



Welcome, New Members

Michael Aronson Florence, OR
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Pat Dunn Portland, OR
Bill Keeler Oregon City, OR
Meredith Kuhl Salem, OR

Upcoming Events

January 9th Board Meeting @ 10am Mercedes Benz of Portland

January 30th Luncheon @ 1:30pm Hayden's on The Lake, Tualatin

February 20th Mercedessource Event @ 10am Burbuck Motors Portland

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MercedesSource Comes to Portland

Mercedes-Benz automobiles from the late 1990's into the 2000's

By Stacy Rollins Portland Section



Join us February 20th for a special educational event focusing on searching for, evaluating and acquiring a Mercedes-Benz automobile from the late 1990's into the 2000's. We've asked a Mercedes-Benz expert named Kent Bergsma, founder of MercedesSource, to present this topic to our membership and he has agreed. You do not have to be an automobile genius or hard-core shade tree mechanic to benefit from this meeting. Any member who owns, or is considering purchasing one of these cars will gain valuable information.

Many members like the simplicity of the older model Mercedes cars. They are afraid of the newer "computerized" cars, and they continue to drive their older ones. The reality is these cars are wearing out as the miles and years accumulate. Despite Mercedes-Benz quality construction, they do wear out and owners have to face the reality of getting a newer Mercedes – or switching to something else.

This meeting's topics are:

- "Truth or Fiction" – internet misinformation and fear of the newer cars;
• "How to Beat the Odds" – finding your next Mercedes and evaluating its condition;
• "Knowledge is Power" – the technical aspects of these cars and known problem areas;
• "Member questions and answers"

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President's Message

Present's Message



As the newly appointed NW Portland Section President, I'd like to share a few thoughts with you. I feel honored to have been appointed, and in some ways feel well qualified for the job. However, there are some aspects of it that will be challenging for me.

I am definitely a "car guy." I have owned older cars all of my life and have always had a passion for restoring and upgrading them; first old bullet nose Studebakers, then BMW's, and now Mercedes Benz.

Currently, my "fleet" ranges from a 1959 220SE sedan to a 1977 450SL - all of which are in various stages of restoration, or waiting for new owners.

My vision for the Club in the next couple of years includes:

1. Finding ways to "grow" membership - especially ways to attract younger members. What kind of activities would draw young families? How do we get them to attend events, when their lives are already filled with soccer, little league, dance classes, and school events? What activities would be meaningful to them?
2. Encourage events that include other local sections such as Seattle, Vancouver, etc.
3. Consider joint events with other car clubs such as BMW, Porsche, Alfa, Audi, etc. This could range from seeing diverse car collections to having tours with other local groups, such as the Packard and Cadillac Clubs.
4. Continue to have educational and entertaining events that foster a better understanding of how to maintain, care for, and possibly even purchase your next Mercedes Benz.

In closing, I look forward to meeting new people in the NW Portland Section and will always be open to any ideas, insights or activities that would make our association a memorable and worthwhile endeavor.

See you soon,
Ron
Ronwoodruff9@gmail.com



Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Portland Section

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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.

MercedesSource Comes to Portland

By Stacy Rollins Portland Section

Continued from page 1

The meeting will be held at Burbuck Motors, 71 SE Main St, Portland, OR 97214. It starts at 10:00am and ends about 3:00pm. There will be a break at lunchtime, and lunch will be provided by the club. Coffee, juice, and breakfast items will also be provided before the start of the meeting. There is an event fee of \$25.00 per person. Many thanks to Mike and Pam Burbuck for letting the club use their shop for this event.

Some information about our guest speaker, Kent Bergsma. Kent owns a business called **MercedesSource**, which is located in Bellingham, WA. It started as a repair shop specializing in Mercedes-Benz – which was much needed in the local area. In 1999 he started selling used, then new, Mercedes parts via a still young internet based operation named eBay. Kent's eBay sales grew rapidly, but with an unexpected side-effect: parts purchasers began calling Kent for instructions on how to install the parts.

Kent started writing and publishing "how to" booklets that explained various parts installations, and Mercedes maintenance and service procedures. This part of the company continued to grow, eventually surpassing the repair business. Ultimately the repair shop was closed down to focus on the growing parts and instruction operation. About 7 years ago the company moved to a new location to better support the growing internet business. Today Kent produces how-to videos along with printed instructions, and he has begun designing and manufacturing specialty kits and tools for the home mechanic. His YouTube channel "Mercedessource" has over 54,000 subscribers worldwide with close to 15 million views. He will soon reach a total of 1000 videos he has filmed that are specific to owning and maintaining Mercedes Benz cars. Be sure to check out his recent video on driving his personal red 1970 280SL roadster. The title of the video on YouTube is "Mercedes 1970 280SL Ride-a-long: Happier than You Can Image."

Kent is very knowledgeable and an engaging speaker. Mark your calendars now and plan on attending this event, which is sure to be interesting, educational, and useful for club members. Please RSVP in advance.

What: Mercedes-Benz automobiles from the late 1990's into the 2000's
When: Saturday, February 20, 2016
10:00 am to 3:00pm
Where: Burbuck Motors
71 SE Main Street
Portland, OR 97214
How Much \$25.00 per person
Club Contact: Stacy Rollins
503-645-0675
MBCA-PDX@comcast.net

MercedesSource in Portland Registration	
● Saturday, February 20th, 2016, 10:00 am — 3:00 pm ●	
Name (s) _____	Address _____
City, State, Zip _____	CellPhone (_____) _____
Email Address: _____	
Number of attendees _____ at \$25.00 per person	Total Enclosed: _____
Make checks payable to MBCA Portland Section . Please RSVP by February 15th .	
Mail to: MBCA c/o Stacy Rollins, 3300 NW 185th Avenue #268, Portland, OR. 97229	

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Board Meeting Jan 9th

The next Portland Section Board Meeting is Saturday, January 9th 2016 at 10AM at Mercedes Benz of Portland located at 1605 SW Naito Pkwy, Portland, OR 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.

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January Luncheon at Hayden's by the Lake



By Jim Thompson, Portland Section

Join the Portland section at 1:30pm for a post holiday lunch at Hayden's on the Lake in Tualatin. Dine in the banquet table room used by the Blazer Elite overlooking Tualatin's lake at the commons. Watch the walkers and waterfowl. See what we have instore for 2016 events. It looks to be a very full year and we are looking for additional input.

When : Saturday January 30th , 2016

Where: Hayden's of the Lake
8187 SW Nyberg Rd.
Tualatin, OR

Cost: Order off the menu (no Credit Cards, please bring your checkbook)

RSVP by January to jim814817@hotmail.com by January 25th 2016

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You can also join online at www.mbc.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.

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Sidedraught City Event Re-Cap

By Stacy Rollins Portland Section



On Saturday December 12, members of the MBCA Portland section visited *Sidedraught City* in Southeast Portland. *Sidedraught City* is a locally owned business that focuses on car cleaning and car care products; it is a dealer for *Griot's Garage* merchandise. Owner Neil D'Autremont has plenty of experience using car cleaners and polishes, and enthusiastically shares his knowledge with car enthusiasts in the Portland area.

Even though our club section has met at Sidedraught several times in years past, it's always a pleasure to see what's new at Neil's shop. This year *Griot's Garage* introduced several new car polishing products, and Neil demonstrated some of these on a member's car: a red 2103 SL550 roadster. Acquired by the member only 3 weeks earlier, the SL looked great from 6 feet. But up close the paint had some fine spots and mild scratches. Neil used the car's hood as a demonstration platform. He showed us a neat trick to test the condition of the paint finish: slip your hand into a plastic sandwich bag and gently slide your hand (wrapped by the bag)

across the paint. We took turns doing this and could feel grit and roughness in the paint. Your fingertips alone don't feel this, but your fingertips shielded by the bag clearly detect the imperfections in the paint.

To get started, Neil used clay bar to clean impurities from the paint and smooth the finish. Then he used a machine buffer and a polishing cream to remove scratches and spots from the paint. When finished he applied a top coat of wax to protect the work done on the car's finish. When completed the hood's paint was silky smooth and shiny.

Then attention was turned to the windshield. Windshields take a beating from road grime, sand, dirt, stones, etc. Then our rainy season starts, and we notice our car's windshield wipers don't clear the rain from the windshield well; they leave streaks and don't move smoothly. But there's a solution for that.

Using the plastic bag method described above we took turns testing the windshield's surface. It felt gritty and rough, similar to how the paint on the hood felt (the hood is also another part of the car that gets a lot of wear). Neil approached the windshield the same way he did for the hood. He thoroughly cleaned the windshield with glass cleaner, and then used the clay bar to clean and smooth the glass. Then he thoroughly cleaned the windshield again. Finally Neil applied *Griot's Glass Sealant*, which repels water and keeps the windshield easier to clean. Using the sandwich bag test one could feel how smooth the glass was.

I never fail to learn something useful when attending these club meetings at Sidedraught. After the meeting I did Neil's windshield treatment on my car, and the results are great. The rain runs off the glass and the windshield wiper cleans the glass better, without streaks, and it's quieter too. It was a great thing to do, especially considering the amount of rain we've gotten this December.

Thanks to Neil for hosting our meeting, and for sharing his knowledge and experience with us so selflessly. For more information about Sidedraught City see its website: <http://www.sidedraughtcity.com>.

And for more information about Griots Garage and its products visit its website: <http://www.griotsgarage.com>

Silver Star Preservation Class

Reprinted from *MBCA.org*

Most car show aficionados know that all concours are now recognizing original untouched and non-restored cars for special awards. For example, Pebble Beach, the grand-daddy of all Concours has a special classification known as the "Preservation Class" and presents awards to Pre-War and Post-War cars. Many other Concours have followed their lead. Today the preservation class is one of the most popular classifications at major and even regional and local shows around the world.

A number of years back two local MBCA Concours participants, Morgan Taft of the Western Reserve Section and Jim Sweeney of the Pittsburgh Section determined that they loved the shows, but grew weary of cleaning and preening their 3.5 coupes and convertible to the nth degree. Furthermore they each had original and untouched cars and wished to preserve their originality. They also grew tired of suffering deductions and having judges tell them that they needed to replace interior leather and wood pieces and better detail their engine compartments, since they felt that to do so would have spoiled their cars originality. They came up with the idea for a special classification that would recognize original and unrestored cars, now known as the Silver Star Preservation Class, and presented it to Peter Lesler, National Concours Committee chair, for approval by the National Board of Directors of MBCA.

This class is for cars, 25 years old or older that are largely original and have been unrestored since new. It is intended for driver-quality cars that have withstood the ravages of time, climate and daily driving. It is not intended for "Trailer Queens"-for those we have a Show Class- nor is it intended for rusty and dirty barn finds that do not operate properly and have not been on the road for several years.

This classification is designed to formally recognize original cars that meet the defined set of standards by presenting the owner with a certificate commemorating the event and displaying a photo and pertinent data, suitable for framing. It can also add to the provenance of your car whenever one intends to sell or insure it. The certificate awards the owners who have treated their pride and joy gently over the years and have resisted the temptation to restore. As the saying goes, "they are only original once" and as we all know, you cannot restore originality!

Here's how it works. Your eligible Mercedes-Benz must be entered in a MBCA sanctioned sectional, regional or national concours. At this writing, to be eligible the vehicle must have been produced in 1990 or earlier. It should be in good working order, driven under its' own power to the event and be largely original. Your eligible car should have an original engine and drivetrain. There can be partial refurbishments of various components, but no complete restorations can be accepted.

At the event each Silver Star entrant will be given a Silver Star Preservation classification Score Sheet and be instructed how to complete it. The cars are self-judged by the entrant following the form.

Continued on page 10



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Gallagher's Auto Spa Recap

By David Abarr Portland Section



On October 17th Portland section member gathered at Gallagher's Auto Spa on NE Sandy Blvd in Portland. Scott Gallagher operates a full service auto detail that can detail all aspects of your car and provides services as diverse as window tint, clear bras, window chip repair, wheel repair and headlight restoration.

Scott lead us through a full detail on the interior and exterior of the car. He showed us the methods he uses and the tool available. The focus was on the exterior detailing and using a dual action buffer. DAs as they are referred to are changing the way cars are detailed and the out come is very impressive. Scott showed us his assortment of various machines he uses and they all look to get a good work out each day. We had the opportunity to work on a late model S class W221. Although a newer car there was still work to be done. The preparation was cleaning the car. Scott uses a "screen" at the bottom of a 5 gallon bucket to ensure particles of dirt are not reintroduced to the paint as he washes the car. Next was clay bar-ing the paint to remove any imbedding particles. Next was the using of the DA and each member had the opportunity to use one and the various techniques. This polishing method is very key to achieve a mirror finish. He discussed what he uses and the various compounds. Last was the wax and again he went into detail on the various waxes , the benefits ,the types and what he likes to use. I really valued Scott's opinion as a professional detailing many cars each day. Scott sees the gambit of automobiles daily from a Ford F150 truck to our favorite German Luxury cars.

Gallagher's Auto Spa offers various levels of detail work.

Contact Scott and team at:

1625 NE Sandy Blvd, Portland, OR 97232

(971) 713-5253

Follow Scott on Instagram as well @gallagher_auto_spa

Silver Star Preservation Class Cont.

Continued from page 8

On the form, the owner informs the judges which aspects of the car are entirely original and which aspects have been altered over time. A Preservation Class Judge, assigned by the Concours Chef Judge will review the completed form with the entrant, evaluating each aspect of the car. If the car has earned enough points to be certified, the Chief Judge and the Class Judge verify the findings and initial the form. A digital photo of the entrant's car in JPEG format is taken at the show and the completed classification form along with the photo is forwarded to the MBCA National Business Office. The NBO will create and send to the owner an official Silver Star Certificate formally declaring the car to have met the standards of the Silver Star Preservation Class. The owner may also purchase a specially designed grille badge from the NBO.

Cars may be certified at additional shows in succeeding years. We have certified many cars two and three times over the past few years. Though the Silver Star Preservation classification is not yet well known, it is rapidly gaining widespread acceptance. We certified over 80 cars last year and expect to do many more this year.

If you would like to take advantage of the Silver Star Preservation Classification, talk to your Section event organizers or your Regional Director, they can guide you and advise when and where these events will be offered. Since it is a self-judged form, and instructions are provided, you do not need any special training, just a willingness to have your car recognized by its peers and add measurably to its provenance. If you need further clarification you may also email Peter Lesler, National Concours Committee Chair at W113SL@aol.com

The Silver Star Classification Score Sheet can be found on the MBCA.org website clicking on the "Our Community" tab, then on the "Resources" tab and then page down to the "Event Forms". There you will find all the concours forms. All these forms are downloadable and may be used at all MBCA sanctioned shows.



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Portland Section Schedule of Events

January 9th Board Meeting @ Mercedes Benz of Portland 10am

January 30th: Luncheon @ Hayden's on the Lake, Tualatin 1:30pm

February 20th: Mercedessource Event @ Burbuck Motors, Portland 10am

Follow the Portland Section on Facebook!



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