



Vancouver Island Section Newsletter

DECEMBER 2023

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From the file of Philip Early’s Adventures, “This magnificent SSK 540 was in the unbelievable main hall of the Nethercutt in Oxnard”.



President's Message

Rob Watson

We hope you enjoyed the article John Mallett wrote about his 2007 SL55 AMG in the last newsletter. We decided to take a hiatus in this newsletter and not include write-ups about Section members' cars. The next one will be in the March 2023 edition when Linda and I will talk about our car. Many of you have seen Linda unfold herself from the comfort of the right rear seat – you might be able to guess what her viewpoint is already!

Annual General Meeting and New Board

We had a successful Annual General Meeting at the Villa Eyrle resort on November 25th. Our participation on the Board increased from seven to nine with Cris Gray putting his name forward at the AGM, and James Harvey volunteering after the AGM. With nine, it allows us to have better coverage for all the Board positions and to distribute the workload more evenly.

Alex Currie stepped down as Membership Chair after working conscientiously in that position for several years. Kevin Carlé volunteered to fill in as Membership Chair for Alex and James Harvey was appointed new Webmaster and GlueUp Administrator – a position that has been vacant but much needed.

Is “GlueUp” new to you? Well, it is the new website application that is replacing our archaic, unworkable system. You can find more information here: <https://www.glueup.com>. GlueUp is an integrated application that will allow us a whole host of functions that we have not had before. Examples include an integrated email tool for centralized communication within our Section, event management modules, and a better Section website interface that includes Facebook types of interactions. It will allow us as a Section to have a much better vehicle for interacting with each other. That said, it will take considerable work to make it work and James will be taking the lead as our Section liaison with National. The implementation will take place over winter and early spring.

Event Calendar and Upcoming Events

At the AGM there was lively discussion about events. That was followed by an equally lively discussion at our December 11th Board meeting. Our plans continue to include . . . food! We are looking at including more events that include a driving component.

The plan is still in transition and the list of events on page 4 takes us to the end of April. Even for those events, the details -- dates, times, etc., still need to be worked out. We will email you when we have more information.

The first event we are planning is our Coffee Klatch on Sunday 4th February at Rusticana Coffee in Mill Bay (as always, weather permitting). The Coffee Klatches in Mill Bay have been very popular (see photo page 4). In 2024, we will make our get-together on the first Sunday of every month at Rusticana Coffee a standard event. There will be exceptions, e.g., conflict with a ‘bigger’ event, and we will always advise if there is a change.

As most of you are aware, there is a lot of behind the scenes work to make our Section a success. My special thanks to Dennis O, Hazel, Dennis A, Alex, Barry, and Kevin for their work in 2022/23, and to Cris and James for stepping forward to help make the next year even more successful for all of us.

From all members of the Board, our best wishes for the holiday season and New Year. We look forward to sharing an enjoyable and fun-filled 2024 with you.



2023 – 2024 Section Officers

President and Newsletter Co–Editor: Rob Watson
Vice President and Dealer Ambassador, Victoria: Dennis Ostrowerka
Treasurer: Dennis Aitken
Secretary: Hazel Ostrowerka
Membership Chair: Kevin Carlé
Webmaster and GlueUp Administrator: James David Harvey
Newsletter Co–Editor and Dealer Ambassador, Nanaimo: Barry Patchett
Director at Large: Alex Currie
Director at Large: Cris Gray
Honorary Vice President: Peter Trzewik
Northwest Regional Director: Steve Ross (inewsx@sbcglobal.net)
Section email: mbca.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 September and December.

5 Years

Chuck Burkett (October 2018)

10 Years

Richard Ediss (September 2013)

35 Years

Barry Patchett (December 1988)

Gwen Jewett (December 1988)

If 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 September and December.

Brent Baynton

Chuck Burkett

Jeff Cohen

Martin Enright

Grant Luxford

John McIntosh

Jon Mills

Dennis and Hazel Ostrowerka

Leo Vanderven

Bob and Donelda Wilson



MBCA Vancouver Island Section DRAFT 2024 Upcoming Events

JANUARY

No events

FEBRUARY

Monday 19 *Family Day*

Sunday 4 10 a.m.: Coffee Klatch, Rusticana Coffee, Mill Bay

Mid-Feb Lunch at Mary's Bleue Moon or Spitfire Grill, tour of BC Aviation Museum
Lead: Kevin

MARCH

Friday 29 *Good Friday*

Sunday 3 10 a.m.: Coffee Klatch, Rusticana Coffee, Mill Bay

Mid-March Detailing workshop with Andrew O'Keefe
Lead: Dennis Aitken

APRIL

Monday 1 *Easter Monday*

Sunday 7 10 a.m.: Coffee Klatch, Rusticana Coffee, Mill Bay

TBD Chemainus Theatre and lunch
Lead: Barry



Fifteen dedicated Section members attended the Coffee Klatch at Rusticana Coffee in Mill Bay on the first Sunday of September 2023, despite an overcast sky and threatening showers. Quite a turn-out!



Recent Events

Beautiful Benzes at Oktoberfest

Sunday, 22 October 2023

Kevin Carlé

Photos by Kevin Carlé and Alex Currie

“Ehrfurcht gebietend” or in English, *“Awesome”*!



Ten ehrfurcht gebietend Mercedes-Benz . . . plus one!

How exciting it was to see over ten Mercedes parked all in a row at the Four Mile House Pub in Victoria on October 22nd where just under 30 Vancouver Island Section members gathered under sunny skies to celebrate Oktoberfest.

This fabulous event was organized by a dynamic duo led by Kev Carlé, assisted by Alex Currie. The section hadn't celebrated Oktoberfest for a few years. And given that we all love and enjoy one of the finest automobile marques from Germany, it just seemed a natural.

Through the month of October, the Four Mile offers a special Oktoberfest feature menu: Jaeger Schnitzel, Bratwurst, Pretzels, and more. And of course, their regular excellent menu is available as well. Fabulous staff! After the scrumptious meal, we all had an opportunity to thank the Chef for the excellent work of the kitchen.

The group gathered in the Tea Room which is a cozy private room off the main dining room which was reserved for us.



“I have had Jaeger Schnitzel many times all over the Germany”, quipped Alex Currie. “This was one of the tastiest dishes I have had!”, he added. The portions were generous much like in Germany and Alex proved his enjoyment by finishing his plate!

Now it was a tad difficult to take Alex seriously while he was sporting his traditional style Oktoberfest hat!

Feedback from those who attended was very positive so it looks like Oktoberfest will be in the events calendar for 2024. Maybe we will see a few German theme costumes or parts there of!

Prost!



New Cars and Technology at Three Point Motors

Sunday, 5 November 2023

Dennis and Hazel Ostrowerka, and Rob Watson

Photos by Rob Watson and the Daimler Benz Media Site

Nineteen of us appeared at Three Point Motors in early November to be met by Jason Mui, Nick Leuchte, and Hayden Sager from TPM. We were led to the service bays where an EQS was on a hoist with all its protective underside panels removed. We gathered under the EQS and Hayden led us through the technical details of the car. A lot of details! As simple as electrification of cars may seem, underneath the 'hood', it is complex.



After Hayden's tour, we moved to the showroom where there were several electric cars available for inspection. Dennis and Hazel waved their magic BBQ wand and served up excellent German sausage, buns, and fixings for lunch.



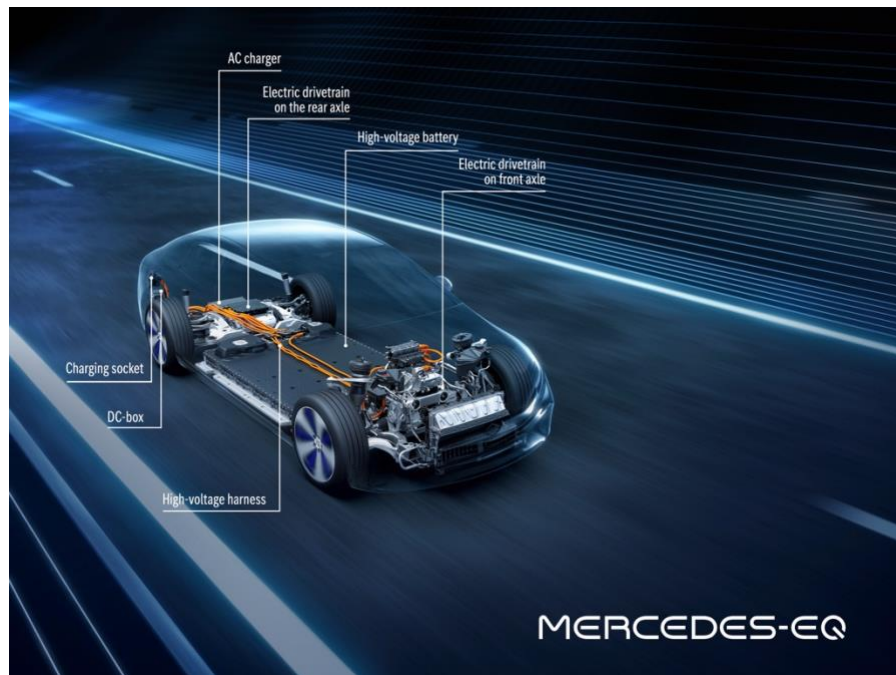
The master chefs, Hazel and Dennis, at work.

Lunch over and hands washed, Jason made several electric models available for a test drive. The comfort and handling of these cars was a familiar experience. There was, however, a lot of discussion about their quietness, and how much horsepower and torque were available from the electric motors, and how direct that power is.



We had an interesting and valuable experience, especially being able to see the ‘guts’ of the EQS and to feel the cars in an actual drive. A special thank you to Three Point Motors for sponsoring our lunch, and appreciation to Jason, Nick and Hayden for being generous with their time preparing for this event, doing their presentations, and answering our questions.

For those interested, there is much more information with this 2021 Press Release on the Daimler Benz Media site (<https://media.mercedes-benz.com/press-kit/6506db62-feab-4626-83ec-452be8a30677>). Below is a ‘photo essay’ with pictures from our event and from the press release to give you a snapshot of what we learned and experienced.

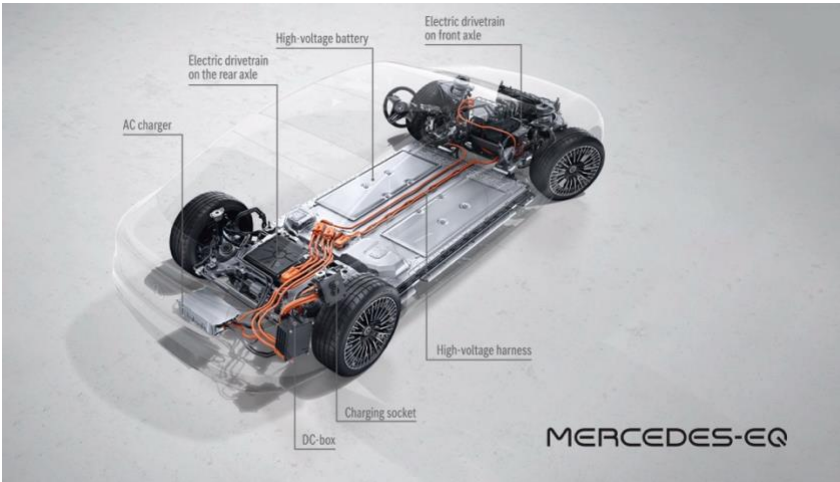


Looking forward, the electric drivetrain on the front axle.

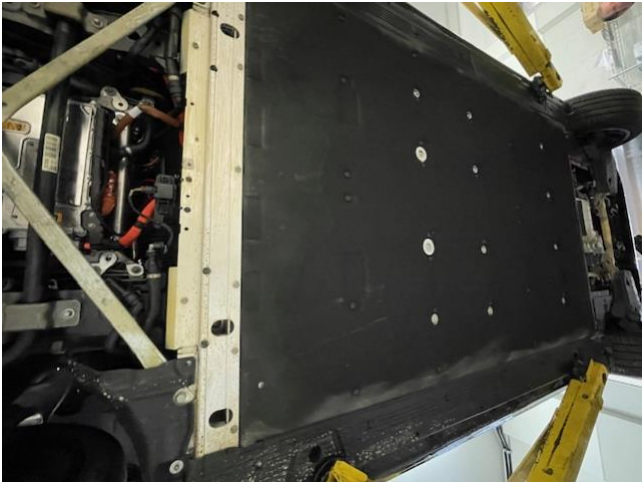


Looking aft, the electric drivetrain on the rear axle.

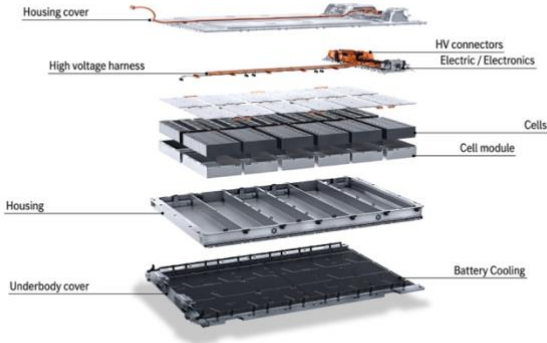




Schematic of the primary electric components in the EQS



The battery takes up most of the underbody of the EQS



MERCEDES-EQ

The primary components of the battery: cooling, housing, cell module, cells, harness, and electronics

Villa Eyrie Resort Holiday/Christmas Brunch and Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 25 November 2023

Rob Watson

Photos by Alex Currie and Rob Watson



Our unusually good November held up and we had a clear, beautiful day for our Annual General Meeting and Holiday/ Christmas brunch at the Villa Eyrie Resort. Twenty–three of us were hosted at one end of the dining room allowing for spectacular views north and east over the Saanich Inlet.

Our morning started with Villa Eyrie cookies, coffee, and our AGM. The focus of the AGM was the election of the Board and an active discussion about events that we schedule for 2024. In addition to all the members of the 2022–23 standing for reelection, Cris Gray put his name forward at the meeting. After the AGM, James Harvey also put his forward and he was appointed as a Board member at our December 11th meeting.



The meeting over, it was time for our leisurely two–hour brunch. We received a pleasant surprise when we were provided with complimentary glasses of Prosecco courtesy of Peter Trzewik. Peter had learned that we were having our AGM and brunch at the Villa Eyrie that morning. He has always been a strong supporter of our Section since instigating its creation 24 years ago.



We also owe special thanks to the staff at the Villa Eyrie who helped make this a special event for us. Eva Cheng, Director of Sales for the Villa Eyrie Resort and the VI Motorsport Circuit, was especially helpful to me in arranging this event. Taylor and Crystal ably looked after us throughout.



A cheery Vancouver Island Section crowd celebrating the end of a successful year at the Villa Eyrie Resort

