



November/December 2011

B.C. Star Mercedes Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Garage Tour Saturday, January 28, 2012 1.00PM

Ian Steward will be displaying his recently awakened 280 SL at 623 East Tenth Street, North Vancouver. Enter via the back alley. If you get lost Ian's number is 604-968-1074. Come and share your knowledge about W113s with Ian and possibly learn something as well.

StarFest 2012

StarFest® 2012 is coming to sunny Phoenix, Arizona from September 28 to October 3, 2012, hosted by the Desert Stars Section. This is one of the closer venues to our neck of the woods, so how about some early strategic planning. The hyperlink to the StarFest 2012 website is www.StarFest2012.com.



New North West Regional Chair of the MBCA

Barry Patchett is our newly appointed Director for the North West Region. He joined the MBCA in 1989, starting the Alberta Section. Barry's experience with the Club has been as President and Newsletter Editor in Alberta for several years and recently as President of the Vancouver Island Section. He looks forward to working with us for the next two years on Mercedes events and hopes that we will contact him whenever needed for issues involving the Club. A 1965 230SL and 1994 E320 share garage space in his Vancouver Island home. Barry's e-mail address is bmpatchett@shaw.ca

For more about this meticulously clean and organized garage see page 4



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Presidents Message

Hello Everyone, I can't believe the year is almost over. Like most of you I'm sure, the time just disappears. We went from show 'n shines to mounting up the winter tires in what feels like a couple of weeks. Oh well, I'm now able to enjoy the seat heaters and feel nice a cozy inside my Mercedes.

As we wrap up the year I would like to note a couple of items you should be aware of, first of all.. the rates are going up. Not much and if you renew before the year of the year you can save yourself the few dollars. The second item is the "Year Book", I received the gold coloured card in the mail and gave the number a call. I had no idea of the price and was a little surprised with the cost. I think the idea is good, but I felt there should have been more communication from MBCA on the cost and the content that will be going into the book. For photos and stories of club member's cars you can have a look on the MBCA website. There are some great cars in there and better yet, you can communicate with the owners. Which brings me to another item.. the MBCA website. They have made some great changes to it. If you haven't explored it lately take the time while sipping on your eggnog and see all of the great information they have there.

As 2011 winds down we have been asked by the City of North Vancouver to submit our application for the July event. This has been a challenging event for our club as this falls three weeks after the All German car day. Plus, it's right in the middle of summer when many members are away with their families and with the explosion of other car events going on in the lower mainland some members may choose to go to another event. So it leaves our event with only a few cars and a limited number of organizers (mainly Louis, thank you very much Louis for keeping this alive). We are trying to see if we can move the date to September/early October time frame, but if not, I am looking for keen members who would like to attend and help organize.

We have been getting a good turn out to our First Tuesday of the Month gathering at White Spot. Many of us are able to squeeze in one evening to chat about cars. I would like those of you who do attend to think about what events we should focus on for 2012. It would be nice to have 3-4 main events that we can get a strong turnout for.

Thank you to all of you who did attend the various events we had over the course of 2011 and for those who organized those events.

I specially want to thank Louis Fourie for his drive and determination in keeping our chapter alive and kicking and bring new members out to our events.

Thank you everyone and have a safe and happy holidays.

Merry Christmas

Charles

Remember our Regular Monthly meetings the First Tuesday of the Month at the Coal Harbour White Spot on Georgia Street. These are not formal meetings, simply social gatherings with a little planning of what events lie ahead.



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This and That

Here are several sites about the newly released 2013 SL

[http://carscoop.blogspot.com/2011/11/its-official-mercedes-benz-reveals-tech.html?
utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Carscoop+%28CARSCOOP%29](http://carscoop.blogspot.com/2011/11/its-official-mercedes-benz-reveals-tech.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Carscoop+%28CARSCOOP%29)

[http://carscoop.blogspot.com/2011/12/2013-mercedes-benz-sl-roadster-brochure.html?
utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Carscoop+%28CARSCOOP%29](http://carscoop.blogspot.com/2011/12/2013-mercedes-benz-sl-roadster-brochure.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Carscoop+%28CARSCOOP%29)

<http://www.worldcarfans.com/111121339001/2013-mercedes-benz-sl-class-official-images-surface>

[http://carscoop.blogspot.com/2011/12/official-photos-of-2013-mercedes-benz.html?
utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Carscoop+%28CARSCOOP%29](http://carscoop.blogspot.com/2011/12/official-photos-of-2013-mercedes-benz.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Carscoop+%28CARSCOOP%29)

[http://carscoop.blogspot.com/2011/12/mercedes-benz-dishes-out-official.html?
utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Carscoop+%28CARSCOOP%29](http://carscoop.blogspot.com/2011/12/mercedes-benz-dishes-out-official.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Carscoop+%28CARSCOOP%29)

<http://www.worldcarfans.com/111121539048/2013-mercedes-benz-sl-class-video-series>



What belongs here? See over for details.

All photos by Gary Hawthorn.



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Tech Session with a visit to Greg Bedard's Garage

by Louis F. Fourie

Greg enjoys the challenge of doing as much of his own restoration work as possible while at the same time maintaining the highest standards. We had the chance to see a meticulous empty engine bay about ready to receive an equally new looking 3.5 V8. All the bolts, nuts and piping look like new, thanks to the services of Hudson Plating. The detail under the car is just as neat and clean.

Even though the blue leather interior looks used but still perfect, Greg has plans to replace much of it, partially because he prefers another colour. Well Braydon's car will always have a spare interior.

There were so many questions for Greg to field with many side conversations about mechanical bits and pieces. Being able to see around an engine or follow the path of the elaborate emergency brake enables us to understand the engineering or complexity that goes into a Benz. It was fascinating to listen to how Greg renovated this or that and what had to be replaced. Samples were shown of the old part and in some cases the less durable new replacement.

The garage is as spec and span as its contents with a place for all tools. If only some of us lesser mortals could be so well organized. We might be more productive. Greg advised at our last Tuesday meeting that the engine is in without any problems other than he is almost sad that the project is nearly complete. You will just have to find another project Greg.

Congratulations and thanks for showing us the fruits of your skills.



To see where this contraption belongs have a look at the previous page or page six. Greg is happy to report that the engine safely found its way into its new/old home and will soon be breathing life into this immaculate coupe.



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2012 Membership News Bulletin

Effective January 1, 2012 MBCA membership dues will increase as follows:

	U.S.		Canadian & Int'l	
	<u>Membership Dues</u>		<u>Membership Dues</u>	
1 Year	Was \$45	Will Be \$49	Was \$55	Will Be \$59
2 Years	Was \$87	Will Be \$95	Was \$107	Will Be \$115
3 Years	Was \$127	Will Be \$139	Was \$157	Will Be \$169

Reasons for the 2012 Dues Increase

1. It has been 12 years since MBCA last raised its dues
2. 2012 dues represent an increase of less than 9% over 2011
3. MBCA has been able to avoid a dues increase for more than a decade but increasing operating expenses makes it virtually impossible to avoid a modest increase today
4. The list of MBCA member benefits and discounts has markedly expanded in the last two years. Please see the 2/3 page advertorial in the January/February issue of The Star® magazine for details or visit www.mbca.org/member-benefits for a complete list of benefits
5. We want to ensure that MBCA can continue to meet its promise/value proposition: To be an enduring and sustainable Mercedes-Benz enthusiast organization known for nurturing and inspiring the Mercedes-Benz experience.
6. Special Incentives for MBCA Members, Effective NOW!

Members who RENEW their membership BEFORE 12/31/11 will receive:

3 additional months of membership FREE when they renew for 3 years PLUS pay the (current) 2011 rate

(\$127 U.S. or \$157 Canadian/Int'l)

2 additional months of membership FREE when they renew for 2 years PLUS pay (current) 2011 rate

(\$87 U.S. or \$107 Canadian/Int'l)

Members who RENEW their membership beginning 1/1/12 or AFTER will receive:

3 additional months of membership FREE when they renew for 3 years (at the 2012 rate)

2 additional months of membership FREE when they renew for 2 years (at the 2012 rate)



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The Story of Benita - A 280 SL

by Ian Steward

September 30th, 2011, I arrived in the land far far away to introduce myself to Benita, a neglected 1969 Pagoda whom I am about to transport down to Vancouver. I met her a couple times in 1988-1991 prior to her sleep and bought her sight unseen in 2008. Today I found her sitting on timbers and axle stands over a dirt floor. The license plates expired in October 1991. I peaked inside and saw a mould experiment that would make Mr. Taylor proud (my grade 11 science teacher). The dash is empty – no radio, no glove box, no clock, no padding, no speaker cover, no molding and no wooden trim. Apparently Benita's previous master (Johnny) started to refinish her wood trim and replace the heater levers, however he got frustrated and threw everything into the trunk and decided to park the car until inspiration hit. Thankfully for me, the inspiration never hit and Benita is now mine, apparently complete except for the radio.

Benita didn't do as well as hoped during her sleep and as part of the deal Johnny gave me a welder and said I would need it. Cool, I'll go home with the car of my dreams and new toybut why did Johnny say I will need the welder – Benita looks fine except for a couple little bubbles here and there and there and over there....

It took a couple days to get items moved so we could move Benita up and out. With the use of winches, boards long, short, fat and skinny, a few floor jacks and lots of plywood to keep from sinking in the dirt we finally pulled her out. Once out in daylight you could almost hear her let out a sigh of relief. 20 years of storage had left surface rust under the paint, under the chrome and under the undercoating – everywhere. All corners have paint chips as do all wheel wells and the hood. And there is a smell from insidewow is there a smell. The leather upholstery was all covered in mould so I went to the tack store and got a product for cleaning mould off of saddles. It worked very well where I tried it out. We loaded Benita onto the U-haul car trailer and prepped the car for the 20 hour drive back home. The car trailer had a flat tire so roadside assistance was called and they fixed the flat right there in the middle of the road. I was ready to head out the next morning.

Continued on the next page



This is where item A from page four goes but only after it has gained a transmission and executes a perfect swan dive in slow motion, very slow motion.



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Continued from previous page.

First thing I visited the insurance agent to insure Benita incase I fall asleep at the wheel. I had an uneventful drive back home. The only exciting thing was giving Benita a bath at the truck wash in Prince George. \$8.00 in loonies and she looks better already. She appeared happy to finally have a bath after 20 years.

I arrived home at 5:30 am after driving straight through with a couple of nappy breaks. After I got the kids off to school with Benita in tow I unloaded her and coaxed her into my garage right onto my hoist and introduced her to my MGB, and various motorcycles and my little scooter "Turtle". I played around a bit with Benita and found the source of the smell. Apparently a cat had decided to expire on the passenger floor mat. I pulled out the floor mat and brushed the maggots off it, washed it with the power washer but there is no hope for that mat. I pulled out the insulation as well and placed that in the garbage.

Over the next 2 months I played with Benita in 15 minute intervals becoming acquainted with her needs. Basically I want to get some pictures for collector plates before I tear into her. Here are my daily exploits.

I vacuumed the interior a bit and pulled out many of the seeds from the mice. Not a lot of mouse droppings so maybe - just maybe the soft top that is supposed to be in there will be ok. I will look at that when I can get help lifting the top off. Maybe I need a hoist for a one man operation.

I took the wheels and tires off and put 5 new Yoko Avid H4s on her which seem to fit just nicely. The Pirellis on her didn't match and included two older tires with the white walls peeling off, one antique blackwall with the little nibs suggesting that it was the spare and two aggressive blackwall P77s with almost no miles on the,. All to the scrap heap.

I put some hide food on the seats to try to transform them from the hard brittle things they are to some nice supple leather that won't crack when I sit in them. The instructions say to wait 48 hours and do it again. I may need a few bottles of this stuff

I got a can of Seafoam and sprayed anything that looked like it may want to come apart in the engine compartment. I noticed that the hood scrapes when opened - I think that Benita has had a face lift at some time and they put her nose back on a little crooked. Sort of like Michael Jackson. I will have to put that in the back of my mind for a future fix.

In the next newsletter we will learn what was needed to turn the engine over.





How do you make a convertible comfortable for four?
If you're Mercedes-Benz, you simply re-engineer the wind.

The 2011 E-Class Cabriolet marks the debut of AIRCAP™, which refers not simply to a technology (a wind deflector in the windshield frame coupled with a wind stop between the rear seats), but to the result: a cabin virtually free of turbulence. To experience how the obsessives who design our cars breed the wind, we suggest that four, not one, of you visit a dealer or mercedes-benz.ca.



The All-New 2011 E-Class Cabriolet

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