

Tri-Star News

Mercedes-Benz Club of America Triangle Section

April, May, June 2009



ANNOUNCEMENT - Triangle Section Newsletter Going Completely To E-Newsletter Format Starting January 2010

The current financial climate has made us all reevaluate our spending and look for ways to continue the lifestyle we enjoy without unnecessary sacrifice. We make personal financial management choices based on our circumstances and needs. Managing the Section's money isn't any different.

The printing and mailing of a hard copy newsletter is the single largest expense the Section incurs. For 2009, we have bud-

geted over \$4,000 to produce and mail the newsletter to our membership. This has put a strain on our financial health. In an effort to provide efficient use of the Section's finances, your officers have made the decision to join with the many other MBCA Sections and begin delivery of the Tri-Star News only electronically starting with the January 2010 issue.

The effect to most of you will be immediate and positive. We will be providing Section members real time and up-to-date information on events, announcements, changes, etc. without the expense of additional mailings or waiting a full quarter

of the year for a newsletter. The majority of members have access to a computer either at home or work, and it only seems to make good sense to utilize the available technology to defray our costs.

You will continue to receive the same quality newsletter as in the past and will have the option to print it or keep it as a soft copy. We believe this is a needed change that will enhance the Section.

Thank You,

Your Officers and Directors

President's Letter

Hello Triangle Section - -

Spring is finally in the air! It is time to dust off those Mercedes-Benz sedans, coupes, SUV's, and convertibles and hit the road. Joining the caravan to Pinehurst on May 3rd is a great way to "show-off" your pride and joy while enjoying the company of other like-minded Mercedes enthusiasts.

Time marches on and your officers and board members have been hard at work. Major duties have been balancing the budget and managing the affairs of the Section. Here is some of what has been accomplished thus far:

- The February Tech Session at A Better Wrench (Thank you Max!).
- Two business meetings, one in Raleigh

and one in Sanford.

- The annual Pinehurst Brunch for your enjoyment.
- The website is now active and updated. <http://www.mbc.org/triangle>
- Ralph Recchie is the new chairman of the membership committee.
- A Facebook site setup by Ralph for the Triangle Section – MBCA.
- Jim Parent has confirmed our August reservations for the Shelton Vineyard tour.
- Timothy Martin Daher from Leith Mercedes-Benz of Raleigh has worked with us on our dealer relations by providing special offers to MBCA members. Check the Section website for details and contact info.

With the help of the Membership Chair, we are seeing new members, as well as, previ-

ous members returning. If everyone could just recruit one new member...

As you can tell, Section members have gotten involved and it sure makes a difference. We had an impressive turnout for the Tech Session and as many as 15 members have attended our business meetings. In my first letter, I told you my top business priorities for the coming year were to promote membership and enhance our web presence, while reaching out to members to become more involved in the management of the Section. I am pleased to say volunteers' keep coming forward with offers to help. Thank all of you so much for your support!

I am sure I don't need to remind you of the current state of the national economy, so I will just focus on the economy of our

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Bjorn Nordemo

Jay Evans

Presidents Letter, from p. 1

Section. We are spending over \$4,000 a year to produce, print, and deliver via USPS a hard copy newsletter. Continuing on this course meant we would not have available funds to stay "in the black". In the age of electronic communications this did not seem to be a prudent expenditure.

That being said, we have laid out plans to migrate from the traditional hard copy newsletter to an all-electronic one by the end of 2009. Over the next two quarters, you will receive a smaller edition of the newsletter. The full version will be posted on the Section's website. Beginning with January 2010, the newsletter will only be available as soft copy. We have not yet determined if we will email a copy or just send an email reminder that the newsletter has been posted.

In this tough economy we are striving to provide added value to members by defraying some cost of Section events with subsidies. As a member, you have paid only a portion of the true cost for meals at Holiday Brunches and Pinehurst Brunches. The Section actually picked up the tab for the ice cream at last year's October Frost. With the money we will save by reducing the production cost of the newsletter, we will be able to continue to offer real monetary value to members.

It is also important that you take a few minutes and go on-line and update your email information at the Nation Business Office. We receive our

member files directly from them and your email address is included. Currently, we have about two-thirds of Triangle Section members with email addresses listed.

Please plan on attending business meetings to take part in important discussions that affect the Section and help chart the future direction of the organization. By sharing just a little of yourself, I can promise you will meet new friends and enjoy the best of what the MBCA has to offer. (I also realize many members are content to just receive The Star and enjoy their M-B in solitude. That is fine and I respect that.)

Your time is valuable and I continue to promise business meetings will follow an agenda, start and end on time. Please consider attending a business meeting. It is, after all, your club!

Regards,

Terry



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All Triangle members welcome!

Come join your officers & board members for a very special German evening on Tuesday May 12.

We will be meeting at J Betski's to enjoy a sampling of delicious German & Polish cuisine & fine beverages of Central & Eastern Europe. The evening will begin with a social time at 6:00. A special menu is being prepared, with your selections being made to order. The dinner & a short meeting will conclude by 8:30, but you are welcome to continue the revelry as long as you like (J. Betski's closes at 10:30 pm). Individual checks will be available.

The J. Betski's website, www.jbetskis.com, will give you a sampling of what is in store! The restaurant is located in the charming Seaboard Station neighborhood, near Peace College, just off downtown Raleigh. Plenty of parking.

From North Raleigh: Rte 1/Capital Blvd. South to Peace Street exit. Make left turn on Peace Street, go under overpass, make first left turn on to Seaboard Station Ave. (immediately past the Shell

station, also to your left). Go to Stop sign & make another left turn (Seaboard Avenue). Proceed straight ahead, make 2nd right turn (Semart Road - you will see a sign saying "Seaboard Cafe" in front of you at the dead end). J. Betski's is on the corner of the building to your right.

From Chapel Hill/Durham: I-40 East to Wade Avenue Exit (Right Lane). Take Wade Avenue to Capital Blvd/Rt. 1 Exit (Downtown). Keep right & take Peace Street exit. (then follow above directions from this point)

East of Raleigh: 70 West to I-40 West. Keep right, take I-440 exit for North Raleigh. Proceed to Rt. 1/Capital Blvd. South exit. Take Capital Blvd to Peace St. (then follow above directions from this point)

South of Raleigh : S. Saunders Street/Rt.1.Capital Blvd. to Peace St (then follow above directions from this point)

New location for May meeting

Tech Session

On February 21st, over 25 members of the Triangle Section met at "A Better Wrench" in Chapel Hill for a different type of tech session. What made this session different, was that it covered both OLD and NEW vehicles.

We met at approximately 9:30 AM for coffee, drinks and pastries and then moved to the shop area where Max Scroggs (owner of A Better Wrench) put on a very informative session (taking & answering questions) on 1998 and newer Mercedes. On the other

side of the shop, I was talking to another group about the older Mercedes. We had the members, prior going to the shop, fill out a sheet with their name, year & model of their Mercedes and what questions they wanted answered. Max and I made an effort to answer all questions. Those I could not answer on the spot, I called the members on Monday with the information. Several members made appointments with "A Better Wrench" that day. All in all, I think the session went very well and we had a lot of interest indicated for more events like this one. Hey, I'm game - let's do it!!!

Mike Dowdy, Triangle Section Secretary

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Pinehurst Brunch

Sunday, May 3, 2009 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.
Pinehurst Country Club, Pinehurst, NC

The annual **Triangle Section Champagne Brunch** at the beautiful and historic Pinehurst Country Club will be held May 3. The cost to MBCA-Triangle Section members and spouse (or one guest) will be only \$25.00 each. Children 4 -12 years old will be \$12.50. Children 3 and younger, free. The price for all additional guests is \$37.00 each.

Advance reservations and payment are required, as is a jacket for gentlemen.

As in the past, following the brunch we are invited to view classic Mercedes-Benz at a tour of Sports Leicht Restorations, Inc. Driving directions will be available at the brunch.

Directions to Pinehurst Country Club:

From Chapel Hill/Durham: Take 15-501 south to the Pinehurst Traffic Circle, then take the exit to Pinehurst (Hwy 2).

From Raleigh: Take US Hwy #1 south and exit at Midland Road (Hwy 2 West) in Southern Pines. Turn right onto Midland Road and follow to traffic circle. When you enter the circle, follow the signs to stay on Hwy 2.

Then From Hwy 2: Follow to Carolina Vista. Before the next traffic light turn left in to the Pinehurst Country Club. The parking lot is on the right, or valet parking is available at the door.

A caravan to the event will be leaving the parking lot of The Ocean Stars Seafood Restaurant located on the corner of Hwy #1 and Hwy 55 in Apex. If you wish to travel with the caravan please make sure to arrive by 11:15 a.m. **The caravan will pull out at 11:45 a.m.**

Complete the form below and mail it with your check.
Your check must be received before April 25, 2009

Please print:

Member name: _____ \$25.00

Spouse or Guest name: _____ \$25.00

Children name(s) age 4 thru 12: _____ \$12.50 X EA = \$ _____

Number of other guests: _____ \$37.00 X EA = \$ _____

IMPORTANT: Member phone number OR email: _____

Check made payable to Triangle Section MBCA

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Mail to: Juel Duke
1904 White Plains Rd
Chapel Hill, NC 27517-7933

2nd Annual Historic Road Rally

Saturday, June 13, 2009 @ 1:00 PM

I believe history repeats itself. Proof of that is I have been appointed Rally Master again. This fun, no cost event requires at least two people or more & a Mercedes Benz vehicle. You will need a driver & at least one navigator. The navigator(s) will be given the directions & questions & an envelope marked 'OPEN IN EMERGENCY ONLY' (for use when you are hopelessly lost & have no clue where you are headed). The winners (First, Second, Third & Last) will receive a prize based on time, mileage, number of correctly answered questions & turning in the UNOPENED emergency envelope. This is, of course, based on you arriving at the ending point of the rally. Please feel free to use your GPS in this event especially if your odometer doesn't work (the Rally Master might consider that information, but then again he might not).

The starting point will be in the parking lot of the MacGregor Village Shopping Center, located on US 64 just off the beltline (further proof that history repeats itself, as this is the same starting point of last year's rally). The rally meeting will begin at 1:00 PM with the first Mercedes heading out shortly thereafter.

Plan your day accordingly as the afternoon will be filled with driving your Benz & having a good time. The ending point of the rally will offer (on your own) food & beverage so there is no need to worry about dinner.

Please RSVP to: tlewis5095@charter.net or mail the following info to:

YES – I plan to participate in the rally!!!

Member(s) Name(s) _____
Year & Model of Benz _____

Tom Lewis, Rally Master
Post Office Box 137
Moncure, NC 27559





Tri-Star News

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Triangle Section Calendar

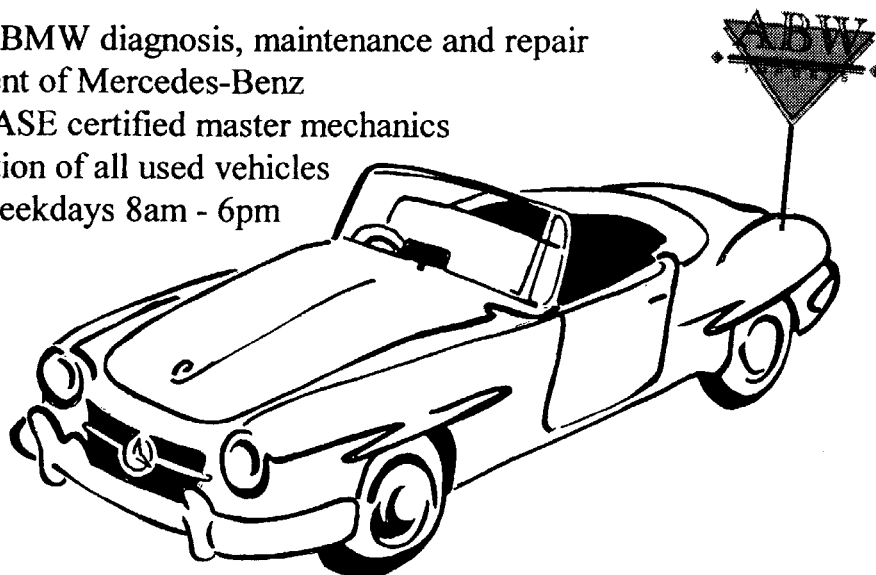
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