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Vancouver Island Section
September, 2014

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Coming Events - Mark your calendar now!

Sunday, Sep 21 at 11 AM: Tech event, Mercedes-Benz Nanaimo. New models and technology presented by the dealership in Nanaimo, with a German BBQ lunch supplied by the Club. We will be given a preview of the new C-Class and the GLA, MB’s new compact SUV ([click](#)). We also hope to get a car up on one of the hoists in the service area. Please RSVP to Barry Patchett ([click](#)) so he knows how much food to buy.

Monday, Sep 22 at 5 PM: Board meeting, Three Point Motors. Open to members as always.

Sunday Oct. 5, Tour of South Vancouver Island. Rob Watson is organizing a drive on the Port Renfrew–Lake Cowichan road loop (also called the Pacific Marine Circle Route). The road between Port Renfrew and Lake Cowichan was paved several years ago and is accessible by car. In addition, over the past year, the difficult section before Port Renfrew around Loss Creek and the Sombrio Beach Trailhead has been repaved and reworked and is in great shape.

In 2011, we drove this route in counter-clockwise direction. This year, we will drive the route in a clockwise route from Langford, to Sooke, Port Renfrew, Lake Cowichan and Duncan.

Section Officers

- President:* [Bob Wilson](#)
 - Vice President:* vacant
 - Secretary:* [Hazel Ostrowerka](#)
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 - Director at large:* [Dennis Ostrowerka](#)
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 - Hon. Vice President:* Peter Trzewik
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Welcome New Member!

Peter Vivian – North Saanich

Renewing Members!

Stan Garrod – 07 B200

Cathy Leblanc – 08 B200

David Ockenden – 73 220, 10 C300

Tim Palmer

Dorothy Shortreed

Thank you!

We will meet at 9:30 AM at the Tim Hortons in Langford, 845 Goldstream Avenue.

For those coming from up-island, you will turn right off the highway at Exit 14 to Langford, Colwood, Sooke and Port Renfrew. Bear right to Langford South and almost immediately at the first red light, turn right again onto Peatt Road, which in 0.7 km intersects Goldstream Avenue. Turn right again, and Tim Hortons is on your left.

For those coming from Victoria, it is the same exit number, Exit 14, to Langford and Sooke. Stay in the left exit lane, which will loop around and cross the highway. Move to the right lane and almost immediately at the first red light turn right onto Peatt Road. See above for the rest of the directions to Tim Hortons.

To add some zest to the drive, we will do a poker run. One or two decks of cards, five stops, each entrant draws from the deck, and the best hand wins a coveted prize or keepsake from the grab box.

We anticipate that the drive, with some stops and lunch in Port Renfrew will finish about 3:00 PM in Duncan.

Rob will provide more detailed instructions when we meet. Cost per vehicle is \$10. RSVP Rob if you plan to attend ([click](#)).

Oct 18: Annual Meeting, 11 AM at the Union Club. The Club's one and only business meeting of the year for the general membership. It's your chance to give us feedback on the year's events and input to the calendar for 2015. Lunch in the dining room after. Please RSVP to Jeff Cohen ([click](#)) so we know how many are coming.

Nov 16 at 10 AM: Morning coffee. The Victoria location will be the cafe at the Pier Hotel, in Sidney. The Up-Island location will be the coffee shop in the old train station in Saltair.

Dec 12 or 13: Holiday party, Union Club. Details to follow.



Whistler Run

2014 Event

Back by popular demand, MBCA Vancouver is proud to host the "2014 Whistler Run" taking place on September 20th and 21st, 2014. This fantastic weekend starts with evening event on Friday and then a great Saturday drive up along the amazing Sea to Sky Highway from North Vancouver to Whistler Village, where we host a Show & Shine. Following a wonderful day of driving and meeting other Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts, we have our Saturday dinner in Whistler Village.



Hotel Information

Pinnacle Hotel at the Pier

North Vancouver, BC
Group ID# 92890
Reserve by Friday, Sept. 5th
Phone: 1-877-986-7437
Email:

msimpson@pinnacleatthepier.com

Pinnacle Hotel Whistler

Whistler, BC
Group ID# 48759
Reserve by Friday, Sept. 5th
Phone: 1-888-999-8986
Email:

info@whistlerpinnacle.com



MBCA Vancouver has secured special event rates for the Whistler Run at both the Pinnacle Hotel at the Pier in North Vancouver (for participants arriving in Vancouver on Friday), as well as the Pinnacle Hotel Whistler.

Pinnacle Hotel at the Pier - (604) 986-7437 - Friday, September 19th

Mountain View Room - King \$149.00 / night
Harbour View - King \$179.00 / night
Mountain View Room - Double \$159.00 / night
Harbour View Room - Double \$189.00 / night

<http://pinnaclepierhotel.com/>

Pinnacle Hotel Whistler - (604) 938-3218

Deluxe Studio Suite \$119 / night
Deluxe Double Studio Suite \$119 / night

Includes complimentary parking for your Mercedes-Benz vehicle.

<http://www.whistlerpinnacle.com/>

This event fills up quickly, so we encourage you to book your accommodation with the hotels as soon as possible.

Registration for the event can be done by emailing MBCA Vancouver at:

mbcabcsquareup@gmail.com

Please include in your email:

Your name, the number of participants, arrival on Friday night or Saturday morning and the type of Mercedes-Benz vehicle you will be driving.

For additional information and updates on this year's MBCA Whistler Run event, please check our website

<http://www.mbcavancouver.org>

and follow us on our FaceBook page

<https://www.facebook.com/mbcavancouver>



Sechart Lodge Marine Tour

Article and photos by Barry Patchett

On August 17, four members of the Section drove to Port Alberni for an overnight stay prior to boarding the motor vessel “Frances Barkley” at 0700 Sunday morning for a journey down the Alberni Inlet to Sechart Lodge at the periphery of the Broken Islands. We arrived in time for a buffet lunch and an afternoon of watching from the hot tub as kayakers left for the island campsites.

Dinner was a delicious salmon buffet in the dining room, where we met tourists from many locations in British Columbia as well as several from various European countries. For those inclined to sing for their supper, there was a singsong around a fire pit, hosted by the lodge manager with his guitar.

The evening had its moments of interest for those used to palatial hotels common in MasterCard camping. The whole lodge is run on electricity from a diesel generator, which is shut down at 10 p.m., so reading your book is done prior to that time. LED flashlights are provided for other nocturnal activities.



On Monday morning, a buffet breakfast was followed by bear watching while we waited for the “Frances Barkley” to return and pick us up for a two hour trip to Ucluelet. A momma bear and two cubs came to within 10 metres of our platform while they foraged on the beach for food.



After an hour spent exploring Ucluelet, we boarded the ship again for the six hour journey back to Port Alberni. The weather was ideal: warm and partly sunny. We returned to Sechart Lodge to pick up several kayakers and return them to Port Alberni. Arrival at Port Alberni was just after 7 p.m. on August 19.

Stargazing

What's Coming?

Automotive News reported last month that Mercedes-Benz will introduce 11 new models by 2020 in its drive to become the world's best-selling luxury line. Included are sub-compact cars and crossovers dictated by the need to meet tightening requirements for fleet-wide fuel consumption and carbon emissions.

To cut costs and speed development, MB will build each coming model on one of the four evolving architectures: MFA for front-wheel-drive vehicles, MRA for rear-wheel drive, MHA for crossovers and MSA for the sports cars.

The new cars will incorporate modular components to allow quick transfer of technology and safety systems from the flagship S class throughout the range. Hopefully this will also ease the sourcing of service parts.

Here's what *Automotive News* says is coming down the pipeline:

B-class Electric Drive: The electric version of the new five-door sold in Europe went on sale in July in ten US states and will be available across the USA next year. There has been no announcement for Canada yet.

CLA: Introduced just this year, MB's only front-wheel drive sedan will continue without significant changes for the next three years. Additional compact Mercedes models are expected in 2018. These models likely will include replacements for the CLA and the GLA crossover, and compact variants of other crossovers such as a baby GL.

GLA: The compact crossover that shares its platform with the CLA sedan debuts this month with the GLA250 4Matic. The base fwd version will be available early next year.

The GLA250 4Matic combines a seven-speed dual-clutch automatic transmission with fully variable torque distribution. It has a turbocharged 2.0-liter inline four-cylinder engine that generates 208 hp and 258 pounds-feet of torque, goes from 0 to 60 mph in 7 seconds. You should be able to see it later this month at our Sep 21 event in Nanaimo.

The AMG model will share the same 2-L turbocharged four that comes in AMG's version of the CLA.

C class: The redesigned bread-and-butter compact(?) sedan also goes on sale this month. It grows in size and gets a more luxurious interior and additional features to move it upscale from the entry-level CLA.

The redesigned C class is 220 pounds lighter, 3.7 inches longer and 1.6 inches wider than the current car and has correspondingly more luggage and cargo room.

The high-performance C63 AMG goes on sale in the first quarter of 2015. A plug-in hybrid is expected to debut in October at the Paris auto show and go on sale in 2015.



More variants will be added, including a two-door coupe and convertible next year. They will be followed by a plug-in hybrid and possibly a diesel.



Revamped styling makes the C class look like a smaller version of the flagship S-class sedan with a long and more pronounced hood and grille and sharper lines.

E-class: After last year's facelift, no major changes are expected until a redesign in 2016. A new sedan will be first, followed six months later by a coupe, then a convertible and station wagon. The E-class will move to the new MRA architecture.

S class: Mercedes will have at least five variants in the redesigned S-class family that was launched last year with the sedan.

An S-class coupe goes on sale in October without the CL name (will it be a CS?). The new coupe is about 1.5 inches lower than the sedan—but the same height as the current CL—with styling lines that are more sculpted and flowing. It has a bigger, wider grille and a wider panoramic roof that tints with the flip of a switch. It has two rows of front and rear LED headlights and a low beltline.

The S550 plug-in hybrid will debut in October at the Paris auto show and go on sale next spring. It has a 3.0-liter V-6 engine and 107-hp electric motor for about 436 combined horsepower.

The S65 AMG coupe goes on sale in late 2015. It has a 6.0-liter V-12 twin-turbo engine, with an output of 621 hp and 738 pounds-feet of torque. It comes standard with the Magic Body Control feature that uses a stereo camera system to detect road surface imperfections ahead of the car and adjusts the suspension to improve comfort and avoid jolts.

An extra-long-wheelbase Maybach edition will sit at the top of the regular range. It will debut in November at the Los Angeles Auto Show and is expected to go on sale next year.



An extended-wheelbase Pullman also goes on sale next year. A head-of-state replacement for the old 600 *Grosser*, it is expected to cost about \$1 million -- including armor plating and three rows of seats. It will be about 21 feet long and feature four rear seats that will face each other, separated from the front chauffeur compartment by a partition window.

A convertible S-class is expected in 2016 or 2017.

CLS: The freshened four-door coupe-like sedan goes on sale this fall. It likely will be redesigned in 2017 or 2018.

SLK: The smaller roadster will be freshened this year.

SL: The SL 550 will be freshened in 2015. No other changes are expected for several years, when a new model will switch to the new MSA architecture it will share with the SLK.

GLK: The compact crossover will be redesigned in 2015. Spy photos show it will be less boxy. Greg Kable at *Autoweek* reports ([click](#)) that the designations on MB's crossovers and SUVs are changing to align them more closely with the comparable sedans. The replacement for the GLK is likely to be called a GLC.

GL: The full-sized crossover will be freshened in late 2015 and redesigned in 2017. Kable says the GL will be renamed the GLS.

MLC: The MLC, a coupe-like version of the ML that would compete with BMW's X6, is expected in early 2015. Let's hope the styling is not as reminiscent of the Pontiac Aztec as the X6's is.

ML: The crossover will be freshened in the fall and redesigned in 2017. Greg Kable says the M-class designation will disappear and the facelifted version will be called the GLE.

G class: There are unconfirmed reports that the 35-year-old SUV, initially designed for military use, will be revamped in 2016. The G-Wagen will keep its tall, boxy shape and body-on-frame construction.

Mercedes-AMG GT: A front-engine rwd sports car to compete with the Porsche 911 is expected early in 2015 (*see last issue*). It will debut in October at the Paris auto show. The roadster will have an AMG twin-turbocharged V-8 engine that generates 455 hp in the base model and 503 hp for the S. It isn't a direct replacement for the SLS supercar, but will compete with the Audi R8 and Porsche 911.

V class: The new V-class minivan could arrive in North America in 2016. Slightly larger than its competitors, it would be the only rwd offering in the segment. Four- and six-cylinder engines will be offered. The V class will be fitted with a more carlike and upscale interior than the Viano van it replaces. It includes wood decor, ambient lighting and many electronic features. A large panoramic roof also will be offered.

The commercial vehicle version called Vito, slotted below Mercedes' Sprinter commercial van, could arrive in 2016. Four- and six-cylinder engines will be offered.

Hot Air

I'd guess many readers are familiar with Bill Vance's weekly column in the *Driving* section of the *Times-Colonist*. I had occasion to write to Bill last month about an error in one of his columns, for which the source statement apparently came from Honda Canada. In his response, he told me that car companies are not much for their history.



You'd think a company with Daimler's heritage would be the exception that proves the rule, but I've noticed that their press releases about long-ago events are occasionally at variance with contemporary or other sources. In the retrospective item for the *September, 2012 issue* of this newsletter, I used a Daimler release to base a story on the 25th anniversary of the front, passenger-side airbag, which I wrote was "Introduced to the automotive world on the W126-series S-class in September, 1987." Prompted by a lovely segment last month on *Automotive News TV* ([click](#)), I looked further into the origins of the airbag.

Automotive News TV was marking the death this August 24th of Dollie Cole, the widow of Ed Cole, a long-time president of General Motors. Dollie was apparently indirectly responsible for the installation of airbags in the 1974 Oldsmobile Toronado, the first car to carry them ([click](#)). The report said that Dollie complained to her husband in the 1960s about having to wear a seat-belt over her fur coat, which led Cole to push GM down the road towards airbags.

B-Class Facelift

The B-Class is receiving its first facelift since the current generation launched in 2011. New front and rear trim are part of the changes, including daytime running lights integrated with the headlights. LED headlights become optional. The interior moves a bit more upscale and the free-standing infotainment screen grows to 8 inches diagonally. There's a new dial cluster and a choice of 12 colours for the LED mood lighting.



Daimler photo

The B adopts model range designations that are apparently to be the new standard across MB's compact cars. Its three equipment packages are called Style, Urban, and AMG line.

"Mercedes connect me" links the B-Class to the outside world. The available services include, among others, accident recovery, service maintenance and incident management. In an accident, the Mercedes-Benz



emergency call system automatically connects the occupants with the Mercedes-Benz Emergency Call Centre and sends the position and condition of the vehicle to the rescue operations centre. A rescue vehicle can then be dispatched immediately. The system works automatically but can also be triggered manually. You can be forgiven for thinking that this sounds like an option a decade ago called TeleAid. Certain features of the vehicle, such as fuel level, can be remotely retrieved by smartphone.

The Back End

The sleek AMG Vision Gran Turismo at Pebble Beach:

<https://www.facebook.com/globedrive/photos/pb.604418309676193.-2207520000.1410731843./621145991336758/?type=1&theater>



*The external exhaust and twin rear mounted spares of a 1931 SSK, one of the ultimate sports cars of its day.
Photo: harrysportcar.blogspot.com*

