



Vancouver Island Section Newsletter

June, 2019

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2019 Event Calendar

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

Sunday, 6 October – AGM

Where: being planned. Tour Coachwerks and Classic Centre
Organizer: Rob Watson

November – Winter Tech Event

Where: Three Point Motors
Organizer: Dennis Ostrowerka

December – Holiday / Christmas lunch or dinner

Where: Victoria
Organizer: Rob Watson



President's Message

Rob Watson

Regional Event in Chehalis, Washington

Planning is complete for the Regional Safe Drivers Safe Families (SDSF) program event at the Southwest Washington Fairground in Chehalis, Washington, on Saturday, 7 September.

David Abarr, President of the Portland Section, has organized this Regional Event, hosting a session of the MBCA Safe Drivers Safe Families (SDSF) program. The focus is in helping participants better understand car-control and getting experience driving their car in a controlled environment, with the ultimate goal of knowing how to respond to emergencies on the road. More details about the program and the link to register at MotorsportReg can be found below.

Annual General Meeting

We are in the process of organizing our AGM, which will be held **Sunday, 6 October**. Current plans are to hold the AGM and then have a tour of Coachwerks and the new Classic Centre. Lunch will follow. Details will be finalized at the next Board meeting mid-September. An email will be sent later but please mark the date of the AGM in your calendar!

Call for Board Members

With the AGM comes our annual call for volunteers for the Board. Currently there are only five Board members. Our priority has been to organize a full slate of events for 2019, however other important functions of the Board have been a struggle to maintain. As was the case last year and for some time, we need volunteers to take on responsibility as Newsletter Editor and Membership Chair. As well, we have not had a strong web presence, so we require someone who can maintain our website through the MBCA National website. If you have even some interest in volunteering for one of these positions, please let me know.

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

Northwest Regional Director: Jeff Shindler (jeff.shindler@shaw.ca)

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



Section members (with the month and year of joining MBCA) who reached their Membership Anniversary milestone between April and June.

5-Year

David Rabii (April 2014)

20-Year

Robert Maitland (April 1999)

If any members have not received their Anniversary pin and would like to, I would like them to contact me at this [link](#).

New Members

Welcome to New Members

Warren Armstrong

David Gramlich

Thank you to Members and Associate Members who renewed their membership between April and June.

Barrie Aldrich

Wilf and Betty Beaton

Jeff Cohen

Martin Enright

Marilyn Hansen

Horst Loewell

Paul Vincent and Helen Massingham

John and Cordelia McIntosh

Tony Morris

Barry Patchett and Gwen Jewett

Vivian Weldon



Upcoming Events

Vancouver Island *Concourse d'Elegance* and Motor Car Weekend (formerly the Motor Gathering)

Sunday, 25 August, 2019

On Sunday 25 August, the GAIN Group will be hosting the Vancouver Island Concourse d'Elegance and Motor car Weekend. The venue has changed; this year it will be held at Shawnigan Lake School. More information can be found at their website [here](#).

This is our annual opportunity to bring out and show our pristine cars. At the same time, our presence helps the GAIN Group and Three Point Motors with their effort to support the David Foster Foundation and Cowichan Valley District Hospital.

This year in particular, Peter Trzewik, the general manager of the GAIN Group, is looking for well-kept Mercedes-Benzs manufactured before 1974. If you have a car of this vintage, your participation would be especially appreciated.

In past years, the list of our Section members who have registered for the Motor Gathering has not been passed on to us prior to the event. If you do register, please also RSVP me at our Gmail address link below.

Summary:

Organizer: Rob Watson

When: Sunday, 25 August

Time: Public from 10 AM to 4 PM. Those registered for the Show and Shine, or the Concourse d'Elegance should arrive between 8 and 9 AM.

Where: Shawnigan Lake School, 1975 Renfrew Rd, Shawnigan Lake

Cost: Registration for the Show and Shine, \$25.

RSVP: Click [here](#) to register for the event. If you do register, please email to let us know you are attending by clicking this [link](#).

Regional Event

Safe Drivers Safe Families (SDSF) in Chehalis, WA

Saturday, 7 September, 2019

On Saturday September 7th the Pacific Northwest Region will be conducting a safe driving training course hosted by the Portland section. There will be a full day of driving skills. Lunch is included. The location is the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds at 2555 N National Ave in Chehalis and takes place from 9AM to 4PM.

The cost is US\$35.00 for MBCA members and US\$45.00 for non-members. Teens are free. US\$15.00 for non-participants for lunch only.

National Driving Instructor Jason Burton will join us to conduct the event. In the morning there will be a classroom session covering defensive driving skills, followed by one-on-one instruction in your own car. We



will apply the knowledge learned in the classroom on mini–courses, practicing evasive action, slalom, braking & turning, and ABS braking.

In the afternoon, the action heats up and you'll continue to practice all your new knowledge on the autocross course where you can further build your skills. If you are new to autocross, don't worry, you won't be alone. Think of it as a small race course with cones that will guide you (and an instructor if you'd like more guidance)! SD/SF Certificates will be issued certifying your completion of the program, and prizes will be awarded for the best autocross times. At the end of the day, you'll have confidence in knowing what your car can do, and what you are capable of doing with your car.

The skills to be taught in the driving clinic are:

- ⇒ How to make sure the vehicle is mechanically sound and safe to drive.
- ⇒ How to set the seats and mirrors and position the head and hands of the driver for maximum control of the vehicle.
- ⇒ How to accelerate, steer, and stop the vehicle in extreme situations.
- ⇒ How to steer with the eyes and continuously scan and evaluate the driving environment in order to drive smoothly and safely.
- ⇒ How to develop a set of attitudes that will enable you to anticipate circumstances that will require response and determine the proper response for the circumstances.

There is no helmet requirement. An Email blast with details will be sent 2-3 days before the event date.

The contact information for this event is:

Dave Abarr

Portland Section President

Email: mbcapdxdave@comcast.net

Tel: 541-981-1919

Summary:

Organizer: David Abarr, President, Portland Section

When: Saturday, 7 September

What time: 9 AM to 4 PM.

Where: Southwest Washington Fairgrounds, 2555 N. National Avenue Chehalis, WA

Cost: US\$35 for MBCA members and US\$45 for non–members.

Registration: Through MotorsportReg by clicking [here](#).



Past Events

New Car and Technology Event

May 5, 2019

Rob Watson, photo from Christo Pandelidis

We had an excellent turnout at this year's New Models and Technology Event with 26 members and guests participating. Daniel Low, Sales & Lease Consultant at Three Point Motors, hosted and provided his knowledge and insight on the new models and direction at Mercedes-Benz. Daniel introduced us to the (then) new General Manager at TPM, Chris Silveira. Daniel had a broad range of vehicles to show us: A250 4Matic, GLC300 4Matic, GLE450 4Matic, AMG C43 4Matic Wagon and AMG CLS53 4Matic. He also showed us one of the first AMG GT63S 4Matic 4-Door Coupés to be delivered in Canada – it's sleek presence wowing us all. These cars also represented the broad engine line at Mercedes-Benz. Notable engines were the GLE with a 3.0L in-line 6-turbo with EQ boost; the CLS53 with 3.0L in-line 6 turbo with EQ boost and the GT63S with the AMG 4.0L V8 biturbo. This broad range of models and engines elicited many questions, which Daniel ably answered.

The presentation was followed by Dennis and Hazel Ostrowerka's fine BBQing skills with grilled German sausages plus sauerkraut, potato salad and dessert.

After lunch several of us completed a long test drive with a caravan of cars on a loop to Mt. Tolmie, Oak Bay and Clover Point. Each car had multiple testers who switched at the way points to develop their own feel for the autos.

Our thanks to Dennis and Hazel for their culinary expertise. And last but not least, many thanks to Daniel Low and Three Point Motors for their effort and diligence in hosting this event.





Cowichan Valley Wine Tour

June 2, 2019

Philip Early

On a sunny June morning, twenty two of us, with our well turned-out Mercedes, began our back roads wine tour in the Cowichan Valley. Taking the twisting old roads, we woke up at the Unsworth Winery and tasted their new sparkling rosé. Driving on to Blue Grouse, after tasting some delicious wines, we wandered the beautiful buildings and asked about their new plantings. From there, and again on the old farm paths that evolved into roads, to a lovely luncheon on the porch of Zanatta Vineyards. Lunch was so much fun we ran out of time and missed the wine tasting altogether. A quick dash through Duncan and we arrived at the Emandare Winery, operated by Mike and Robin Nierychlo. Mike led us on a fascinating 'talk and tour' before we sampled some of their outstanding wines, the Gewurtztraminer being my favourite of the day. One more short run on



the back lanes of Lake Quamichan took us to Alderlea, where we enjoyed superb wines, and added a few more purchases to the cases we were filling.

With the day having flown, we said our goodbyes. Our next visit to the valley will have us actually tasting the wines at Zanatta and taking in the beautiful views and good wines of Averill Creek. Thanks to all for making this a great event.



Summer Solstice at the Farm Table Inn

June 20, 2019

Barry Patchett

On the evening before the actual Summer Solstice, twenty-two members and associates gathered at the Farm Table Inn near Lake Cowichan village and enjoyed the second annual Solstice Dinner, a sumptuous buffet based on prime rib. Local wines from Alderlea winery and other local establishments aided digestion remarkably well. Several cars made the journey, from a 1965 230SL to many modern MB's, including an SLK and a few S class autos. We hope to establish the event as an annual outing for the Club.



Vancouver Island Motorsport Circuit Driving Experience

Performance Driving Program – Level 1

August 2, 2019

Rob Watson

I had never enrolled in a circuit driving course before so in July, I 'bit the tire' and signed up for the three levels of the Performance Driving Program at the Vancouver Island Motorsport Circuit. I was attracted by what I felt was a reasonable cost compared to similar courses elsewhere. This Program was to provide participants with the opportunity to experience and drive cars from various manufacturers. I attended Level One on August 2. (I will write about Levels Two and Three in the next Newsletter.)

Level One's session started at 9 AM in the instruction room at the Circuit with five students and an instructor, Jonathan Butcher, who reviewed the basics of a good seating position, understeer, oversteer and trail-braking. After 20 minutes of orientation, we headed out to the pit lane in front of the garage where five cars awaited us. They included an Alfa Romeo Giulia Ti, a Mercedes-Benz A250, a Subaru WRX, a Subaru BRX and a BMW 240i. The morning driving session focused on practicing trail-braking skills, where we followed Jonathan (in an AMG C43) in a train around the circuit while he coached us over a walkie-talkie. Each drive consisted of five to six laps when we would pull in to the pit lane and rotate to the next car. During the morning we completed two rotations through the cars, which meant we drove each car twice for a total of about 50 to 60 laps around the circuit (is your head spinning yet?). Our pace started slowly but as we gained experience and confidence, it increased as the morning progressed.

After reading the description of the Experience on the Circuit's website, I was expecting our afternoon drive to be in the same cars as the morning. Jonathan, however, used his magician's hat to treat us to an almost new set of cars: a BMW M2, an Alfa Romeo 4C, an AMG C43, the Alfa Romeo Giulia from the morning session and an Audi RS3. The performance and fun factor were amped up. The afternoon session followed the same rotation format with the exception of getting to drive with Jonathan in the M2 twice. The first time, he was a passenger providing feedback about our driving skills; the second time he was the driver demonstrating how we should be driving the circuit. Afternoon rotations ended before 3 PM, and there was enough time for Jonathan to send us out again for another 40 minutes. We completed an additional 60 to 70 laps in the afternoon for a total of about 120 laps during the day.

Final thoughts and observations on Level One of the Program:

1. Most fun car. The Alfa Romeo 4C is a visceral go-cart. It is low and planted to the ground; the interior is cocoon-like and, with no power steering or brakes, it needs to be DRIVEN.
2. Best car. Everyone had their favourites, but I enjoyed the Alfa Romeo Giulia Ti. The suspension felt solid and balanced, it had very good acceleration, and the paddle shifters were intuitive.
3. Experience. Jonathan kept us in the cars as much as possible allowing us to drive nearly the whole day. This helped us to understand the circuit, practice, and practice again. As well, the driving format worked well. The shorter 5 to 6 lap session permitted 'rest' and enable us to refocus as we switched cars. I still felt reasonably fresh by the end of the day.
4. Nine different car models. This was a unique opportunity to vigorously drive and experience the cars from five different manufacturers. (But you should have seen me after dinner.)
5. Considerations. The day went so quickly, it was difficult to absorb all the experiences. It was challenging to master trail-braking when switching cars so frequently as each car had its own braking and handling characteristics.



Overall, I found the Level One driving experience to be excellent. I'm looking forward to the next two sessions with their increased pace and opportunity to further develop my driving skills.

As an aside, after the drive, I searched the web for more information about track driving skills and stumbled on a series of very good presentations by Scott Mansell at Driver's University on the Driver 61 website. If you are interested in more information, see [here](#).

