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BC BENZ BULLETIN

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MBCA BCStars

BRITISH COLUMBIA SECTION



INSIDE:

**Show & Shine 2019
Luxury Supercar Gala**

**MBCA Regional Show &
Shine**

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On the Cover: | The 2019 Show & Shine, Waterfront Park, North Vancouver | Image Sean Clark

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EDITORIAL

BC Stars Volume 28 - Issue 3 - September

In this Fall issue of the newsletter, we turn the spotlight onto our premier annual event at which we had a great showing of Mercedes-Benz vehicles – our own 2019 BC Stars Section Show & Shine. Thanks to both Sean Clark and Tony Millikin for their excellent coverage of these events. We also highlight the R107 roadster. I hope you enjoy reading these reports and viewing the images. If you were able to attend in person, may this bring back fond memories. If you were unable to attend, may it help to give you a flavour of the events. In addition, we have a story on the Luxury Supercar Gala attended by several of our members, and a story on the BC Stars visit to the MBCA Seattle Regional Show & Shine. Enjoy!

As the weather starts to turn and we start to think of more indoor activities, I wish you a warm and happy Fall with family and friends.

Joseph Anthony
Editor

EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor: Joseph Anthony

Contributing Editor: Sean Clark

Contributing Editor: Tony Millikin



LET'S GET SOCIAL





2019 Show & Shine "Best in Show" winner Ken Brown (L) with Section President Matthew Peck.
See photos of Ken and Trish's 1965 220SE cabriolet in the story beginning on page 6.

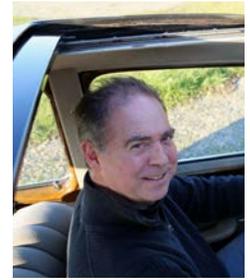


The R107 model featured strongly at the 2019 BC Stars Show & Shine.

BC Stars Section has a Massive Turnout for the 2019 Waterfront Show & Shine

By: Sean Clark

Images: Sean Clark



It was only a few short years ago that the BC Stars Section considered abandoning their annual Waterfront Park Show & Shine. It was tough going to get more than ten cars to show up for the late summer event.

This year, event organizer, Tony Millikin, reports that our online pre-registrations numbered 101 cars, and even with a forecast of rain, most of those entries took the gamble and showed up. Several more unregistered cars arrived at the gate, and gladly paid to get in. We had some very remarkable entries, too! The day turned out to be sunny and warm, perfect weather for

convertibles.

This year's theme was the "30th Anniversary of the R129 SL Roadster".

We had a number of beautiful examples parked front and centre, next to the Registration tents.

Peter DeWitt's beautiful green SL500 on wide AMG rims, and Nick Liem's rare R129 "Silver Arrow", really wowed the crowd.

Nearby, Hardy Suelzer exhibited his open-topped 2018 GT-C, one of 50 produced. Reflecting its status as a very rare

Mercedes offering, Hardy showed us his invitation from Hublot to show his car the following weekend, at the Vancouver Luxury Supercar show.

It was a convertible that won our Best in Show, this year. Ken and Trish Brown entered their glamorous 1965 220SE cabriolet, finished in medium blue paint over a sumptuous blue leather interior. A beautiful show-car it may be, but it is also every bit a Mercedes. Ken and Trish tell us that they enjoy taking their car on long road trips each summer.



Over 100 cars were registered to attend the 2019 Show & Shine.



Ron Price brought his elegant, newly-restored 190SL, with wife Carol, piloting their contemporary SLS “Gullwing”.

We had several “Pagodas”. Steve Cunningham brought his gorgeous blue 280 SL, an exceptional, award-winning car at Monterey. The “SL Hill” was overcrowded with at least 15 vibrantly-coloured R107 SL’s, a great showing of a still “affordable-classic” that can be proudly driven every day.

There was a very impressive showing of Mercedes Classic sedans. From the early “Ponton” of Dave Jung and the “Fintail” of George Budd, hailing the postwar Mercedes of the 1950’s and ‘60’s, on up through the beautiful W108 sedans to the superbly-built W114 and W123 sedans and coupes of the ‘70’s and ‘80’s.

The 1980’s Bruno Sacco designs were well represented. Apart from the featured R129 SL’s, there were four rare Cosworth-powered W201 190E’s, a 560 SEC AMG, and a great presence of W124’s. Our thanks to the enthusiasts of the Benzcouver Gruppe, devotees of the W124, who eagerly came out in numbers to support us!

The hallmark of our show was that it was “all-inclusive”. No, not an open bar and free meals, but ALL Mercedes were welcome. Enthusiasts of Mercedes have one thing in common, they all love their MB’s!

Images (right). Ken and Trish Brown's award-winning 1965 220 SE cabriolet.





Our entries ranged from bone-stock meticulous restorations of elegant Classics, to lovingly personalised late-model and new Mercedes. Modified W108's, W114/115's, and W124's, were proudly presented alongside more contemporary performance-enhanced, C-Klasses, E-Klasses, and big S-Klasses.

Sharman Sidhu's bright green W114 coupe, and Richard Mozisek's famous E55, come readily to mind!

Notably, there were current-model CLA highly-modified entries, that were the pride and joy of their owners and garnered a lot of attention.

One of those cars was from Alberta. We also had several Mercedes from the Seattle area and Blaine WA, who made the trip up to wow us with their spectacular cars.



Many thanks to our hard-working, Club Volunteers who made the day possible, and to Tony Millikin, our Event Organizer who has consistently given us better and better shows each year.

We owe much support to our sponsors, who really came through for us.



Dilawri Group's Mercedes Dealership of North Vancouver provided us with some exceptional show cars from their current line-up and generously donated many great prizes.

This year, Continental Tire's representative told us how pleased he was at the turnout and the exposure he received. Continental donated a set of new tires to a lucky winner.



Lastly, many thanks from the BC Stars section to everyone who buffed and polished their beautiful cars, and came out to show them.

As a welcoming enthusiast show, we had a great turnout. It was an opportunity to appreciate cars and not judge them. Our participants were certainly in the right spirit. 🚗



Mercedes-Benz Club of America BC Section Show and Shine 2019

By: Tony Millikin



What a day! Following months of preparation, a 6 am wake up call, a scramble around to gather last minute supplies and load them, and a final check on the “shine” of my baby, I was off to the site for 7:30.

Once on-site the tents, tables and chairs arrive, and suddenly from what seems like nowhere an amazing army of fellow volunteers shows up and things seem to magically happen.

Tents are set up, tables and chairs arranged, membership and registration tables get set up and ready and the cars start coming in.

Those volunteers really make it happen and I can't thank them enough for all the help they have given today and over the last few years since I have been organizing this event. They took the vision of what the day could be and energized it beyond my expectations; and I will be forever thankful to them. And I would say so will the many cars we have hosted over those years.

History:

I think my first Show and Shine was in 2014 when then President Louie Fourie looked me in the eye and suggested that maybe I could organize the Show and Shine.

He sort of caught me off guard, I said “yes”, and the next thing I knew we had some cars gather and we enjoyed each other's company. That year we were going to be at a new venue, and that venue had a stage.

So, we invited some vendors to join us and give a chat from the stage during the day to help us learn some new things. It was nice - and different from the usual “put the cars out” and talk to each other. We arranged for a parking marshal to greet people as they arrived, and the Mercedes-Benz retail organization stepped up and helped us with prizes. It was a good event and planted the seeds

for what we might be able to do next time.

In 2015 we got more organized and had some good quality print flyers made up, started using Facebook and other social media to tell the world what we were doing, and we started with a pre-registration in order for us to be able to know what we were looking for in terms of numbers. We had 43 pre-registered cars that year, and I can't find the record of cars on site but it was definitely an improvement from the year before.

More people attending meant that there were more conversations, which helped prove we were on the right path.

In 2016 we took a bigger step, with 75 cars pre-registered. On stage chats included one on club membership. A few more prizes from the vendors who arrived including cars from the Mercedes dealerships! We had more cars than the site could handle. It was tough to get in and out of the site
2017 66 pre registrants Even a few from Alberta!

2018 70 pre registrants. Steve Ross drove up and attended this event and was helpful in letting us know we were on the right track. This year we stopped doing vendor presentations and had them in tents up behind the registration and membership tents. If people wanted a conversation, they could engage the vendors on their own.

2019 - 101 pre-registrants and the noon count was 93 cars on the field. We had Alberta members arrive and Washington members as well! Some pre-registrants did not arrive and we had some join us at the door!

This is the first year we have added timelines for registrations. For the first month pre-registration was free. From then up to 5 days before the event the pre-registration went to \$10.00 per car. Registration at the gate was set to \$20.00 with 15 vehicles paying at the gate!

This year each attendee showing a car got a Mercedes Lanyard, a pre-printed dash card, an envelope with a welcome letter that also contained prize tickets, a participant name badge for the lanyard, and a copy of Montecristo Magazine.

About the cars...

Our oldest attendee (er I mean vehicle shown) was a 1957 180
- 6 cars from the 60's one of which won best in show!
- 11 from the 70's
- 18 from the 80's
- 18 from the 90's (only missed a 1996 example!)
- 15 from the 2000's
- 21 from the 2010's
At least one example from every year!

And a few with no year noted in the records managed to find their way to the field!

Cutest car and driver....

Prizes? Oh, my did we have prizes!

The **Dilawri Auto Group**, who now operate six of the local Mercedes Benz locations, 4 are dealerships, arrived with three great vehicles, a bottle of water, keychain and discount offer for the first 100 participants and so much more! Almost \$2000.00 worth of gifts!

Continental Tire brought some General Tire jump start battery packs for door prizes. Retail for those would be \$450.00.

All West Insurance showed up with 2 FULL bags of Mercedes-Benz merchandise for door prizes. Must have been over \$350.00 worth of merchandise.

Everythingcarcare.com have donated a large wash bucket full of great car care products for years and this year was no exception. About \$150.00 worth of product.

We had a new automotive electronics installation company **BPG Autosound** join us this year and they donated a dash cam with installation. A \$250.00 value.

White Spot restaurants added two \$25.00 gift cards. We have our meetings there every second month alternating with the different Dalawri dealerships in the lower mainland.

Bowen Island Pizza from

Lonsdale Quay gave us some door prizes.

And then came the big surprise for us...

Part way through the event the Continental Tire representative took me aside and said he was so happy with the event and the conversations he was having that he offered up a set of new tires! Up to a \$4000.00 value!

And then it was done! And this year I knew all the volunteers were so "on task" that I got to do the thing I had always wanted. I got to photograph almost every car as it left the field and personally thank every attendee.

Again, thanks to those amazing people from our club who work so hard in setting up this event and on event day. Without all your hard work there is no way we could enjoy the company of these fine automobiles and their owners.

To those of you who attended, thanks for coming out and we really hope you enjoyed your day and we look forward to hosting you and your friends next year!



Linda & Gary Pullyblank



Manfred & Marie Stenzel



R107's Abound at 2019 Show & Shine

By: Sean Clark

Images: Sean Clark



The Mercedes-Benz SL heritage has never been more popular. And in many cases, never more expensive. In recent years, the 300SL supercars have been fetching prices upwards of \$1m USD, far out of reach for any but a handful of buyers. The previously attainable, W113 "Pagodas" have reached over \$100,000. As beautiful as they may be, they are not the race-bred car that the "Gullwing" was. Buyers' attentions have lately turned to the 190SL as more affordable. However, as production was limited to less than 26,000 cars ending in 1963, a good one is hard to come by. Restoration of the 190SL is expensive, and the small 1.9 litre carbureted four-cylinders, and the

driving experience, can feel dated on our modern roads.

Contrast that with the R107 SL chassis. Introduced in North America in late 1971 as the 350 SL, it was a comfortable and powerful "race-engined" overhead cam, fuel-injected V8, usually with an automatic transmission. About a quarter of a million cars were built over its 18 year model lifespan from 1972 to 1989. It was 'the' glamorous Mercedes that a whole generation grew up with.

Designed with North America in mind, it was well-equipped and perfectly suited as a symbol of affluence and good taste. Its imagery was pervasive in popular

culture. Featured in TV shows, it was also privately owned by celebrities themselves. It was famously known as, the "Beverly Hills Mustang"!

Thirty years after production ended there are many survivors still on the road. With great build quality and beautiful lines of a Classic convertible, these cars still "look like a million bucks" and command affectionate glances wherever they go. With purchase prices still under \$20,000, robust drivetrains, and relatively available parts, the R107 makes a lot of sense to those who admired them in their youth, and want to drive a real

“Classic Mercedes”. Back in the 1970s and ‘80s, these cars were an unattainable status-symbol for most of us. Today, we had 17 R107s register for our 2019 Show & Shine, more than any other model, and far outnumbering any other SLs, new or old.

Truly, King of the SL Hill, we gathered the 107s as a group, overlooking the rest of the show. The owners were proud to chat with those who came by to look. Drawn by the wide range of vibrant and fun colours, it was noted by many that each car was very individual, and very different from the offerings of today.

There has been an encouraging increase in the number of cars represented each year. The ad hoc R107 group, “Coquitlam R107’s” have warmly welcomed 107 enthusiasts to join them for casual Cars & Coffee meets around the Lower Mainland. It has proven a great opportunity for a drive and shared experiences. Bob Armstrong, the group’s founder, related his personal experience with 107s. Impressed as a boy, seeing the cars lined up in the UBC Golf Club parking lot, he wished to own one someday, but they were far out of his means. Many years later, close to retirement, Bob found a nearly perfectly preserved 560SL that he could afford. It must have lived up to all his expectations, as he now owns two 560s, one to preserve, and one for driving.

Many of the owners share the same story. Another enthusiast,



Ron, used to work for Mercedes. He then owned his own repair shop for many years. Upon retirement, Ron chose a 560SL as his favourite Classic to own and drive.

Many refer to the R107 chassis cars as the “Panzer”, the last ‘real’ Mercedes Classic. Certainly, it is a solid choice for enthusiasts wanting to affordably own and drive a stylish Mercedes Classic.



BC Stars Visit The Luxury Supercar Gala

by Sean Clark
Saturday, September 7, 2019
Vancouver



Vancouver is known for its large number of Luxury Supercars per capita. It has a thriving car community and enthusiast base.

The annual Luxury Supercar Weekend at Van Dusen Gardens, showcases many of the world's most exotic cars from Vancouver's most exclusive dealers.

Our own Hardy Suelzer, at the invitation of Hublot, displayed his beautiful GT-C alongside an assortment of other handpicked cars. The Dilawri Group had a great offering of Mercedes cars, and there were other interesting MB one-offs, including a Brabus "G700", G Wagen.

Nuvo/Montecristo Magazine very kindly invited a few of us Club Members to a private evening event in collaboration with BMW Canada. BMW selected Vancouver as their first-choice market, to unveil for the first time to the car community, their new 2020 M8 Individual Manufaktur Limited Edition (1 of 20 worldwide) Competition Sport Coupe. The M8 Gran Coupe and i8 Roadster, were on display, also.

We enjoyed a pleasantly warm summer evening in the park. MB enthusiast and Supercar IG blogger, Saucywoman, joined us to take in the cars. Vancouver's Chef of the Year, David Hawksworth, gave a cooking demonstration of his risotto. We sampled many delicious

appetizers along with our wine and a signature Whiskey Sour cocktail. Montblanc, a Lifestyle co-sponsor for the evening, gave us each a small personalised gift. We may not all buy a BMW, but it was a great night and a privileged opportunity to see some beautiful automobiles.

Many thanks to Alessandra Borden (below) of Nuvo/Montecristo for her pleasant hospitality. 



The Luxury Supercar Gala



The Luxury Supercar Gala





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BC Stars Visit the MBCA Regional Show & Shine in Seattle

By: Sean Clark
Sunday, August 11, 2019
Lynnwood, WA



Each year, our MBCA Pacific Northwest Region has a Regional Show & Shine in Seattle. Although our four Sections are neighbours, it's particularly hard in this corner of North America to hold an event in which all can participate. Borders and ferries and vast distances make it a challenge in time and expense. However, our Vancouver based Section so appreciates our US visitors coming up to see us, we felt we should make a special effort to attend our one true annual Regional event.

The Show is held annually at the

beautiful Nile Shrine Golf Course, in Lynnwood WA., this year being held Sunday August 11th.

Seattle is centrally situated for all of us making it feasible to visit our friends there, and meet some of the Portland Section Members, also. Jeff Shindler, our Regional Director, headed down from Vancouver in one car, earlier in the week. Four more of us followed on the Saturday directly, from the Langley Dilawri Group MB Dealership. Section President Matt Peck, and Yen-Hsen Liem chose to take their W201 16-Valve Cosworths. Nick Liem, our oldest

and longest Member, wanted a chance to drive his newly purchased R129 SL500 Silver Arrow, and Sean Clark followed in a 1987 R107 560SL.

We had a great drive, travelling down in convoy, arriving with time for a late lunch and a chance to detail our cars before dark. Nick very generously treated us "boys" to lunch and beers before we got to work cleaning our cars. One of the Seattle Members, Emmanuel Athans, very kindly invited us to come by and prepare our cars at his house that evening, before the next day's show. Many thanks to Eman!

At 10:00 am, we rolled onto the grounds at Nile's Golf Course. Event Organizer, Debbie Ward, had our registration packages already waiting for us. We were welcomed to our parking spots with the other "Youngtimers", across from the colourful tents.

The Nile is a spectacular venue that lends itself well to displaying our elegant cars. There were certainly many beautiful examples of newer cars and a good number of regal, Classics. At one point, the unofficial count was a record attendance of over 84 cars.

Our Section ended up displaying six cars that made it down, with Don Rutherford and Gary Pullyblank, arriving in Don's C55 on Sunday morning. Wei Jay was forced to turn back as his 2.5-16V Cosworth developed an undetermined coolant leak on the way. There was a very good showing from Portland, and of course, many fascinating Washington cars that we never see otherwise.

This event hosted people from three Sections from two States, one Province, and two countries, including a Regional Director and three Section Presidents. Representing their areas were, Seattle President Tony Andrews, David Abarr of Portland, and Matt Peck from Vancouver.

David Abarr took the opportunity to invite other Sections to an MBCA Safe



Driving instructional track event in Portland. In turn, Matt Peck addressed all the participants, encouraging them to join us on September 1st for our Vancouver Show & Shine. Sean Clark presented the Seattle Section President with the now traditional gift of Canada's, Hawkins Cheesies, otherwise unobtainable in the US. It was well received.

Amongst the many interesting cars on display, was an "Adenauer" limousine with flag regalia, the lovely white "fintail" of Jerry Cole, and a W108 convertible. The car that stole the show was Steve Geyer's suicide-door, 1950 W170 Cabriolet, with its original fabric top. Finished in dark green with green leather interior, it rightly won Best of Show.

Our trip was thoroughly enjoyable. We saw some remarkable cars, shared some great Club camaraderie with many new people, and caught up with old friends. It was nice to see David and Joan Glass, and Jim Houk, and talk with Past President Jerry Cole. Steve Geyer was kind enough to allow Sean Clark to sit in his winning car and try it on for size. James Bambury introduced himself as Seattle's Newsletter Editor.

Many thanks to Tony Andrews and to Debbie Ward for welcoming us and putting on a first-class show. We look forward to our own turn to play the part of hosts, at our upcoming events. 



BC STARS EXECUTIVE

President: Matthew Peck

Secretary: Manfred Stenzel

Treasurer: Gary Pullyblank

Newsletter Editor: Joseph Anthony

Member at Large: Sean Clark

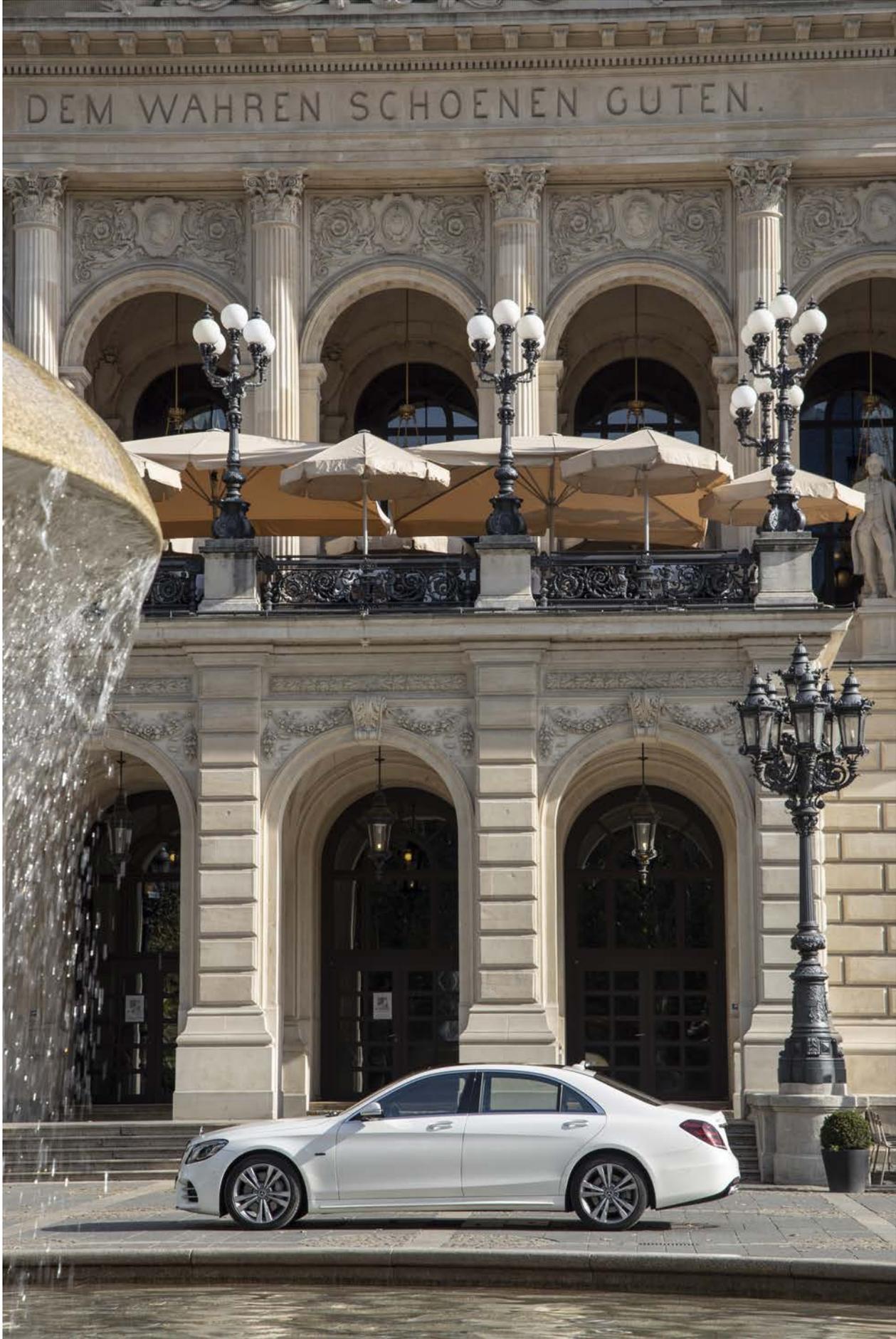
Club Historian: Marie Stenzel

Webmaster: Mark Block

Alaskan Officer: John Fouse

PNW Regional Director: Jeff Shindler





S 560 e (long wheelbase plug-in hybrid), designo diamond white bright, Exclusive nappa leather black.