



Q3 2014 TriStar Newsletter

Triangle Section

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- Regional show and rally drive at Shelton Vineyards
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2014 Calendar of Events

- September 6th, Autolawn in Hickory, NC (<http://www.theautolawn.com/>)
- September 14th, Classics on the Green at the New Kent Winery in Virginia (<http://www.classicsonthegreen.com/>)
- September 27, Triangle Section monthly meeting in Pinehurst and tour of the Sports Leicht restoration facility
- November 1, Touring Joara road rally in western North Carolina (<http://touringjoara.org/>)
- December 6th, Holiday Lunch at Wakefield Plantation Country Club

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President's Message

Hello Triangle Section - -

In the last newsletter I promised you things were heating up in the Triangle. Well, we have had some “HOT” events the past couple of months and I do hope you were able to take them in.

The July 19th Swap Meet Event at Leith Mercedes-Benz of Raleigh was fantastic! Cliff Ferrell and Ken Wheeler pulled together a great location for us to display our cars and put items we had for sale or trade. There were over twenty members in attendance and several items went very quickly. Steve Redwine was selling custom made wooden trays for the 280SL that seemed very popular. I was even tempted to buy one just in hopes of someday having a car it would fit.

After we held our brief Business Meeting, Leith treated us to a catered lunch prepared by the Cook Shack from Louisburg. The overwhelming opinion: It was delicious! Members were also given special discounts on merchandise from the M-B Store and I noticed several shopping bags being toted around. A big “Thank You” goes out to the entire Leith Team for hosting such a fun event.

If you missed this year's August 22 & 23 Shelton Vineyards M-B Car Show all I can say is I am sorry. This was the seventh year the Triangle Section has participated in this event and it was by far the best. With the help of W.W. Hopper, Eastern Regional Director and the MBCA National Business Office the Shelton Vineyards M-B Car Show was designated as a 2014 Eastern Region Event.

The three North Carolina Sections (Triangle, Tarheel, & Carolinas) all worked together to pull off two full days of fun activities. The weekend kicked off on Friday with Fred Hayes and John Byrne (Triangle) setting up and manning the self-guided wine country touring information booth at the Shelton Vineyards Hampton Inn. Members were given maps and directions to several of the nearby wineries. That evening about sixty members had a delightful dinner at the Depot Restaurant, all arranged by Randy Varner and Diriek Freed (Tarheel).

Saturday's Car Show had over seventy Mercedes-Benz of every type on the field and judges from all across the Eastern Region teamed up to examine the entrants. Triangle Section was well represented with volunteers for judging and parking of the cars. Thank you to Rob VanDewoestine, Bill Faison, Marty Watz, Debbie Watz, Nancy Crawford, Richard Corley, and Andrew Crawford for your help. Special thanks goes to Tom Lewis for his seminar on owning a classic Mercedes. This seminar was from a man with vast experience!

After all of this, what could be next you ask? Our September Meeting will be 11:30am Saturday, September 27 at the Donald Ross Restaurant in Pinehurst, followed by a tour of Sports Leicht Restorations. Please RSVP to Steve Redwine steve_redwine@yahoo.com if you plan to attend, as seating is limited.

December 6 will be the date of the annual Holiday Lunch at Wakefield Plantation Country Club. Watch for details.

Terry

Leith Mercedes-Benz Show – July 19, 2014

Leith Mercedes-Benz of Raleigh sponsored a car show, swap meet and lunch at their dealership on Capital Blvd in Raleigh, NC on July 19th. Tommy Dobbins of Leith worked with



several members of the Triangle Section of MBCA on details and publicity. The weather was good for the event and 35 members came with 20 cars. The vehicles ranged from almost new performance Mercedes to well cared for survivors.

Tom Lewis brought his 1967 280SE with 321,000 miles.



At the other extreme was Phil Templeton with his mat meteor alenite gray SL 300.



The ladies of the Triangle Section were well represented and the dealership provided an excellent buffet lunch in an immaculately clean service area.



Two awards were given out by Section president Terry Crawford. Dan Mahoney received the Best Vintage vehicle for his black 1966 230S.



Bill Faison received the Best of Show award for his 2002 SL 600 Silver Arrow





Mercedes at Shelton Vineyards

For the past several years, local Mercedes-Benz sections have held a one-day August event at Shelton Vineyards in Dobson, NC. This was expanded in 2014 to be a regional event for MBCA, held across multiple days with support from Triangle, Carolinas and Central Virginia sections. The headquarters hotel was the Hampton Inn in Dobson and the parking lot began to fill with member's cars on Friday afternoon. John Byrne drove in early with his recently restored 280SL. John and Fred Hayes set up a driving tour for Friday based on one of the many road tours in the North Carolina Scenic Byways publication available online



(http://ncdot.org/download/travel/scenic_byways.pdf) or it can be requested in print by visiting the NCDOT map web site. This particular tour of the Yadkin Valley is on pages 64-66 of the guide. It takes about 2 hours or more depending on the number of wineries visited during the drive. One particularly attractive winery to visit is run by the Raffaldini family and is located in the Swan Creek area of the Yadkin Valley. The vineyards lie on slopes below the Tuscan-style tasting structure. There are gardens and ponds on the property that make it particularly attractive.



Friday evening was dinner at The Depot restaurant in Dobson. Entry is by a rather steep downhill curving drive that leads through a classic wooden covered bridge.



Around 60 members from several sections had dinner there. In spite of the large group (and several others), the dinners were excellent and served very efficiently.



The weather forecast for the show on Saturday had predicted a high probability of rain, but turned out to be clear with temperatures in the mid-80's. The venue at Shelton is in front of the tasting room and is sloped with trees, several ponds and a small stream. This allowed plenty of room for the almost 50 cars that came to the event.



There was also a presentation by Tom Lewis Saturday morning on owning a classic Mercedes, a dinner Saturday evening at the Harvest Grill on the Shelton grounds and a talk on Vintage Auto Ownership by Tom Lewis.

Finally, Terry Crawford presented the Judge's Choice Award to Fred Hayes for his 1955 Mercedes-Benz 300SL.



Mercedes at the Concours of America 2014

The Concours of America at St. Johns in Plymouth, Michigan is one of the premier automobile events in the country. Approximately 280 automobiles of various Marques and ages are invited to participate each year. The show field is set up on 4 fairways of the 27-hole golf course at the Inn at St. Johns. The venue is the site of a former seminary for training priests for the Catholic Church. The Inn and Convention Center were constructed in Italian Renaissance style to match the Chapel and Bell Tower.



Judging was done to MCBA Concours rules and Bill Hopper and the three section presidents handed out awards for the top three cars in each class. Each award consisted of a Mercedes-Benz plaque and a bottle of wine from Shelton Vineyards.



Special exhibits at the Concours honored "The Forward Look" automobile designs done at Chrysler in the late 1950's under the styling leadership of Virgil Exner. There was also a display of "stylish" pick-up trucks from the 1950's.

The MBCA had a tent on the Concours show field on Sunday as well as a 2014 S63 AMG and a 1957 300SL on display.



Friday evening was Autobahn night at the Concours with cars built by Porsche, BMW and of course Mercedes-Benz in the parking lot of the host hotel. One of the more unusual sights was a Mercedes-Benz SLR McLaren. They were built from 2003-2010 when Mercedes owned 40% of McLaren. Engines were a 5.4 liter V-8 with a twin-screw supercharger giving 13 psi boost and an output of 617 hp. A number of variants were produced but all had top speeds a little north of 200 mph and could accelerate to 60 mph in under 4 seconds. Sales only exceeded the 500/year goal in 2005 and were well short in succeeding years leading to the car being discontinued. Styling was very distinctive with “scissors” doors.



Another interesting vehicle was a Lorensen-tuned 500SL. The clue is the very small Script “Lorensen” inset in the grill.



Two of Virgil Exner’s show cars were on the field for Sunday’s Concours at St. Johns. The first was the two-passenger 1960 Plymouth XNR that had once been owned by the Shaw of Iran. It was built on a modified Valiant chassis with a high performance version of the Chrysler slant-6 engine putting out 250 HP and was reportedly capable of a 150 MPH top speed. The body is steel and was fabricated by Ghia in Italy. Everything but the headlights was asymmetric.



The second show vehicle was the 1956 Chrysler Diablo. Its body was also fabricated by Ghia but on a Chrysler 300 chassis of 129 inch wheel base. It started life as the “Dart” but a couple of revisions turned it into the Diablo. It is an operational vehicle with a 392 cubic inch V-8 turning out 375 HP. Wind tunnel tests showed an amazingly low coefficient



of drag of 0.17. Power went to the rear wheels through a Torque-Flite 3 speed transmission with push button controls.



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Mercedes-Benz Club of America Triangle Section

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