



THE NORTHWESTERN STAR

Vol. 41 • No. 4

Portland Section

June 2016

Welcome, New Members

Angela Benton Portland
Mark Denny Vancouver
Sean Hecht Portland
Brain Langdon Portland
David Robbins Vancouver
William Shipley Portland
Pat Wolke Grants Pass

Upcoming Events

June 19th Fathers Day Picnic
Champoeg State Park

July 8-10th Portland Vintage
Racing Festival , PIR

July 17th Forest Grove Con-
cours, Pacific University

August 19th Legends of the
Autobahn, Monterey, CA

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Forest Grove Concours Celebrates 'Allure of the Autobahn'



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.

(See note on page 6 about registration)

Next Event:

Father's Day @ Champoeg State Park / Saint Paul Oregon

June 19th Noon

\$5.00 Entrance Fee / Pavilion 2



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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 (first of two parts)

I live in the Brooklyn neighborhood in SE Portland and own a 1971 Mercedes 280SE. Several years ago I was working on it in my driveway, when a neighbor happened by, walking his dog. We both stopped to chat and he told me there was a Mercedes parked in a driveway just about two blocks away.

So, naturally, I went I went to look at it.

Lo and behold! It was signal red 1977 450 SL with tan vinyl interior.



When I talked with the owner, I discovered the car had been sitting in that driveway for about 12 years and that the most recent owner had lost the key to it, as well as the title. However, it was a "complete" car and I was able to purchase it for \$650!

Steal of a deal, right? That \$650 was just the beginning. I found out that the ignition lock had been changed so the VIN number (which identifies the correct key) would not fit the ignition. To be able to even start the car, I would have to order another lock cylinder with a key. I had the car towed to a shop to get the basics sorted out so that it could be driven. The car shop guy told me he would need to clean out the old gas and install a new fuel pump, fuel filter, spark plugs, etc. After all that, it might start! Well, the car gods must have been smiling, because it did start and ran great. The shop owner was amazed that the fuel distributor was even functional! (For a while anyway).

When I saw the bill for all of this work, my dream of owning a cheap Mercedes died! After getting it home, I noticed that the removable hardtop was completely rusted out at the bottom, where it seals at the trunk boot. So off I went on a search for W107 SL parts. As many of you know, the model runs, beginning in 1973, have many interchangeable parts, and all of the hard tops are interchangeable. It's just a matter of finding the "right" color for your car, perhaps doing this with a two-tone color combination.

I searched Craig's List and found a collection of tops in LOTS of colors - except signal red! So I got creative and chose a cream color top with matching light tan interior. I was also able to get a set of matching wheel covers. Most of the 1977 models came equipped with matching top and body color. But In the early 70's, it was possible to order a hard top in a contrasting color. So, in addition to the cream and tan combination, I also have a black top with matching wheel covers. Plus, I have several steering wheels in various colors that provide even more color options!

With all of these different color combinations, I have the perfect "Designer Car" that can be changed in a matter of minutes, depending on my mood, particular preference for that day, or to just have a "different look" for the next Cars & Coffee event. I know! This all sounds a little "sick" - just ask my wife!

(Look for Part 2 in the next issue)

Ron

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Cars and Coffee @ World of Speed Recap

By David Abarr Portland Section

This last minute event was sent out as a email and posted on Facebook. My apologize for those that didn't get the info. We hope that this can be a yearly event perhaps in June when the threat of rain isn't as prevalent. This was in cooperation with the crew at the Portland Cars and Coffee now at the World of Speed in Wilsonville and a local Mercedes Benz enthusiast Facebook group. We had a great turn out despite the weather and a few brave souls at the event opted for top down that day. A wide array of cars came out new and old. Lots of AMG offerings and the classics like the r107, r129 and w124 chassis. Portland section member Mike Spicer brought out this newly restored w113 Pagoda as well. It was great meeting a few more members as well as people I am in contact online. One of the original Portland MBCA founding member Jim Thompson came out to show support.

Anyone on Facebook interesting in joining the group it is called *Portland Mercedes-Benz Enthusiasts*.



Portland section members (left to right) Mike Spicer's 1971 280sl, Matthew Nenninger 1978 450sl and Portland Section President Ron Woodruff's 1977 450sl.



Portland section member Mike Romanini 1995 300D w124 chassis swapped om606 and Getrag dogleg transmission. Mike owns Prestige Auto Repair in Salem.

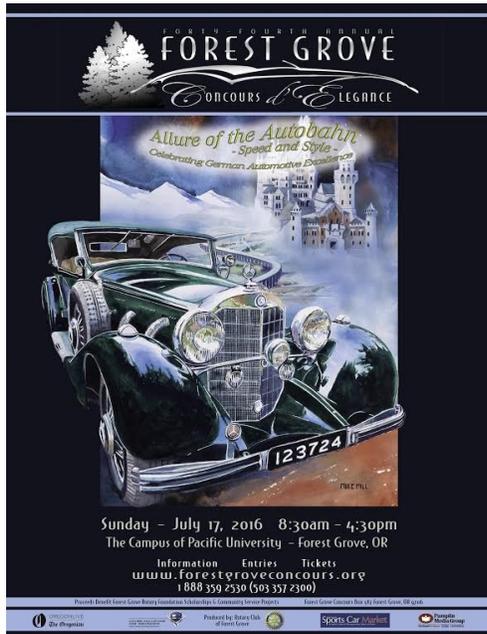


Board Meeting June

The next Portland Section Board Meeting is Saturday, June 25th 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.

Forest Grove

(Continued from page 1)



There was an omission on the mailed FG Concours entry form with a MB display only category. There *will* be a MB display only this year.

In the Judged R-1 Class, cars be entered for Judging or Display-only we will create a special MBCA corral as a separate class. For owners that want to enter that:

Option 1: Club entrants note 'MBCA Corral' on the printed entry form instead of class R-1

Option 2: On the on-line form:
 -Choose Class R1 Mercedes-Benz
 -In the field called 'Special features of your car' (right under class selection), state: MBCA Corral.

Not a Member? Join MBCA today!

MBCA Membership Application

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY



FULL NAME _____

ASSOCIATE MEMBER (ANOTHER HOUSEHOLD MEMBER) _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ BUSINESS PHONE _____

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MERCEDES-BENZ VEHICLES YOU NOW OWN (YEAR AND MODEL) _____

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

driving events car shows social events
 car care technical The Star

SIGN ME UP FOR: (check one)

UNITED STATES:

1 year \$55 2 years \$107 3 years \$157

INTERNATIONAL: (including Canada)

1 year \$65 2 years \$127 3 years \$187

Make checks or money orders payable to MBCA (U.S. funds only), or use VISA, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE _____

SECTION PREFERENCE (OR WE WILL ASSIGN BY ZIP CODE) _____

REFERRED BY MEMBER (IF A MEMBER, MEMBER # IF AVAILABLE) _____

PAYMENT: (check one)

Check/Money Order (U.S. Funds) Credit Card

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____

CREDIT CARD BILLING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT THAN MAILING ADDRESS) _____

You can also join online at www.mbc.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.

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 are at right. For more information, contact Greg Buechler — see contact info at right.



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!.

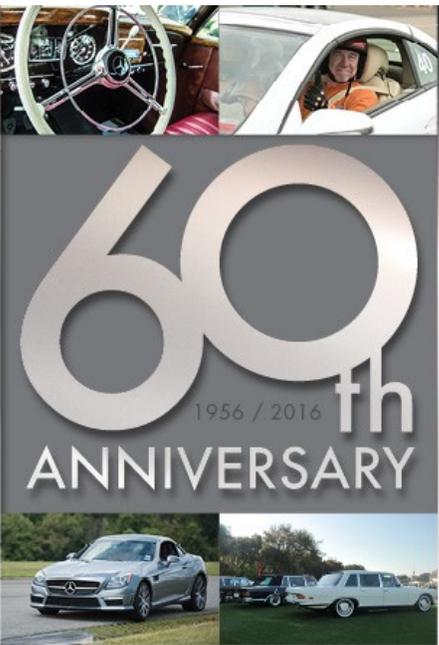
Celebrate Classic Performance at Legends of the Autobahn®

Legends of the Autobahn® returns to Monterey Car Week on Friday, August 19th at the Nicklaus Club in Monterey, California. Be a part of the celebration of the world's pre-eminent German vehicle brands – Mercedes-Benz, BMW and Audi.

MBCA Members are invited to enter their automobiles in the judged Concours classes, the display-only corral, or the Silver Star Preservation class.

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 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.

Register your Mercedes-Benz at www.legendsoftheautobahn.org. The deadline to register is July 31st. For more information contact Allen Stephens at 503-708-0397 or allen.c.stephens@gmail.com.



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1956 / 2016
ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATE MBCA's DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY
Join Us As We Embrace Rich Heritage, Beautiful Cars, and Great Friendships.

This year marks Mercedes-Benz Club of America's (MBCA) 60th Anniversary as the largest and best Mercedes-Benz Club in the world. We will be gathering to celebrate the Club's rich heritage, beautiful cars, and great friends at this year's 53rd June Jamboree, June 24-25th.

Established in 1963, June Jamboree is the Club's longest-running event hosted by the Northern New Jersey Section. This event offers the perfect venue for celebrating heritage and embracing the future of the Club, and all things Mercedes-Benz.

Visit www.mbcamj.com for additional information and to RSVP.



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Tech Article : Check your German Fuses

By Greg Horst Portland Section

On a recent trip to Arizona I experienced some electrical issues with my 1991 300E that I would like to share with you. I also think what I found on my trip is also related to an issue I had back in Portland about a month earlier.

About halfway between Bakersfield and Barstow Ca. I wanted to open the sunroof for some added ventilation. It didn't move up, down or slide open. I next tried the windows, nothing. On a whim, I tried the seats, and then the wipers, all dead. The car was running OK, and at least the radio was working.

Time for a break and some gas, so at the service station I opened the cover on the fuse box expecting to find an open fuse. To my surprise I found all the fuses to be good. Following the chart inside the fuse box cover I determined the offending circuit to be no. 2 that protects multiple circuits including the ones I was having issues with.

The fuse in question was an original one with a silver conductor. I removed the fuse from its holder and put it back in. Everything at that point started to work again. I concluded that there was some sort of dirty connection between the fuse and the copper contacts in the fuse box. This loss of contact is probably due to oxidation of the fuse material over a period of time. Which leads to other issues I had last winter.

During December and January when we had heavy rains, the car would start fine from cold and ran smoothly for a few minutes. At that point it would start to miss at idle, not often, but it would then become very frequent, and trying to use more than idle throttle would lead to severe stumbling. It would run this way for a while and then suddenly it would run normally again. I checked the ignition connections, coil wire for shorting and inside the distributor cap for water, all was fine. The problem would disappear for 2-3 weeks and then all of a sudden return. I also had an intermittent bulb out indication during the day without using the brakes, turn signals or lights. The photo shows just how bad the fuse for that circuit had deteriorated over the years.



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The Northwestern Star is Looking for Articles

We are always looking for input from members for share with our section. Feel free to forward anything you find interesting or a story to tell

- Car stories. Purchases, restorations or journeys in the world of Mercedes Benz.
- Tech articles. Anything you have found successful and would like to share.
- Fun road trips in your Mercedes Benz. We all have those stories I am sure !
- Germany trips that have included any of the great Mercedes Benz sites and attractions.
- Car museums or exhibits you have found to be good and the other section members could benefit from.

I am looking for 1/2-1 page articles and pictures are very helpful. Send to abarr63@comcast.net

Happy driving! Summer is right around the corner!

Dave



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Portland Section Schedule of Events

June 19th, Fathers Day @ Champoeg State Park 12 noon

June 25th, Board Meeting Mercedes Benz of Wilsonville

July 8-10th, Portland Vintage Racing Festival , PIR

July 17th, Forest Grove Concours d' Elegance, Pacific University

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

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

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

October 8th, Mt. Adams Fall Drive (more info TBA)

Follow the Portland Section on Facebook!



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