



Vol. 38 • No. 11

Portland Section

November/December 2013

### Welcome, New Members

Andreas Achhammer, Tigard  
Jim Barrat, Camas WA  
Rod Hoover, Vancouver WA  
Charles Hughes, Portland OR  
Perry Johnson, Portland OR  
William Purnell, Salem OR

### Upcoming Events

**Nov. 17th:** Annual General Meeting, Saylor's, 5:30PM

**Dec. 7th:** CLA and S-Class Launch Event, 1-4PM, Mercedes-Benz of Beaverton

January Events TBD

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## CLA and S-Class Launch Event



By now you have seen pictures of the all-new Mercedes-Benz CLA and S-Class models. Join the Portland Section for an exclusive event where you can touch, feel and even drive them in a relaxed setting. Mercedes-Benz of Beaverton is hosting an exclusive CLA and S-Class launch event for our members on Saturday, December 7th from 1PM to 4PM.

You'll learn about the design and architecture of the CLA-Class, the first Mercedes-Benz automobile to have front wheel drive in the US. Plus, several CLA models will be available for demonstration.

The redesigned 2014 S-Class is breaking new ground with its advanced safety technologies and autonomous driving ability--yes, the new 2014 Mercedes-Benz S Class will be the first production vehicle that will be able to drive itself (in certain situations).

Learn about these exciting new models, meet fellow club members, and enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres in the showroom. RSVP for this event by e-mailing Allen Stephens, club president, at [allen.c.stephens@gmail.com](mailto:allen.c.stephens@gmail.com).

### Next Event: CLA and S-Class Launch Event

**Place:** Mercedes-Benz of Beaverton

**Date:** Saturday, December 7th

**Time:** 1:00 to 4:00PM

**Cost:** None

**Registration:** RSVP to Allen Stephens @ [allen.c.stephens@gmail.com](mailto:allen.c.stephens@gmail.com)

# President's Message

This is my last message as President of the Portland Section of MBCA. Although my term is coming to an end, I hope to continue to serve on the Board of



Directors of our club and assist with event planning. It has been an honor for me to serve as your President and lead the section into new areas. Our Portland Section membership numbers have been increasing, and we have staged some innovative events over the last two years. We still face many challenges in attracting new members and finding volunteers to plan activities and keep the club running. If you are interested in helping plan events in 2014, or to help publish this newsletter, please contact me directly.

Our Board of Directors is in the process of creating our 2014 Events Calendar for the Portland Section. We hope to schedule more driving events, hopefully some informal 'Arrive and Drive' type events. I am talking with Pete Lesler about coming to Portland to teach a Concours judging school. This is an area where we need to train the next generation of car enthusiasts to appreciate our cars.

On December 7th, please join us for a exclusive CLA and S-Class launch event at Mercedes-Benz of Beaverton from 1PM to 4PM. There will be a couple of new CLA models available for our group to test drive. With the CLA, Mercedes-Benz is breaking new ground to attract a younger generation of buyers. It's a great looking automobile and I cant wait to get behind the wheel. Also, we will have a new 2014 S-Class in the showroom for us to check out. We will get a briefing on the advanced technologies of this vehicle. I don't think we will have a chance to drive one, but we will see what the dealership has available. Plus our group can enjoy wine and Hors d'Oeuvres from the people behind the Northwest Food and Wine festival. Space is limited for this event, so please RSVP to me as soon as possible!

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your President and I hope to see you on the road sometime!



## Mercedes-Benz Club Of America, Portland Section

### Officers:

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Allen Stephens.....503-708-0397  
allen.c.stephens@gmail.com

#### Vice President

Sam Chinakos.....360-952-2414  
Samuel.Chinakos@gmail.com

#### Secretary/Treasurer

Hal Harper.....503-208-2052  
hal.harper@comcast.net

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stacy@stacyrollins.com

Jerry Sorenson (2013) .....541-617-9297  
jerrys@q.com

Mike Spicer (2014) .....503-550-1403  
mike\_p\_spicer@hotmail.com

Ron Woodruff (2013).....503-708-8151  
rbwgroup1@yahoo.com

Ellen Theodorson (2015).....503-704-6622  
ellentheodorson@yahoo.com

Kenneth Holtan (2015).....Phone TBD  
kennethholtan@comcast.net

#### Northwest Regional Director:

Barry Patchett.....250-246-5329  
bmpatchett@shaw.ca

#### Newsletter Editor/Advertising:

Allen Stephens (acting).....503-708-0397  
allen.c.stephens@gmail.com

#### Portland Section Webmaster:

Len Wolford.....206-384-7868  
2.0tdipower@gmail.com

#### Membership:

Pam Burbach.....503-236-1737  
burbs5@aol.com

#### Historian:

Jim Thompson.....503-633-2366  
jim814817@hotmail.com

#### Past President:

Rus Eppler.....503-720-3637

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We encourage submissions, articles and 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. Copyright © MBCA Portland Section. All rights reserved.

# Member Milestones at Annual General Meeting



After a year of great events, it was time to celebrate at our Annual General Meeting on November 17th and recognize our members who have reached Membership Milestone with MBCA. We presented 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 year membership pins to those in attendance.

The following members were eligible to receive membership pins:

## 5 Years:

- John Ackermann
- Richard Bader
- Eric Budden
- Samuel Chinakos
- Cameron Foroud
- Gary Hays
- Stu MacDonald
- Paul Nasse
- Dave Siegner
- Carl Vollmer

## 10 Years:

- Anthony Belluschi
- Robert Dodge
- John Fread
- William McDonald
- Ben Shuford
- Chuck Tontz

## 20 Years:

- James Kauth
- Gary Long
- Claude Thomas
- Neil Van Aelst

## 30 Years:

- Stephen Dudley
- Sig Raethke
- John Weisel

## 15 Years:

- Mike Branan
- Philip Grisham
- Patrick Mc Connell
- David Norton
- Mike Spicer
- Christian Stehr
- Victor Wandtke

## 25 Years:

- Gabriel Boenzli
- Dee Byrd
- Pedro Garcia
- Martin Rall
- Roger Rollins

## 35 Years:

- Lynn Nelson

***If you missed the Annual General Meeting and your name is on this list, contact Allen Stephens, Section President, to receive your membership pin.***

***Thank You for your continued membership!***

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## Board Meeting Nov. 16th

The next Portland Section Board Meeting is Nov. 16th, at 10AM at **Mercedes-Benz of Portland** located at 1605 SW Naito Parkway, Portland, 97201. 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.

Edward Shyduik  
Joe Shyduik  
Lou Shyduik  
Dottie Shyduik



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# Recap: Poker Rallye and Wine Tasting

Our Wine Country Drive and Poker Rallye on October 12th brought out a great mix of cars to explore twisty roads and taste some of the finest locally-produced wine. Our group met at the Whole Foods market in Tualatin, received our first playing card, and left promptly at 10:30AM. We climbed through the hills north of Sherwood, following some of the lesser known roads. The bright orange and red fall colors blazed by in the sunlight as we zipped up Highway 219. We stopped at Bald Peak State Park, located under tall fir trees, where Barry Corno provided three more playing cards. Our cars then dove down over the back side of Bald Peak onto NW Spring Hill road for a scenic route past some of the wineries in Yamhill County. We arrived at Abbey Road Farm, where Jim Thompson provided the last playing card, giving each car a total of five cards.

We enjoyed wine from Dobbles Family Estate, a local producer of Pinot Noir, Syrah, and a variety of whites and dessert wines. Patricia Dobbles poured wine and answered questions from our group. Many of us drove home with a couple of bottles of excellent wine from Dobbles Family Estate.

The prize for the Best Poker Hand was awarded to Michael Ansorge, who was rewarded with a drink tumbler courtesy of Mercedes-Benz. Oldest car was awarded to Justin Englund for his beautiful 1960 190b 'Ponton' sedan. Newest members on the tour were Perry and Heather Johnson, who drove their recently purchased white E350 BlueTec sedan. Farthest Driven was awarded to Byron and Sandy Pace who journeyed from Salem for our event.

Other Portland Section members joining us on the Poker Rallye were Ron Hass and his wife, Dick Matson, Harry Morgan, and Ken Valentine. Thank you to Jim Thompson for helping to plan this event. Join us next year for another scenic drive to taste some of the regions best wine!



Above: Our group stopped at Bald Peak State Park to receive playing cards and to admire our cars.  
Below: The line up of MBs at Abbey Road Farm.



Above: Perry and Heather Johnson were the newest members of Portland MBCA on the Poker Rallye.

Left: 1960 190b owned by Justin Englund was awarded oldest car on the tour.

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## Not a Member? Join MBCA today!

### MBCA Membership Application

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#### INTEREST(S): (check as many as you like)

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 car care     technical     The Star

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You can also join online at [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org) or telephone us at (800) 637-2360 8-5 PM (Mountain Time)

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*To contribute to the MBCA Educational Foundation, please send (separate) check made payable to MBCAEF, 1907 Lelaray St., Colorado Springs, CO 80909.*

*MBCAEF, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, will furnish you with a receipt for your tax-deductible donation.*

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# Brake Tech Article: What's Stopping You?

Something is wrong. Each time you press your brake pedal, a light illuminates on the dash. It shows a circle with dashed lines on the left and right. What does that mean and why does the light go out when you let off the brake pedal? That light is the Mercedes way of telling you your brake pads are toast. To prevent you from running your pads all of the way down to metal, Mercedes puts a "sensor" in one of the pads at one, two, or all four wheels, depending on the model. The sensor is little more than a metal contact that sticks out a few millimeters more than the metal backing of the brake pad. The contact, in normal operation, does absolutely nothing. When the brake pads get worn so thin that the sensor can touch the rotor when the brakes are applied, it completes the circuit and lights the light on the dash, since the rotor is electrically grounded.

If you choose to do the work yourself, inspect your brakes. Here are a few things to consider, aside from the replacement procedure in your service manual. Are the rotors grooved? Warped? Warped rotors will cause a shimmy in the steering only when braking. Are they excessively worn? There will be a ridge along the outside edge of the rotor, between the braking surface and the outer edge, that will show you how thick the rotor used to be. You can get fancy and measure the thickness of the rotor with a disc brake rotor micrometer to see if it is anywhere near the minimum thickness spec. that will be marked on the rotor, or just do what I do. If in doubt, throw it out. Mercedes was wise enough to make the brake rotor separate from the hub, which makes the rotors inexpensive to replace. That is, unless your car is an AMG. Parts dealers are very proud of AMG rotors and charge accordingly. If you buy new rotors and they arrive with a protective coating, remove it from the braking surface, unless directed not to by the manufacturer. It is becoming more common for manufacturers to use protective coatings that do not need to be removed prior to installation.

When it comes to the brake pads, a little research goes a long way. Some create more brake dust than others, and some create more rotor wear than others.



The ceramic VS semi-metallic argument is one that never seems to get settled. Ceramic pads are typically more expensive, last longer, create less visible brake dust on the rims, but are said to wear out rotors faster than their semi-metallic counterparts. The semi-metallic pads are said to have the best stopping power straight across the board, regardless of environment in normal driving situations. Some pads come from the manufacturer with the anti-squeal backing already bonded to the back of the pad and the sensor already in place. I like those. It makes my job easier and eliminates the possibility of breaking the sensor while trying to gently tap it into a hole in the friction material on some models. Yes, I have proven that it is possible to break a new sensor. It's a great way to bring a simple brake job to a screeching halt. One last thing to mention, since your manual probably won't cover it: When pushing the brake pistons back into the calipers loosen the cap on your master cylinder and wrap it in rags.



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## Brake Tech Article, continued

As the pistons are pushed back into their bore, it will force brake fluid back up into the master cylinder. If you have been keeping your brake fluid topped off as the brake pads wore, it is likely that pushing the brake caliper pistons back into the bore will cause your brake master cylinder reservoir to overflow.

You can eliminate the overflow and get the level back down to the full mark with something similar to a clean turkey baster to extract the excess fluid from the reservoir. Don't get brake fluid on your paint. If you do, clean it up immediately. Brake fluid makes a pretty effective paint remover.

It all comes down to this: Your safety depends on the condition of your brake system, so go ahead and check them out. What's stopping you? -Jerry Cole, Seattle Section Technical Advisor



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## Next E-Class to Feature Straight-Six Engine



Many automakers have abandoned straight-six engines in favor of more compact V-6 designs in order to improve packaging and pedestrian safety, but a few automakers are fighting the trend. The key reason is the development of modular engines, where, for example, three-, four- and six-cylinder engines can share a common design and can all be built on a single production line.

Now Autocar is reporting that Mercedes will launch a new engine family with three-, four- and six-cylinder units all sharing a common design. This means the Three Pointed Star will once again have a straight-six engine in its cars, something not seen since the 1990s.

The new straight-six engine is expected to debut in the next-generation E-Class, due in 2016. The engine will then be offered in the next-generation C-Class, as part of the car's mid-cycle update. Overseas, some Mercedes models will feature a three-cylinder version of this engine, though here in the U.S., Mercedes' smallest engine is expected to remain a four-cylinder unit.

In a twist, Aston Martin has previously been reported to be investigating the use of a straight-six engine in some of its future models and the links between the British brand and Mercedes could mean some joint engine development.

Also according to Autocar, Mercedes has several other new technologies in the works. These are said to include an upgraded autonomous driving system with an overtaking function, a plug-in hybrid version of the next-generation C-Class and a new nine-speed AMG SPEEDSHIFT automatic transmission. Note, Mercedes has already unveiled a nine-speed automatic for its non-AMG models. The first Mercedes cars in the U.S. with the nine-speed 'box will arrive for the 2015 model year.

-From MotorAuthority

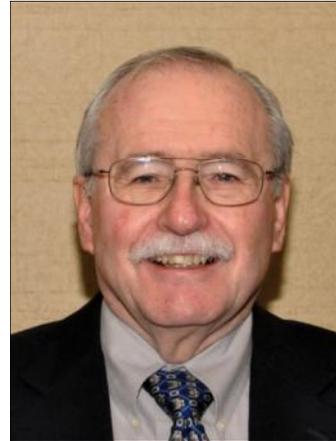
# Tech Session with George Murphy in Seattle 11/23

Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 23rd as we host George Murphy and Kent Bergsma for a jam-packed day of technical information and lively Q&A on your favorite Mercedes-Benz model. We will meet at 10AM at the all new **Mercedes-Benz of Seattle** dealership on Airport Way South in their 2nd floor classroom.

George is the long time technical contributor to the Star magazine and has written hundreds of articles. He is also the National Technical Director of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America. He will cover various subjects including:

- How to buy an older Mercedes-Benz
- Internet resources for the Do-It-Yourselfers
- Tire selections for your Mercedes
- The future with your electronic Mercedes-Benz
- Maintenance and repair on your Mercedes and various other subjects and lively question and answer sessions.

Kent is the founder and technical genius behind Mercedes Source (at <https://mercedessource.com>) in Bellingham. Mercedes Source is the number one source for Mercedes specialty repair kits, tools and repair information that will allow you to repair your older Benz yourself. They focus on providing solutions to the most common technical problems that owners face on the W110 111 108 109 114 115 107 116 123 201 and 124 chassis.



*Photo: George Murphy is the National Technical Director of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America.*

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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.

## 1986 300E



Blue exterior, with blue leather interior. 193K original miles. Good condition, never in an accident. 2nd owner, owned for over 20 years, have service records going back to 1992. Always garaged. Not perfect but a nice W124. \$3200. Contact Allen Stephens, 503-708-0397 or [allen.c.stephens@gmail.com](mailto:allen.c.stephens@gmail.com)

## 1988 560SL



186,090 miles. Gold exterior, top side clear coat imperfect. Beige leather in good shape, no holes. Clean interior. This is a well cared for garage kept car and I welcome any inspections. Runs great, impressive power with good mileage. Newer chrome wheels and convertible top. Hard top dolly, original tool kit and first aid box intact. Heat/ AC not working. \$5,500.00 Dave 503 484 3280

## 1970 280SL



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## Portland Section Schedule of Events

### 2014 Events To Be Determined

**Oct 12th:** Wine Country Poker Rallye to  
Abbey Road Farm, 10AM

**Nov 16th:** Board Meeting, Mercedes-Benz of  
Portland, 10AM.

**Nov 17th:** Annual General Meeting, Sayler's  
Old Country Kitchen, 5:30PM

**Dec 7th:** Mercedes-Benz CLA and S-Class  
launch event, 104PM, MB of Beaverton.

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