



Q2 2014 TriStar Newsletter

Triangle Section

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2014 Calendar of Events

- July 19th, Leith Mercedes-Benz is hosting a morning get together, car display and swap meet
- August 22-23, Regional meet at Shelton Vineyards in Dobson, NC. Call the Shelton Inn and ask for the special MBCA rate if you are attending the event
- September 14th, Classics on the Green at the New Kent Winery in Virginia (<http://www.classicsonthegreen.com/>)

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President's Message

Hello Triangle Section - -

Things are heating up in the Triangle, and I don't mean just the weather!

The Section has some fantastic events planned for the summer months. First, Leith Mercedes of Raleigh will be hosting us on Saturday, July 19th for a car show, swap meet, and lunch at their Capital Boulevard location. Members will be able to bring Mercedes-related items they would like to sell and display them at the event. Leith is going to pull some old stock inventory off the shelves and make it available to members at a discount. There will be a designated area for members to display their cars during the event and Leith will be providing a luncheon. We will also hold our July Business Meeting at the event.

Next is the return of our summer classic Shelton Vineyards show, but with a little extra oomph! This year's event will be shared as an MBCA SE Regional Event. Things will kick off Friday, August 22nd with a driving tour of the beautiful Yadkin Valley arranged by Triangle Section Member Rally Master Fred Hayes. The tour will culminate late evening at one of the finer restaurants in the area where members can socialize and relax. Saturday, August 23rd will bring an MBCA Judged Car Show to the Shelton Vineyards Grounds. You will have the option of entering your car for the judging, or just for fun. Our own Tom Lewis will give an hour long presentation on the joys of owning a vintage Mercedes-Benz. (I think he is well qualified for the job!) There will also be opportunities to tour the winery, attend a Chef's Table discussion, and a Wine 101 class. We will all gather for dinner at the Harvest Grille that evening for awards and guest speaker. This will truly be an event not to miss.

We have reintroduced our guest speaker series, Daimler Dialog following our Business Meetings. Steve Redwine secured Joe Parsons, VP of the Raleigh ACCA Triangle Chapter to present a fascinating lecture on the relationship between Studebaker and Mercedes-Benz. In May, Rob VanDewoestine, Triangle Section Newsletter Editor, presented Cars of 1930's Celebrities – Auburn, Cord and Duesenberg. Rob's presentation was full of interesting statistics and beautiful pictures of these fine automobiles. If you have a topic you want to present, or know someone that would like to present, we will buy dinner in exchange for the presentation. What a deal!

The new website is up and running thanks to the efforts and hard work of Karl Shultz. We now look like the rest of the MBCA Section's and have links and various feeds available on the site. Check it out and drop Karl a "Thank You". He deserves it.

A Better Wrench was kind enough to host the April Tech Session again this year. What can you say about a facility dedicated to keeping our Mercedes safely on the road and a man with a passion for the marque like Max Scroggs! Only: WOW. Thanks again Max.

Enjoy your summer and try to spend just a little of it with other Section Members at one of the upcoming great events. I will be highlighting fall activities, but not until we all have had enough of summer heat

Terry

Regional Meet at Shelton Vineyards

With the absence of a national event in 2014, Terry has been working with Bill Hopper and the presidents of the Sections that make up the North Carolina Region to expand the Shelton Vineyards show into a regional meet. This year's event is to have a driving tour of the area on Friday, a formally judged meet on Saturday and an awards dinner on Saturday evening. This would take place on the weekend of August 22-23rd.

Shelton Vineyards has been an excellent venue for a Mercedes event for the past several years. With a hillside and stream winding through a grove of trees it sets off our favorite make of car extremely well as you can see in this picture from last year.



Mercedes-Benz at the Pinehurst Concours

The second Concours d'Elegance was held on the weekend of May 2-4 at the Pinehurst Golf Resort. In contrast to the cold weather of last year, the Sunday event could not have had better weather. Several members of the Triangle Section took the opportunity to see rare and unusual cars in exceptional states of restoration. One of the finest was a 1939 Mercedes-Benz 540K Spezial Roadster. It tied for first place in the Grand Classics 1925-1948 category.



The 540K was a further development of the 500K with the engine bored out to 5.4 l and the girder-frame chassis replaced by oval tubes. The latter were influenced by the construction used in the Silver Arrow race cars.



A Roots supercharger could either be engaged manually or automatically by pushing the accelerator to the floor. This took engine output from 115 hp to 180 hp and top speed to 110 mph. The gear box was either 4 or 5 speeds with synchromesh in the top three gears. The brakes were hydraulic with vacuum assist.



Iron Mike Rally to Fort Bragg

In addition to the Concours on Sunday, the Pinehurst organizers set up a road rally and show at Fort Bragg on the previous Friday. Approximately 60 cars made the 45 mile drive to Fort Bragg. This group was heavy on Porsches since that was a marque featured for the weekend, but there was a wide variety of other vehicles as well.



Participants in the rally lined up on a main street in Pinehurst to give local residents a taste of the automobile event before leaving for Fort Bragg. Mercedes-Benz was represented on the rally by a 190SL in a rather unusual imitation carbon fiber film.



Local police stopped traffic at every intersection between Pinehurst and the entrance to Fort Bragg with military police performing the same function on base, allowing the rally entrants to maintain spacing for the full length of the drive.

Iron Mike is the symbol of the thousands of airborne soldiers that have served in numerous world conflicts over the past 75 years. He is embodied by a 15 foot tall statue at the center of fort Bragg.



The original statue was completed in 1961 and made of polyester strips that were dipped in epoxy and stretched over a steel frame. It was replaced with this bronze version in 2005.

Rally participants were treated to lunch on the base along with a number of dignitaries and a dozen beauty pageant winners from around North Carolina.

Troopers from the base had set up displays of 8 different functions for their units around the perimeter of the car show field. Here is one of the queens being shown how to operate an air defense vehicle. The top of her head is just visible in the driver's position. Soldiers from the fort were able to look at the cars in the rally while the rally participants could view the displays of military equipment.



There is a YouTube video of the newer cars starting the rally at this site for those who are interested.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r28QOBkAz2c>

14th Annual Appalachian Moonshine Run Rally

This year's Moonshine Run was on May 31st starting mid-morning from Elkin, NC. Over 100 cars participated again this year traveling over the winding roads of western North Carolina for a little over 2 hours. The master for the course lays it out so that participants travel various routes so that it stays a true rally and not just a parade.





Celebrity Cars Built by the Auburn Automobile Company

Steve Redwine is continuing to arrange for presentations at the monthly Section business meeting. In May it was a slide show by Rob VanDewoestine on the Auburn, Cord and Duesenberg cars built by the Auburn Automobile Company and some of their distinguished owners. His material included pictures of the 1936-37 Cords owned by Amelia Earhart (shown in front of her Lockheed aircraft) and a second celebrity that I will leave to the reader to figure out. One clue is that her feet are worth much more than the Cord



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