



THE NORTHWESTERN STAR

VOL. 36 | NO. 6

PORTLAND SECTION

JUNE, 2012

Welcome, New Members

June Holmes – CLK 500
Bend

Walter Johnson
Portland

James Mason – SLK 350
Canby

Wilfred Oberdick
Grants Pass

+ 12 renewing members

Upcoming Events

Jun 2 Winery tour

Jun 23 Brown Maloney Tour

Jul 7–8 Historic Races

July 15 Concours

July 21 Board Meeting

Aug 17 Legends of the Autobahn

Sept 15 Oregon Festival of Cars

Sept 28 StarFest

Oct 13 Mt Adams Rally

Full Event Calendar on page 12

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Sunday, July 15th

Forest Grove Concours d'Elegance to Celebrate Mercedes-Benz

Sixty years of the Mercedes-Benz SL will be on display at the 40th Forest Grove Concours d'Elegance on Sunday July 15th. From the iconic 1952 300SL "Gullwing" coupe that won at Le Mans, to the all-new 2013 Mercedes-Benz SL550, this event will feature the stars of Mercedes history. As an MBCA Northwest Regional event, club members are invited to enter their Mercedes for judging, or for display in the MBCA Display class.

The 1952 300SL coupe entered by Bruce and Jolene McCaw is the honored centerpiece. This W194 won the 24 hours of Le Mans in 1952 and inspired every generation of the SL. Mercedes club members are invited to an exclusive "behind the ropes" tour of the '52 300SL and a Q&A with Hans Wurl, the caretaker of Bruce's collection. Meet us at the MBCA tent in the Mercedes Club Display area at 10AM.



The Forest Grove Concours d'Elegance features over three hundred classic cars on the Pacific University Campus. Entrants are invited to drive the Vineyard and Lake Tour and join the Evening of Elegance dinner on Saturday, July 14th. To enter your Mercedes, register at the Forest Grove Concours d'Elegance web site at www.forestgroveconcours.org. For more details, see the ad on page 8.



Next Event: Wine Tasting & Drive

Place: Cul-de-sac adjacent to Mercedes-Benz of Wilsonville

Date: Saturday, June 2

Time: Meet 9:30 AM; depart 10:00 AM

Cost: \$7 per person

Details in May edition; full Events Calendar on page 16

President's Message

Inclusive. Expertise. Enjoyment.

Those are three of the personality attributes of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America. Inclusive is defined as having participation for everyone, and appealing to the interests of current and future members. A 2011 national survey of MBCA members asked, "What is missing from your overall club experience?" Some comments were, "Didn't feel welcome at last event," "Cliques – club officers are not friendly to newer members," and "I think the club has forgotten how to appeal to first time members." One of the biggest issues with MBCA and other car clubs nationwide is retention of members. According to the MBCA National Business Office, 300 to 350 new members join MBCA each month. Meanwhile, our total membership has been flat – members are walking out the back door by not renewing as quickly as new members are joining. If we were better at integrating new members, being inclusive, would our membership retention improve?



In the Portland Section, we have improved the quality of our events over the last couple of years. We have talented, dedicated Section Officers and Board Members who bring decades of experience. But I think we can do more to make new (and existing) members feel welcome. I'll be working with our membership chair to personally welcome new members with a phone call to learn more about their car and what they need from the club. We will also be contacting members who have expiring memberships in the coming months with a reminder to renew. At our events, I try to make contact with everyone at the event. If you are an existing member of the club, try not to huddle in the corner with friends – make an effort to reach out and get to know newer members. We will strive for more recognition of newer members – I'd like to propose a "new member picnic" at some point on our calendar. If you have ideas on how we can be more inclusive and welcoming, contact me at allenstephens@frontier.com or 503-708-0397.

On the topic of MBCA Membership, we received good news from the National Business Office that for the

See "President," page 5



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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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Editor's column

Buzzkill

My first drive of a Mercedes-Benz was a calamity. I didn't drive one again for almost thirty years.

It was the summer of 1983. As a reward for having graduated the sixth grade, my daughter was our guest on a trip to Europe. None of us had ever left the West Coast. This was to be an adventure!

Amsterdam was our first stop; we would be staying there for most of a week. Being of a West-Coast mentality, I envisioned the need for a car. A car! In Europe! *Autobahns!!*

This was my opportunity to experience the apex of automotive engineering. The car I'd always wanted to drive. From six thousand miles away, I rented a Mercedes-Benz.

At the Amsterdam airport cabs were easy to find. There were scores of them at the curb.

And most of them were Mercedes.

The apex of automotive engineering? A cab?? *Buzzkill!!*

We soldiered on. Picked up the rental Mercedes. A 190, as I recall. Just like the cabs.

There were no autobahns in Holland, but there were freeways with lax limits, and there I put the pedal to the medal. The speedometer read 150 when I achieved what I thought was escape velocity. Of course, the speedometer measured velocity in kilometers per hour and I had no idea what that meant, but who cared? We were doing 150!

Later I learned that we were doing something like 90 mph. I could've done that in my Rabbit. *Buzzkill III!*

And then there were the streets of Amsterdam. Where we were staying, in the heart of the old city, the Mercedes simply didn't fit. Pedestrians flattened




against walls as we passed, looking like Wile E. Coyote at the bottom of the canyon, only vertical. I feared for their lives and contemplated the replacement costs of the outside mirrors. *Buzzkill III!*

We rented bikes the next day.

I'm better now. I'm back behind the wheel of a Mercedes, in a city with ample mirrorspace and no Mercedes cabs that I know of, and I've found a few highways (never to be revealed) where I can let her rip.

Speaking of letting her rip, I'm eager to complete a lap at PIR next month when we participate in the parade lap at the Portland Historic Races. Okay, we may not achieve escape-velocity speeds, but I'm actually pretty pleased with gravity, so a sedate lap at PIR will suit me fine.

The deadline for entering your car in the NWMBCA corral has officially passed, but there's no reason to sit this one out. The Historics are one of the best bargains in town. For \$25 you can enjoy not only the NWMBCA car corral, but open paddocks, nearly 700 collector cars, a vendor midway, and of course the races themselves, which run practically all day Saturday and Sunday.

It's great fun in the sun. We'll see you there. 

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Share the Excitement of this Legendary Event
During the World-Famous Monterey Classic Car Week

Friday, August 17, 2012
Rancho Conejada Golf Club, Carmel Valley, CA

Open to the Public | Judged Classes & Corral | Awards
Refreshments | Media | All-Day Fun!

Register before August 1, 2012 at www.motorSPORTreg.com
Send to August 17, 2012, Legends of the Autobahn - MCCA

For information, contact Laura Simonds at 650.592.7613
or lsimonds@pacbell.net



There are many reasons you have a passion for Mercedes-Benz.

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Not a Member?

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

MBCA Membership Application

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HOME PHONE _____ BUSINESS PHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

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- driving events car shows social events
 car care technical The Star

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

MBCA, 1907 Lelaray St., Colorado Springs, CO 80909
 (719) 633-6427; (719) 633-9283 (fax)

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.

A local caravan is planned Saturday, June 23rd

Brown Maloney Garage Tour Coming Up

It's time to plan for a day of classic Mercedes-Benz automobiles, driving on interesting roads, and enjoying a casual meal. Sara and Brown Maloney have invited us to visit their home and garages in Sequim, WA for a picnic BBQ lunch and a chance to tour Brown's garages.

If you would like to caravan to this collection with members of the Portland Section, we will meet at 6:30 AM Saturday, June 23rd at Lava Java, 109 South 65th Avenue, Suite 108, in Ridgefield, WA. From Portland, take I-5 north to Washington Exit 14, and turn right to the Lava Java location (it's right at the exit). Our caravan will depart at 7:00 AM sharp, with an estimated drive time of three hours to Port Gamble.

Alternatively, Portland Section members are invited to meet with the Seattle Section at the start point in Port

"President," from page 2

seventh month in a row, MBCA membership is up – to 19,818 primary members. Add to that the 7,802 associate members, our club has 27,620 total members.

Part of the reason for the growth is that MBCA is getting more savvy in using social networking websites such as Facebook to engage and communicate with members. The Portland Section will be launching a Facebook page in the coming weeks; look for an invite via e-mail. We will not automatically add you as a friend, you will need to opt in. To ensure that your e-mail address is registered with MBCA, go to www.mbc.org and click "login" to create or update your profile. The Portland Section uses your e-mail address registered with MBCA to send you event and section updates via e-mail.



Gamble. From Port Angeles, take Highway 101 east to the intersection with Highway 104, then follow Highway 104 east to Port Gamble. From the Kingston Ferry dock, take Highway 104 west to Port Gamble. Look for the Seattle Section club sign at NE Pacific Avenue.

No matter how you get to Port Gamble, check-in will get underway there at 10:00 AM, followed by a leisurely Olympic Peninsula drive, starting at 10:30 AM from Port Gamble.

If you have questions or want to register, see the registration form in the May issue of the Northwestern Star or contact David Glass by email at davidr.glass@att.net, or call (425) 869-6706. *The deadline for registration is June 11th.*



But how do others feel about it?

This is How the Benz Makes Me Feel

When the Blond is driving the Benz, especially with the top down, she is elegant, famous, sexy, smart, and glamorous. She even feels thin. She expects a red carpet to step out upon and a hunky valet parking dude to turn up and hyperventilate in admiration, even when she pulls up in front of Wal-Mart.

She often wonders if others see the same thing. She took a quick survey of random folk and asked them how they feel about people who drive Benzes. A lot of people are just plain envious, in a not-good way. Here's a bodybuilder talking: "Mercedes are for people like my landlord who just sucks money out of people! The bastard has like four of them!" That was a pretty common sentiment.

Does the image depend on your gender? A man driving a Mercedes "is all about showing off that he's got money," said one Audi owner. "A guy with a Mercedes owns a bad car, but he just wants to park a symbol of his money in the back yard, where his neighbors can see it," said a man with a Porsche in his back yard where his neighbors could see it.

Women Benz drivers, I heard, "are high maintenance broads who don't know anything about cars, and they

think they're all that." From Miami comes this observation: "Almost all the girls here who drive Mercedes are blonde." (And your problem with that is.....?)

How old you are makes a difference. Said one astute social observer: "If you're driving a Mercedes at age sixteen, you're a spoiled brat. At twenty to thirty, you're a drug dealer. If you're thirty-five to fifty, you're successful in business. And if you're sixty plus, you're treating yourself to a nice ride."

Yes! As it turns out, a recent USA Today survey showed that 12% of American CEOs drive Mercedes, topped only by the 13% who drive BMWs. They are all proud to be driving a car that makes them look successful. As one said: "If you were in need of a surgeon, would you want one who drives an '07 Mercedes, or one who drives a '95 Chevy Malibu?"

A Wal-Mart shopper, getting into a previously-owned ML320, leaned on safety and quality to defend herself. "It's a very reliable car," she sniffed. "You don't have to be rich or have your nose stuck in the air to drive a Mercedes. You just have to be able to make the car payments."

Guys admitted they're attracted by hot girls in junky cars more than hot girls in fancy cars. "I used to get hit on more often in my old car," says one blond with a Benz. "Now it seems like most men are intimidated by me; especially if my car is nicer than theirs." On the other hand, she has never been pulled over by a cop in the Benz.

She says she gets "more respect" now. "In my old car I felt invisible. Now I feel important. It makes a huge difference in my emotional well-being and overall happiness." Hey, can money buy that?

I'm just saying. If a car makes you feel good, go for it. People who drive Mercedes are people who really don't care what other people think.

In a good way.



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Questions? Call Allen Stephens at 503.708.0397 or the National Business Office at 800.637.2360 M-F, 8am-5pm MT. Or visit www.mbca.org.



Team Continental

Announces

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August 3-4-5, 2012



This event is sanctioned by ICSCC under the 2012 Competition Regulations featuring a **2-DAY, SINGLE RACE** Championship points format, **plus world class driver's training**, presented by Team Continental at Oregon Raceway Park in Grass Valley, OR.

Entries Open: Upon receipt of this announcement
Entries Close: Postmark, fax or register on-line by July 31st, 2012

Driver's Training (all day) \$175

Race Entry Fees: 1st Entry \$250
2nd Entry \$180

Late Fee – TC has waived late fees for this event!

Novice Single Day \$199
Crew and Spectators: FREE

Submit Entries To: www.motorsportreg.com

Or contact: Team Continental Race Registrar
Valorie Starr
36801 SE Proctor Rd.
Boring, OR 97009
RaceRegistrar@TeamContinental.com

Race Chair Skip Yocom: 503-655-3246 (hm), rampant53@gmail.com

Asst. Race Chair Bob Smethers, bob@smethers.com

Competitor's Liaison Gordon Jones, gracer25@msn.com

**** Driver Training** will be held Friday, August 3rd, 2012 – contact Jim Larfield at DrivingMaster@TeamContinental.com for additional information.

Paved paddock spaces will be assigned once your entry is processed and will be issued upon your arrival at the event. Please check-in with TC Paddock Marshals at ORP.

Saturday Social – Everyone Welcome !

Please join us for a special TC Buffet @ \$5/per

All other meals, all days @ \$3/per

Free beer & wine each night!! Drink With Responsibility!!

40th Forest Grove Concours d'Elegance

*Celebrating Mercedes-Benz Sunday, July 15th
Pacific University Campus Forest Grove, Oregon*

**Entries must be received by
June 30th!**



The Forest Grove Concours d'Elegance features over 300 vintage, sports and collector cars presented on the tree-shaded campus of Pacific University. Join us and celebrate 60 Years of the Mercedes SL, from the iconic 1952 300SL Gullwing coupe that won at Le Mans, to the all-new 2013 Mercedes-Benz SL550.

Call for Entries

You are invited to enter your Mercedes in one of the following classes for display or judging:

- **MB-1: Pre-War up to 1945: Includes Classics such as 380K, 500K and 540K**
- **MB-2: Early Post-War Sedans, Coupes and Cabriolets from 1946 to 1960:** Incl: W136, W191, W120, W180, W105, W121, W128, W186, W189, W187, W188.
- **MB-3: Post-War Sedans, Coupes and Cabriolets 1961-1971:** Includes W100, W110, W111, W112, W108, W109, W114, W115
- **MB-4: Mercedes-Benz SLs:** 300SL, 190SL '52 to '63;
- **MB-5: Mercedes-Benz SLs:** W113 SLs '63 to '71, early R107SLs
- **MBCA: Display Class:** Non-judged corral, all years welcome.

Enter at www.forestgroveconcours.org
Click on 'Entering', then 'Entry Form'

Join us on the Vineyard and Lake Tour on Saturday July 14th:

Tour the back roads of Washington Country to a vineyard for lunch, then on to Hagg Lake for tours in wooden boats.. Cost: \$60.

Evening of Elegance Dinner: Entrants are invited to the festive Saturday Night Dinner. Cost: \$50. per person.

Select the Tour and Dinner options on the on-line Entry Form

For more info:

Allen Stephens

allenstephens@frontier.com

503-708-0397

“Those guys were aggressive!”
Evergreen Recap

About ten cars from the Portland Section joined fifteen others from the BMW Car Club of America for our Arrive and Drive event to the Evergreen Air and Space Museum on May 5th. It was great to partner with the BMW club and see their fine collection of German machinery. There were several BMW M3s and M5s. From the Mercedes Club, we saw members Barry Corno, Hal Harper, and John Robinson (who was driving his other car – a BMW!). Also in attendance were Sam Chinakos, Rick Harmon, and Bill Lindquist. We met at Cars and Coffee, an informal gathering of sports and collector cars that takes place every Saturday in Tigard behind the Starbucks at the Carman Drive exit on I-5. On this particular day we saw several Ferraris, Porsches, and a Nissan GTR with a custom matte-black paint job.

ALLEN STEPHENS



Tom Freedman from the BMW club leads the drivers' meeting and distributes instructions explaining the route.

After the drivers' meeting and a brief Q and A session, the group caravanned out through Washington County on a scenic route to the museum.

At a review of the outing conducted at the board meeting May 12th, one observer was heard to say (about the BMW Club), “Those guys are aggressive!” This was a comment about their speed, not their personalities. A number of Mercedes were able to keep up, however, and after a somewhat lengthy 2½ hours, everyone arrived ready for the ceremonial parking of the cars on the grass in front of the museum. All in all, a fine event, only one of many we hope to conduct with the Bimmer crowd.



Advertising in the Northwestern Star

The Northwestern Star reaches over three hundred Mercedes-Benz owners each month. Rates quoted below are for single insertions. Multiple insertions of the same size receive a 15% discount.

Eighth-page business card (3½" w x 2" h) . . .	\$12
Quarter-page (3½" w x 4½" h)	20
Half-page horizontal (7¼" w x 4½" h)	33
Half-page vertical (3½" w x 9½" h)	33
Full page (7¼" w x 9¾" h)	55

Space reservations are due by the 15th of the month. Camera-ready ads (PDF format) are due by the 20th of the month.

The Northwestern Star can produce your ad. Production rates are \$50/hr, half hour minimum.

Contact the editor (see page 2) to reserve space or for further information.



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Mercedes, BMW, Porsche, and Audi to be featured

Legends of the Autobahn Features Concours Aug 17

Last year's media headlines exclaimed, "Legends of the Autobahn is Gaining Momentum." And that's true for 2012 with the addition of a 4th German marque. This year, Audi Club North America joins Mercedes-Benz Club of America, BMW Car Club of America and Porsche Club of America as co-hosts of "one of the most charming events of the week." (from another news report).

MBCA invites you and your section members to be part of the excitement at Legends of the Autobahn 2012 on Friday, August 17. Held on the greens of the Rancho Cañada Golf Club in Carmel Valley, California, Legends



attracted an audience of thousands to view nearly 500 cars on display in 2011.

Building on two very successful years and now in only its third year, Legends of the Autobahn has become one of the "must see" attractions of the world-renowned Monterey Classic Car Week. Rancho Cañada Golf Club — just a few miles from the beautiful Pacific coastline and the breathtaking Pebble Beach — provides a stunning backdrop to view German vehicles of all ages. In addition to mingling among these precision cars, there will be food, displays, club booths, and a Spaten Biergarten. Early word has it that a special display of Gullwings will be featured this year, along with other special classic Mercedes-Benz.

For those interested in entering the MBCA Concours in one of six judged classes for 1992 and older vehicles, a \$60 entry fee will apply. For those wishing to display in the corral (any vintage), a \$30 entry fee will apply. A gourmet buffet lunch and event polo shirts are optional. The discounted "early bird" registration deadline is August 1, and all registration closes on August 10.

To register, go to www.motorsportreg.com. Scroll down to "August 17" then to "MBCA—Legends of the Autobahn" (not BMWCCA or PCA). Your registration will go directly to MBCA. If you don't want to enter your car (but why wouldn't you?!), please stop by to view some of Germany's best vehicles. There is no admission gate fee. You can also check www.legendsoftheautobahn.org for up-to-the-minute details and a link to the registration website.

For additional information, contact Laura Simonds, at (650) 592-7613, or simondsl@pacbell.net. Also see the ad on page 3.



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Questions? Call Allen Stephens at 503.708.0397 or the National Business Office at 800.637.2360 M-F, 8am-5pm MT. Or visit www.mbca.org.

Classified Ads

Ads run for one issue and are placed free of charge for MBCA members. Non-club members are charged \$10.00 per ad, \$20 with a picture. The submission deadline is the 15th of the month.

You may place an ad by contacting the editor.

2006 SL55 AMG Black / Grey, 33k miles, extremely clean condition, 493hp, ABC suspension, Pano Roof, body panels are all straight with no imperfections, immaculate. \$42,495. More photos at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/20823381@N08/sets/72157627794491844/>

Mike_p_spicer@hotmail.com, 503-550-1403



1987 260E Car comes with extensive records and it has just competed a comprehensive service. Great shape. If you are looking for reliable comfort and safety this is it. \$5950 Burbuck Motors 503-236-1737.



1970 Mercedes 300SEL 6.3 (world class restoration) Recipient of an open-checkbook restoration exceeding \$150k and is in exceptional condition, 96k miles. I have been a member of the M-100club (Mercedes 600 6.3 & 6.9) and this car ranks at the top of any 6.3 available on the market today. Anything it ever needed was done. Upgraded 15"rims. Engine/Transmission: rebuilt at 64K, suspension works perfect. \$20k Paint job, chrome is all as new, gaps are perfect. Wood re-finished, stereo updated, gauges work properly. Interior is in new condition. \$49,995.



The car comes with extensive set of documentation and I have created a large photo gallery for further examination: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/20823381@N08/sets/72157627431167467/>

Mike_p_spicer@hotmail.com, 503-550-1403

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Portland Section Schedule of Events

June 2: Driving event to the Orchard Heights Winery. Details in the May issue, page 1.

June 23: Join the Seattle Section for a drive to Car Collector Brown Maloney's home in Sequim, Washington. See story, page 5.

July 7–8: Mercedes Club Corral at Portland Historic Races. See Editor's Column on page 3.

July 15: Concours d'Elegance in Forest Grove. Mercedes-Benz is the featured brand. See pages 1 & 8.

July 21: Board Meeting at M-B of Portland.

August 12: Regional Show and Shine in Seattle.

August 17: Legends of the Autobahn. See page 10.

Sept 14–16: Oregon Festival of Cars, Les Schwab Amphitheater in Bend. Complete story to come in the July issue.

Sept 28–Oct 3: Starfest 2012 in Phoenix. A three-day, two-night "StarTrip" from the Bay Area to Phoenix is planned, including stops at two car collections. See ad on page 4; story in March issue.

October 13: Rally to Mt. Adams. Details to come in the August issue.

Past issues of the Northwest Star are posted online at <http://portland.mbca.org/newsletters>.