



Q4 2016 TriStar Newsletter

Triangle Section - MBCA

Articles in this issue

- Hagerty Show and Shine at VIR
- Wilmington Tech Session and Lunch
- Mercedes at AACA Regional Fall Meet
- Joint Studebaker-Packard/Mercedes Event
- Music with Swade and Satin Band
- Tech Session at M-B of Cary
- Holiday Lunch and Toys for Tots Fundraiser
- New members

2016 Calendar of Events

- February 7, 6:00 – Meeting at M-B of Cary and dinner afterward
- March 11- 12, Amelia Island Concours
- May 4-7, Pinehurst Concours and Fairway Club
- May 19, 5:00 – Evening with Art and Mercedes at NC Museum of Art

Triangle Section Mercedes-Benz Club of America 2017 Section Officers

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

Vice President – Bill Faison
drcbill@aol.com P: 919-469-9228

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

Secretary – Pam Redwine
Nana.nan3@Yahoo.com P: 919-360-8227

President's Message

As we move into winter and the Holiday Season, it is a good time to reflect on 2016. The first thing I think about is our business meeting in January, when the members unanimously voted to fund the tent at the Pinehurst Concours. That really set the wheels in motion (no pun intended) for an extremely successful and exciting Pinehurst weekend. For Pinehurst 2017, our proposal to MBCA National for up to \$5000. in assistance was approved 100%! We are planning a four day MBCA "Special National" event at Pinehurst in May for all MBCA members. The only other MBCA "Special National" event is the Legends at Pebble Beach Concours. So, you can see that we are in very good company. We are expecting up to 250 MBCA members from around the country, and I would urge you to make your plans early to spend a great weekend in Pinehurst! (see Jan./Feb. Star ad on next page)

Another event that I thought was important to the growth of the Triangle Section was held in Wilmington at Carl Heide's home, where several members gathered over lunch to meet for the first time as Wilmington Area Members. With Carl's leadership as the Wilmington Area Manager and now Board Member, the coast should experience a growth in membership due to having more planned events with the necessary financial support from the Triangle Section. Now, Wilmington members, it is up to you with our support to plan some fun events for 2017!

As an update, to the Dealer Relations Managers program, I am happy to report that we now have five DRMs, one for every Mercedes-Benz dealer in our Section. This will also help us plan more activities with our dealers while building better relationships. A special THANK YOU goes out to the new DRMs. They are Chris Olliff, Patti Wilcox, Ted Sampson, Dave Waters, and Terry & Barbara Lowinger.

The most gratifying thing to me is to see our members excited enough to volunteer to help the Section in any capacity. There are several members that I would like to single out and thank for helping the Section this year. Tom Reedy won "Member of the Year" for his tremendous help in many areas, especially with the Pinehurst Concours. Bill Faison, for his tireless and creative effort working with MBCA National. Vicki Wilson, for writing the Pinehurst article and creating the Jan. "Star" ad. Dave Waters, Ted Sampson and Patti Wilcox for getting us back on track with our MB dealers. Richard Talach, for handling our Facebook page. Fred Hayes, for working on the website. Carl Heide, for Wilmington Area Mgr. Rob VanDewoestine, for our newsletter and National website contributions. I could continue to list other members who have stepped up this year to help the Triangle Section, but my main point is that this is your club and it is up to all of us to do what we can to make the Triangle Section a great experience for all of the members.

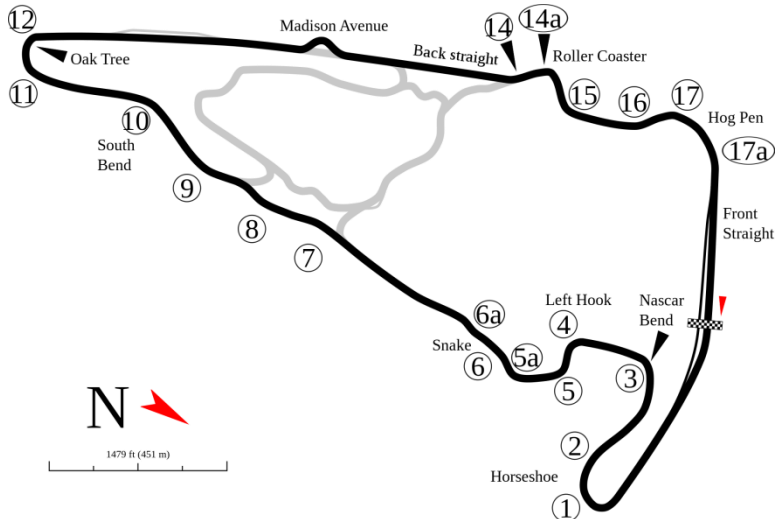
The Section's finances are in good shape and should end the year after final expenses with \$7030.00 in the bank and our membership is at 232 and growing!

Thank you all for allowing me to be President for the Triangle Section again for 2017!

Steve

Hagerty Show and Shine Show at Virginia International Raceway

This year's Hagerty show at Virginia International raceway was held on a bright and sunny September Saturday. It was a little warm, but that was far better than the rain that washed out the event in 2015. VIR is a road course in Alton, VA, just north of the North Carolina border. There was vintage racing the day of the show with cars ranging from late 1960's open wheel Brabhams, Indy Lights cars from the early 2000's and a large number of Trans Am series cars. The VIR course is 3.2 miles long on the outside loop with variations that can be run inside the loop as shown below.



Times around the track run from about 1.5 minutes to 2.5 minutes depending on the class of cars. Straightaway speeds run up to 150 mph.



Historic Indy Lights Car from 2001



Colorful Trans Am Race Series Car



Continued on next page

At least 100 of the entrants in the Hagerty show chose to participate in laps around the track during the noon break from racing. There were rather firm instructions against opening up gaps so extra speed could be achieved and an absolute ban on passing. Even with the number of cars on the track, good intervals were maintained. Speeds on the straights peaked in the low 60's, but cornering speeds were only limited by vehicle capability and common sense.



Staging before track entry



Steve and Pam Redwine in "new" 450SL



Entry for 5 laps on the track

Wilmington Tech Session and Lunch

By Steve Redwine

The Triangle Section covers a very large area in eastern North Carolina. Over the past two years, event organizers have planned at least one event in the Wilmington area. This September it was a tech session at Bob King Autohaus Mercedes-Benz and then lunch at Felix restaurant. Both were great and we want to thank Ted Sampson, Dealer Relations Manager, and Del Eaves, Service Manager at Bob King, for arranging a terrific day!



Continued on next page

Friday evening in Wilmington, Herbert Sellback gave the Section a tour of the facility where he maintains his Mercedes and Bentley automobiles. Dinner followed at the Boca Bay restaurant



*A*UTOMOTIVE COLLISION SPECIALISTS, INC.



State of the art restoration and collision repair facility. Extensive experience in repair and restoration of Mercedes, Porsche, Jaguar and other classic automobiles. We use only the highest quality BASF/Glasurit refinish products. Call us to discuss your project.

313 West Academy Street, Fuquay-Varina NC 27526 : Tel. (919) 552-0333

Mercedes at AACA Regional Meet

A number of the Mercedes automobiles owned by MBCA members are more than 25 years old, so that they are able to participate in events sponsored by the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA). Several were shown at the AACA regional fall meet held at the North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer on a beautiful October Saturday. There were 72 cars on the show field including one belonging to a member from Wilmington who took 9 hours on the previous Friday to make what is normally a 3½ hour trip. They encountered numerous delays from roads that were closed by flooding from hurricane Matthew.

The meet is sponsored by the Furnitureland Chapter of the AACA. Using the theme of transportation, the trophies each year are based on rail cars used by various lines. Awards are given out using a points judging system similar to MBCA standards, but are also given to vehicles in a Driver Participation Class (DPC). Cars in this class are judged by inspection and are allowed to have a number of safety and convenience upgrades as long as the outward appearance, interior and engine compartment are not significantly changed.

Joy Clement's 1989 560 SL



Bynum Hancock's 1976 Sedan



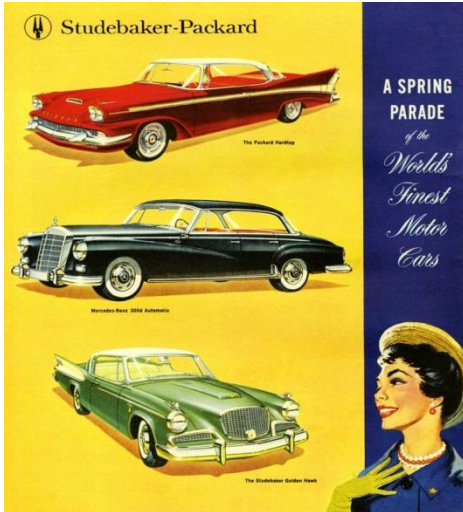
Becky Hancock's 1975 300D



Joint Studebaker-Packard/Mercedes-Benz Event

Mother nature and the Oak View park in Raleigh provided an excellent Saturday for a joint meeting between the Studebaker-Packard club and the Triangle Section of MBCA.

Joe Parsons from the S-P Club gave a slide talk on the little known fact that from 1957 to 1965, Studebaker had the exclusive rights to sell Mercedes-Benz cars in North America. Joe's father was a Studebaker dealer in Ohio so Joe has had a life-long relationship with the company. He has been a long-time restorer and historian of vehicles from Studebaker and gave us an insight into this little-known area of automotive history. The poster below shows the combination of Studebaker and Mercedes advertising that was being done in the late 1950's.



In the late 1950's Mercedes-Benz had a weak dealership structure in the US and was selling few cars. Through Curtis-Wright, which had business relationships with both companies, S-P paid around \$2 million for the rights to distribute M-B cars in the US through its dealerships. Each interested dealership had to invest around \$10,000 in parts and training to carry M-B cars along with maintaining 2-4 of them in stock. That is how a Golden Hawk and 190SL could appear on the same showroom floor



By 1965, the M-B brand had been well-established in North America and S-P was in a very major decline. At that point M-B repurchased the rights to sell their cars in this country for \$9 million.

There were about 30 cars at the Oak View event, fairly evenly split between Studebakers and Mercedes. The picture below shows Marc Noel and Joe Parsons with two cars that would have been sold at the same dealership.



Swinging with the Swade and Satin Band

Pictures by Rich Talich and Vicki Wilson

The Triangle Section had the great treat of a performance of the Swade and Satin Band at the Aviator Brewing Company in Fuquay Varina the evening of October 15th. The Aviator has a wide variety of beers as well as food and entertainment. Swade and Satin are members of the Triangle Section of MBCA and are also ae part of a group of 9 musicians and singers from the Raleigh area that not only provide great music for listening and dancing but also an evening of fine entertainment.



Business Meeting, Tech Session and lunch at Mercedes-Benz of Cary

The upstairs training room at the Mercedes-Benz dealership in Cary, NC provided an excellent venue for a Tech Session, Triangle Section business meeting and then lunch on November 19th. Our group of 40 participants was hosted by service manager Marty Hay with support from Justin Foote, Shop Foreman and Marvin Stancil, Detail Manager. The sunny North Carolina fall day was an encouragement for almost all of the attendees to drive their M-B vehicles to the event. There was an hour before the meeting for members to get together outside the dealership and discuss their newest acquisitions or how to get parts for cars that are still in progress.

The tech session covered such wide ranging topics as:

- Advantages and disadvantages of ceramic coatings for exterior paint
- Sources for ethanol-free fuel
- Training and ongoing schooling for people to become M-B service technicians
- Wood maintenance
- What it takes to be a M-B certified used car
- New features coming with the E-Class
- US certification of diesel engines is taking 6-10 months vs. 2 months for gasoline-powered cars
- In-line 6-cylinder engines will be coming back
- Lower octane engines may suffer carbon build-up over time as timing automatically adjusts to avoid knock

There was also a business meeting which had a summary of the activities of last year plus planning for 2017. The major event will be the weekend of May 4-6 with the Pinehurst Concours and several surrounding events. More about Pinehurst will be published in in January and the march newsletter.



Section Recognition

Several section members received well-deserved recognition at our two events this month for major contributions to the activities of our group. Tom Reedy (right) was named member of the Year for his work in a number of areas but particularly for the effort on the arrangements for the Pinehurst Concours. Tom became involved with Section activities right from the start of his membership. The book he made from photographs of cars at the Concours was one of the things that caused the organizers of the event to want to engage with our Section on activities. Tom handled the details of the arrangements for our Section's access to the veranda area of the resort for the concert last year. He supplied the images for the ad for our part of the Fairway Club for 2017 that will appear in *The Star* magazine.



As Section Vice President, Bill Faison has expended effort in a number of areas. Over the past couple of years, he has traveled to a number of national meets and board meetings both to meet organizers and officers and see how various events have been run. He worked to set up an activity proposal, budget and presentation for the national board on funding for an expanded 2017 Pinehurst Concours. He worked on the activities to make it a multi-day event. He did a workshop at the 2016 Pinehurst Concours on how to prepare your vehicle for Concours judging.

Finally our Section President, Steve Redwine, received an MBCA award for Eastern Region Officer of the Year. The award was presented by the Eastern Region Director, Jim Roberts, who drove up from Atlanta. Over the past two years Steve has improved communication to both current and new members of the Section through frequent Constant Contact communications. He has generated numerous ideas for fundraising and increased integration of the Section with area M-B dealers. Many more members have become involved with Section activities during Steve's presidency including a sub-section in the Wilmington area. It is not easy keeping a nomination for a regional award secret from the Section president, but a couple of members were stealthy enough to make it a complete surprise for Steve.



Holiday Lunch and Toys for Tots Fundraiser

The Triangle Section's holiday lunch and fundraiser for Toys for Tots was held again at the TPC Wakefield Country Club. Weather was sunny and calm so quite a few of the attendees drove their favorite vehicles to the event. The area under the Christmas tree was well supplied with contributed gifts. Attendees filled the room and enjoyed a great buffet lunch of chicken and braised beef along with all the other appropriate dishes. Several members even had multiple helpings of the chocolate bread pudding.



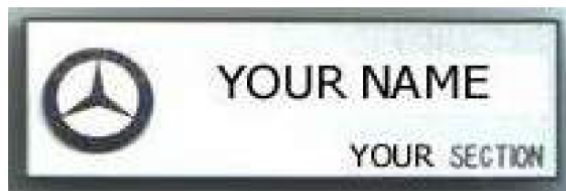
A silent auction of several items contributed by local M-B dealers added a cash contribution to the toys. M-B of Raleigh contributed a Yeti cooler for silent auction. There was a raffle of a really elegant 300SL pedal car that was contributed by M-B of Cary and won by Pam Redwine.

There was a brief business meeting after the lunch that approved a budget for 2017 and re-elected the officers on the first page of the newsletter.



MBCA Name Badges

You have seen members wearing them at MBCA events around the country. If you have not ordered your own, this is a great time to do so. Wear your name badge to events, so everyone will know your name, and when they wear theirs, you will know their name.



Name Badges are easy to order from the National Business Office in Colorado Springs. They are often shipped out the same week as ordered. Choose from Blue, Gold, or Silver; Magnetic, Safety Pin, or Tie Tack Clasp. You can put one, two or three lines of text, your name, your section, car model, etc.

Order yours online today. Priced at 2 for \$10 or 3 for \$11, contact for 4 or more, price includes shipping.

www.mbca.org/product/name-badge
800.637.2360

New Members

Samuel Addison	Boone
Wei Westwater	Apex
Courtney Parker	Manteo
Angelo Alcancia	Durham
Tyus Few	Roanoke Rapids
Karen Horne	Kitty Hawk
Ltanya Simmons	Leland
Thomas Blau III	Morrisville
Rebecca Reid	Cary
Len Sokolof	Ocean Isle Beach
Michael Whitehead	Cary

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 February, May, August, and November 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.

Newsletter Article Submission

There are a lot of things that make interesting articles for the TriStar News. It is helpful to other members to see write-ups and pictures for events that have significant Mercedes participation. Those articles allow them to decide whether they might want to participate in that event in the future. A full write-up or a few pictures and a little description are all it takes to get your article in the newsletter. Pictures and a history of your particular Mercedes can also make an interesting article. You can submit any of these topics to Rob VanDewoestine at rvandewoestine@nc.rr.com for publication.

5001 Swift Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27606