



Vancouver Island Section Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2022

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Show and Shine winners and judges at Enrico Winery, July 2022.

From left: Barry Patchett (esteemed Judge), Barry Aldrich (2nd place, 1989 560SL), John Mallett (1st place, 2007 AG SL55 with a rare P30 performance option), Philip Early (3rd place, 2000 CLK 320 convertible), Bob Wilson (the other esteemed Judge)



President's Message

Rob Watson

Vancouver Island Section Events

This year has not been the easiest for planning events. While many venues and restaurants opened, others remained closed to visitors, such as Viking Air. As well, events at Three Point Motors have been delayed because of the auto industry's supply chain and model delivery problems. We've only now been able to schedule a New Car and Tech event at TPM in November.

Next year, we hope to have a full slate of events. This year's events were split evenly between the Victoria and Cowichan Valley areas, and we are mindful of needing to include the mid-Island. In addition to a regular slate of events, we are also planning to emulate the Porsche Club's success and arrange regular, informal coffee get-togethers. Several of you have provided ideas for future events. Please keep them coming!

The two remaining events this year are the:

- ⇒ New Car and Technology Event at Three Point Motors, Sunday, 6 November, and
 - ⇒ Holiday and Christmas lunch at the Fireside Grill in Saanich, Saturday, 10 December.
- More details follow.

Changes Regarding Communicating with Members and Responding to Event Notices

Moving forward, we will be changing the communications procedure for event notices and event planning. When I first became President, I set up the *mbca.visland* email address hoping it could be easily accessed by each board member. My goal was to have each member of the executive be able to issue their own notices and communicate with you. Of course, in my naivety, I discovered it was not that simple. Up to now, nearly all communications for events were prepared by me. With notices, venue organization, RSVPs and other communications, each event typically requires 50-plus emails. It has been a LOT of work.

Starting now, each event planner will use their own email address to communicate with you. The *mbca.visland* will continue to be used by me for my own communication regarding events I plan or for other Section business. So, for the Tech Event in November and the Lunch in December, you will receive the event reminder and other communications from Dennis Ostrowerka (Tech Event) and Alex Currie (holiday lunch). The RSVP links in this Newsletter and in their notices for these events will send an email directly to them. The event notices below also include a written version of their email address which can be copied and pasted if there is a glitch with the link.

VI Section Board

My thanks to Dennis Aitken for his willingness to assume the role of Section Treasurer. Thanks also to Hazel Ostrowerka for doing double duty over the last year as Secretary-Treasurer. And last, congratulations to Barry Patchett for his article in the July-August issue of *The Star*: "Paul Russell Master Restorer." Well done, Barry.

Concourse Judging

Barry Patchett, Bob Wilson, and I recently completed MBCA's "Concours d'Elegance Judging School" course on Zoom, offered free by the Peachtree Section in Georgia. I wanted to learn more about the judging process and how it could help me evaluate cars. I learned about the importance of attention to detail, consistency, fairness, and technical knowledge. There were about 40 participants and many, including Barry and Bob (but not me!), showed deep technical knowledge. It was so interesting to observe and learn! Even if like me, your technical knowledge is sparse, I highly recommend this course if it is offered again. It requires only three to four hours,



and it will open your eyes to better appreciate the remarkable vehicles that Mercedes–Benz and other manufacturers have produced over the years.

For You F1 Junkies

Alex Currie is an F1 fan and was frustrated that he could not see the events when he is travelling. Alternative sites such as TSN, require a subscription or are expensive. A recent search however, brought him to Full Match Sports here: <https://fullmatchsports.cc/formula-1/formula-1-2022-race/> , which shows F1 races as far back as 2014.

From what Alex can ascertain, this site appears to film the events of Skysports and then posts them to their site. Alex wondered how they managed to do that but both Skysports and F1 logos appear so there must be some arrangement with both. Online access to this site appears to be free (and commercial free).

I will be away for a couple of months so won't be at the November Tech event. The next Newsletter will be issued at the end of December with our draft schedule for next year's events. In the meantime, take care, and best wishes for the fall.

Rob Watson, September 2022



Three Point Motors graciously allowed us the first showing at our Show and Shine of the brand new 2022 Mercedes–Benz C300 4MATIC (foreground).

John Mallett's winning 2007 AMG SL55 being judged by Bob and Barry (background)



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 e–mail: mbsca.visland@gmail.com

Member Awards, New Members and Renewals

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

5 Years

Heinz Mueller (July 2017)

10 Years

Hal Neumann (September 2012)
Maureen Rivers (September 2012)
Leo Vanderven (August 2012)

40 Years

Donald Prochnow (July 1982)

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

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

Dennis Aitken
Barrie Aldrich
Wilfred and Betty Beaton
Murray Bradley
David Bulinckx
Wayne Carter
Brian Dane
Ron Drane and Donna Stein
Martin Enright
Logan Fairburn
Barry Goss
Louis and Catherine Hobson
Horst Loewel
Brigitte and Frits Nijs
Dave Ogilvy
Christopher Parkes
Andrew Tataryn
James Troy
Vivian Weldon

Welcome to New Members (with month of joining MBCA)

Pauline Rice (May)
Ben (Bennoe) Derksen (June)
Ross Mosher (July)
Gary West (September)



My 1965 230SL Pagoda

Barry Patchett

Photos by Barry Patchett



Barry with his 1965 230SL Pagoda, dreaming of new driving adventures with wife, Gwen

I joined the MBCA by founding the Alberta Section in 1989. One of the first to join was Heinz Odenthal of Banff, who had a dealership in the industrial park and a 230 SL stored in his garage at home. It had a manual gearbox, so I asked to be first in line if he decided to sell it. I got a phone call three years later offering me the car. My wife said we could have it if I gave up my motorcycles. Hmmm. I considered my response for a few nanoseconds and bought the car. I immediately installed vintage Mercedes seat belts in the car, using the attachment points installed during manufacture in Germany for delivery in California.

Two issues requiring immediate work on the car were soon apparent. The engine was smoking a bit on a trailing throttle, and I found four coats of paint on the bodywork – the original Papyrus white, pale gray, light blue, and the topcoat of a strange greenish-tinted white. Heinz was given the job of correcting both and the car was stripped, dismantled, and then renewed. It was then discovered that the soft top resembled a discarded umbrella which leaked, and the seats had been reupholstered with non-Mercedes upholstery.



The top was replaced with a proper lined Mercedes item at a classic Mercedes-Benz dealer in San Jose, California. During the trip down, we set our personal daily record in the car of 903 miles (1453 km) from Hood River, Oregon to Quincy, California, 07:00 hours to 23:55. The seats received the correct early 113 MB Tex red seat covers two years later, after I discovered them in the basement of a European parts dealer on Whyte Avenue in Edmonton. The car is now restored to original specification with matching chassis and engine numbers. It has a Classic Centre certificate as proof.

We have enjoyed thirty years of ownership, driving the car every month of the year. It feels as stable on the road as our 2008 E350, up to speeds of about 200 km/hr (don't ask me where!). I hope the next owner enjoys it as much as we have.



Clockwise from top left. The classic look of the W113. The relative simplicity of an engine from the sixties. What other drivers see of Barry (read the last paragraph of his article). The beautiful combination of red MBTex and white exterior.



Upcoming Events

Three Point Motors New Cars and Technology

Sunday, 6 November 2022

Normally, we have our new car and technology event in the Spring. As you many of you know, however, the worldwide supply chain has been a problem for auto dealerships, and it is only this fall that Three Point Motors is able to hold this event.

Accordingly, Dennis and Hazel Ostrowerka along with Jason Mui, TPM's General Sales Manager, are organizing and presenting this year's New Cars and Technology Event on Sunday, 6 November at Three Point Motors, starting at 11:30 am.

The car industry is in transition and this year's Event will focus on electric vehicles and hybrids. Jason and his team will discuss the changing technologies and their role in the transition taking place. There will be examples of models to showcase the technologies. As well, there will be some models made available for test drives if the new car inventory permits their availability (those pesky supply chain issues have not gone away).

After the presentation from Jason and team, Dennis and Hazel will put on their master chef aprons and once again serve up their famous German sausage BBQ. The test drives will follow the BBQ.

Summary:

Organizer: Dennis and Hazel Ostrowerka

When: Sunday, 6 November

Time: 11:30 A.M

Where: Three Point Motors, 2546 Government Street, Victoria

Please RSVP Dennis by clicking [here](#) or by sending your response to dostrowerka@gmail.com by Wednesday, 2 November.



A group of Section members listening intently to details on new cars and technologies in August 2021



Annual Holiday and Christmas Lunch at the Fireside Grill

Saturday, 10 December 2022

The final Event for the year will be our Annual Holiday and Christmas Lunch. Alex Currie has reserved 30 places on Sunday, 10 December starting at 11:30 am at the Fireside Grill on West Saanich Road in, well, Saanich.

This lunch has always been popular. The past couple of years have not been as active as we'd have liked as we navigated the remnants of COVID. This occasion provides an opportunity for you give us feedback and your ideas on events you would like to see for next year.

The menu is a la carte. More information can be found at: <https://www.firesidegrill.com>

Summary:

Organizer: Alex Currie

When: Saturday 10 December

Time: 11:30 to 13:45 (Be prompt. We are limited to a two-hour seating.)

Where: Fireside Grill, 4509 West Saanich Road, Victoria, BC (Tel: 250.479.1222)

Cost: A la carte. Automatic 18% gratuity applied to your bill.

RSVP: Alex by clicking [here](#) or emailing alexshep344@gmail.com by Friday, 2 December.



The Holiday and Christmas Lunch at the Fireside Grill in November 2019.



Recent Events

Vancouver Island Motorsport Circuit: a Taste of the Circuit

Wednesday, 8 June, 2022

Barry Patchett

Photos by Linda Derrick and Barry Patchett

On Wednesday, June 8, our Section arranged a driving day on the Vancouver Island Motorsport Circuit for nine members plus 3 friends, along with seven observers, including your faithful scribe. The first experience of the day was a talk by the track staff on the driving etiquette to be followed during the initial slalom exercises and the subsequent track speed event.



Eager drivers at orientation anticipating what was to come

In the slalom runs, some drivers used their own cars, and some took advantage of the cars supplied by the track – two Mercedes sedans (C43 and E53), along with BMW's, Alfa Romeos, and Subaru WRX's. The slalom produced a variety of attempts at the course outlined by plastic cones, with runs ranging from delicate maneuvers around the cones to more speedy tries, occasionally producing bowling-by-car performances.

The track laps started with the instructor in the lead car going slowly around the chosen line to demonstrate the correct technique. Speed was gradually increased until the participating cars made quite realistic racing sounds as they proceeded down the main straight in front of the administrative building. Following the track meet, most of us drove on to Lake Cowichan for lunch at Jake's at the Lake. Thanks to Lisa Mallet for the suggestion and the organization of it!

The two Mercedes sedans provided by the Motorsport Park were new AMG models, which baffled your faithful scribe in their trunk-mounted designations, as do all modern Mercedes cars for those of us of a certain age. I took the liberty of consulting Dr. Google and discovered that a C43 AMG has a biturbo 3.0 litre V6 producing 390



HP (287 kW) and an E53 AMG has a 3.0 litre inline 6 with an auxiliary compressor and mild hybrid system producing 429HP (320 kW). They make my 268 HP (200 kW) V6 in my 2008 E350 look a bit anemic.



Clockwise from top right. Introduction to the autocross. An Alfa Romeo 8C with its direct steering being manhandled around the autocross. About to leave for an exhilarating drive on the track. A Mercedes-Benz – one of several manufacturers we drove. BMWs and the Alfa 8C, which in the hands of a competent driver and with its go-cart traction, is one of the fastest cars on the circuit. The car train careening around the last corner and accelerating down the long straight.

Annual Summer Solstice Dinner at the Farm Table Inn

Thursday, 23, June, 2022

Rob Watson

Photos Barry Patchett and Linda Derrick

June was cooler but our evening on the patio at the Farm Table Inn near Lake Cowichan was just right with space heaters giving us some extra warmth. It was a full house for our Section with 25 sitting down for our fifth Solstice Dinner of prime rib and fixings.

The progression of our dinner went smoothly. The Inn asked that we provide them in advance what our meal preferences were (prime rib or another menu item, size, and doneness of rib). This definitely helped with the timing of our service and also improved the quality of the prime rib served.

It was a good evening of camaraderie. We were pleased to welcome new members to our Section: Bennoe Derksen and Dorothy Vandyck, and Pauline Rice (all the way from Port Alberni). We made full use of the long day; the party broke up as the sun was setting just after 9 pm. Linda and I managed to arrive home just as blackness descended.

Our thanks and appreciation go to the well-organized, friendly staff at the Farm Table Inn. They are instrumental in helping make our Summer Solstice Dinner memorable.



This is a Mercedes-Benz Event. Can you tell?



Does this car look familiar?



Will, Pauline, Linda, Rob, Rita and Leo

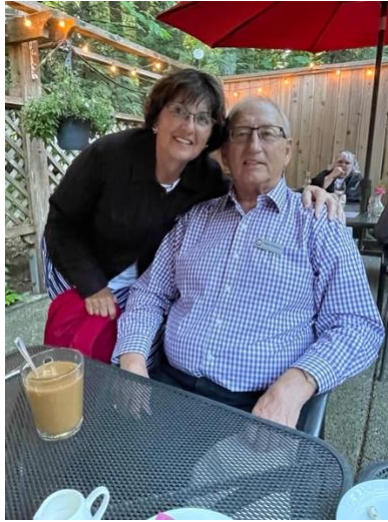


Edward, Cris, Elsie, Brenda, Kerri and Doug





Barry and Gwen



Hazel and Dennis O



Laura and Dennis A



Bob and Donelda



Donna and Marilyn



Bennoe and Dorothy



Aaak, we didn't get a photo of Cathy, but this is her Smart car!



Show and Shine at Enrico Winery

Sunday, 17 July, 2022

Rob Watson

Photos by Lisa Mallett and Rob Watson

Twenty-one members and guests in twelve cars appeared at the appointed time at the gates of Enrico Winery to find them, uh, locked. Hmm. Luckily a tenant kindly opened the gates, and we were soon lined up on the field next to the pond. Kudos to Brian Dane for driving from Nanaimo, persevering through a major rainstorm to attend. Fortunately, while a cloudy one, our day at Enrico's was rain-free.



The business end of John Mallet's winning 2007 AMG SL55



John with his AMG SL55 with judge Bob W.



Barry giving an overview of his 2nd place 1989 560SL



A crowd admiring Philip's 3rd place 2000 CLK Cabriolet

The event began with the first showing of the new 2022 C300 4MATIC just delivered to Three Point Motors. TPM needed a *someone* to bring the car to our Show and Shine and your ever-helpful president volunteered.



This car, with the premium and sports packages, had the most current design elements at Mercedes-Benz. They included a centre console touch screen, controls that used 'swiping' to operate (like smart phones) and a 2.0L Inline-4 turbo engine with a 48-volt mild hybrid drive. The hybrid system can boost power and torque electrically to 255 hp and 295 lb-ft of torque.

With the smaller number of cars, each driver was asked to give a short presentation of what made their car special to them. We had quite a range of models. The shortest was Cathy's 2016 Smart turbo. The oldest was Brian's 1988 300 CE, closely followed by Barry's 1989 560 SL. The newest was Ross and Sandy's 2021 AMG E63S, which was an amazing demonstration of Mercedes-Benz technology and power!



A line up of mighty fine automobiles



Alex expanding on the joys of his 2009 AMG SLK55 (see the April newsletter for the article about his SLK)



Brian describing the features of his 1988 300CE. All original from Japan!



Rob and Linda working with Brian and Cris on the draw of gifts donated by Three Point Motors



Once the overview of our cars was done, the serious stuff began. Judges Barry Patchett and Bob Wilson were meticulous in their review of cars. First place went to John Mallett with his 2007 AMG SL55; second, to Barry Aldrich with his 1989 560SL; and third to Philip Early with his 2000 CLK320 cabriolet. Barry and Bob presented the awards to John, Barry, and Philip. We supported our hosts, Enrico Winery with purchases of six bottles of their finest wine. Three were awarded to John; two to Barry; and one to Philip. Linda Derrick held a draw of gifts donated by Three Point Motors. It was then time to relax with a picnic lunch. Finally, we headed home in case the threatening skies opened up. We were few, but the day was an enjoyable celebration of all things Benz.



A time for relaxation under a rain-free sky

