



Vancouver Island Section Newsletter

JANUARY 2023

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The new EQS SUV. Photo by Barry Patchett at the November New Car and Technology Event



President's Message

Rob Watson

Most of what I would normally include here you will find in the President's Report as part of the AGM notice and package, emailed to you last week.

My thanks to Cris Gray for "volunteering" to write about the love of his mechanical life, Brunhilda. And kudos to wife, Elsie, for editing and accommodating his stacks of research material. For the article he wrote, Cris apparently had the material scattered all around him.

In this edition of the Newsletter, I have not included our Event Schedule. The Board has prepared a draft, which we will present at the AGM for additional input from Section members in attendance. Once finalized, I will send it out later this month.

I thank our Board members: Dennis and Hazel Ostrowerka, Dennis Aitken, Alex Currie, and Barry Patchett. I appreciate their efforts to move us forward, their commitment to our members, and their engagement over the last year. I also thank *you*, our Section members, for your enthusiasm and participation.

May we have a healthier 2023. We can all help to make it a good year.



Dennis Ostrowerka, wondering how he can fit the new EQS SUV into his garage without Hazel seeing it.

Photo by Barry Patchett



2021 – 2022 Section Officers

President and Co–Newsletter Editor: Rob Watson
Vice–President and Dealer Ambassador, Victoria: Dennis Ostrowerka
Secretary: Hazel Ostrowerka
Treasurer: Dennis Aitken
Membership Chair: Alex Currie
Co–Newsletter Editor and Dealer Ambassador, Nanaimo: Barry Patchett
Honorary Vice–President: Peter Trzewik
Northwest Regional Director: Jeff Shindler (jeff.shindler@shaw.ca)
Section email: mbca.visland@gmail.com

Member Awards and Renewals

Section members (with month and year of joining MBCA) who reached their Membership Anniversary milestone between October and December.

5 Years

Lutz Keller (November 2017)
Michael Horvath (November 2017)

10 Years

Frits De Geest (November 2012)
David Ockenden (October 2012)

Thank you to Members and Associate Members who renewed their membership between May and September.

Bob Allen
Margo Allen
Brent Baynton
Chuck Burkett
Marian Carter
Brian Dane
Nicolas Herman
Theo Le Roux
Helen Massingham
Paul Vincent
John McIntosh
David Ockenden

If you have not received your Anniversary pin and would like to have it, contact Rob Watson [here](#).



Brunhilda
(Grandpa's Big Boy Transformer Toy)
2009 E350 4matic Wagon, Avantgarde edition
Mercedes-Benz Model S211.287
Cris Gray
Photos by Cris Gray

Brunhilda: A beautiful Amazon-like princess in Germanic heroic legend.
Princess: Requiring a lot of attention, not to mention money, (like a hobby).



My princess – outstanding in her field

Brunhilda was so named because she is big, she is beautiful, she is German, and she has been, and at times still can be, *a real princess*.

Background: My love of fine automobiles began in southern Wales in 1947 with my still fondly recalled pedal car which, given the date, was most probably not a Mercedes. However, ten years later in Canada, I saw the first Mercedes that I recall - a brand new 1958 Mercedes-Benz 300SL Roadster that, *incredibly*, could do 0-60 mph in less than 10 seconds. *And it was absolutely gorgeous*. Sixty years after that I found there was another Mercedes model just as quick to 60 mph (~ 7 sec.), and *also absolutely gorgeous*.

After a year-long search far and wide, Brunhilda was adopted in late 2019 from an entirely unscrupulous car dealer in Vancouver. “Absolutely mint condition.” Yeah, right! (*People in love will believe anything.*) I’ll skip her previous history, and most of the last three years, or I’ll end up with another version of a Dickens’ novel: “Interesting Times”.

With the great help of M-B Nanaimo, (especially Jon Mills, David Lynn and Bob Jones), the World Wide Web, my treasured local mechanics, and the extraordinary tolerance of my wife, Elsie, Brunhilda is now in “almost like-new” condition given her age and 160,000 km, and the fact that she’s driven year-round, in all kinds of weather, and lives outside.



A classically beautiful luxury performance vehicle that can carry 4 people inside with all their baggage and very long skis and climb the hills to use them. But *magically* she can be so much more

A Transformer: Depending on bits one leaves in or takes out; what's turned on or off; the transmission setting; and the disks in the CD player, this is (1) a Great Touring Car, (2) a Luxury 4/5 passenger Sedan, (3) a 7 passenger Limousine, (4) a Camper, (5) a Moving Van, (6) a Cargo Flatbed, (7) Animal Transport, and (8) *dare I say it, a Sports Car.*



Transforming. Flatbed and rear well

Those configurations can be further modified by keeping or removing: the large hidden storage box; the vertical netting, front or rear; the rear grocery bag well; the auto-lifting cargo cover; a usable front seat; my long heavy-duty vinyl liner; etc.

At the Oak Bay car show this past Summer, while showing off her “flatbed”, Brunhilda got quite a bit of attention, and received two offers: One from a chap wanting to trundle around his dog pack; and another who very seriously wanted her as a camper.



Modest skirts, (no pipes)

The Car. She's Canadian. Built in Germany in April 2009 for Canada, with several “Canada only” options, and bird's-eye maple trim. One of the last of the best E-Class wagons built on the 2006-2009 “facelift” version of



the 211 chassis with the classic round-headlamp styling. The **Avantgarde** edition is fully enhanced with all of the best available options and is referred to by some as the S version of the E-Class.

The 211 chassis is considered to be the best and most reliable E-Class built since the W124 (1986-1995) of almost 30 years ago. And its elegant and timeless design make it the only car I have ever had that people stop to say “that’s the most beautiful car I have ever seen”, or more simply that it’s “beautiful”, and often ask if it’s a new one.



Photogenic, eh? Waiting at Wal-Mart

Sixty percent of its body is aluminum, but it still weighs two tons. It has a naturally aspirated 3.5 Litre V6 with DOHC cams and 4 valves per cylinder, requiring 91 octane fuel and 8.5L of synthetic oil, and which produces 268 hp and 258 lb.ft. of torque. With a 5-speed transmission it provides more than “adequate” performance. Any more “adequate”, and I’d just get into far more trouble.

Performance: A delight to drive at any time. Quiet, smooth, and relaxing. She handles our interestingly twisty country roads extremely well. And on the straight bits she’s as solid as a rock at 203 km/h, (*but that’s another story*). With the Rock & Roll cranked right up (“*Only Yooooou ...*”), or the Philharmonic at full blow, it’s just like sitting comfortably in a Concert Hall while hurtling through the Universe.



Always ready to play



Upcoming Events

Coachwerks Tour, AGM, and Lunch

Sunday, 15 January 2023

Rob Watson

Eric Cherneff at Coachwerks Restoration invited us for a tour of Coachwerks, and to hold our AGM and have a light lunch (supplied by us) at their facilities. Although short notice, we have arranged to have this event on Sunday, 15 January, 2023 from 11:00 AM to 2 PM.

Most of you know of Coachwerks' reputation. Coachwerks Restoration evolved from the purchase of two companies by the GAIN group: Rudi & Co. and Coachwerks Automotive Restoration. It follows in the high-quality tradition of its predecessor companies in a facility between Hillside Avenue and John Street in Victoria. Coachwerks completed a significant renovation in September 2022 to improve their workflow and services.

It is always fascinating to gain insights into the craft of restoration and to see Coachwerks' completed collection of cars as well as those in the process of restoration.

The schedule:

11:00 Start the tour

12:00 Annual General Meeting for the MBCA Vancouver Island Section

12:30 Light lunch of sandwiches, vegetable or fruit tray and beverages.

Note: The charge is \$10 per person to cover expenses. In addition, please **bring your own seating** (e.g., lawn chair) for the AGM/lunch portion. Coachwerks does not have facilities for seating.

Summary:

Organizer: Rob Watson, and Dennis and Hazel Ostrowerka

When: Sunday, 15 January, 2023

Time: 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Where: Coachwerks Restoration, 532 John St, Victoria. Note: this is the formal address for Coachwerks.

For parking, please drive to the Coachwerks entrance on Hillside Avenue.

Cost: \$10 per person for the event

RSVP: Rob by clicking [here](#) or emailing mbca.visland@gmail.com by Wednesday, 11 January at noon

Special note: Bring your own seating for the AGM/lunch (lawn chair, etc.)



Eric Cherneff showing us the iconic 300SL tubular frame in September 2021





Viking Air Factory Tour
Alex Currie
Friday, 27 January 2023



We are pleased that Viking Air has invited us for a factory tour after several years of delay due to Covid 19. This has been on the MBCA-VI Section opportunities list since 2020 and we are so thankful to Viking and in particular, Leona Tardif at Viking for making it happen.

Here are the conditions Viking has set in place for this tour:

1. We are limited to 25 people. Maximum spaces per member is limited to 2 people. Please ensure that if you book, you intend to attend. We anticipate that there could be high demand for this tour, and we would hate for someone to be shut out only to find a booking was not honoured. Bookings will be taken on a first come, first serve basis. There will be a wait list. If you book and circumstances change such that you cannot attend, please let me know ASAP so someone on the wait list can attend.
2. Tours are only offered on select Fridays, so the date and time is **Friday January 27, 2023 at 1:00 PM.**
3. We will be touring an active manufacturing facility and going on the shop floor. Therefore, sandals, open-toed or high heeled shoes are not permitted so wear your most comfy closed-toed walking shoes. Anyone not meeting the footwear required will not be permitted on the shop floor.
4. Viking will provide both hearing and eye protection, which must be worn at all times when on the shop floor.
5. Due to liability issues MBCA Vancouver Island Section will not be allowing minors.
6. Only trained service animals are allowed if necessary to make the tour.
7. No photos are allowed in the facility.
8. Please let us know in advance if you have accessibility issues so we can advise Viking in advance so they can adjust the tour route.

We are meeting at Mary's Bleue Moon Café for lunch prior to the Viking Tour. They have confirmed they would welcome us but to ensure we leave by 12:45 PM to get to Viking we will need to be at the Café by 11:00 AM.

Summary:

Organizer: Alex Currie

When: Friday, 27 January, 2023

Time and Where:

Mary's Bleue Moon Café for lunch: 11:00 AM to 12:45 PM

Where: 9535 Canora Rd, Sidney

Viking Air factory Tour: 1:00 PM to about 2:30 PM

Where: 1959 De Havilland Way, North Saanich

Cost: A la carte at Mary's Bleue Moon's Café

RSVP: Alex by clicking [here](#) or emailing currieasc@gmail.com by Friday, 20 January.

Please indicate you wish to be included in the lunch event preceding the tour at Mary's Bleue Moon Café



Recent Events

GAIN—Three Point Motors SL Reveal

Saturday, 24 September, 2022

Kevin Carlé

Photos by Kevin Carlé and Three Point Motors

There is an old saying - "Membership has its privileges". Well, that was very evident at the "By Invitation Only" Oktoberfest Gala that the Germain Automobile Import Network (GAIN) organized with their Three Point Motors Mercedes-Benz Dealership on Saturday September 24, 2022. Our MBCA chapter was offered 20 table places to celebrate the Marque and in particular, the famous SL series of cars.

If you can imagine, a beautiful classic car restoration shop was transformed into a wonderful Oktoberfest themed venue to celebrate and welcome the private viewing of the all-new Mercedes-Benz SL. German beer, wine, music, fabulous food, and Mercedes cars! It really just doesn't get any better.

Peter Trzewik who is a Partner of the GAIN Group, welcomed those in attendance by thanking them for their interest in the Mercedes dealership Three Point Motors, and as well their loyalty as customers and fans. Peter said that after all the challenges associated with COVID over the past several years, he was really pleased to have a celebration and to enjoy some friendships new and old. Without further fanfare, he welcomed everybody and hoped that all have a wonderful evening as his guests.

The meal (quite properly referred to as a "feast") featured delicious and traditional German dishes such as Bavarian Sausage and Cheese Salad; Pretzels with a yummy mustard cheese spread; Bavarian Roast Chicken; Schnitzel (my favourite); Crispy Bavarian Pork Roast with beer sauce; Bavarian Bread Dumplings with Sauerkraut; German Apple Cake with Kirsch Whipped Cream and Bavarian Vanilla Cream with Raspberry Sauce.

You will note in some of the photographs taken that there is a series of covered vehicles parked in the perimeter around the tables. When the newest SL was unveiled to great fanfare, the covers were lifted off the other cars - all SLs from the 50s and 60s, including the legendary 300SL Gullwing and roadster. All guests were welcome to promenade while chatting and getting closer looks at these magnificent machines.

Truly a fabulous evening and one that will continue to flood back Mercedes Memories.

This page and the following page are photos from the amazing GAIN—SL Reveal with ambiance, guests, and cars.





Coachwerks Open House

Sunday, 25 September, 2022

Kevin Carlé

Photos by Kevin Carlé

Near the end of the fabulous Oktoberfest Gala that a few lucky club members enjoyed, I learned that the following day was the Open House for Coachwerks and the GAIN Classic Centre. At first, I thought I had confused the dates because de-decorating from the Gala and returning the facility back to a workshop would be a challenge.

Well, de-decorate they did! The GAIN team must have worked through the night.

When I arrived a bit later the next day, there was coffee, donuts, and warm greetings for all. Peter Trzewik, head of the GAIN Group, was there interacting with the public. When we spoke, I asked if he had spent the night? After a good chuckle, we agreed that his team was very impressive.

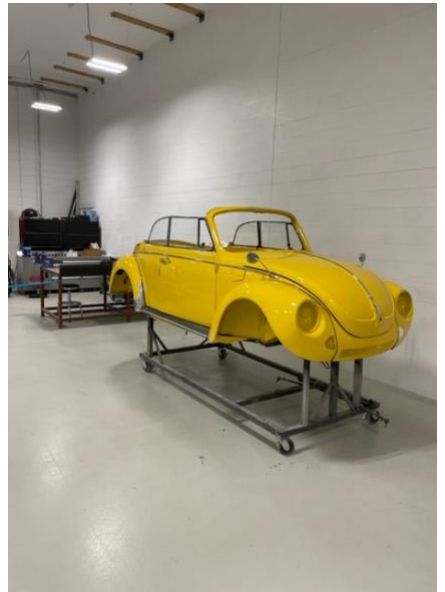
And you wouldn't believe the transformation from the night before. I'm glad I took a few photos; otherwise, I might not be believed. Various projects were on display including a few magnificently finished cars.

Staff were on hand to answer questions about the various elements and phases in repairing car bodies or doing restorations from partial to full projects. These aren't simply body repair technicians but rather, they are craftsmen who know how to make panels, parts, and various other bits of car restoration magic that one would expect in a world class body repair and restoration shop.

From the fabulous paint shop as part of Coachwerks to the restoration work whether mechanical or interior, if you have a car that needs some renewal, then this is the place for you. And by the way, they work on all sorts of cars - not just those that are German-engineered and built.

And here are some of my photos . . .





New Car and Technology Event

Sunday, 6 November, 2022

Dennis Ostrowerka

It was just over a year since we had our last technology event (September 29, 2021). This year we had a new EQS 580 SUV all electric model. Jason Mui and his team gave our group of 16 significant information about the features of this all-electric vehicle. The EQS SUV has a range of 459 kms and a power output of 516 HP. It seats 5 in typical Mercedes comfort and has loads of cargo space. Its well-appointed interior has all the latest MB luxury items and electronic wizardry. Even rear seat passengers have MBUX high end rear seat entertainment systems.

Everyone enjoyed the BBQ following the presentation. Several of us had chauffeured test drives of the car, with one of the TPM team driving. The acceleration rate is awesome!



Photos from the Daimler Global Media site.





Christmas Luncheon
Saturday, 10 December, 2022
Alex Currie
Photos by Alex Currie

Twenty-seven members of our section of MBCA gathered at The Fireside Grill in Saanich for our annual Christmas Luncheon. Regrets and best wishes were extended by Doug and Brenda Logan who could not attend.

As usual, the restaurant was beautifully decorated for the holiday season and, while busy with other groups, everyone was able to enjoy the beverage of their choice and engage with other members over a very nice meal.

The quality of the service was good and the staff of the Fireside Grill warm, friendly and accommodating to the needs and wishes of everyone.

We hope everyone had a good time.





Enjoying our lunch and looking forward to the Holidays and Christmas



Tech Tip
Key Fob Batteries
(for those who change key fob batteries themselves)
Alex Currie

Many owners will not depend on their service providers to change batteries in their key fobs and may tend to consider only the size, voltage and milli-amp hour rating and price of the battery when making a change.

Recent experience with my other car – 2014 Nissan Rogue – indicated that private label brands have very short service lives when compared to a brand name. It is something to do with charge saturation.

For example, a Reactor Lithium CR2032, will only last 6-14 days before start issues on the keyless go arise and the fob has to be placed right against the start button to start the car.

After 14 days opening the doors keyless starts to become iffy as well.

Searches for solutions revealed this is not unique to Nissan products. Other brands experience similar failures. Replacing the private label brand with Energizer CR2032 has demonstrated the online advice to be correct. Replacing the batteries with the brand name has restored functionality to what is expected which is several months of so far trouble-free service.



Photos from the Daimler Global Media site.

