



Vancouver Island Section Newsletter

April, 2019

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2019 Event Calendar

Sunday, 5 May – New Cars and Technology Event hosted by David Rabbi

Where: TPM in Victoria
Organizers: Dennis and Hazel Ostrowerka

Sunday, 2 June – Cowichan Valley Wine Tour

Where: Cowichan Valley
Organizers: Philip Early and Barry Patchett

Thursday, 20 June – Farm Table Inn

Where: Cowichan Valley
Organizer: Barry Patchett

Sunday, 25 August – 2019 GAIN Motor Gathering

Where: Vancouver Island Motorsport Circuit
Organizer: Rob Watson

Saturday, 7 September – Regional Safe Family Driving Event

Where: Southwest Washington Fairground, Chehalis, WA
Organizer: Dave Abarr, President, Portland Section
Vancouver Island Section contact: Rob Watson

October – November – AGM

Where: TBD
Organizer: Rob Watson

December – Holiday / Christmas lunch or dinner

Where: Victoria
Organizer: Rob Watson



President's Message

Rob Watson

Regional Event in Chehalis, Washington

David Abarr, President of the Portland Section, is organizing a Regional Event at the Southwest Washington Fairground in Chehalis, Washington on Saturday, 7 September. David is planning to host a session of the MBCA Safe Drivers Safe Families (SDSF) program. The focus of this program is to help participants better understand car control and get experience with their car in a controlled environment so they can learn how to respond to emergencies on the road. The SDSF event spans one day and includes an hour of morning classroom instruction, the balance of the morning guiding drivers through car control exercises. An autocross is constructed, and practice and timed runs are conducted in the afternoon. The autocross allows drivers to put all the skills together that they practiced in the morning and further refine them.

I strongly encourage you to attend this event, even though it is on the other side of the “pond” now known as the Salish Sea. It is an ideal opportunity to meet the very friendly and enthusiastic members of our extended Northwest Region family from the BC Stars, Seattle, Portland and Idaho Sections. There are many trip planning possibilities to reach the centrally located Chehalis (it is mid-way between Seattle and Portland on I-5). Whether you can manage a short or extended trip, there are many picturesque routes, interesting towns and cities, scenic areas and attractions in the vicinity of Chehalis.

David needs volunteers to help with instruction. Although it is still early days, if you are interested in attending this event and have this type of experience, please let me know and I can pass your interest on to David.

2019 Member Discounts at Three Point Motors Victoria

I confirmed our 2019 Membership Discount at Three Points Motors with Scott Murley, the Service Manager, and it remains the same as in past years. On cars **five years and newer**, we receive 10% on parts and labour; on cars **six years and older**, we receive 15% on parts and labour. Every three or four months I will provide Scott with an updated list of our Section Members and Associate Members with the corresponding membership number. This information will be added to the TPM information system. Regardless, you should have your membership card in case there is a glitch and identification is requested. Barry Patchett is in the process of confirming the same discounts with Mercedes-Benz Nanaimo.

MBCA Website Changes

The MBCA National Business Office is well into the process of revamping its website infrastructure with the objective of improving and updating services to members and leadership within the Club. The old and outdated information management system infrastructure was a single SQL database incorporating all business functions. The project's first step was to decouple the membership database from the other business functions and incorporate a new CiviCRM engine (for the techies out there) to drive the new database. This will permit the membership database management to be more efficient and improve reporting for NBO, Regions and Sections.

The second phase will improve the Content Management System (CMS) to allow Sections to better control and update their website and communicate with their current and prospective members. In addition, a MBCA Section Services Portal has been developed for Regional and Section leadership that centralizes resources for the management of the Sections and Club. Phase one has been completed; phase two will be completed by the end of 2019.



2018 – 2019 Section Officers

President: Rob Watson
Vice–President: Dennis Ostrowerka
Treasurer: Philip Early
Secretary: Hazel Ostrowerka
Membership: Rob Watson
Newsletter: Barry Patchett
Dealer Ambassador, Victoria: Dennis Ostrowerka
Dealer Ambassador, Nanaimo: Barry Patchett
Honorary Vice–President: Peter Trzewik

Section e–mail address: mbca.visland@gmail.com

Section members (with the month and year of joining MBCA) who reached their Membership Anniversary milestone during January to March.

5–Year

Sue and Dan Linnen (January 2014)
Neil Mahady (February 2014)

If any of you have not received your Anniversary pin and would like to have it, please contact me at the following [link](#).

New Members

Welcome to New Members

Hans de Goede
Doug Logan
Edward Petro

Thank you to those Members and Associate Members who have renewed during January to March!

Colin and Jennifer Bell
Alex Currie
Donna Donaldson
Claire Foley and Glenn Zederayko
Garry Graves
Louis and Catherine Hobson
David Holgate
Rudi Koniczek
Sue and Dan Linnen
Don Lucas
Heinz Mueller
Andrew O’Keefe
Philip Topalian
Linnea Turnquist
Gerry Woloshyn



Upcoming Events

New Car and Technology Event

On Sunday 5 May, Daniel Low will be hosting our annual New Car and Technology Event at Three Point Motors in Victoria. This event is always well attended as Daniel presents a detailed review of Mercedes-Benz's new models and technologies. Daniel is happy to answer our questions and provide further insight. After David's presentation, we will be able to enjoy Dennis and Hazel's most excellent BBQ of German sausages and sauerkraut. Following lunch, Daniel will have a selection of new models to test drive and experience.

Organizer: Dennis and Hazel Ostrowerka

When: Sunday, 5 May

What time: 11:00 AM

Where: Three Point Motors, 2546 Government Street, Victoria

Cost: \$5 to cover gifts and lunch. Payment at the door.

RSVP: Dennis and Hazel by clicking this [link](#) or by replying to this email by Thursday 2 May.

Cowichan Valley Wine Tour

In early June we are having a driving wine tour of the Cowichan Valley. We will visit six wineries: Unsworth, Blue Grouse, Zanatta, Emandare, Alderlea and Averill Creek. We will send out a detailed map and driving information to all who register. We will spend approximately one hour on each winery, including driving time between sites. Lunch will be at the third winery, Zanatta, with an hour of extra time allowed.

Organizers: Philip Early and Barry Patchett

When: Sunday, 2 June

What time: 10:00 AM

Where: We are meeting at Serious Coffee, 2490 Trans-Canada Highway, Mill Bay

Cost: Nothing for the tour. Wine tastings cost up to \$5, depending on the winery. Lunch at Zanatta will be \$20 to 25 plus beverages.

RSVP: Barry by clicking this [link](#) or by replying to this email by Wednesday 29 May.

Summer Solstice at the Farm Table Inn

On June 20, we will repeat the popular Solstice Dinner at the Farm Table Inn, just off Highway 18 near Lake Cowichan. Thursday is prime rib night at the Inn and the cost is \$36.95 for seniors and \$39.95 for those of lesser chronological endowment. Last year we were accommodated on the outside patio on a beautiful and warm solstice eve. The longest days of the year allow plenty of time to motor over the Malahat in daylight.

Organizer: Barry Patchett

When: Thursday, 20 June

What time: 6:00 PM

Where: Farm Table Inn, 6755 Cowichan Lake Road, Lake Cowichan

Cost: \$36-40 plus beverages and tips/tax.

RSVP: Barry by clicking this [link](#) or by replying to this email by Thursday 13 June.



Car Detailing Event January 2019

Rob Watson

Thirteen members and guests attended Andrew O'Keefe's third instalment on car detailing on January 19th. The first instalment, in January 2017, covered exterior detailing; the second, in January 2018, covered interior detailing. This year, Andrew, assisted by Adrian Varas, presented an updated review of exterior detailing techniques and an overview of the new ceramic car sealant products. Andrew used his pickup for demonstrate detailing techniques. Adrian showcased his ceramic sealed Audi S3 to show the benefits and ease of cleaning a ceramic coated car.

The general process used by Andrew this January was similar to what we saw in 2017, which was documented by Bob Wilson in his excellent and detailed article in our March 2017 newsletter (see [this link](#)). This write-up will focus on the highlights we observed this year.

Andrew started the cleaning with washing the wheel well and tire by spraying them with Mercedes-Benz Wheel Cleaner. Andrew reiterated that you should not use a high alkaline cleaner on your wheels. The M-B cleaner is safe and can be used on the tires as it does not have a high pH. Andrew used a soft brush to clean around the wheel and even smaller brushes to get into the tight areas around the brake calipers. He spritzed with additional cleaner to keep the areas wet. Once scrubbed, Andrew rinsed the wheel thoroughly with a garden hose.

Andrew next tackled the side of his pickup, which was first rinsed to remove loose debris. Next, on the lower panels, he used a hand pump action pressurized pump to spray on a mineral deposit remover to remove debris and tar. The mineral deposit remover was left to sit for a few minutes and then rinsed with water.

The next phase was washing the car from top to mid-line using the important two-bucket system. The first bucket contained the soap and the second bucket was used to rinse the washing mitt before it was put back in the soap bucket. The last area washed was the lower panels part to remove any remaining contaminants.

Andrew then demonstrated use of a clay bar for difficult-to-remove contaminants. There are a number of key points when using a clay bar. First, any debris needs to be picked out of the bar. The clay bar must have a surfactant/lubricant between it and the surface of the car, which can be a clay bar lubricant or if the bar is dipped in water. Andrew says you must "give back to the car" after using the bar and that it is a step for doing more work on the car. It is essential to wax the affected area after it has been cleaned

Next up was Adrian who showed us the benefits of a ceramic coating when he washed his ceramic coated Audi S3. The steps were familiar: side panels sprayed with mineral deposit cleaner and rinsed; wheels and wells sprayed with M-B Wheel Cleaner, brushed and rinsed; and the car body from top to bottom was quickly washed with a mitt using soapy water and rinsed. At this stage, however, the benefits of the hydrophobicity of the ceramic coating became apparent. The water rolled off the S3's body and there was less spotting and less need to actually dry the S3. At this point a microfibre towel can be used to dry the car.

Andrew next demonstrated using some specific detailing tools including a detailing lighting headlamp to find and view scratches; a pencil light for micro-scratches and marring; and an ultrasonic paint depth indicator gauge which can find division between paint layers and provides information on how much clearcoat can be removed. Andrew and Adrian showed us how detailing professionals properly use a variety of cordless rotary tools, polishers and pads, including a number of micro-polishers and a Teleflex micro-polisher for small and



hard-to-get-to areas. This equipment requires skill and experience and is the convincing argument of why it makes sense to book an appointment with Andrew rather than doing-it-yourself.

Andrew then discussed the different coatings that can be applied to cars and how coating technology has changed. In the past, traditional organic coatings were used but they came with a number of disadvantages: they lasted for only 6 to 8 months; were susceptible to the environment; could be washed away with acidic or alkaline products; and did not produce as hard a shell. Swiss wax is often used for vintage cars and, with a single stage acrylic, has better longevity. Polymer sealants last 6 to 8 months and are less susceptible to the environment. At GAIN/TPM, Andrew manages one of the few shops in Canada licensed to use silicon carbide ceramic coatings which last about 5 years. These ceramic coatings are very durable, bond to the car's surface, do not suffer oxidation and can self-heal. Ceramic coatings are expensive. They need, however, a pristine surface so much of the cost is in the preparation of the vehicle. If you are interested in learning more about ceramic coating for your car, you can contact Andrew through Three Point Motors at 250.385.6737 .

Last, Andrew kindly offered us the ability to order some of the cleaning products demonstrated by Andrew and Adrian. I had a preliminary discussion with Adrian and he is preparing a list of products and their prices that they will make available. Because this is a special offer, Adrian would like to receive one consolidated order every 3 months or so. This means the Section will consolidate the order and submit it to Adrian. Once the order has been received at the detailing shop, we will be able to individually drop by to pick up and pay for the items. I'll have the finalized details on the products, prices and ordering process for the next newsletter at the beginning of July.



Coffee Klatch at the Willow Street Café in Chemainus March 2019

Philip Early

As the weather turned from blizzard mode to sunny early spring, on March 3rd, fifteen members from as far afield as Campbell River and Sidney made the drive to the lovely old Willow Street Cafe in Chemainus. With a room to ourselves, excellent coffee and tea, discussions were lively covering topics from the recent storms to Bob's new car to "how do we downsize without selling the SL or the 300D?" Great fun was had by all.



Sound of Music at the Chemainus Theatre April 2019

Barry Patchett

Nine members visited the Chemainus Theatre for lunch and a brilliant production of "The Sound of Music", which obtained a well-deserved standing ovation at the end of the performance. We were joined by two Chemainus members for lunch. The cast was very professional and had some outstanding talent on show. All of the actors could sing well, as expected, but all of them were also musicians and provided all of the music for the show. When dancing was required, similar talent was on show, as well as inspired choreography. A good time was had by all!





Update about the Vancouver Island Motorsport Circuit

Barry Patchett

The GAIN facility at the Duncan Motorsports Park has been the subject of a lawsuit by local residents concerned about noise levels and the legitimacy of the placement of the park on industrial land. The first part of the lawsuit was dismissed by the Supreme Court of British Columbia and the second part, concerning the legality of the installation, has been withdrawn by the local residents.

The MBCA Vancouver Island Section attends the Motor Gathering at the Circuit every summer. We can now continue to contribute to the event and its donations to local charities without the possibility of a lawsuit curtailing the operational functions of the facility.

Hagerty Driving Academy at the VI Motorsport circuit

Hagerty is partnering with the [Skip Barber Racing School](#) to introduce the Hagerty Driving Academy. During an event, participants will take part in vehicle avoidance exercises like panic braking and emergency lane changes as well as how to properly correct a skid, practice slides and recoveries, and be introduced to performance driving on an autocross course. It is unnecessary to have insurance with Hagerty and the school event is free to members of the Academy. The cost of joining the Academy is \$45 US, or about \$60 Canadian. The Vancouver Island event is on July 27. Joining the Academy and registering for the event can be done on the Hagerty website.



MBCA International Stars Car Raffle

Barry Patchett

As many of you will know from “The Star”, the MBCA runs an annual raffle for a new automobile. Any member of the MBCA is eligible to buy a ticket and possibly win, but members who are not U.S. citizens should be aware of some facts. If a citizen of Canada wins, the car must be obtained from a U.S. dealer. Any local or state taxes are payable. Bringing the car into Canada may involve import duties and appropriate sales taxes, depending on the province of residence. In addition, any lack of metric readouts in the electronic devices and any labels not including French must be in place and may cost additional money. There have been issues in the past with bumper specifications and possibly other parts that need replacement with Canadian specified equipment. A few years ago a Canadian did win in Toronto, but as a dual citizen, he avoided these hazards.

See separate attachment with this Newsletter for the MBCA International Stars Car Raffle advertisement.

Click this [link](#) to view the ad on the MBCA website.

