch in the cafeteria and then, metaphorically, girded our loins for the return trip up the I5. Not my favourite drive!

The LeMay Museum is just a few blocks off I5 in South Tacoma with quick access from the highway. If you've not been already, Donelda and I recommend a half-day stop there when you can find the time. We're looking forward to returning for a more leisurely wander through, when, we understand, some of the cars displayed will likely be different.



The club display forecourt at the LeMay Museum

Did you know that the MBCA offers a second-section membership? Donelda and I belong to Seattle Section in addition to our primary memberships in Vancouver Island. Seattle sends us their newsletter with notifications and write-ups of their numerous events. It's easy to ask for a second-section membership when you renew, though you can do it at any time, and the additional cost is only \$15.



Detailing and AMG Centre Lunch

(photos by Wyman Lee)

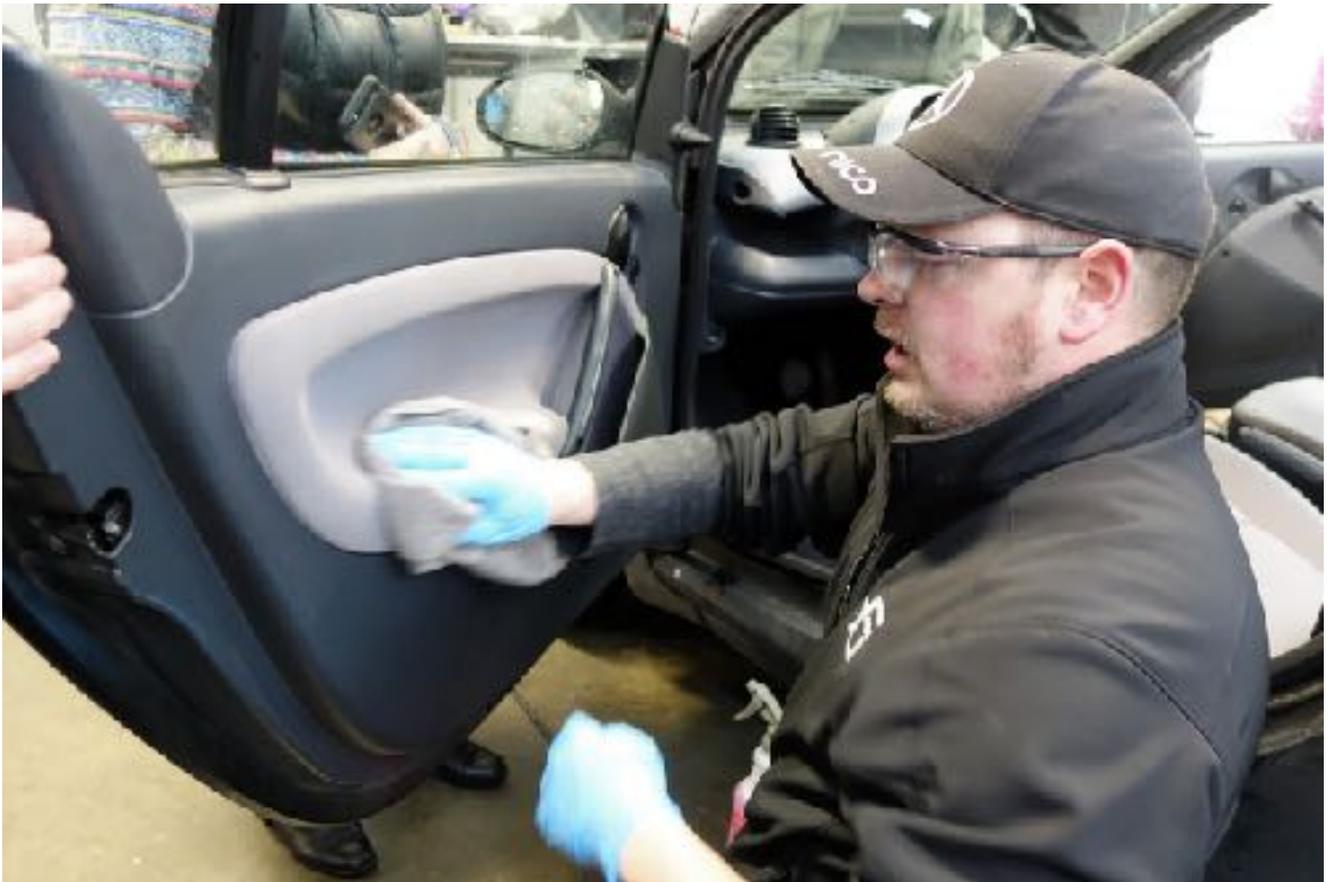
Twenty members and guests came out on a cold and rainy morning to learn the ins and outs of getting a clean interior. Luckily the event took place well inside the detailing shop and away from the wind and weather. Detailing Centre Manger Andrew O’Keefe began the demonstration by identifying Leo Vanderven’s Smart car as the canvas for his work. Even luckier Leo!



The Smart is a special challenge because the fabric in the seats and door panels is tricky to clean without leaving watermarks. Leo told us that he’d tried once himself and just seemed to be moving the dirt around, so he gave up. Andrew began by removing the rubber floor mats, cleaning them with a power washer, and covering them with a protectant. Then he moved on to the driver’s seat, the floor carpet and the door panel, pointing out the problem areas as he went.

As the demonstration proceeded it became apparent that the results were due at least as much to Andrew’s technique as to the products he was using, carefully chosen though they are. Shampooing the floor carpet, for example, entailed a lot more shampoo than I would have imagined. It was sucked out later using a shop vac. While several of us took photos of





the items on the product cart and looked them up online as they were used, a lot of knowledge and skill is involved in getting the best results.

An hour and a half later the Smart's interior was only about half done, but we were due at Three Point Motors' AMG Centre at noon. Andrew kept working on the Smart as the rest of us walked out to find a nicer day than the one we'd left. As we entered the AMG Centre we were surprised to see a large table with twenty place settings, a table with beverages, and another with food prepared by Chef Ryan of the Villa Eyrie Resort. Our menu included





mushroom toast, a salad with bocconcini and heritage cherry tomatoes, and a tuna plate. Thank you to GAIN for providing such a generous and delicious treat.

As lunch ended we held a draw for a free detailing package. The lucky winner was Gary Graves (seen on the right above), who will be turning up to a club event some time soon with one of the cleanest cars in town. Thank you to GAIN for donating this prize and for your constant support of the Club.

Andrew had invited us back to the detailing centre for a question-and-answer on a topic chosen by the group. We rapidly homed in on glass and leather and most of us walked back down to the shop after lunch. Andrew showed us his trick for getting into the interior corners of front and rear windshields, which involves a repurposed duster with a long, flexible rod that can be wrapped with a detailing cloth. Once again it was about the technique.

Most of the work done by the detailing shop is in direct support of GAIN's Victoria dealers. GAIN wants to expand the shop's base of retail clients. You can book a session through the service department at Three Point Motors. You won't regret it!

The photos accompanying this article were selected from almost 50 photos of the event taken by Wyman Lee and put up on Dropbox ([link](#)). You don't need a Dropbox account of your own to access them, so take a look. Thank you, Wyman, for acting as our photographer!





Leo's completed Smart looks like new inside! (Photo: Leo Vanderven)

Links of Interest

At last the A class ([link](#)) is coming to Canada, a vehicle which Dr. Zetsche calls a “smartphone on wheels”. We will apparently get a sedan and 5-door hatchback ([link](#)). The launch date will be announced later this year.

The new G63 AMG packs 577 hp and 627 lb-ft of torque ([link](#)).

The C class will be refreshed for 2019. The changes include an integrated digital dash, similar to the one in the S class, and the new 2-L turbocharged engine ([link](#)).

Daimler will consumer-test a full-electric urban delivery truck in Germany this year with a range of 200km and a gross vehicle weight of 18-25 tonnes ([link](#)).



Eighty years ago in January 1937, Rudolph Caracciola set a record of 432.7 km/h on a German autoroute in a streamlined W125 race car ([link](#)). This speed record for a closed public road lasted until late last year!

Still in anniversary mode, this spring marks MB's 30th year with a passenger-side airbag (W126 S class) and 20th year with window airbags in the roof frame (W210 E class) ([link](#)).

MB's SUVs and vans handily outsold the cars in Canada last year ([link](#)).

Auto123 reports that Mercedes-Benz is considering a further change to model designations by shortening the number of digits that follow the class designation from three to two (e.g. C300 → C30; [link](#)).

Some recent Canadian market MB's can't be exported to the USA because of differences in the two countries' tire pressure monitoring systems ([link](#)).

The company gets in hot water after quoting the Dalai Lama ([link](#); *hat tip to Mike McBride*).

Connected cars bring privacy issues ([link](#); *hat tip to Mike McBride*)

