

# Tri-Star News

*Mercedes-Benz Club of America Triangle Section*

July, August, September 2009



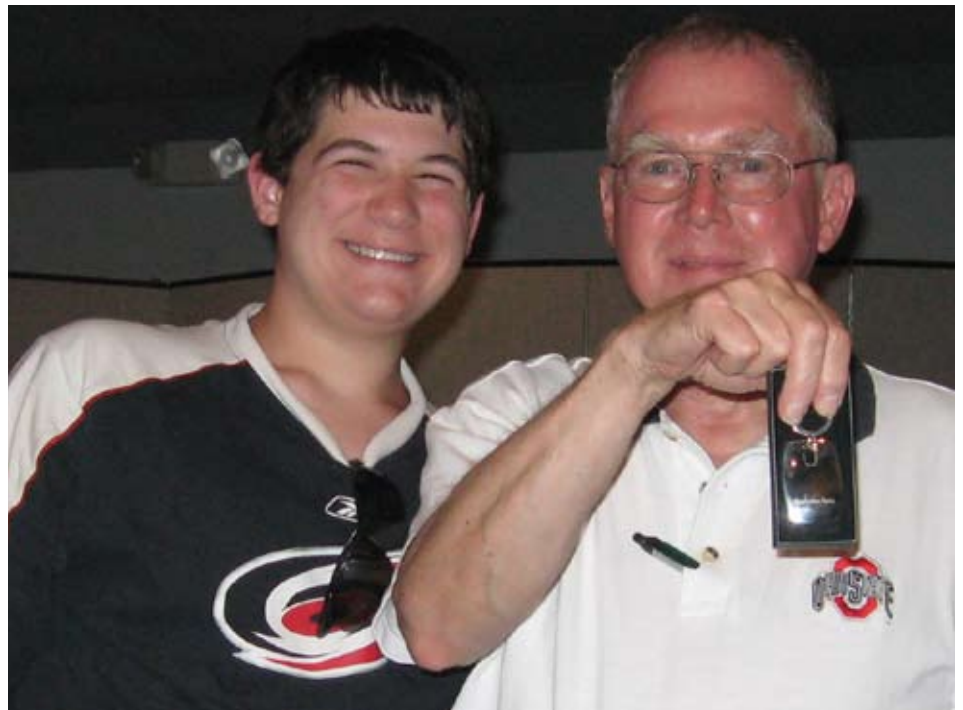
## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Historic Road Rally

It was a very nice day for driving your Benz in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Historic Road Rally. We had six Mercedes show up – the oldest a 1974 450SL to the newest a 2007 SL600. Everyone was given an “Open in Emergency” package along with the directions written mostly in clues. The cars were sent off five minutes apart. Car Number One showed up at the first check point on time. After a long, long wait, car Number Five arrived at check point one. What happened to the others?? I thought **everyone** knew that Donald Duck had a girlfriend named Daisy (apparently not). We had a couple of folks open their “Open in Emergency” and drive to the ending point.

Congratulations to Dave Waters who drove his '74 450SL to 1<sup>st</sup> Place (again). 2<sup>nd</sup> Place went to new members Phillip Olinger & his wife Robena Meek with their '82 240D. Marty and Debbie Watz driving their '07 SL600 grabbed 3<sup>rd</sup> Place and won a new hand held navigational device – a 2009 NC State map!

Everyone enjoyed the ending – Hayley Bales Steakhouse in Siler City. Most agreed that it was a fun afternoon and some folks even learned that Daisy Duck was Donald's girlfriend. Thanks to Mike Dowdy, Nancy Crawford & Terry Crawford for their help at the check points.

Tom Lewis – Rally Master



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Terry & Nancy Crawford

Jane Davison

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Dan Mahoney

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## Hello Triangle Section - -

Summer is officially here! How do I know? Tom Lewis has held the annual hot weather Historic Road Rally. Thank you to all of the members, new and experienced, for participating in this fun event. To be successful in one of Tom's Rallies it helps to know your cartoon characters. Tom, who is Donald Duck's girlfriend?

Our next big Section event will be the August 22 driving tour and wine tasting at Shelton Vineyard, located in Dobson, NC (close to Pilot Mountain). Event chair Jim Parent has made the arrangements with the good folks at the vineyard and we are all set to enjoy a fun tour, fine wine, and delectable lunch. All that is left for you to do is mark your calendars and RSVP. The Vineyard has a stake in the near-by Hampton Inn if you decide to stay over and explore other area attractions. You can get reservation details at 1-800-HAMPTON. The Inn is located at 150 Charlestowne Drive, Dobson, NC 27017. Telephone 336-353-9400. They even offer a one-of-a-kind wine bar at the hotel for those wishing to "sample" wider varietal selections.

If you have not participated in any 2009 business meetings or events, this is what you have missed thus far:

The February Tech Session at A Better Wrench

The annual Pinehurst Brunch and SLR tour. A special meeting and German menu at J. Betski's German restaurant.

A challenging Road Rally, followed by a visit to a good steak restaurant.

Timothy Martin Daher from Leith Mercedes-Benz of Raleigh has recently informed me that the new E-Class is in and ready for viewing. Mercedes even has a special financing offer. Contact Timothy at 919 279-0644 for details and to arrange a test drive.

In my first letter of the year, I outlined our top business priorities for the coming year and told you of the budget challenges we were facing. I am happy to report to the membership that the hard work of the executive team is paying off. Our current financial reports indicate we are tracking to budget with expenditures while keeping reserves solidly in the positive column. We have been able to subsidize major events at the same levels as previous years and continue to offer value to our membership. The 2010 business plan will eliminate the \$4,000 a year to produce, print, and deliver a hard copy newsletter.

Since the Section receives a rebate from MBCA based on the number of members

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in the Section, it is extremely important to continue to recruit new members at every opportunity. The executive team strives to provide added value to members by defraying some cost of Section events with subsidies. The more members we have, the more we can offer in the way of events and incentives. So, whenever you see a Mercedes driver, ask if they belong. If they don't, introduce them to one of the best groups of people in the Triangle!

As I mentioned before, it is also important that you take a few minutes and go on-line to update your email information at the

Nation Business Office ([www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org)). We receive our member files directly from them and your email address is included.

Just in case you forgot our Section's website I will list it here [www.mbca.org/triangle](http://www.mbca.org/triangle). There you will find a complete calendar of events, pictures, and updates of recent activities. Please check it out.

The July business meeting at Jim's Famous BBQ will focus on planning for 2010. Please plan 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.

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

Regards,

Terry

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## Meetings information for this Quarter

### July 14, 2009

Jim's Famous BBQ  
115 S. Elliot Road  
Chapel Hill  
919-942-7427

This is a stand-alone restaurant in the Whole Foods strip just off Franklin Street.

### August 22, 2009

Shelton Vineyards and Winery Tour

RSVP to [terrycrawford@alumni.duke.edu](mailto:terrycrawford@alumni.duke.edu) by August 15th. Our mid-summer caravan will depart from the rest stop at I-85 north of Burlington at 9:15 a.m. If you do not want to travel with the caravan, meet at Shelton Vineyards and Winery in Dobson, NC at 11:30 a.m. for the winery tour. Lunch on the property at the Harvest Grill at 12:30 p.m. Individual checks will be available."

### September 8, 2009

Pomodoro Italian Kitchen 1811 Hillandale Rd. Durham, NC 919-382-2915  
[www.pomodoroitaliankitchen.info](http://www.pomodoroitaliankitchen.info)

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## WE'RE INVITED!

All Porsche, BMW and Mercedes Benz owners are invited to the annual Hurricane Region Porsche Club of America OktoberFest. OktoberFest is an afternoon event filled with people, cars and refreshments and gives you a chance to enjoy some of the area's finest automobiles. This is a low-key "wash and show" event, so no need to get out the Q-Tips and white gloves to show your car. A registration form is included in this newsletter.

Please visit <http://hur.pca.org> for more information.

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## June Jamboree

In August of 1959, Mercedes introduced a totally new type of car. Unibody in construction and designed with the safety of the passengers in mind, the styling was what defined this new range of vehicles from then on. The rear fenders of the new models had a distinctive tail fin reminiscent of American cars of the fifties. Some loved it, some hated it but they sold in large numbers. The cars became known as Fintails in this country and Heckflossen in Germany.

In the spring of 1977 I was a part-time college student happily driving a beat-up Ford Falcon when I received a fateful phone call from my father informing me that I had just purchased a 1963 Mercedes and that I should bring \$300.00 to a downtown transmission shop right away. I was quite miffed that I should have my money spent for me and upon seeing the car with its poor paint and even rattier interior, I was sure that my social life was doomed. I had very little disposable income those days so I had to learn to make my own repairs.



I came to love that car and drove it for 18 years before the southern Florida salt air finally took its toll. I have owned many other Mercedes since and still have more than I should. When my son was 14 years old I stumbled on to a 1965 220S that was very similar to my first Benz. I brought it home and told my son "If you help me restore it, you can have it." Well the car is now beautiful and Alex has become a proud owner and loves to show the car as well as drive it. When the MBCA Northern New Jersey Section announced that their Annual June Jamboree car show would

be celebrating the 50th year of the fintail I knew we had to be a part of it.

We packed up and left on Thursday morning at the crack of dawn and headed up I-81 through Virginia and ended up at the doorstep of our friend Stu Hammel, in Reading PA where we would spend the night. Friday was our day to relax and clean the car. A special trip was made to the Amish Farmers Market for some fresh corn and smoked ring bologna as well as a case of Reading Draft Company black cherry soda.



Saturday morning found us cruising towards Mercedes Benz head quarters in Montvale NJ about two and a half hours away. Stu drove his 300SEL 6.3 and we followed with our fintail. As Alex steered into the parking area, he became quite excited at seeing so many pristine examples of classic Mercedes scattered around the display area. After registering we found our designated parking spot and proceeded to unload the chairs and cleaning supplies. Alex was so intent on cleaning the road dirt that he didn't notice the rest of our group heading to enjoy the breakfast buffet set up in the company cafeteria. After wiping the muffin crumbs from our chins we ventured out to view the various models on display. It was very interesting to see some of the bread and butter cars from

the past such as 220D's and 108 sedans lovingly restored and maintained. But the reason for our trip was the fintails which were lined up together on one group. The whole range was represented, from the 190D to the 220SE.

We mingled until the judging was over and then proceeded to the cafeteria along with several hundred other enthusiasts. Mercedes had graciously provided a buffet

lunch of German and Italian sausages, hamburgers and bar-b-que chicken. After lunch the emcee gave out what seemed like two hundred door prizes. I tend not to pay much attention to the awards for other classes so I sat there in a bratwurst-induced stupor waiting for the fintail awards. The moment arrived. Sitting at the edge of our seats and despite many equally prepared cars, the judges gave Alex's 220S first place in his class.

As we drove away for the long ride back to Reading, the rain that was threatening all day finally fell. Alex has a new found appreciation for his vintage car and I believe he's on his way to a lifelong hobby.

Drew Tibcken

## UPCOMING OFFICER ELECTIONS

### PLEASE CONSIDER ADDING YOUR NAME TO THE SLATE OF OFFICER

At the November meeting we will vote for the 2010 officers. The election will be detailed in the 4th Quarter edition of the newsletter. However, before we can vote, we need a slate of officers. Nancy Crawford and Kathy Taylor are heading the Nominating Committee. If you would like to run for office or nominate someone for office, please contact Nancy or Kathy. We particularly need someone to take over as treasurer as this is my last year in that position. It is an opportunity to serve the club in a very important way but with a minimum of time commitment. I'll gladly discuss the job particulars with anyone interested.

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Nancy Crawford 919-556-9922

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## Triangle Section Calendar

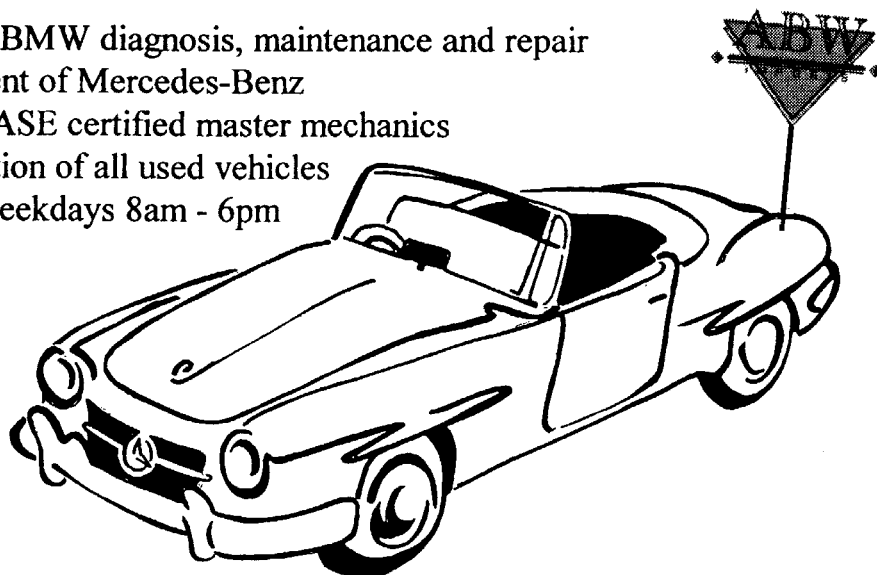
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