

MBCA BC Stars

BC Benz Bulletin

Even With Winter Upon Us, There Is Fun To Be Had!



It May Be Winter, But There Is Much Going On With MBCA BC

Welcome to the 2015 Winter Edition of the *BC Benz Bulletin*. It may not be the typical time of year we term, “the driving season”, here in British Columbia, but it is certainly a season filled with a myriad of events to keep our members occupied and engaged. From our Section’s annual awards night and dinner at *Season’s In The Park*, to some amazing winter trips by our members that are documented in this issue, to the outstanding *Coffee and Cars* tour and tech session at the new flagship location, Mercedes-Benz Boundary, this winter has been anything but an off-season. The BC Section

has also undergone some exciting new changes in its club executive that both honour the past, as well as look to the future. With an eventful 2014 behind us, it is now time to look ahead to 2015 and the exciting opportunities that lay on the road ahead for our entire membership.



BC Benz Bulletin editor, Bruce Woloshyn, is ready for an exciting 2015 season of “playing cars”.

Looking Forward to a Great 2015,
Bruce Woloshyn

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The BC Benz Bulletin is a quarterly publication of the BC Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America.

<http://www.mbcavancouver.org>

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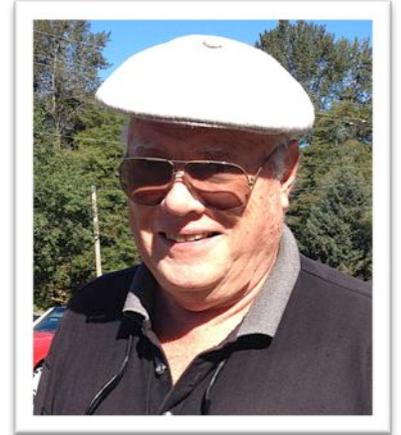
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President's Message - A Grateful Farewell

By Louis Fourie

Whilst I am not aware that we might have fixed terms for the president's role, I felt after two years, new blood and different ideas can only help our Section. It is unfortunate that politicians do not think the same way. Shortly before taking the role two years ago, organizers of an event were always concerned as to whether enough people would attend. During my first year as president it soon became obvious that a new concern arose, whether we were organized well enough for the much higher attendance we were getting.



This prompted my policy of having a committee chair for each event and giving such a volunteer as much autonomy to run the event as they thought fit allowing their ideas to materialize along with the input of whoever they brought into their team. The results have been pretty impressive with our Whistler event rejuvenated after a dozen year dormancy under the guidance of Manfred and Marie Stenzel, warranting the 2013 Member of the Year Award. Tony Milliken organized our main show and shine events at Shipbuilders Square that had great attendance even though the rain gods were not very cooperative. Joseph Anthony has been a great map creator for our events, but he also initiated a run the Leavenworth in Washington that saw a large Seattle contingent attend. Unfortunately, participation from our section did not occur and Joseph's car chose not to participate partway through the event either. It was no coincidence that Joseph richly earned the 2014 Member of the Year Award. Gary Pullyblank has organized the last three annual dinners, ensuring a great venue, tasty food and enthusiastic attendees. It is the enthusiasm and creativity of these organizers that have allowed our Section to prosper and we are much indebted to them, their dedication and their teams.

If only we could duplicate this approach in Alberta, where we have taken over administration of their Section. We were unable to find anyone in the prairies who could be the eyes and ears to start building momentum. We were also not able to muster a gathering in Alaska, but we must continue trying. We seem to have found a formula for BC. How can we implement it in your regions?



President's Message - A Grateful Farewell

(continued)

These wonderful newsletters that Bruce has created have been much appreciated by all members. Bruce, you have outdone yourself every issue and on behalf of our members, a very sincere thanks and congratulations. See more elsewhere in this issue about Bruce. Sean has also made great strides in introducing Facebook as a tool to bring awareness to our Section and won second prize from MBCA for his success in the new direction. Mark Block took on the role of webmaster and skillfully migrated our website into the format and feel of other MBCA Section websites. Congratulations to my fellow officers for the strides we have taken.

Our section owes a tremendous debt to the vision and enthusiastic support shown by Nestor Balcé, Marketing Manager of the Vancouver Area Retail Group of Mercedes-Benz. Not only has Nestor supplied generous prizes for our events, he has also given our Section broad exposure in the media and via emails to Mercedes-Benz clients. One of the highlights of my presidency was being able to meet Tim Reuss, President of Mercedes-Benz Canada, and praise the role Nestor has played towards our club. I stressed that these MB clients were able to participate in our events without being club members in such a way that we could repay Nestor's role by being Brand Ambassadors of Mercedes-Benz. Mr. Reuss quickly acknowledged that this was an unusual, but rewarding customer experience that we provided to his clients. I gather not long after our chat, Tim Reuss collared Nestor acknowledging that he had found the right approach to involving our club to the betterment of Mercedes-Benz. Thank you again Nestor.

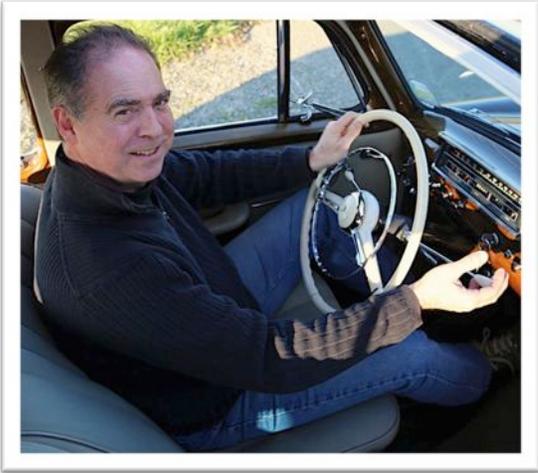
Thank you for allowing me to be your president. It has brought me much pleasure to have had such a wonderful group of volunteers and officers who have all excelled at being able to take ownership of their roles or events, such that their full enthusiasm could be realized. Maybe my success was knowing when to step back and let others shine. Thank you all and I wish you good luck Sean, you have a great team.

Happy Benzing,
Louis F. Fourie





Incoming President's Message



Greetings, and Happy New Year, Fellow Enthusiasts!

As we start our new year, 2015, I would like to say a few words of thanks.

My predecessor, long-time member, Louis Fourie, has passed on to me what is now a thriving and dynamic, British Columbia Section. It was not always so. Just a few years ago, as was not uncommon, the British Columbia Section had lost some of its previous momentum. It was Louis who had the vision and determination, to reinvigorate the Club. Louis took it upon himself, to edit, write, and distribute our Section

newsletter. He had the foresight to send out that newsletter using the Internet, reaching out to members and potential members, with an email list.

Louis encouraged the participation of our own members, but also reached out to others. Through his efforts, we worked to establish a mutually beneficial, relationship with the local Mercedes-Benz dealership-marketing group. Over time, Louis' innovation and leadership, paid off. Today, we have a growing and enthusiastic BC Section. Thank you, Louis. You will be a tough act to follow.

I have been handed quite a legacy. I am very honoured that the Membership chose to have the faith in me to entrust me with this Club. I shall do everything I can, to fulfill my obligations, as your President and representative, and carry forward with what we have achieved.

I would like to pause here, to thank others, who really deserve it, too. While it was Louis, who had the essential leadership and vision, it was our members, who took up the challenge, and worked tirelessly, reliably, and enthusiastically, to put us where we are today. It was all of you who passed on your enthusiasm, and love of the cars!

We have been blessed with good fortune, too, in the form of Marketing Manager, Nestor Balcé, and his MB Vancouver Retail Group. Nestor has worked hard to publicize and promote our public events, and show our credibility to the greater motoring community. Nestor has done much also, to make our Club events more engaging for our Membership. We have a wonderful opportunity to work with Nestor this year, as his enthusiastic "*Brand Ambassadors*".



Incoming President's Message

(continued)

Happily, Louis has offered to remain as Treasurer, and therefore a Board Member, as well as Past President.

Tony Millikin is now our Vice president, and will retain his successful Events position. Bruce Woloshyn will continue to wield his special talents as our Newsletter Officer, and likewise, Mark Block is continuing as Webmaster.

Our sole Alaskan Officer, is John Fouse, and I myself will continue as Membership.

Joseph Anthony is welcomed as a new Board Member, taking the Office of Secretary. Congratulations, Joseph! This should give others a chance now, to win 'Member of the Year'.

With such an experienced team, I look forward to a wonderful season ahead. We are already off to a promising start, with our seasoned organizers and supporters looking ahead to making our events even better.

I am very encouraged that we will this year, be able to offer our Wine Tour event in the BC Interior. That should make it much easier for members in that area to join us. Perhaps, even some of our Alberta members, too.

There is much interest from our neighbours, the Seattle and Vancouver Island Sections, to drive up with us to the Okanagan and Whistler, this year. In turn, their hospitality is wonderful, too. I encourage you to visit their events, also. We all speak the same language. I guarantee you will enjoy yourselves.

As one member said to me, "The cars bring us together, but it's all about the people." I look forward to sharing another rewarding season with all of you.

Happy Motoring!
Sean Clark





Annual BC Section Dinner and Awards January 24th, 2015 MBCA BC Section Builds on Recent Success

It was a wonderful and very enjoyable evening for all at the MBCA BC Section Annual Dinner and Awards Night. This year, the event was again organized and hosted by Gary and Linda Pullybank. This year's venue was the Vancouver landmark restaurant, *Seasons in the Park*. Poised in Queen Elizabeth Park at the highest point in the city, and overlooking the exquisite quarry gardens, *Seasons in the Park Restaurant* is a local landmark in a class of its own, having set the standard for distinctive regional cuisine and exceptional service in Vancouver for almost 20 years (<https://www.vancouverdine.com/seasons-park>).



By all accounts, 2014 was a very successful year for the British Columbia Section. Despite his ongoing painful recovery from surgery, Section President Louis Fourie made sure he was on-hand, to personally present no less than three awards.



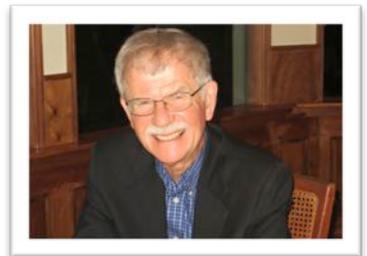
Annual BC Section Dinner and Awards January 24thth, 2015

Photos by Victor Chan, Joseph Anthony and Bruce Woloshyn

Joseph Anthony received the Member of the Year, for his organization of a very successful trans-border regional event in Leavenworth, Washington. Bruce Woloshyn, *BC Benz Bulletin* editor, took home the Regional Officer of the Year award for the Pacific Northwest, a first for the BC Section. Finally, on behalf of the BC Stars Section, Sean Clark accepted the Second Place award for Social Media, as part of the MBCA National Communications Contest of 2014. Every one of these awards is an indication of the Section's efforts to encourage new members, and create greater enjoyment by active participation in the Regional MBCA community.



Louis Fourie presents Joseph Anthony with the BC Section 2014 Member of the Year Award.



All of these awards are a direct culmination of outgoing President, Louis Fourie's, great efforts and vision. Over the past few years, he has revived a nearly dormant body of local enthusiasts, to become a Section that is vibrant, passionate, and enthusiastic. Thanks to his efforts, we look forward along the road ahead, to a fulfilling future of Mercedes-Benz motoring with MBCA.



MBCA National 2014 Communications Contest

By Ian Geadle



This year's contest was open to all MBCA Section newsletters received from January 1st to October 31st, 2014 by the judging committee. Sections were judged in three categories - Best Printed Newsletter, Best Emailed Newsletter and Best Social Media presence. Sixteen (16) Sections sent in their printed newsletters and thirty-two (32) Sections emailed in their on-line newsletter. Just about all Section newsletters include links to the use of Social Media to promote their Section events. Judging all the fantastic Section newsletters and social media sites produced by MBCA's members was a huge task. There is so much great content being produced at the Section level and it was hard to narrow down to the top three in each category. I would like to thank this year's judges who have extensive experience in producing section newsletters, have a good eye for graphic design

and understand the new uses for social media. This year's judges were Jason Burton, Ian Gleadle and Laura Simonds. Thank you judges! With regards to social media, Sections are doing a great job of cross-promoting and posting their coming events, event recaps and Mercedes-Benz related content on their web sites, social networks, instant messaging sites, blogs and newsfeeds. Sections are using social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, Pinterest, Tumblr, Google Plus and YouTube. With the use of these sites, today's section club members are more engaged by "sharing", "tweeting", "following" and "liking" content and become participants rather than viewers. Sections are also integrating the social media sites into their printed and emailed newsletters. Judges looked for consistent postings of local event and Mercedes-Benz related news, pictures and videos, use of relevant hashtags and sharing and links across all social media platforms. Winners for best use of Social Media are:

- 1st Place **Twin Cities - David Tobin**
- 2nd Place **BC Stars - Sean Clark**
- 3rd Place **Cincinnati - Peter Emslander**
- Honorable mention: GWS, Kansas City, South Florida, Desert Stars and Nashville

Thank you to all Sections and newsletter editors for submitting their amazing entries!



MBCA 2014 Regional Officer of the Year

By Louis Fourie



It has given me great pleasure to have successfully campaigned to have your *BC Benz Bulletin* editor, Bruce Woloshyn, recognized as the MBCA Northwest Regional Officer of the Year for 2014. Ultimately, our Regional Director, Barry Patchett, determines who receives this award. Well done Bruce, you richly deserve this recognition.

This award covers all officers of all regional Sections from the California border, all the way through to Alaska and east into the Canadian prairies and the state of Idaho. The “old hands” of our BC Section cannot remember when we have previously had one of our own officers receive this award. As such, you should appreciate how significant it is that Bruce has won this award, by those of us who have enjoyed the artistry and creativity of the *BC Benz Bulletin*.

We had some skullduggery to get Bruce recognized. Barry quickly understood why Bruce deserved this recognition but then ran into a problem. I was informed that the officer role of newsletter editor did not qualify as an officer for the purposes of this award. My first reaction was to challenge whoever failed to recognize the tremendous value a newsletter editor’s role brings to a Section. However, I cooled down long enough to ask which officer roles qualified. Fortunately, we did not have anyone slotted into the role of secretary. I quickly signed into the website and made the change. But the prudent thing to do was to notify Bruce that, for reasons that I could not disclose, he was now the secretary of the Section. There is somewhat of a correlation between the usual male chauvinist’s vision of a secretary and the visual appeal of our newsletter. I did however, behave badly, as I am doing now, by stressing that it was not because he had the legs to go with a miniskirt, to which he challenged me! Anyway, Bruce now knows why he was the secretary of our section last year.

Jokes aside Bruce, you have continued to craft a newsletter, which in our eyes, is the best of any Section of the MBCA. Thank you and well done.



Listing of Mercedes-Benz and Other Car Events in the Pacific Northwest

- March 22nd, 2015 Rudi Konicek Visit, Vancouver Island
Contact: Jamie Graham ntegrity@telus.net
- Mar. 24th to 29th, 2015 The 95th Vancouver International Auto Show
<http://vancouverinternationalautoshow.com/>
- April 17th to 19th, 2015 BC Classic and Custom Car Show
Tradex Convention Centre, Abbotsford
<http://www.bccustomcarshow.com/>
- April 25th, 2015 MG Car Club Northwest Centre - 2015 Tulip Rallye
www.fiatnorthwest.org/pages/tulip-rallye-form.pdf
- May 16th, 2015 All British Field Meet
Van Dusen Gardens, Vancouver
http://www.westerndriver.com/?page_id=7885
- June 21st, 2015 Father's Day Italian and French Car Show
Waterfront Park, North Vancouver.
- June 28th, 2015 German Car Festival
Waterfront Park, North Vancouver
- August 29th, 2015 Crescent Beach Concours
White Rock / South Surrey
- August 30th, 2015 MBCA BC Stars Show & Shine
Shipbuilders Square, North Vancouver

Listing of MBCA Events

For more upcoming MBCA Events wherever your travels take you, please check out the MBCA website:



<http://www.mbca.org/upcoming-events>





2015 Tulip Rallye

Saturday, April 25th, 2015 - Smokey Point, Washington

By Tony Andrews



Once again, the Seattle Mercedes-Benz club is planning on attending the 34th annual **2015 Tulip Rallye**. This rallye is the Pacific Northwest Largest Rallye with over 300 cars and is sponsored by the **MG Car Club Northwest Centre**. This is a “*fun rally*” and not a Time Speed Distance rallye so you do not need any skills to be able to navigate this event other than a “detail-oriented and eagle-eyed” co-pilot.

The rally will once again start at the Cascade Mall in Burlington, WA with the first cars out at 9:00 AM. The Seattle Mercedes-Benz club would like to drive into the event as a group so we will be meeting up at the **Smokey Point Rest Area** on Interstate 5 North, exit number 207 and convoy into Cascade Mall from there. The plan will be to meet up between 7:30 and 7:45 AM at the rest area so that we can arrive at Cascade Mall by 8:15 AM and check in with Rallye organizers.



Please mark your calendars for April 25th and save the day for a fun day of camaraderie.

Sign up is \$15 and more info is here:

www.fiatnorthwest.org/pages/tulip-rallye-form.pdf

Questions: Contact Tony Andrews at email: clk55tony@gmail.com



Mercedes-Benz

The #1 Luxury Automobile In Canada



On January 6th, 2015 Mercedes-Benz Canada and its national dealer network announced today that the company has bested a number of previously established sales records by delivering a grand total of 40,555 Mercedes-Benz passenger vehicles, vans and smart units throughout 2014. This impressive total represented the best ever year-end

results for Mercedes-Benz Canada, for an overall increase of 9.6% or 3,537 units, when compared to the company's record-breaking 2013 sales results.

Mercedes-Benz passenger car and luxury light truck sales totaled 33,928 units for the year. This is ahead by 8.2% or 2,571 units. A total of 19,234 passenger car sales were delivered which exceeded last year's notable sales figures by 7.8% or 1,395 vehicles. Luxury light truck sales amounted to 14,694 units, for an increase of 8.7% or 1,176 units. These numbers were not only the best sales results ever recorded in the company's history but have also put Mercedes-Benz in first place among all other luxury manufacturers in Canada.

The entire product portfolio posted consistently strong sales results over the course of 2014, but there were some noteworthy accomplishments in the group. Again this year, Mercedes-Benz claimed the top position in the "luxury high" segment with particularly buoyant E-Class family and S-Class Sedan sales, which were ahead of 2013 by 12.8% and 136.1% respectively.

In its first full year on sale, the CLA proved to be a winner with a total of 3,851 cars retailed. The launch of the new generation C-Class was also extremely well-received and proudly retailed an impressive total of 2,638 units since its market introduction in August. Luxury light truck sales results were fueled by strong demand across the entire SUV range with exceptionally strong performances by the versatile M-Class and the iconic G-Class, growing by an impressive 15.2% and 24.4% respectively from last year. Sustained demand for the GLA, the newest addition to the Mercedes-Benz SUV line-up, further bolstered luxury light truck sales to 964 units sold since its launch in September 2014.



Mercedes-Benz - The #1 Luxury Automobile In Canada (continued)

Mercedes-Benz and its authorized dealers continued to invest in the national retail network with a goal to continue providing customers with an impressive premium brand experience. In retrospect, 2014 celebrated the appointment of two new Mercedes-Benz dealerships, one in Montreal-East (QC) and the other in Brampton (ON) and heralded the new builds from the ground up of the existing Weber Motors (AB), Mercedes-Benz Thornhill (ON), Mercedes-Benz Winnipeg (MB) and Mercedes-Benz Rive-Sud (QC) facilities. In addition, 2014 marked the grand opening of the two new flagship facilities on the corporate retail side in the greater Vancouver area, namely Mercedes-Benz Vancouver and Mercedes-Benz Boundary.

“As I look back at the company’s strongest year-end sales results ever and at our leadership position in the luxury segment, I am very grateful for the passion and tireless work from every member of our unique and dedicated dealer network, our Mercedes-Benz employees across the country and our highly cooperative colleagues at Mercedes-Benz Financial Services who all strived to help us meet our collective goals”, said Tim A. Reuss, President and CEO of Mercedes-Benz Canada. “I would be remiss to mention that the achievements listed above were also met with many daunting challenges along the way but as a cohesive team, we managed to confront and surmount the hurdles. As we begin yet again a new chapter, I look forward to the continued support of the strong and devoted team of professionals that represent the three-pointed star here in Canada”.



The new Mercedes-Benz flagship facility at 3550 Lougheed Hwy. in Vancouver.



MBCA Sections Forging New Ties

Reaching out from California to British Columbia



BC Stars' own Sean Clark with MBCA Sacramento President, Matias Bombal, and his beautiful 1959 220S.

This past January, the MBCA Sacramento Section hosted a visit for Sean Clark, of the British Columbia Section. New MBCA Sacramento Section President, Matias Bombal, reached out across the MBCA Section Facebook sites and invited Mr. Clark for lunch and a tour of downtown Sacramento.

Over lunch at fashionable, but relaxing, Ernesto's, it was a wonderful opportunity to

chat about all things Mercedes, and share some new ideas and plans for their respective MBCA Sections.

After lunch, Matias very graciously allowed Sean to take the wheel of his 1959 220S, "Eva", a local celebrity. It was quite an honour for Sean. Eva swept them through the streets to the State Capitol building, for photos, and past the other historic buildings and homes that give Sacramento its character and air of peaceful elegance.

Such a pleasant sunny day, called for a delightful motor down the Garden Highway, alongside the river. Finally, they took a visit to Mercedes Benz of Sacramento, a chance to enjoy some of the latest offerings from Mercedes.

All in all, a wonderful day, and a great example of Sacramento hospitality and "goodwill", from one MBCA Section to another.





Reaching out from California to British Columbia Photo Gallery from a Day in Sacramento



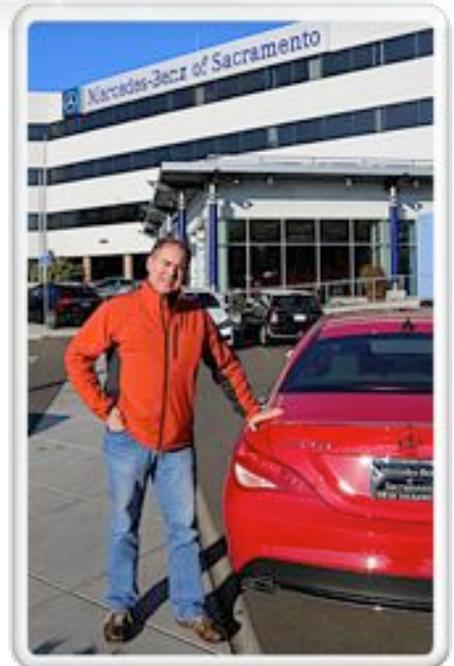
Sean enjoys a cruise down the Garden Highway at the wheel of "Eva".



Sean poses in front of the California State Capitol.

"We were delighted here in the Sacramento Section to host our friend from the Canadian north, Sean Clark, and show him the sights of our Section's geographic charms and places of interest. For me, it was interesting to discuss key issues of what works in BC Section and share some of our successes, and we've already implemented some changes that are a direct result of Sean's visit. This proves to me yet again what rich and genuine generosity and warmth may be found in all of our club's members, no matter where our stars happen to travel."

Matias Bombal,
President,
Sacramento Section, MBCA



Like all good enthusiasts, Matias and Sean ended up finding more MB's at Mercedes-Benz of Sacramento.



Lookin' good Sean!



Mercedes-Benz Classic Center Visit

By Sean Robinson



The Mercedes-Benz Classic center located in Irvine, California, holds a little something for every MB buff out there. From Pre-war, to Post-war, super cars to economy cars, there you will find a jewel for every crown.

I was fortunate enough to be given a tour of this fine establishment in February this year. From the outside it looks like most new car Mercedes-Benz dealerships, but walk through the showroom front doors and you're treated to a treasure trove of Mercedes' finest. I would call it a mini version of the Mercedes-Benz museum in Stuttgart, Germany.

The MB museum in Stuttgart (located just outside of the gates to Mercedes Unterturkheim works), should be on every car enthusiast's bucket list of places to visit. You will be treated to mankind's journey from the birth of the automobile through all of our trials & tribulations to our present automotive condition. A little known fact: the exterior of the MB Museum building is modeled after a DNA helix that holds the human genetic code, how about that!

In the Classic Center showroom I had the pleasure of viewing a number of significant cars in the MB lineage. Present were the two cars that started mankind in motorcar motion; the 1886 Benz 3 Wheeler & 1886 Daimler Motor Carriage. There was also the 1905 "American Mercedes", the first Mercedes manufactured completely in the USA. An unusual oddity was the 1936 Mercedes-Benz 170H, a rear engine MB that held many design cues for the future KDF Wagen (VW Beetle) of 1938. MB would build the 30 prototype Beetles in its Sindelfingen production facility. A great cutaway display of an M100 V8 from a W116 6.9, there's no replacement for displacement! There were also a pair of 300d Adenauers in all of their refined glory, a beautiful white 1955 Gull Wing and a rolling chassis from a 1954 Gull Wing.



Mercedes-Benz Classic Center Visit

(continued)

I found myself in automotive awe with so many significant vehicles in such a small venue. There were also two MB Formula 1 cars, a 1997 W210 Renntech E60 RS made for Jerry Seinfeld, a 1988 560 SL with less than 30,000 original miles. I could spend hours describing the rest of what was present.

As always my favourite part of any car site visit is the workshop. It was immaculate, modern and a testament to Mercedes-Benz's commitment to supporting its products heritage. A place where the old is made new and the well cared for are preserved, so future generations can enjoy these feats of mechanical and automotive marvel. Mercedes-Benz has one of the finest support programs for its classic vehicles of any auto manufacturer in the world and its classic program shows its dominance here.



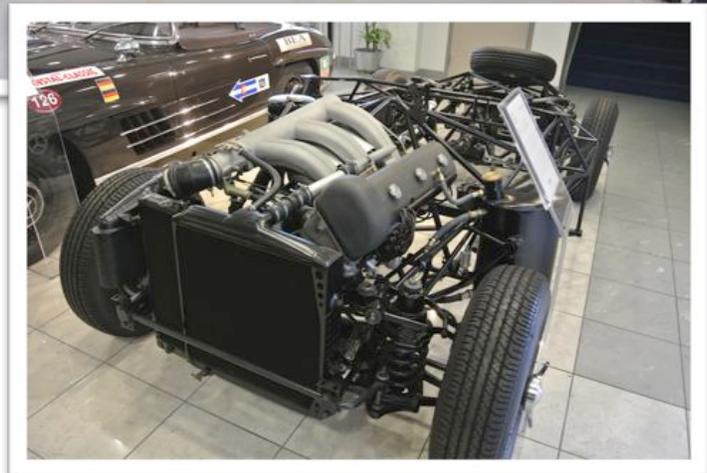


Mercedes-Benz Classic Center Visit

(continued)

In the workshop were a number of Pagoda's, 300 SL Gull Wings & 300 SL Roadsters in various states of refurbish. The 300 SL's are always at the top of my list of cars to see. The highlight was a rare one owner 1956 Gull Wing! Yes, that is correct, it is still in the care of the original owner, who had taken European delivery before bringing it home to the USA. Can you imagine the excitement this person must have had picking up their new Gull Wing at the factory and the stories this car must tell in the 59 years that have spanned since its purchase. Fascinating!

I enjoy the thrill of the car hunt and his made for an exciting day! I owe a special thanks to the Classic Center personnel for taking the time to show me around.





"Cars & Coffee" Dealership Tour and Driver Tech Session Mercedes-Benz Boundary

By Sean Clark - Photos by Victor Chan and Bruce Woloshyn

A rainy Saturday in Vancouver. What better conditions for a real-world car technology Tech Session and Dealership Tour? February 7th, Nestor Balcé, Marketing Manager for the Mercedes-Benz Vancouver Retail Group, invited our members to tour Mercedes-Benz Boundary, the largest MB showroom in Canada. Coffee and Tim Horton's doughnuts, too!



Vancouver's flagship Mercedes-Benz location.



MBCA members getting ready for the day.



Canada's largest Mercedes-Benz showroom.



The tech session getting underway.



"Cars & Coffee" at Mercedes-Benz Boundary (continued)

Sales Manager, Sam Ezharie, hosted our tour of their huge premises. The sales floor alone, could accommodate 60 cars and Sprinters, indoors. We were shown the state of the art, Service facilities, with an SLS Black Series sitting on one of the several specialized AMG hoists. Our members were pleased to see a Pagoda too, undergoing a complete engine rebuild. This is also the main training facility for all MB certified mechanics in Western Canada, and the Service Centre where the 750 "2 Go" Smart Cars in the Vancouver go. Many thanks to Sam for giving us a privileged look, and answering our many questions.



Mercedes-Benz Boundary Sales Manager, Sam Ezharie, tours the BC Stars through the new flagship location in Vancouver.



Sam Ezharie and Marketing Manager, Nestor Balcé, pose for a group photo with the BC Stars in the massive showroom.



Mercedes-Benz



"Cars & Coffee" at Mercedes-Benz Boundary

(continued)

The MB Driving Academy presented the second part of the tour, a classroom seminar on the development of Safe driving technologies, and the very latest features incorporated into the newest Mercedes-Benz cars and trucks. While 4matic is offered across the range in Canada, even some AMG's, did you know that the Canadian market is the only one to offer the 4x4 Sprinter van?



Driving Coach, Patrick Ah-Yu, from the Mercedes-Benz Driving Academy elaborates on his classroom presentation.



The Mercedes-Benz 4x4 Sprinter van in Canada's largest Mercedes-Benz showroom at Mercedes-Benz Boundary.

Driving Coaches, Patrick Ah-Yu and Rod Matthews, then took us all for a demonstration drive in two of MB's newest cars, the brawny but suave C400, and the hairy, 355 hp AMG GLA45 on the wet roads of Vancouver, both inspired sure-footed confidence. Lots of smiles that day from our members!

Our thanks go out to Nestor Balcé, Sam Ezharie, the MB Driving Academy, and all the wonderful staff at Mercedes-Benz Boundary.



Mercedes-Benz
The best or nothing.



"Cars & Coffee" Photo Gallery



Photographs by Victor Chan & Sean Clark





Mercedes-Benz Phile

By Marinus van Prattenburg

The first time I heard somebody sing praises of a Mercedes-Benz was when I was a boy of about nine years old. It was by a lawyer who lived a few doors down from our house in my native Holland. The man had just purchased a brand new model 170. I will never forget the stunning look of the black painted body with the bright chrome trimmings and headlamps.

Our neighbour opened the driver's door and closed it again to demonstrate how solid a sound it made when the door came to a rest. "It sounds almost like the door of a safe," the proud owner exclaimed. "I bought this car for its reliability and outstanding quality and not only for that; it's a great pleasure to drive it as well."

While he was explaining more of the shiny car to my Dad, I observed in awe the beautiful chrome radiator shroud with its well-known three-pointed star on top. This star was and still is Mercedes-Benz icon, or hallmark if you will. In Holland this star was, for many years, mentioned in every Mercedes-Benz advertisement; Uw goede ster op alle wegen. (Your good star on all roads).

In those days, one could see an older Mercedes with a dealer-installed badge on the radiator shroud which indicated that the car had driven 100,000 km. Some had even 250,000 or higher kilometers, and the story goes that there were a few with even 1,000,000 kilometers on it. This means that our neighbour was not speaking hollow words when he praised his new valued acquisition.

When I became eighteen years of age, my father found that it was necessary for me to get a driver's licence. It would be handy, so that I could drive his company van or other company car when called for. So it happened then, that I enrolled in our local driving school. The car I learned to drive in was a Mercedes 180 D, often referred to as 'Ponton'. This car had a special licence plate, which indicated that it was imported as a used car. In most cases, these were cars that had been in a serious accident. Particular in Germany, where such a vehicle wasn't allowed on the road anymore. In Holland this was a different story. Many car body shop owners went across the border to purchase one or more of these vehicles for a "soft price". Subsequently, these vehicles were then brought back to life again to be driven on the Dutch roads after they had undergone a thorough inspection by a government agency.

Again, such a car was 'my' Mercedes. It had two tone blue paint, not original for a Mercedes. The car had column-shift, which was well in fashion in those days. Driving it, one could hear that the car was powered by a diesel engine. Soundproofing wasn't as sophisticated as it is today. It had also tremendously good torque because changing gears wasn't so frequently necessary as with non-diesel engine cars. Mind you, this was good for learning to drive though. I have very fond memories of this car.



Mercedes-Benz Phile

(continued)

During my early twenties, I left The Netherlands to live and work in Heidelberg, Germany. One day I visited with a friend a Mercedes-Benz dealership there. To my surprise, I saw a late model Mercedes in the showroom that had been in a very bad accident. Why was this car placed in the showroom...? It was used for advertising the safety of the Mercedes automobile. The car had obviously been sandwiched between two other vehicles. The front was very badly crumbled up and the rear was almost folded over and, of course, badly crumbled up as well. Yet, all the four doors opened and closed as though nothing had happened. I'm not kidding. It reminded me of the doors of our neighbours 170. I don't know what happened to the driver and possible passengers, because safety belts were not compulsory in those days. Anyway, it showed that the Mercedes had a very high level of safety built into their cars.

In 1976, at thirty-two years of age, I immigrated to Canada in order to set up my business in the restoration of early fortepianos and contemporary grand pianos. This was in Surrey, British Columbia. In 1983, after a period of very hard work, I visited a friend who had just purchased a beautiful Mercedes in Ontario and had brought it to B.C. "Ontario is experiencing a bad recession", he told me. "High-end cars go for much lower prices than they used to." I checked this out and discovered that this was no fairy-tale. This prompted me to purchase a flight to Ontario and search for a Mercedes that I could flip in B.C. As some windfall would have it, it so happened that Air Canada had a seat sale on; \$ 96.00 for a round trip. What could I lose?

I found a beautiful 1977 white Mercedes 300D at the Mercedes dealership in St. Catharines, Ont., I liked the car, noticing how the five cylinders give it a smooth ride, but the price wasn't as low as expected. I sensed though that the dealership was eager to sell. I offered much lower, causing the offer to be rejected. However, as I opened the door of my rental car to leave, I was called back. My offer was accepted. Could I have gone lower perhaps?

With a temporarily insurance label fixed on the rear windshield, I proceeded to drive back to Surrey. At first I found the car seat rather hard. How would I keep up with this all the way to B.C.? Soon I discovered that the seat was, in fact, very comfortable. It gave me very good support. I started liking it more and more. Really, it didn't give me driving fatigue whereby one has to change position all the time during long trips. Driving through the seemingly endless prairies, across the Rocky Mountains and seeing the three pointed star on the radiator shroud, made me think of the advertisement I had seen so often in Holland; "Your good star on all roads." How true this was, because the car didn't miss a beat and did what I wanted it to do. Coming home, I liked the car so much that I kept it for a few months before I sold it with a modest profit, because this was the objective after all.

Mercedes-Benz Phile

(continued)

At one time I travelled to see a customer in Spokane, Washington. He picked me up from the airport in his Mercedes station wagon. Again, the car gave the same feeling I had experienced in the 300D I had sold about sixteen years earlier. Still the very supporting seats. Still the three pointed star up front. Still this feeling of good quality and dependency. My customer told me that he had always driven a Mercedes for the last thirty years and wouldn't buy anything else. I'm sure that he likes Mercedes' motto '*The best or nothing*'.

When my wife and I became empty nesters, we decided to leave the hectic lower mainland and move to the wonderful Okanagan, which seemed Elysium to us. There we lived for over twelve years, still executing my business until I retired in 2009. There are many beautiful Mercedes cars in the Okanagan. I think this because of the many German immigrants who live there. They remember how good these cars were before they left their 'Heimat'.

I have always liked beautiful looking and classic cars and in particular, sports cars. Over the years I have had seven MGBs and for nine years a beautiful embassy black Jaguar Mark II. These were prize-winning cars in shows and concourse. They were lovely cars to drive as long as they did just that, because they always needed tweaking. I would never leave home without my toolbox and some spare parts. Well-known TV personality and classic car collector, Jay Leno, said once, "It has its benefit to driving an MG. If late for a meeting, you can always say, 'Sorry to be late. I drive an MG.'" I considered them not to be cars but rather a lifestyle. It was a happy lifestyle though, until I had enough of crawling from underneath them on a cold garage floor.

My neighbour across the street had a very beautiful 1989 Mercedes 560 SL, including the optional hardtop. This was the last year of production of the 560 SL before the equally coveted 500 SL was launched. The pitch black 560 SL looked as though it had left the showroom the previous day. Every time I saw the car leaving neighbour's driveway, usually with the top down, my heart would tick over a bit faster.





Mercedes-Benz Phile

(continued)

The day arrived that we would move back to the lower mainland to be closer with our children and grandchildren. Just the day before the move, our neighbour from across the street came over to our empty house. "Marinus", he said, "I know you like our Mercedes very much. You have always been a very nice neighbour. My wife and I have therefore decided to offer the car to you for wholesale price." I had no idea how much this wholesale price was, but when he told me, the chills almost went down my spine. I would be a thief in my own wallet if I wouldn't accept. I was thinking hard. What to do? My prize winning MGB, for which I had spent too much money and time, had been loaded up into the eighteen wheeler moving truck the day before. After some feedback with my wife, I decided not to accept. Yet, I couldn't forget this stunning looking car with low kilometers. Later I regretted not to have purchased this black gem.

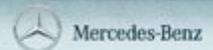
Back in the lower mainland, in Abbotsford this time, we made friends again. After a few months we had a retired couple over for dinner. The husband told me that when he was younger, he used to have a beautiful 1968 280 SL. I then told him about the 560 SL I had turned down before we moved from the Okanagan and for what price I could have had the car. "If it's true what you tell me about that Benz, and if I can have it for the same price, I will buy it tomorrow," he exclaimed enthusiastically. At first I thought that he was joking, but I soon found out that this wasn't the case at all. "Phone them right now," he requested, "and find out whether or not they are willing to sell to me for the same price."

I obliged and made the call . . . and the next day we drove to the Okanagan where the dream car was shown and driven. My friend paid for the car and insured it. After the new licence plates were installed, I had to drive it home while he followed in his SUV. He let me drive his new prized possession because he didn't like to drive a car he wasn't much familiar with yet. So, here I was driving in this wonderful Teutonic feeling set of wheels over the mountain passes of the Okanagan Connector and Coquihalla Highway.

Up to last Fall, my friend and I have driven his 560 SL several times for a round trip from Abbotsford to Whistler, over Duffy Lake Road to the Fraser Canyon and back to Abbotsford. Or, we went to Manning Park and back. Sometimes using his car and sometimes in my Mazda Miata which came on the scene after I finally had sold the MGB. My friend didn't like to come along in the Miata that well. "I don't feel safe in that small shoebox," he said several times.

Nobody takes care of your
Mercedes-Benz better than us.

Mercedes-Benz Service and Parts.





Mercedes-Benz Phile

(continued)

Then it happened in the early Summer of last year. A mutual friend had a nice 2006 Mercedes SLK 350. The three of us and our wives had made some Sunday afternoon trips in our toys; the 560 SL, the SLK 350 and my modest Miata. Lovely times we had. Then I was approached (100 km/hr.?) by my SLK friend, who informed me with the fact that his son in law had bought him a wonderful present; a brand new other SLK 350, the same colour; silver grey. My friend had hoped that his wife would drive the 2006 one, but she declined. "She will come around," he said with confidence. But she didn't.

Finally he gave up and came to me. "Marinus", he started, "I will sell you my 2006 SLK for cheap, but you have to decide before tomorrow." "Why cheap?", I asked. "I sold our house. I have no room in the garage for more moving boxes and can't have three cars in the garage of our new townhouse in a gated community. I want the car gone soon", he replied.

When I heard the price, I got the very same thought as I did when the black 560 SL was offered to me but turned down; *'I will be thief in my own wallet.'* I know; selling a car to a good friend has made many friendships come to an unhappy end, but for the price I paid, I can't hold it against my friend if something goes wrong with this lovely car. Guess what, I pulled out my chequebook, wrote a cheque, signed it and handed it over. The car was mine.

What a thrill this new toy is! It is fast and holds the road as though it is one of the dykes in Holland. I am also very impressed with the excellent braking power. Finally, after so many years of liking the Mercedes-Benz brand, I'm now a proud owner of one of this legendary make, and it's a sports car no less. Really, I'm happy and proud as a monkey with seven tails. After all, a boy will always be a boy. Be honest with yourself; a big boy, now called a man, needs a toy, and what a lovely toy a Mercedes-Benz is! No need to mention to me; I'm doing my best to get both my friends to sign up as a club member too. Once they have been to one of our gatherings, this shouldn't be a problem.



Editor's Note: Marinus van Prattenburg joined the MBCA BC Section last year after taking part in the club's annual Show & Shine .



The Chuckanut “Sweetheart Drive” Hosted by the Seattle Section

By Sean Clark



The weekend of the 14th and 15th of February, was a wonderful opportunity for a ‘Couples Getaway’ to celebrate Valentine’s Day, with the Seattle Section.

Over the past few years, my wife Saras and I have attended a few events put on by our neighbouring Sections. We always have a great time, see some new sights, and have managed to make some good friends along the way.

Bob Willets and his wife Tanya, were the organizers of the Chuckanut “Sweetheart Drive”, on the Sunday of a sunny weekend.

Bob and Tanya have been out to more than one of our BC Stars events in the past. They graciously invited us to stay with them the night before, in Seattle.



The Seattle Section hosts many popular events throughout the year.





The Chuckanut “Sweetheart Drive” Hosted by the Seattle Section

(continued)

Sunday morning, we all met in Fairhaven Park and distributed maps and goodie bags. Being a sunny morning, we had 30 cars turn up. Some of the braver souls put their roofs down. Past President, Ian and Linda Gleadle brought their Signal Red 1962 190SL, which looked lovely in the sun. There was more than one Pagoda, also.

Bob had a very ambitious itinerary for us - six different venues, in one day, along just 13 miles of curving road. We started off with an absolutely excellent brunch, at the Chuckanut Manor Seafood & Grill (<http://www.chuckanutmanor.com/#chuckanut-manor>). The place was packed, with 60 MB enthusiasts, but what a marvelous chance to meet and chat with people.

President Jerry Cole, whom some of us met during the 2014 Whistler Run, was there with his wife and daughter. Vancouver Island President, Bob Wilson and his wife Donelda, were there as well.

Bob kept us busy, but right on schedule, as we visited our various stops. Saras bravely, tried fresh oysters for the first time, at the Taylor Shellfish Farm (<http://www.taylorshellfishfarms.com/>).

We bought fresh bread at The Bread Farm (<http://www.breadfarm.com/>), in the little town of Bow-Edison, then made our way to the very popular Golden Distillery (<http://www.goldendistillery.com/>). Located on Samish Island, the distillery makes small batches of award-winning Single Malt Whisky, and Apple Brandy, and they put on a much appreciated tasting session.

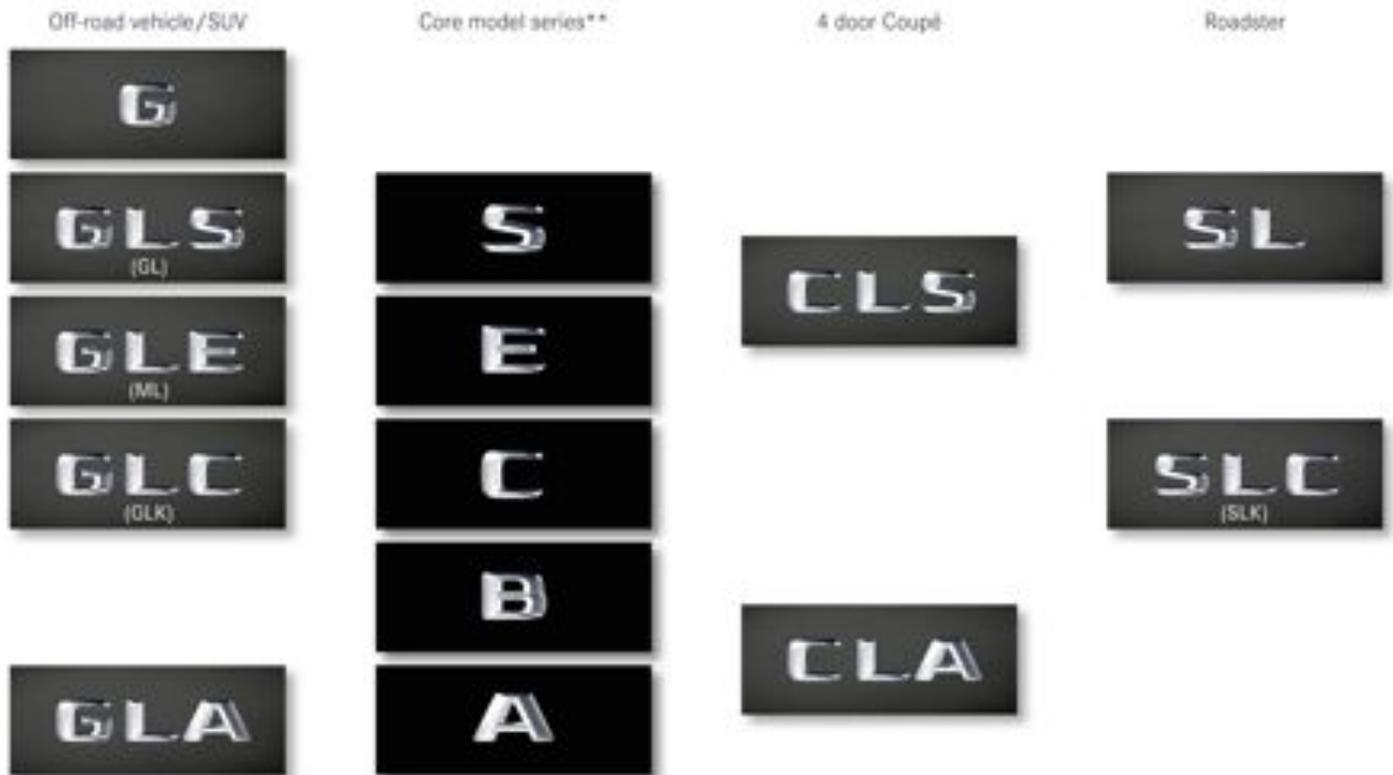
We rounded out the day with a stop at the Gothberg Goat Farm (<http://gothbergfarms.com/>) for some fabulous cheeses, and finally, to Bow Hill Blueberries (<http://bowhillblueberries.com/>), for fresh blueberries and homemade ice-cream.

We thanked our hosts for a magnificent time, and though we did a lot that day, we were headed for home, well before dark. It was a leisurely day, full of good spirits, great hospitality, a delight to see everyone on such a relaxed occasion. I am looking forward our Seattle MB friends coming up to visit our events.



The BC Stars neighbouring Section in Seattle represents members from all parts of Washington State. Just like the BC Stars, you don't need to own a Mercedes-Benz to be a member, just have a passion for the marque. It doesn't matter whether you have a new car or a tried and true classic, The Seattle Section also welcomes all years and models. Learn more about the Seattle Section at: <http://www.mbc.org/section/seattle>

Mercedes-Benz Offers The Simple and Transparent Nomenclature to Provide Customers with Better Orientation



** Accessories starting from 2015

** according to model series GL, S-Class, E-Class, C-Class, B-Class, A-Class

The Mercedes-Benz model portfolio has expanded rapidly in recent years and continues to grow. The comprehensive model initiative that is currently successfully under way means that, by 2020, the Stuttgart-based premium brand will have brought more than 30 models on to the market worldwide, among them at least eleven that have no precursor in the current product portfolio. On top of this come the different body variants and drive systems. This results in an increasingly complex situation when it comes to naming the various models. "After more than 20 years of continuity involving some of the most recognised and successful product names in the world, we are now making our system of vehicle nomenclature even more understandable. Bearing in mind the international appeal of our brand, our plan has been to devise an even simpler, more transparent and more logical system for the designations of our model series, with the aim of providing clear orientation for our customers", said Dr Jens Thiemer during the launch of the new nomenclature. "Now is the ideal time to do this, for in 2015 we will be updating virtually our whole SUV model range, providing us with the perfect starting point for renaming the whole family of vehicles."



Transparent Nomenclature to Provide Customers with Better Orientation

(continued)

The system behind the new nomenclature is simple, clear and transparent. The model designation is always an acronym made up of between one and three upper-case letters. The different types of engine are indicated by a lower-case letter. The system centres around the five core model series, A, B, C, E and S, which will continue to be used to provide orientation for our customers. In the case of the model designations for the SUVs, in a tribute to the legendary G-Class, all SUV models will in the future have the first two letters "GL" in their name. The "G" here denotes the car's lineage. The "L" is a letter that appears time and time again over the history of Mercedes-Benz. It is a linking letter that makes the model designations easier to remember and easier to pronounce; one that is familiar from the legendary SL, for example, or from the more recent CLS and CLA. It is followed by the third letter, which indicates the relationship to the relevant core model series. In specific terms:

- GLA = GL A-Class
- GLC = GL C-Class; previously GLK
- GLE = GL E-Class; previously M-Class or ML
- GLE Coupé = GL E-Class Coupé
- GLS = GL S-Class; previously GL
- G unchanged

The system for the 4-door Coupés is constructed along similar lines. The first two letters, "CL", denote the origin, the third letter the link to one of the core model series: in other words CLA and CLA Shooting Brake, or CLS and CLS Shooting Brake.

From 2016 on the Roadsters will all include "SL" in their names to denote their origin, with the third letter again the link to one of the core model series. The SLK therefore becomes the new SLC. As in the case of the G, the SL retains its designation as hitherto, in recognition of its iconic status.



Mercedes-Benz



We Want to Hear from You

Just like Marinus van Prattenburg did, if you have a story or photographs that you would like to share with fellow Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts, then we want to hear from you.

If you have a story about:

- How you first became interested in Mercedes.
- The purchase or restoration of your Mercedes.
- A special trip or adventure you had while driving yours or someone else's Mercedes.
- A drive or route (either in the Pacific Northwest or elsewhere) that you would like to share with others who love to drive.
- A particularly good (or bad) experience you had while looking for parts or having work performed on your Mercedes.

Or, if you just want to share some photos of your Mercedes with fellow enthusiasts of the brand, we are certainly interested in hearing your story and sharing it through the MBCA BC Stars BC Benz Bulletin.

To contact me about sharing your story, or to submit ideas for the next edition of the BC Benz Bulletin, please email me at brucewoloshyn@telus.net

Looking Forward To Hearing From You,
Bruce Woloshyn



BC Stars Monthly Meetings

Held each month, the BC Stars meetings are a great time to catch up with fellow Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts and talk about everything MB.

The monthly meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at the White Spot Restaurant (<https://www.whitespot.ca/>) in Vancouver at 1616 West Georgia Street (Georgia at Cardero).

All Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts are welcome to attend, even if you are not a current MBCA member.

Whether you drive a new Mercedes-Benz as your daily driver, or you have an older collector's model that only comes out for fun during these summer months, you are more than welcome to attend the monthly meetings and talk MB.

For more information, please contact either Louis Fourie (L4ie@telus.net) or Sean Clark (mbcabcexecutive@gmail.com) for further details.

www.mbcavancouver.org





BC Stars Trading Post



1995 Mercedes-Benz W124 E320 for Sale

- 69,000 km
- \$5,500.00

Contact Ahmad Gandomi at Orient Auto Restoration
(604) 464-5255 - Port Coquitlam, British Columbia - ahmadorient@live.ca



1989 Mercedes-Benz W126 420SEL for Sale

- 163,000 km
- \$2,150.00

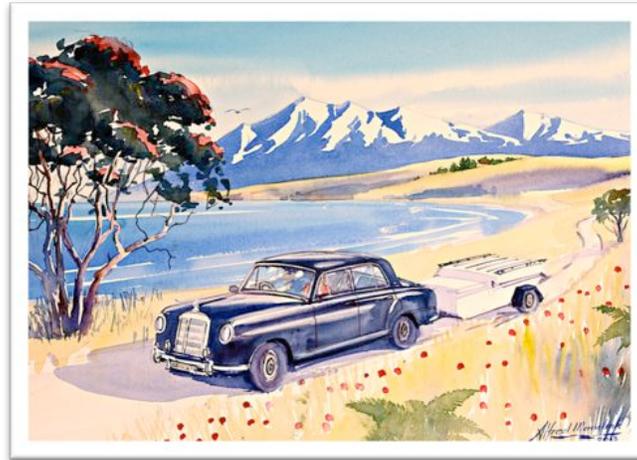
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Classic Strider

Around the World in a 1957 Mercedes-Benz



Imagine driving across five continents through unforgiving terrain in a 1957 Mercedes-Benz.

In 2014, after some three years of preparation, seasoned motoring pioneers Fred and Elisabeth embarked on a ground breaking worldwide driving adventure. They are venturing some 90,000 miles from New Zealand, through the Americas, Europe and Russia, by way of India and Malaysia to Australia before returning home in 2019.

The intrepid couple will leave their beloved family, risking breakdowns, corruption, robbery and muggings, as they travel unsupported in a 55-year-old classic car. The team will brave inclement weather and challenging driving conditions and will spend five years living in a specialized, lightweight tent-trailer, all in the name of adventure.

The 1950's Mercedes Benz Pontons were Mercedes Benz's first totally new series of passenger cars produced after the Second World War. Production began in July 1953 and continued through 1962 and during this time, more than 585,000 cars were produced. The 220S six-cylinder, was the more luxurious and up-scale version of the Pontons; 55,279 were manufactured.

The Mercedes Ponton series, and its successor the Fintail, were well built and exported internationally and many are still around. Replacement parts are still being manufactured and are easily obtained worldwide.

Follow Classic Strider, the 1957 Ponton travelling the World:

- ✓ on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/ClassicStrider>
- ✓ and on the web at <http://classicstrider.com/>

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Mercedes-Benz



