



Q2A 2015 TriStar Newsletter

Triangle Section

Articles in this issue:

- Tour to Bennett Place in Durham
- Wake Forest Car Show
- Rock Barn Euro Classic in Conover, NC
- New Members

2015 Calendar of Events

- July 18, Event Planners Workshop, 10:00 am, Alpharetta, GA (See last page for attendance form)
- August 1, Tour of Tom Lewis' Garage
- August 8, Concours Judging Clinic, 9:00 am, Douglasville, GA (See last page for attendance form)
- August 22nd, Mercedes show at Shelton Vineyards
- October 9, Mercedes at "Art in the Evening" at NC Art Museum

Triangle Section

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President's Message

Hello Triangle Section Members,

Are you wondering why you are receiving a Q2A Newsletter? We are having so many events this year that by the time we send out a Q3 newsletter everything you are reading today would be old news! That is definitely not a bad problem to have.

Rob VanDewoestine has done an excellent job in covering the events in this newsletter and the only thing I can add is that these additional events are happening because you, the Triangle members, are suggesting them and heading them up. Monika & Chris Pitulle suggested the Wake Forest Car Show and volunteered to meet everyone early in order to drive in as a group. Rob & Barbara VanDewoestine suggested Bennett Place, went there and set everything up, which resulted in a very informative historical tour and a great meeting. The Tarheel Section invited us to help in the planning of their Rock Barn event and one of the Triangle members, Jeff Files, agreed to bring his beautiful 300sl roadster as the Rock Barn "Special Feature" automobile. So, not only are our members stepping up and making things happen, but all three NC sections worked together in a short period of time to put on a very successful event!

ONE MORE THING: Let's start thinking about how we can bring younger people into the classic car experience. Think about relatives, friends and neighbor kids that have expressed an interest in your car and let's invite them to an event or create an event that would be geared toward them. Let me know your thoughts and ideas on this. I think the 9/26 VIR Classic Car Race, Car Show and Track time would be fun for kids/teenagers to actually ride along on the track.

Have fun this summer, bring a friend to an event and let's sign up some new members!

Steve

Bennett Place Visit

The first summer event for the Triangle Section was a tour through the Bennett Place in Durham, lunch and a business meeting on a lovely Saturday morning.



The Bennett Place farmhouse was the site of the largest surrender of the Civil War. Some 89,000 soldiers under the command of General Joe Johnston were surrendered to General William Sherman on April 26th 150 years ago. The farm was abandoned in 1884 after the death of Mrs. Bennett. Her husband had died earlier in 1878. The house was destroyed by fire in 1921 leaving only the chimney. In 1961 funds were raised to rebuild the farmhouse, kitchen and smokehouse in their previous locations. Many sketches and photographs were available to make the reproductions accurate. A small museum building was constructed adjacent to the farm buildings with artifacts of the era and a theater that shows a video of the events around the surrender. The site is used for reenactment events as well as demonstrations of life in the Civil War era.



After capturing and virtually destroying Columbia, SC, Sherman drove north into North Carolina where he was opposed by troops under the leadership of Joe Johnston. Both commanders were heading north to join their respective
(Continued in column 2)

armies in Virginia. Johnston made a delaying attack against the separated units of Sherman in Bentonville, NC on March 19-21. The battle was a rough draw but did not achieve Johnston's primary purpose of preventing Sherman's units from combining and bringing in supplies and additional forces from the port in New Bern, NC. Johnston retreated to Greensboro, NC while Sherman occupied Raleigh. With General Lee's surrender on April 9th, Johnston sent word to Sherman on April 14th that he would like to discuss surrender terms. The two commanders' first meeting on April 17th was complicated by the assassination of President Lincoln.



The two generals and their parties met in a sparsely settled area on the western edge of Durham. General Johnston had passed a farm a short distance back and he suggested that they hold their meeting there. It turned out to be owned by a family named Bennett who gave up the use of their home for the meeting and moved over to a kitchen that was separated from the house. The Bennett family had been heavily touched by the war, losing both their sons and a son-in-law. The first agreement between the two generals was a political settlement as well as military in that it essentially reinstated civilian government in the south. This was rejected in Washington as vastly exceeding Sherman's authority. A final agreement was reached on April 26th that was a military surrender under the same terms as at Appomattox.

Interior of Bennett farmhouse as it is today with the docent who conducted our tour.



Wake Forest Car Show

The town of Wake Forest sponsors an annual show that attracted over 183 special interest vehicles parked along the main street and adjacent areas on Saturday June 20 this year. Four cars from the Triangle Section drove to Wake Forest as a group so that they could be together. They were also fortunate to have shade through most of what was a very warm day.



Martin Little was there with his 2008 CLK 63 and Phil Templeton brought both his 2009 SL65 V-12 Biturbo and his 2014 SMG SLS



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Monika and Chris Pitulle brought their 1969 280SL



Another feature of the Wake Forest show was an assembly "performance" by members of the Triangle Chapter of the AACA. Twice during the day they disassembled their 1915 (more or less) Model T Ford and then put it back together in just a few minutes. When they start it is just a pile of parts.



The major component is the combination of engine and transmission which weighs 550 pounds. It takes 7 club members to lift it over the front suspension and into the engine bay. After assembly, the engine is started and the car is driven forward and back to show it is again functional.



Rock Barn Euro Classic

The first Rock Barn Euro Classic was held on June 26 and 27 at the Rock Barn Country Club in Conover, NC. Organized by the Mercedes-Benz and Porsche Clubs of the Carolinas, Table Rock Sports Car Club and The Broad River European Motor Club, it was hoped to get at least 45 cars. It turned out that final attendance was over 80 vehicles. There was plenty of room for the attending cars with parking along both sides of the 18th fairway at the club. Vehicle access to the fairway was easy with cars grouped by vehicle manufacturer.



All golf course grounds keepers are concerned about vehicle traffic on their course and Rock Barn was no exception. Consultation with Pinehurst maintenance people, however, alleviated their concerns. Some rain the night before was well handled by the course and there were no problems with traction.

Quite a few attendees arrived in the area Friday night and were able to have an excellent buffet dinner in the club restaurant.

Fortunately the terribly hot weather of the previous two weeks had broken the day of the event. It was just about a perfect day with clouds to keep the sun off and rain that waited until the show was over.

Mercedes-Benz vehicles were well represented at the show with a wide variety of sports and family vehicles of various ages.



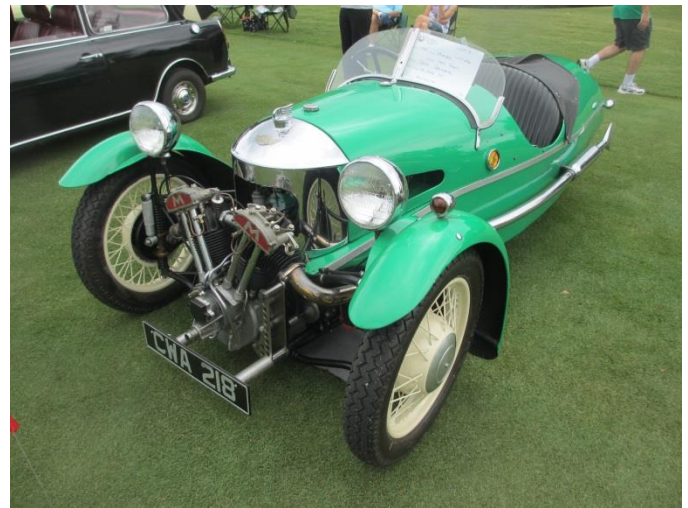
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Jeff Files brought his 300SL for special display



The show also attracted cars that are not often seen. The only pre-WW II vehicle was a 1938 Morgan 3-Wheeler. Ironically a new one can still be purchased from Morgan if one has \$50-70,000 to spend on what is a highly specialized vehicle.



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A car that a person is never likely to ever see again is a YES! (Young Engineers' Sportscar) car. Only about two dozen were built by Funke & Will in Germany with a custom aluminum chassis, fiberglass body and 3.2 liter supercharged Audi engine.



There was also a "real" 1967 Ford GT40. It is eligible for a Euro Classics show because the car was built in England. This is the car Henry Ford II built to beat Ferrari after Enzo turned down a company sale that he had actually initiated in February 1963. Ford was very interested in buying Ferrari and concluded a deal in just 3 months. The entire purchase fell through at the last moment, however, when there was to be a Ford relationship with Ferrari racing in addition to the manufacture of cars for customers. At that point Henry decided that if he could not join them, he would try to beat them and a crash program was started on a race car. The GT40 made its debut in April 1964 but had an unsuccessful racing season in 1965. After a "You better win." memo from Henry, the GT40 had very successful racing seasons in 1966, 67, 68 and 69.



Planning is already starting for next year's Rock Barn show with additional sponsors and national attention.

Welcome to New Members

Collin Butcher, Knightdale
Peter DelSol, Southport

Applications for Coming Events

EVENT PLANNERS WORKSHOP - SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2015 - 10:00 A.M.

RBM of Alpharetta - 345 Mcfarland Pkwy, Alpharetta, GA 30004 (678) 637-2333

Name(s) of Member(s) Attending:

Name(s) of Guests(s) Attending

Address:

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

_____ Membership #: _____

Number of attendees _____

Registration Deadline: July 8, 2015.

FREE EVENT

Return Page registration form to: **Doug Geganto: 3211 Black Gum Ln, Gainesville, GA 30504.**

For more information contact Doug Geganto at dgeganto@charter.net or at 404-754-9955.

**CONCOURS JUDGING CLINIC - SATURDAY, AUGUST 8,
2015 - 9:00 A.M.**

Bud's Benz, 7773 Strickland St, Douglasville, GA 30134

Name(s) of Member(s) Attending:

Name(s) of Guests(s) Attending

Address:

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

_____ Membership #: _____

Number of attendees _____ \$ NO CHARGE

Registration Deadline: August 2, 2015. FREE EVENT Mail registration form to: **Doug Geganto** 3211 Black Gum Ln, Gainesville, GA 30504.

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**Mercedes-Benz Club of America
Triangle Section**

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