



THE NORTHWESTERN STAR

Vol. 38 • No. 1

Portland Section

January/February 2013

Welcome, New Members

Laszlo Bernat, Port Orford, OR
Kevin Hart, Albany, OR
Toni Hoppes, Hillsboro, OR
Paul & Dawn Rust, Kelso WA
Michelle Sosinski, Beaverton, OR

Upcoming Events

Jan 12th 10AM: Board Meeting, MB of Wilsonville

Jan 26th 12PM: Drive to Lemelson Winery for Tasting

Feb 16th: Do it Yourself at MBI Motors

March 2nd: Tour of Ron Tonkin's Car Collection

March 9th 10AM: Board Meeting, MB of Portland

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Wine Country Tour and Tasting



LEMELSON
VINEYARDS

Join us for a casual drive through wine country to our destination at Lemelson Vineyards. Oregon's Wine Country in Yamhill county offers plentiful scenic roads, and some of the finest Pinot noir wines in the world.

We will meet at McMenamins Rock Creek Tavern at 11:45AM for a no-host lunch. We will depart at 1PM for a scenic drive south through Washington County and into Yamhill county. A map will be provided. We will arrive at Lemelson Vineyards for a 2PM tasting and a possible tour of the winery. The tasting fee is \$10 per person, which will be credited back to you if you make a wine purchase of \$50. Club members travelling from the south can meet us at the winery at 2PM for the tasting. RSVP to allenstephens@frontier.com or at 503-708-0397.

Lemelson Vineyards was designed with two primary goals: to produce the highest quality Pinot noir from their vineyards and to create a winemaking environment that is both aesthetically beautiful and highly functional. The 21,000 square foot, gravity-flow facility features a unique mobile grape sorting platform and three levels to accommodate gravity based production of approximately 12,000 cases per year with extended barrel aging of Pinot noir. Completed in 2000, the winery is located at the foot of the Stermer Vineyards, three miles east of Carlton, Oregon

Next Event: Wine Country Tour and Tasting

Place: Meet at McMenamins Rock Creek Tavern, 10000 N.W. Old Cornelius Pass Rd., Hillsboro, OR 97124. We will tour to Lemelson Vineyard, 12020 Northeast Stag Hollow Road, Carlton, OR 97111. Maps will be provided.

Date: Saturday, January 26th

Time: Lunch at 11:45, Tour departs 1:00, Tasting at 2PM

Cost: No-host lunch, tasting fee is \$10.

President's Message

Welcome to 2013! I hope all of our members had a good 2012 and I wish you all a prosperous 2013. 2012 was a good year for the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, with membership increasing in the national club from 19,373 in October 2011 to 20,106 in November of 2012 (see the graphic on page 7 of this newsletter). This is due in part to a more robust marketing program by the national club, from social media campaigns to advertising in national publications.



At the local level, we are tracking our membership as well. In 2012 the Portland Section saw our membership increase from about 290 to 310 members. Our approach is to focus on membership retention as well as recruiting new members by planning innovative events that will resonate with different people in our club.

The Portland Section Board took the decision to combine printing the Jan/Feb and Nov/Dec newsletters in order to save costs and redirect those funds back to events for our members. In 2013 we are planning some new events that I am sure you will like. In March, we have planned an exclusive tour of Ron Tonkin's Car collection. This will be a very special event, and unfortunately registration is limited due to space constraints in the garage where the collection is stored. Registration will open on our web site on February 1st.

In April we are working to invite Pierre Hedary, columnist from *The Star* magazine, to come to Portland and give a technical presentation on transistorized ignition systems and fuel injection systems for Mercedes-Benz built from 1969 to 1978. This event will be discussed at our January board meeting.

In May, we have a tour of the LeMay—America's Car Museum in Tacoma, WA, scheduled with the Seattle Section of MBCA. We are also planning a Car Detailing event with our new advertiser, Gallagher Auto Spa.

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the W113 "Pagoda" SL, we are in dialogue with Paul Bracq, who headed the design studios at Daimler-Benz from '57 to '67, to travel from France to Portland to deliver a presentation on automotive design and his career with Mercedes and BMW. This would be in conjunction with the Forest Grove Concours. There are many details to sort out before this is confirmed, so watch this space.

If you would like to give input on these events, please attend our board meeting on January 12th. We are always looking for your opinion on club activities.

This month, I hope you can join me for a scenic tour to Yamhill Country and the Lemelson Vineyard for a wine tasting and tour. Even in January, there are many opportunities to have fun in your Mercedes. I'll see you there!



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The **Northwestern Star** is the official publication of the Portland Section, Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc., and is provided solely for the benefit of its members. Opinions are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the publisher or MBCA, Inc.

We encourage submissions—articles, photos—from our members. Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month, care of the editor. We reserve the right to edit or refuse submissions and/or advertising.

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Do It Yourself at MBI on February 16th

It's that time of the year again for your spring car maintenance. Corbin Lancaster, owner of MBI Motors, along with his technical staff and parts department will be providing their lifts and decades of experience for our annual Do It Yourself Event on February 16th from 9AM to 2PM.

This is your chance to inspect under your car, change fluids, replace the fuel filter, check brake pads or other repairs you don't have room or equipment to do at home. You can also have one of MBI's certified technicians check for normal wear items with preventive maintenance and safety in mind. Our members will have access to the car lifts, as well as the parts department and other shop equipment.

You can also meet the owners of MBI, tour the shop, and learn about their services. The Portland Section will provide coffee and bagels in the morning, and we are working on lunch options.

The cost for all of this is only \$10 per car, payable to MBCA Portland Section at the registration table. If you have all your maintenance up to date, you may want to come anyway to help out your fellow members. It is a great time to meet other members and to talk with the MBI staff.

Pre-registration is required to make this technical DIY event run smoothly and get the maximum number of members through the shop in the allotted time. Greg Carlson, the event chair needs to know what type of work you're panning on doing. Please call Greg Carlson, event chair, at 503-614-8412 or e-mail dvncrlsn@aol.com to RSVP and let him know what you plan on doing. Be prepared to enjoy the day while taking care of your Mercedes-Benz.

Bring your classic, or a newer Mercedes-Benz to MBI Motors for our DIY Event.



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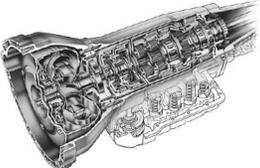
Board Meeting Jan. 12th



The Portland Section Board Meeting on January 12th at 10AM will be at **Mercedes-Benz of Wilsonville** at 25035 SW Parkway Avenue, Wilsonville, OR 97070. The meeting room is on the second floor. We invite all members to attend a board meeting to provide suggestions on how we can improve the club and provide ideas for upcoming events.

Mercedes-Benz of Wilsonville has a great selection of new and pre-owned Mercedes-Benz vehicles for sale in their state-of-the-art facility. The Portland Section board thanks the staff at Mercedes-Benz of Wilsonville for hosting us. The next Board Meeting is **Saturday, January 12th from 10AM to Noon.**

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NW Star Awarded Best Newsletter in MBCA

At the fall National Board meeting of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, the Northwestern Star was recognized as the *Best Printed Newsletter* among 89 sections in MBCA for 2012. I presented the official trophy to Tom Lichy, newsletter editor during 2012, in December.

-Allen Stephens



Tour Ron Tonkin's Car Collection March 2nd

Join us for a tour of a very special automobile collection on March 2nd. We will see the collection of Ron Tonkin, the legendary local car dealer and owner of the oldest Ferrari dealership in the United States.

Board Member Jerry Sorenson has arranged a tour, with the agreement that we will limit the tour to a maximum of 25 members due to space constraints in the garage where the cars are stored. Also, members and guests must be at least 18 years of age. Registration will open February 1st at <http://portland.mbca.org>, and an e-mail blast will be sent to our members with details on when the on-line registration opens for this event.

Mr. Tonkin was the first Ferrari dealer in the US and forged a friendship with Enzo Ferrari himself. His passion for cars shows in his collection which is made up mainly of Italian cars, with Ferrari being the dominant marque. There are very few places in the world where you will see an ultra-rare Ferrari 288GTO, an F40 and an F50 lined up in a row. You will also see examples from Lamborghini, Alfa Romeo, Jaguar, Chevrolet (Corvettes) and even a DeLorean.

Don't miss this special event! More details are coming via an e-mail and on <http://portland.mbca.org>. If you are not on our e-mail list, see page 7.



Ron Tonkin's mouth-watering car collection is made up of mostly Italian cars, with a large mix of Ferraris.



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Not a Member?

Become a club member by completing the form below and submitting your application by mail, by using this QR code on your smart phone, or by applying on-line at MBCA.org

MBCA Membership Application

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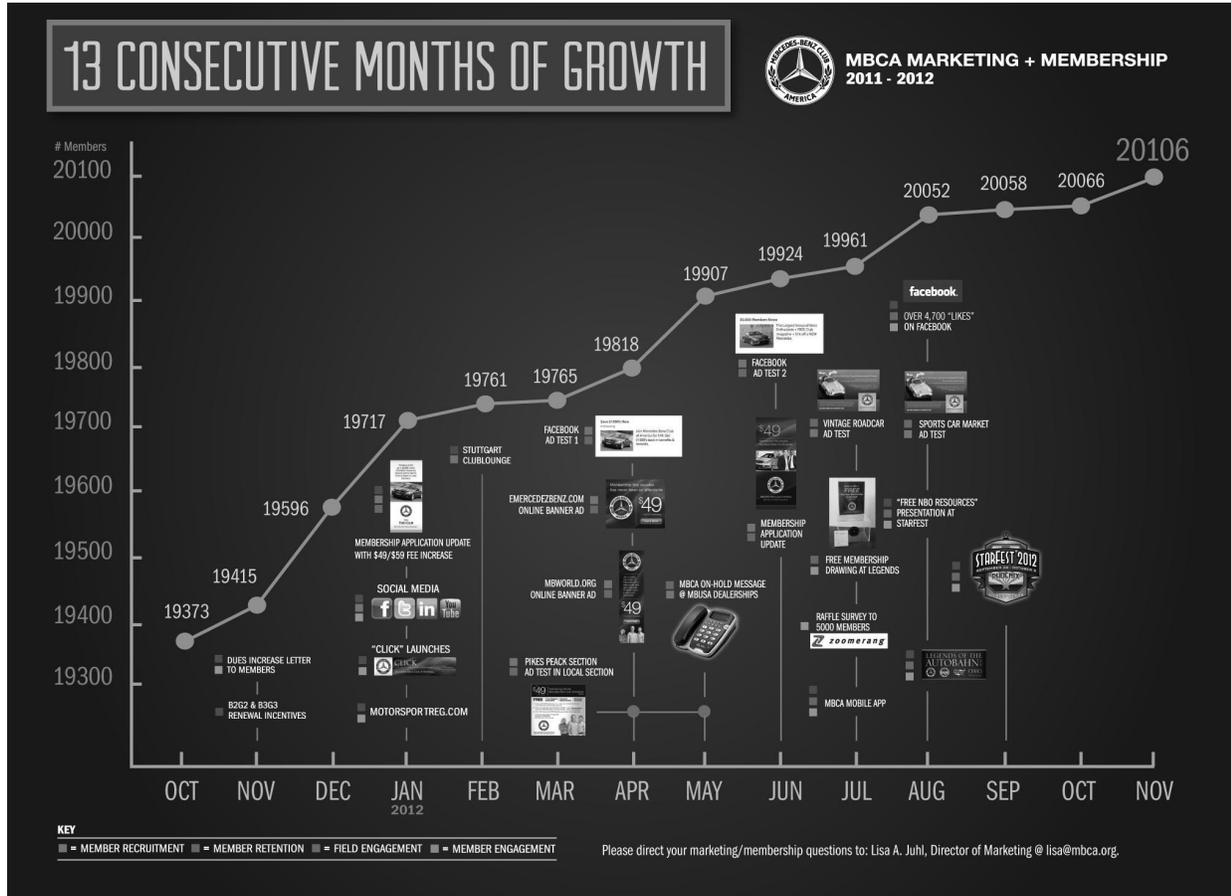
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Membership in MBCA Grows to Over 20,000



NW Star Combining Jan and Feb Issues

Starting with this issue, the Northwestern Star will combine January and February issues, and November and December issues. We are combining the newsletters to save printing costs, but we will continue to communicate to our members by e-mail, our web site at <http://portland.mbca.org> and on our Facebook page.

The board is looking at ways to reduce expenses, but also add value back to our members by spending more on events. The rationale is that the events slow down in the winter months, and it does not make sense to publish monthly during those times. The Seattle Section publishes their newsletter bi-monthly.

To receive event updates by e-mail, make sure your e-mail address on file with the MBCA National Business Office. Your e-mail address on file with MBCA is the address we use to send event updates to our Section members. Stay in the loop!

To update your MBCA profile:

1. Go to www.mbca.org
2. Click 'log in' in upper right
3. If you don't have an account, click on 'Create new account'
4. Once you log in, you'll see your profile information
5. Under 'My Profile' click on 'Edit My Profile'
6. Add your e-mail address in the 'Member e-mail address' field



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Spotlight: Tommy Wilson Motor Co.

Greetings to fellow members, I hope the Holidays were good for everyone. I intend on starting a series of articles on each of our advertisers. I hope to do this on a monthly basis, that may not happen but you will see it with frequency. I am picking advertisers at random to write about. My first "spotlight" is on Tommy Wilson Motor Company located at 9215 SW Canyon Road. Tommy Wilson Sr. has been in the car business for many years, he ventured out on his own as Tommy Wilson Motor Co. in July of 1995. Initially Tommy's business was primarily involved in the leasing of cars and brokering of cars (i.e. finding what someone asked for at a dealer only auction). I spoke with Tommy Wilson Jr. about their business as it is today. 95% of their business is in the sale of automobiles while 5% is the leasing of automobiles. They try to maintain approximately 50 cars in their inventory.

Tommy Wilson Motors was awarded the 2012 Quality Dealer of the Year award by the Oregon Independent Auto Dealers Association. I can tell you from personal experience that this is an award they received because they truly earned it. He was the subject of a story on Channel 8 News last summer for winning this award, there is a link to it on their website which is www.tommywilsonmotorco.com My wife and I each bought our Mercedes from Tommy Sr. He was very pleasant to deal with and followed up after the sale.

Their inventory as it is today consists of anything from entry level autos, trucks, SUVs, sports cars and luxury cars. If they don't have it they can find it for you, whether it is that S Class or a Civic. This dealership tries to keep at least 2 Mercedes in stock at all times, Tommy Wilson Jr.'s favorite MB was a personal car of his which was a 1994 E320. He also has a soft spot for the S Class series. If you visit this dealership please let them know you saw their ad in the newsletter. -Sam Chinakos



Tommy Wilson Jr. His father started the business in 1995.



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Major Changes Coming to 2014 E Class

With the rapid pace of technology, Mercedes-Benz says it no longer can rely on relatively minor mid-cycle changes for key models. So the E-class freshening planned for next year will be more extensive than usual, with major sheet metal and interior changes, said Steve Cannon, CEO of Mercedes-Benz USA.

The 2014 E-class family, including a sedan, station wagon, coupe and convertible, will go on sale this summer. Cannon said the luxury market is changing because buyer "expectations are being driven by consumer electronics, and its rapid pace of new product introductions. "The ability to just keep the product going for seven years with just minor tweaks is a strategy we have gone away from," he said.

The current E class, which debuted in 2009, competes with the BMW 5 series and the Audi A6.

Cannon also said a redesigned S-class sedan will arrive next fall with major interior and exterior changes. He said the 2014 S class will have a host of technological features, including two cameras in the front that can adjust suspension settings. It will also have a rear camera that can sense an impending rear crash and make adjustments to safety systems. -From MBUSA



The 2014 Mercedes-Benz E-Class is coming, and it's had a lot more work done than just a little plastic surgery. Four years into the current model's lifecycle, the changes begin with the unusual step of a serious sheetmetal rearrangement: gone are the four headlights we've seen on the segment leader for 17 years, and gone are the light-relief pontoons over the rear wheels. In front, the one-piece headlights contain LED signatures that 'break' them into two segments, but the main lighting functions have been consolidated into a single lens. Full LED headlights will be available for the first time.



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Mercedes-Benz Ignition Locks and Keys

Mercedes-Benz ignition locks and keys used up through the 90s are among the best in the industry. They last a long time, are hard to pick, tough to crack and very difficult to drill out.

As good as these locks are, they do not age gracefully. Typically, they just fail and seemingly leave you stranded. This, however, is not always the case. These locks do provide ample warning of imminent failure. The unfortunate part is that the failure is imminent.

These locks provide a warning that many times goes unheeded. Owners think a little graphite or dry lube will fix the problem. They are surprised when it doesn't. There are three main parts to these locks. First is the lock cylinder that we see every time we insert the key. Second is the lock itself that is actuated by rotating the cylinder. Third is the "ignition" switch and yes, a diesel has a similar switch otherwise you would have to have a separate button for the starter like in the olden days.

Older MBs came new with keys made from hardened steel. After many years of use, the original key wears to the extent that the ignition lock cylinder no longer turns easily. Some owners then go to a local locksmith to have a new key made. Such keys are usually made of mild (soft) steel or brass, not Laser cut from hardened steel as MB original keys. Such "soft" keys may work the cylinder smoothly at first, but after a short time, particles of metal flake off the soft metal and eventually cause jamming of the tumblers inside the cylinder. When this happens, the cylinder can no longer be turned and the car cannot be started.

The only way the cylinder can be removed for replacement is to move the lock to Position 1 (the first detent) and use a tool to remove the cylinder. If the cylinder cannot be turned to position 1 to allow removal of the cylinder, the cylinder must be drilled out at great expense and possible damage to the steering lock mechanism.

Problems with these locks manifest themselves in dollar costs starting at less than \$20 for a new key followed by \$75 or so for a new cylinder plus \$100 or so for installation, up to \$1,500 when you simply refuse to believe you are going to have to spend a couple hundred bucks to have that cylinder changed.

The best solution, once the problem begins, would be to visit the nearest Mercedes dealership, with the full vehicle identification number (VIN) at hand, copy of your title, registration and drivers license (Dealers have to verify you are the owner & car is not stolen) to order a replacement tumbler, etc, to ensure same (original) vehicle key operation. If this is not done, one can end-up with a separate key for the



ignition and separate key for door/trunk locks. Perhaps it would also be a good time to order new set of keys, with the ignition lock or tumbler assembly replacement procedure.

I just replaced the tumbler on my 560SEC, ordered a new tumbler and key from Larson Mercedes-Benz. Installed at independent MB facility in Bremerton. When they removed the tumbler, it came out in two pieces. Was fortunate that it did not break before it was to be replaced. If your classic Mercedes key is getting worn or hard to remove, seriously consider replacing the cylinder/tumbler with a new one.

—Jim Houk, Seattle Section

Technical Resource:

Check www.mercedessource.com link <http://www.mercedessource.com/node/7779> for a DIY solution by Kent Bergsma, Seattle Section member.



Classified Ads

Ads run for one issue and are placed free of charge for MBCA members. Non-club members are charged \$10 per ad, \$20 with picture. The submission deadline is the 15th of the month. To place an ad contact the Newsletter Editor.

Becker Grand Prix radio 2132 w/10 & 6 CD Becker Silverstone changer(s). \$250.00



Just installed the original Becker Mexico radio in my 350SL. It replaced the unit for sale. This unit comes with the original manual with the code; the CD unit (ten cd) was serviced by Becker last year. Included is a new 6 cd unit that was acquired as a backup for 10 cd unit. Included are all the cables (cd to head unit) and installation instructions. This a great upgrade to your classic Mercedes. Also have a rear 107 parcel shelf with Kenwood speakers.

Contact Jim Houk – jth@telebyte.com; 360-479-6650 (h) 360-698-2464 (o)

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2. The other car cover fits Mercedes 500SL 1990-93 but likely fits other years of the SL. Check the Griot's Web site. The original price was \$380+ and is blue in color. My price is firm at \$150.

I also have a new Griot's Garage Custom Dustop® Car Cover that fits the Mercedes-Benz CLK Coupe, but may fit other years. Check the Griot's website to see if it fits your car. The original price was \$280+ and is tan in color. My price is firm at \$125.

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Portland Section Schedule of Events

January 12: Board Meeting, Mercedes-Benz of Wilsonville, 10AM

January 26: Wine Country Tour and Tasting, meet at McMenamins Cornelius Pass Roadhouse, no-host lunch, depart 1PM

February 16: Do it Yourself at MBI Motors, 9AM-2PM. See page 3 for details.

March 2: Tour of Ron Tonkin's Car Collection, time TBA. See page 5 for info.

March 9: Board Meeting, Mercedes-Benz of Portland, 10AM

March event: Open House at the new Mercedes-Benz of Beaverton. Date TBA.

April event: Tech Event on Mercedes-Benz ignition and fuel injection. Date TBA.

May 4 and 5: Tour to LeMay Museum and Griot's HQ, with Seattle Section

May 11: Board Meeting, Mercedes-Benz of Wilsonville, 10AM

May event: Auto detailing event at Gallagher Auto Spa, date TBA.

Visit our web site for the most up-to-date event information: <http://portland.mbca.org>