



Q4 2014 TriStar Newsletter

Triangle Section

In this issue:

- Tech Session at SLR Restoration Shop
- Wine tasting at Adam's Vineyards in Willow Spring
- Outgoing section President Terry Crawford
- Mercedes-Benz Formula 1 Racing
- Annual Holiday Lunch at Wakefield Plantation Country Club

2015 Calendar of Events

- January 13, 2015. 6:00, Dinner and Business Meeting at Bennett Point Grill in Durham
- February Tech Session – TBD
- March 10, Dinner and Business Meeting
- June 12-14, StarTech in Cincinnati

Triangle Section Mercedes-Benz Club of America 2015 Section Officers

President – Steve Redwine
Steve_Redwine@yahoo.com P: (239) 872-0342

Vice President – Tom Lewis
tlewis5095@charter.net P: (919) 418-5095

Treasurer – Marty Watz
satin@frii.com P: (919)-556-8838

Secretary – Barbara VanDewoestine
barbvande@nc.rr.com P: (919)-309-4517

President's Message

Hello Triangle Section,

Here we are at the close of another year and with plenty of exciting news to share! It is always enjoyable for me to reflect on the yearly highlights of the Section, especially when so much has been accomplished. This past year has been activity laden with the MBCA Regional Event as a headliner. But to me, the most significant and encouraging thing has been the number of volunteers stepping forward to help. In addition to Rob VanDewoestine as Newsletter Editor, we added Karl Schultz as Web Master and Steve Redwine as Events Chair. All of us have benefited from the enhancements and efforts each of them has made to the operation of the Section and we owe them a debt of gratitude.

The continued hard work of your Officers and Directors has made it possible to present a variety of events throughout the year. VP Tom Lewis, Treasurer Marty Watz, and Secretary Barbara VanDewoestine (along with Board Members Fred Hayes, John Byrne, and Larry Murray) worked to successfully bring together all of the Eastern Region Sections for the first-ever MBCA Regional Event at Shelton Vineyards in August. By all accounts, it was an enormous success.

Our winner of the 2014 Member of the Year was webmaster Karl Shultz. Karl took the lead in migrating our old website onto the NBO hosted without a hitch. His hard work has resulted in a more up-to-date and user friendly experience. Congratulations Karl on the well-deserved award!

To enhance our regular business meetings we coupled some events with them, as well as held stand-alone functions throughout the year. Some of the major Section activity included:

- A Better Wrench Technical Session
- Leith Mercedes-Benz of Raleigh swap meet
- A visit to SLR in Pinehurst
- A visit to Adams Vineyard in Holly Springs
- Holiday Lunch at TPC Wakefield Plantation

As a result of working closely with Tarheel and Carolina Sections, Triangle members were also invited to participate in a tour of Biltmore Estate, Exploring Joara, and Cars and Coffee in Winston-Salem.

2015 is holding promise of many good things to come. Our dealer relationships are as strong as ever and we will be having 2015 events hosted by Leith M-B of Raleigh and Cary. The Section's business affairs are in order and our treasury is healthy. There are a few areas to concentrate on in 2015, namely acquiring new members and retaining existing ones. A volunteer to take over as Membership Chair would go a long way in achieving growth. If you have recruiting skills (or a desire to do outreach) and/or have knowledge on maintaining a Facebook Account, please contact an officer to volunteer. We will continue to look for events to share with the Carolina and Tarheel Sections, as well as, coming up with new ideas locally.

That brings me to one last bit of exciting news for the Triangle Section. Beginning January 1, 2015 I am pleased to announce that Steve Redwine will be the new President of the Triangle Section. Steve is a true "car-guy" and brings enthusiasm and creativity to the Section. Please support Steve as he leads the Section forward and continues to deliver the kinds of events our members ask for.

I want to thank the leadership team for all of the support, help, and friendship they have shown to me. It has been an honor and my pleasure to have been your President these past eight years.

Terry

Tech Session at SLR Automotive

(Pictures by Steve Redwine)

SLR (Sports Leicht) Automotive is a state of the art facility in West End, NC. Their work spans the spectrum from maintenance to full restorations with emphasis on cars from the 1950's and 60's. Their products have won First Place and Best of Show in numerous Mercedes and Ferrari meets.

The Triangle Section's day at SLR started with lunch and a business meeting in the dining room of the very prestigious Pinehurst Country Club. In addition to holding both Men's and Women's US Open tournaments, the Pinehurst Resort has entered the world of classic automobiles with the inauguration of the Pinehurst Concours d'Elegance in 2013 and extending into the future.



Bjorn Nordemo (in center below), the owner of SLR was on hand to take club members through the cars currently in his shop.



(Continued in next column)

The cars on site ranged all the way from just starting to well underway.



And there were Mercedes that were completely finished.



While emphasizing Mercedes-Benz vehicles, SLR has the capability to work on a wide variety of European cars and even some American vehicles.



Adam's Vineyards Meeting

The November meeting of the Triangle Section of the MBCA was held at the Adams Family Vineyard. Arranged by John Byrne, the event was held at a fairly new winery but is located on property that goes back 8 generations in the Adams family. Established by a royal charter in 1708, the vineyard has seen an evolution in crops over time. Originally 1800 acres used for timber, corn and swine, the property has seen a transition through cotton and tobacco to today's grape production.



The vineyard uses native Muscadine grapes to produce 10 different wines. They also use locally grown fruit to make wine from apple, peach, pear, blueberry and blackberry. The vineyard was just established in 2004 when the government ended the various tobacco loan programs and started doing allotment buy-outs. The winery has received dozens of awards in the last few years. About 25 members brought a dozen Mercedes to the event. It was a lovely November with sunshine and clear skies and a great day for driving



The winery has a retail shop and tasting area along with a party room that can accommodate large groups.



(Continued on next column)



The proprietor of the vineyard, John Quincy Adams gave a talk on the history of the property and discussion of wine making while the members enjoyed sampling his product. Muscadine grapes can be grown from Florida to Virginia. There are over 300 varieties of Muscadine grapes in colors or bronze, black red and white. They are naturally resistant to many of the common diseases of grapes. Yields are high compared to other wine grapes, ranging from 5-18 tons per acre.

Triangle Section President

After eight years of service as the president of the Triangle Section of the Mercedes-Benz club, Terry Crawford will not be in that position next year. He and Nancy deserve some time off after taking care of the affairs of the Section for an extended period of time. Everyone in the Section owes them a great deal of gratitude. Both will continue to be active in Section activities, but will let others do the organizing for a change.

Outgoing Section president Terry Crawford with his wife Nancy.



Mercedes-Benz and Formula 1 Racing

Mercedes history in Formula 1 goes back to the 1930's when they and Auto Union dominated international racing. Mercedes won three titles in what was then called the European Championship. The company's first effort in Formula 1 was in the 1954 and 1955 seasons. Despite considerable success, the company withdrew from Formula 1 competition after a terrible accident with a factory car at the 25 Hours of Le Mans race in 1955.

It was not until 1994 that Mercedes returned to Formula 1 but just as an engine supplier. They built engines for a number of teams through the 2009 season. The company returned with a factory race team in 2012 after purchasing a minority position in Braun GP Racing. The factory team finished behind Ferrari, McLaren and Red Bull in its first three seasons but then 2nd (well behind Red Bull) in 2013. A major change in engine technology from a naturally aspirated 2.4 liter V-8 to a turbocharged 1.6 liter V-6 hybrid (PU 106A) for the 2014 season provided a major opportunity for Mercedes engineering. The new "power unit" (since it is no longer just an engine), is an extremely complex combination of a 600 hp engine, two 80 hp motor-generators on the rear wheels and two motor-generators on the twin turbochargers. The rear motor-generators charge lithium batteries in braking mode and provide extra power when needed, but can only supply extra power for 7-8 seconds each lap. The motor-generators on the turbos either provide extra battery charging or drive the turbos to reduce lag. The new power unit and a chassis with excellent handling allowed the Mercedes team to dominate Formula 1 races in the 2014 season.



The Mercedes team won 16 of the 19 races and had both first and second in many of the wins. This meant the Constructor's trophy for the team and a World Driver's Championship for Lewis Hamilton. Mercedes' other driver, Nico Rosberg, was the only one close to Hamilton in points at the end of the season.

To commemorate the winning season, Mercedes is producing SL63 AMG cars to honor each of their winning drivers (tip thanks to Dave Waters). One is painted designo black mango and the other is designo white cashmere mango (Where do they get these names?). Both are equipped with 5.5 liter twin turbo V-8 engines producing 585 hp. Only 19 of each will be made representing each of the 19 Formula 1 tracks. Buyers also get a helmet worn by one of the drivers, a watch and invitation to the opening race of the 2015 season in Melbourne. A single car can be purchased for \$399,431 or a pair at a discount price of \$785,499.



Triangle Section Holiday Party

(Pictures by Steve Redwine)

The holiday party for the Triangle Section was again held at the TPC Wakefield Golf Course clubhouse. They do a really good job on the buffet and have a room that is just the right size for our group.



The Oompah Trio again provided music appropriate to the season and the group.



Terry Crawford presented the plaque recognizing Karl Schultz as the Member of the Year for his work establishing and maintaining a new Section website. Here is Karl receiving the award plaque from Terry.



In addition to eating, drinking and having a generally good time, the Holiday Lunch also provides gifts for the Toys for Tots program. This year brought another good assortment



Section members delivered the toys to the Marine Corps Reserve collection boxes for delivery to area children.



The Tri-Star News is published quarterly by the Triangle Section, Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc., MBCA. It is furnished to each of the Section members. Please send all materials for publication by the 1st of March, June, September, and December to rvandewoestine@nc.rr.com. For advertising information contact any of the listed officers. Explicit permission to copy or republish any article is given to all sections of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc. The articles in the Tri-Star News are the opinions of the writers and no authentication is given or implied as to the validity of any expressed opinions.

Mercedes-Benz Club of America Triangle Section

5001 Swift Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27606