



Vol. 41 • No. 5

Portland Section

July 2016

Welcome, New Members

Brain Bevens, Beaverton
Chris Finks, Vancouver
Michael Hamilton, Vancouver
William Jensen, Oregon City
Terek Kanso, Portland
Bruce Milletto, Portland
Matt Mazzachio, Bandon
Craig Mulkey, Beaverton
Joseph Sadowski, Lake Oswego
Victor Takla, Portland
William Valenti, Bend
James Wood, Portland

Upcoming Events

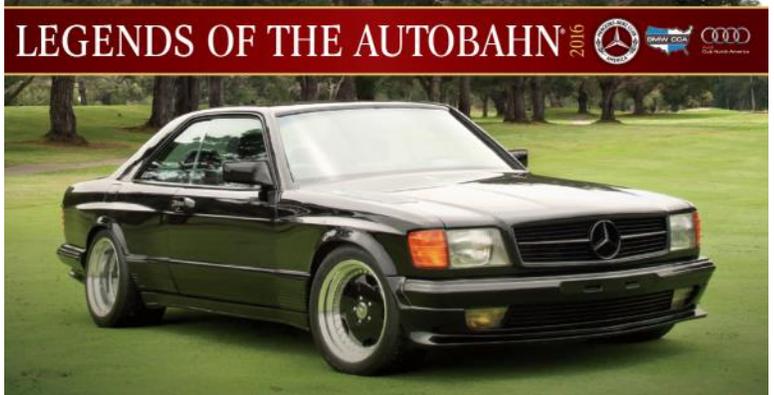
July 8-10th Portland Vintage Racing Festival
July 17th Forest Grove Concours
August 19th Legends of the Autobahn, Monterey, CA
August 20th, Arrive & Drive / Willamette Valley drive to Mogfest, Sheridan, OR

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Legends of the Autobahn®

The best-kept secret during Monterey Car Week will kick things up a notch in 2016 with a special theme called Classic Performance. Legends of the Autobahn® returns to the Nicklaus Club in Monterey on Friday, August 19th and is co-hosted by MBCA, BMW Car Club of America and Audi Club North America. This one day event is a celebration of German automobiles, and has been called a 'must see' during Monterey Car Week because of its friendly atmosphere and quality mix of cars on the show field.



For 2016, Mercedes-Benz at Legends of the Autobahn will feature a special performance class for cars that have been modified or tuned. This includes cars that have been modified for performance and/or appearance, such as pre-merger models from AMG, or modified Mercedes-Benz from Lorinser, Renntech or Brabus. Mercedes-Benz automobiles used in racing are also invited to participate. To be eligible for this class, your Mercedes-Benz must be manufactured prior to 1997.

MBCA Members are invited to enter their automobiles in the judged Concours classes, the display-only corral, or the Silver Star Preservation class. Owners of largely original cars are invited to display their Mercedes-Benz in the Preservation class and have it certified at a MBCA Concours event.

Registration for judged classes, corral, and Silver Star Preservation class is now open at www.motorsportreg.com. Scroll down to August 19th, then to 'MBCA Legends of the Autobahn' (not BMWCCA or ACNA). You can also register at www.legendsoftheautobahn.org.

The \$75 registration fee applies for entries in the judged Concours classes for 1996 or older models. Silver Star Preservation Class registration fee is \$60 (your car will be placed on the field with the judged classes, but is not eligible for a trophy). To show

Next Event:

July 8-10th Portland Vintage Racing Festival
Portland International Raceway, Portland, OR
See Page 7



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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 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.

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President's Message

The W107 Guy (Part 2)

One of my goals with this particular SL was to make it look older and not newer. Some SL owners like to put on newer alloy wheels and perhaps a 560 SL front spoiler, attempting to make it look newer or more updated. However a "retro design process" can also include changing the interior (from the usual monochromatic color schemes of the late 70's) to a two-tone combination, installing a steering wheel from an early 70's W108 sedan or early 70's Pagoda SL, etc. Then of course you need the correct radio - the Becker Mexico or a Grand Prix (with a signal search feature and multiband dial fitted for IPOD or smart phone connections).



I thought it would be cool to install an early '73 all chrome grill star instead of the ones found on the later models, which were part plastic and part stainless steel. A good set of Zenith chrome wire wheels with real "knock-off" hubs would also look great! The list goes on and on. And so did my quest for the early European bumpers, Euro headlights, and repair panels for the many rusted areas that needed to be cut out and welded. If any of you have been on this sort of search you know about the exorbitant cost for these parts. Try to find a good set of sun visors for less than \$300 or \$400 - and 560 SL visors are even higher!

So, one day I saw a listing of SL parts on EBay and it was in the Wilsonville/Tualatin area. I found out the address, called the owner, and asked if I could visit his parts and car collection. This place is a car guy's W107 HEAVEN! He has more than 40 of every SL model, except the 6 cylinder 300. He had just sold a 500 SL AMG model, but still had a few of the Euro 500 SL models with the hot engine. He has complete cars, parts cars and extra everything. He also has a few of the very elegant SLC coupe models in US and Euro versions.

So this is Larry, "the W107 guy." He has been able to stock pile these cars for a few years while the prices were very "soft." Owners would often just let their car sit for something very minor - afraid of getting hit with a big bill if they ever took it to a repair shop with mechanics - who were actually trained and skilled to work on these cars! (There is a lesson there too, but that's for another time).

As many of you know, the 560 SL and the Euro 500 SL (particularly with low mileage and in pristine condition), can now command some surprisingly high prices. If you have parts that are not in the condition you want or need, and are willing to pay a nominal fee, Larry will exchange them for ones in better condition.

I did that with the folding cloth top and a taillight lens assembly with broken plastic at the mounting studs. Why would he do that? Well, with the prices for parts continuing to increase, it will be worth it for someone else to buy this broken tail light lens and repair it properly.

Over the next few years, as I complete this project I would like to show some progress photos of my changeable "Designer Car." Who knows? It just might inspire someone else who is as "sick" as me - or who, perhaps, has an even worse case of what my wife calls, "the car guy disease!"

Arrive & Drive:

Willamette Valley Drive to Sheridan Oregon

By Stacy Rollins, Portland Section

Join us on Saturday morning, August 20th, for a club driving trip over the dale and through the woods via the backroads of the Willamette Valley. The starting point will be in Wilsonville, about 10:00am. The drive is intended to take 2 hours or so. The route of this trip is being designed to encourage members from Salem, Albany, Corvallis and Eugene to participate. Our destination is in Sheridan – and the destination is a *totally unique experience*.

It's been some time since we've done a drive in the country, and we hope you'll join us. There will be more information about the drive in the August *Northwestern Star* (your section's award winning newsletter). Mark your calendars for August 20th, and stay tuned for more information.

What: Arrive and Drive
When: August 20, at 10:00 am
Where: Wilsonville (exact location in August newsletter)
Why: you own a Mercedes-Benz, and they like to be driven.



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Father's Day @ Champoeg Park Recap

By David Abarr Portland Section

A great time was had by all that attending the Father's Day at the park event. The drive to Champoeg State Park in Saint Paul, Oregon was a great rural road to drive on. I even had a r172 SLK following me on the way and they waved as I turned off to my destination. It was a gorgeous day in the valley. We all had a nice time visiting and had lunch. Planning for the rest of the events for year is underway.



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Board Meeting September

The next Portland Section Board Meeting is Saturday, September 10th 2016 at 10AM at Mercedes Benz of Wilsonville located at 25035 SW Parkway Ave, Wilsonville, OR 97070 *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.

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

Mercedes Club Corral at Portland Vintage Festival

Display your Mercedes-Benz and drive the parade laps at PIR during the weekend of July 8th and 11th



By Greg Buechler, Portland Section

Join us in the Mercedes-Benz Club car corral at the Portland Vintage Racing Festival (formerly the Portland Historic Races) during the weekend of July 8th and 11th.

This event is the best motorsport spectator value in Portland every summer. For \$45, you get a pass into the car corral for the weekend and tickets for two people to attend. Actually, you can attend Friday as well, though we won't have an official corral that day.

The paddock is open to spectators, so you can stroll around and get close to the race cars. You'll get to watch the drivers and pit crews prepare the cars, talk to them, and maybe even get to sit in the car for a photo. If you've got a child, that's guaranteed. Vintage racers love to see the kids enjoy a moment in a real race car.

There are numerous vendors for automobilia, car parts & accessories, and of course food. In the infield, there is a charity autocross where you can try for the best time between the cones and help out some worthy charities. As usual, I will have Sunhilde turn a few laps for fun.

And then there's the parade lap at lunchtime. All the car clubs line up and take a lap around the track with pace cars. It's not a hot lap, but you can usually get up a decent turn of speed and put together a few good corner sequences on the correct racing line.

Join the Portland Section in the Collector Car Corral!

Registration Details

To register for this event, go to:

<https://www.tickettomato.com/>

and search for Portland Vintage Racing Festival. Once on that page, select the tickets for 'Car Corral'.

Please let Greg Buechler know that you plan to attend by giving him a call at 503-640-6389, or by email at gtbuechler@hotmail.com. See you there!

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On July 17th, the Forest Grove Concours d'Elegance celebrates German automobiles under the theme 'Allure of the Autobahn.' The event will feature special displays of historic Porsche, Mercedes-Benz, BMW and Volkswagen automobiles on the campus of Pacific University.

MBCA Portland Section members are invited to display their automobiles on the grass, either to be judged or for 'Display only.' Register your Mercedes-Benz at www.forestgroveconcours.org, and select class R-1.

The poster car for this year's Forest Grove Concours is a 1935 Mercedes-Benz 500K. It will be the centerpiece of the Mercedes-Benz display. Register your Mercedes-Benz today, the deadline is June 30th. If you have questions, contact Allen Stephens at allen.c.stephens@gmail.com or at 503-708-0397

Recommended 'Curb Rash' Service

By Tony Pratt, Portland Section



Curb rash is a colloquial phrase describing the damage that occurs (usually) when one scrapes a curb with an (expensive) alloy wheel(s). This can be limited to a slight loss of paint or a major scrape resulting in damage to the alloy of the wheel.

I managed to attract the later when I hit a curb at very low speed in a Shell station, hidden by a strong shadow whilst wearing strong sunglasses last summer. I was really annoyed with myself and concerned about the costly damage to the wheel.

The alloy wheel is an AMG type from a 2008 CLK350 Mercedes and can be purchased as a replacement for only \$840 each from your friendly MB Dealership! What an expensive few seconds of misjudgement! Living near Portland, I was given the name of a local repair facility, Wheelkraft NW, at 76 Av just off 16 St (near to I-5) in Vancouver, WA by my local Mercedes Dealer. For reference, their telephone number is 360- 546-1799. After a few phone calls, I took my offending wheel there for refurbishment. They operate a fixed price service of \$175 each for wheels within the safety envelope of being repairable. They turned out be a friendly group run by manager Pat Heffron. It is really important to be clear to them what you expect from their work. I wanted a full refurbishment from the inside edge to the outside (visible) part of the alloy - back to just like new! Just for information, I have no affiliation with them.

My wheel took a little over to week to be processed but the result is magnificent as the attached picture shows. For those of you living with the Portland area, there is a pick-up service and a mobile refinishing capability also. Unfortunately, I live too far away to benefit from these (McMinnville) so my only option is to take the wheel to their offices (a 3.5 hours round trip drive).

This could be a viable and economic option for some members striving to achieve a level of perfection in their alloy wheels. If so, why not give it a try?

Debut of the Mercedes-AMG GT-R



This past weekend the rumored next chapter of the Mercedes-AMG GT family was unveiled at the Goodwood Festival of Speed in the UK. Taking design cues from the GT-3 racecar it looks every impressive. With 577 HP and top speed of 198 mph this is the bench mark for the series. Reported to be in dealers by this time in 2017.

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Portland Section Schedule of Events

July 8-10th, Portland Vintage Racing Festival

July 17th, Forest Grove Concours d' Elegance

August 19th, Legends of The Autobahn, Monterey, CA

August 20th, Arrive & Drive / Willamette Valley drive to Sheridan, OR

September 12th, Camas Wings and Wheels (more info August Edition)

September 24th, Festival of Cars in Bend (more info August Edition)

October 8th, Mt Adams Fall Drive (more August Edition)

Follow the Portland Section on Facebook!



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