



Vancouver Island Section Newsletter

JULY 2023

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Naomi Costain, Michael Clarke, and Kaden Forsberg sing and play one of the musical numbers at the 2023 Chemainus Theatre Festival during the production of “Naked Radio”.

(This photo and those on page 10 are courtesy of the Chemainus Theatre Festival, Naked Radio 2023. Photo by Barry J Brady Photography. Michael Clarke, Naomi Costain and Kaden Forsbeg. Director - Mark DuMez, Set Design - James O’Leary, Lighting Design - Michael Hewitt, Costume Design - Michelle Lieffertz)



President's Message

Rob Watson

In this Newsletter we are continuing our series of articles by Section members about their Mercedes-Benz. Kevin Carlé is writing his second one for our Newsletter; he reminisces about his love for a Mercedes-Benz Coupé that he owned for many years.

We had three successful events since the last Newsletter: a visit to Chemainus Theatre for their Brunch and production called "Naked Radio"; a wine tour and auto cruise; and our seemingly annual Summer Solstice dinner at the Farm Table Inn. All events were well attended and reports about them can be found below.

The Coffee Klatches have been small events with a few dedicated members attending. We saw nine people attend our June 2 get together in Mill Bay. That included Jeff Shindler, our Regional Director, who provided insight into the issues affecting MBCA. That generated lively discussion! Jeff has been our Regional Director for six years and his term ends this year. He is the only Canadian on the MBCA board and has provided excellent and essential representation for our Region and the MBCA Canadian members during his term.

Event Calendar and Upcoming Events

Kevin Carlé and I are organizing a Show 'n' Shine in August, but we are having difficulty securing a venue. We may simply return to Enrico Winery. The large field in front of their small lake has worked out well for displaying participating vehicles. In mid-September, we are looking at combining a short AGM and a Tech event at Three Point Motors. The format of the Tech portion may change and – heads up – this event might be held on a weeknight. Finally, Kevin Carlé is organizing an Oktoberfest-themed dinner in (wait for it!) October.

We are continuing with our Coffee Klatches, which start at 10 a.m., generally on the first Sunday of each month. We will send out reminders just prior to these events to give your memory a nudge in the event you would like to attend. The schedule for the next two Coffee Klatches is:

- **Sunday, 6 August**, Quality Foods in Eagle Creek Village, next to the Victoria General Hospital (no notice will be issued, just show up), and . . .
- **Sunday, 3 September**, Rusticana Coffee in Mill Bay

Member Benefits at Three Point Motors and Mercedes-Benz Nanaimo

We confirmed our discounts at Three Point Motors and Mercedes-Benz Nanaimo through Jason Mui, the General Sales Manager. Our discount continues to be 15% on parts and labour (with the exception of tyres and aftermarket parts, i.e., parts not made by Mercedes-Benz).

We hope you are having a wonderful summer – enjoying the sun while being careful with the dry conditions. Hope to see you at one or more of our upcoming events.



2022 – 2023 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
Director at Large: Kevin Carlé
Honorary Vice President: Peter Trzewik
Northwest Regional Director: Jeff Shindler (jeff.shindler@shaw.ca)
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 April and June.

5 Years

Marilyn Hansen (July 2018)

20 Years

Kevin Carlé (April 2003)

Helen Massingham (May 2003)

Paul Vincent (May 2003)

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

Welcome to New Members (with month of joining MBCA)

James Harvey (April)

Brenda Budd (April)

Karl Hennig (May)

Rob Goulding (June)

Linda Goulding (June)

Thank you to Members and Associate Members who renewed their membership between April and June.

Ben Derksen

Gin Dhillon

Donna Donaldson

Philip Early

Cris Gray

Bruce Kerr and Janet Kerr

Horst Loewel

Ross Mosher

Dave Ogilvy

Barry Patchett and Gwen Jewett

Pauline Rice

Philip Topallan



MBCA Vancouver Island Section 2023 Event Calendar

JULY

- Saturday 1** **Canada Day**
- Sunday 2 1000: Coffee Klatch, Mill Bay/Chemainus area Barry
- Saturday 15 Villa Eyrie Resort Brunch Rob
- Sunday 23 Oak Bay Car Festival Cris, Doug Logan

AUGUST

- Monday 7** **BC Day**
- Sunday 6 1000: Coffee Klatch, Quality Foods, Victoria Dennis A
- Mid–August Show ‘n’ Shine Kevin and Rob

SEPTEMBER

- Monday 4** **Labour Day**
- Sunday 3 1000: Coffee Klatch, Mill Bay/Chemainus area Barry
- Mid–September Victoria Tech and New Car event and AGM Rob, Dennis and Hazel

OCTOBER

- Monday 9** **Thanksgiving**
- Sunday 8 1000: Coffee Klatch, Quality Foods, Victoria Dennis A
- Mid–October Oktoberfest dinner Kevin

NOVEMBER

- Saturday 11** **Remembrance Day**
- Sunday 5 1000: Coffee Klatch, Mill Bay/Chemainus area Barry
- Sat. 25 or Sun. 26 Holiday/Christmas lunch Rob

DECEMBER

No events



Mercedes-Benz 300 Sc Roadster (W 188), 1955 to 1958. Exterior photo from rear right.
Photo signature in the Mercedes-Benz Classic archive)



A Craving for Coupés

Kevin Carlé

Photos by Kevin Carlé



The Mercedes-Benz W114 250C outside the Married Quarter in Ottawa

Mercedes really does cover the waterfront in terms of a vast variety of vehicles. And this has been even more so historically.

Trucks, buses, cars for racing, rallying, driving, marine and aircraft engines, and even that wonderful post-war creation, the Unimog. For most of us, cars come to mind when we think of the famous “Three Pointed Star” and even then, the variety of models is vast. Convertibles and sport models have always been popular. To me though, it is the post-World War Two coupés that I am attracted to.

All this starts with the magnificent 300S and then the 220s and 220SB Pontons, followed by the beautiful type W111 coupés, etc. These handsome cars with their pillar-less roof lines are truly beautiful.

One of my favourites is the W114 series of 250 and 280 Coupés. I had the pleasure of owning one a few years back. It was a European model 1975 250C and it had the 2.8 litre straight six-cylinder carbureted engine mated with a four-speed manual transmission. It had power steering and brakes but other than that, it was a very basic model with cloth interior. No air conditioning, sunroof, or electric windows as many of the North American spec models had. It was a dream to drive.

Now I must confess to having owned and enjoyed a 1974 MGB roadster prior to this leap. It was a fun car; however, my wife Jackie was convinced it wasn't the best nor the safest car. I'm a tall fella and as such, my head wasn't fully protected by the windscreen. And then with the top up, well, my posture took a bit of a beating. So, I had great encouragement on the home front to shift cars.



I was in Kingston, Ontario, when I spotted it in the window of a European car specialist.

It was owned by a university professor who didn't drive it much. His understanding was that it was imported to Canada by a Canadian Army officer. It was in very good shape as I think you will see by the accompanying photos. So, after having it fully checked out, I made an offer and the rest as they say, is Mercedes history.



Kevin and Sarah, his daughter, picking up the 'new' W114 1975 250C in Kingston, Ontario

It was certainly a unique vehicle and one day, I noticed a business card was placed under the wiper in a downtown Ottawa parkade where we were living at the time. It was an invitation to consider joining the local section of the Mercedes Benz Club of America which I did.



A side view of the 250C



The interior of the 250C

The car was limited to driving in three seasons and was garaged during the winter. Spring always got my engine revving and when the roads were eventually free of salt, out she came. Those were heady days and the coupé joined in for many MBCA club events and gatherings.

When we were posted to Poland for three years – that was 2003 -- the car was placed in storage. Even if it was started regularly, which was supposed to be the case, these cars need to be driven. This meant that quite a bit of work was required when we returned to Ottawa.

When I decided that 33 years of service in the Canadian Armed Forces and the Royal Canadian Navy was enough, I made the decision to retire and return home to Victoria. The coupé was shipped along with our household effects. That first summer, I entered the car in the Oak Bay Collector Car gathering. It still had Ontario plates on it and lo and behold, I won the award for the car that travelled the greatest distance to attend the show! I know, a bit cheeky but what could I do? I didn't want to embarrass the organizers.

Eventually, I sold the car here in Victoria. I often miss it, but have no regrets as I enjoy my 1963 W111 220S (editor's note: see Kevin's article about "Zoom Hilda" in the December 2021 Newsletter). We have also enjoyed several other Mercedes models over the years . . . a 1980 MB 300SD Turbodiesel (which Jackie adored), a 1988 300CE that I brought back with us from Europe, and our 2002 MB CLK 430 that my wife especially enjoys.

The 300 CE coupé was another beauty and remains in the local Victoria area. Might have to write something about that one as well (if the Editor would like me to!).

Happy motoring and remember, that's how the Mercedes Benz!



On the move in the Gatineau Hills



Upcoming Events

23rd Annual Oak Bay Classic Car Festival

and our

Magnificent Mercedes Machinery

Sunday, 23 July 2023 (8 am to 3 pm)

Cris Gray and Doug Logan

With over 300 cars of all types, vintages, and condition along five blocks of Oak Bay Avenue, the Annual Oak Bay Classic Car Festival includes everything from top exotics to modest cars with sentimental value. Yours should be one of them!

Cris Gray and Doug Logan invite you to join them in Oak Bay at the Festival as part of a group of Mercedes owners from the MBCA Vancouver Island Section. To participate, we need you to register **now** to reserve a place and then arrive as a group at the Entrance Gate. To do that, please complete the following:

(1) Register now to reserve a place:

Google "eventbrite oak bay car festival 2023" and tap the orange button, "**Reserve a spot**" or "**Check out for CA\$22.36**".

(2) Email crisgray@gmail.com to let us know you're coming.

(3) Proceed so we arrive as a group on July 23rd:

7:15 a.m. Meet at the BC LIQUOR Store parking lot in Oak Bay at 1960 Foul Bay Road, Victoria. (Fort St and Foul Bay Rd.)

7:30 a.m. Proceed as a group to the Entrance Gate on Oak Bay Ave. at Mitchell Street.

It's a longish day but there's a lot to see and do. As part of a group, there will always be one or more of us to keep an eye on the cars while the others wander about to both see and do.

We're encouraged to bring a folding chair to set up by our car to greet attendees and, if you have one, a short write-up for your windshield.

Local shops and cafes will be open, along with washrooms, a Rotary B-B-Q, food trucks and entertainment, all on-site along Oak Bay Avenue.

Summary:

Organizers: Cris Gray and Doug Logan

When: Sunday, July 23rd.

Cost: \$22.36 to pre-register (see above for procedure).

Limit: 10 cars (on a first-come basis)

Time & Location:

7:15 a.m. Meet at BC Liquor Store parking lot, 1960 Foul Bay Road, Victoria.

7:30 a.m. Proceed as a group to the event entrance.

8:00 a.m. Show time starts on Oak Bay Avenue.

3:00 p.m. End of show

RSVP: email crisgray.bc@gmail.com



Villa Eyrie Resort Brunch

Saturday, 15 July 2023

Rob Watson

This notice is for information only. All 20 spots have been filled.

It has been ages since we visited the Villa Eyrie Resort, and this year we will return for their brunch on Saturday, 15 July from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Villa Eyrie is part of the GAIN Group and a 'cousin' organization to Three Point Motors and Mercedes-Benz Nanaimo. It is nestled halfway along the Malahat (the turn-off to reach it is just north of the Shawnigan Lake Road exit), and its location allows for magnificent views over the Saanich Inlet.

We reserved 20 spots on a first reserved, first come basis. We ordered from their Brunch menu. As MBCA members, the Villa Eyrie gave us a 10% discount on meals, and a 20% gratuity will be automatically added.

As with our recent dinner at the Farm Table Inn, the Villa Eyrie required that we pre-order our selection. Everyone did that with coffee and other beverages to be ordered when we are at the Villa Eyrie on Saturday.

The 20 of us are looking forward to this event.

Summary:

Organizer: Rob Watson

When: Saturday, 15 July, 2023

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Where: Villa Eyrie Resort, 600 Ebadora lane, Malahat, BC



The Saanich Inlet taken from the Malahat Chalet in February 2022



Recent Events

Chemainus Brunch Buffet and Theatre – “Naked Radio”

Sunday, 2 April, 2023

Barry Patchett

Photos by Chemainus Theatre

On April 2, 18 of us attended the Chemainus Theatre for brunch and a performance of the comedy, “Naked Radio”. Most traveled over the Malahat to attend, unlike your faithful scribe, who can drive to the theatre from his abode in less than 5 minutes.

The play, with three cast members, concerned a pair of radio announcers, one experienced and one rookie, as well as several telephone callers to the station during a broadcast in a severe storm. The two male announcers, played by Michael Clarke and Kaden Forsberg, kept the show on air during the storm, even providing some of the music with their own guitars. The female cast member, Naomi Costain, played the phone call characters in a variety of male and female styles, most of which were very creative comedic roles. She also contributed percussion accompaniment for the live music. The cast did superb work for the whole play and thoroughly deserved the standing ovation they received from the sellout crowd.



Naomi Costain as Maggie Wheeling and Michael Clarke as Bart Dunwood



Naomi Costain as one of her many phone call characters



Kaden Forsberg as Mike Young and Michael Clarke in one of their musical numbers



Wine Tour and Auto Cruise

Saturday, 27 May, 2023

Cris Gray and Dennis Aitken

Photos by Cris Gray, Barry Patchett, and Dennis Aitken

It was a beautiful day for a cruise in our favourite Mercedes, with wine tasting at three of Vancouver Island's best wineries.

Cris Gray organized a great one-hour cruising route through the Cowichan Valley just west of Duncan, followed by visits to the three vineyards.

The group met at the Triple O restaurant on the northern end of Duncan prior to starting the cruise. Elsie Gray gave everyone a nametag, and mixing and mingling ensued with some car chat among participants. Of course, most of the discussion was focused on everyone's Mercedes and the fun they were having with their cars.

Around 11:00 am, twenty of us in ten cars headed off in two groups, one led by Barry & Gwen, and the second by Cris & Elsie for our drive on some very picturesque and winding country roads.

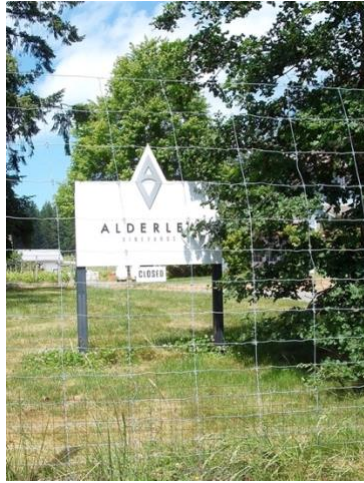
We could earn "bragging rights" if we spotted the "sasquatch" or toads.



From top left, twisty roads, a sasquatch, and toads.



Our first stop, Alderlea Vineyards, is a small, privately owned and operated winery in a unique microclimate setting. It is one of Vancouver Island's oldest vineyards. The owners, Julie and Zac, share a strong commitment to sustainable farming practices. They provided us with a selection of five excellent wines to taste, along with a very interesting and informative presentation.



The second winery visited, Averill Creek Vineyard, is a large vineyard perched on the side of Mount Prevost, with beautiful views of the Cowichan Valley below. The ambition of the owner of this winery is to have a world-class Pinot Noir-producing winery in Canada. After enjoying some unique snacks on the outdoor terrace, our group headed back down the long and dusty lane (tops up and windows closed!) to drive to our third stop.



The Emandare Vineyard and winery is also a small, family operated vineyard and winery, with its own unique (hot) microclimate. They utilize old world, low intervention and sustainable farming and wine making techniques. Robin and Mike, the owners, made it a very pleasant and informative outing, and they offered us eight of their delicious wines to try.



It was a wonderful day of cruising in our favourite MBs. With 18 of Vancouver Island's finest wines to taste. It doesn't get much better than that!





Summer Solstice Dinner at the Farm Table

Thursday, 22 June, 2023

Barry Patchett

Photos by Barry Patchett

On Thursday, June 22, eighteen members and associates met for the sixth Solstice Dinner at the Farm Table Inn near Lake Cowichan, with prime rib as the primary meal option. We had a simple seating arrangement of three tables of 6 on each. Other main dishes, for example pasta, were available for those not wanting prime rib. Appetizer were also popular at our table, with spot prawn bisque the agreed favourite.



Arriving Mercedes ranged from an SLK to two relatively new station wagons (estate cars, if you prefer) along with several sedans and SL models. Some of us bought the sourdough bread available in the restaurant area, where several other goodies were on display. Most of us left before dark and several cars took the back road from the Inn to the west side of Duncan before turning left for Chemainus or right for Victoria.

