Upcoming Events

November 12th
Fall Detailing
Sidedraught City
10a-12p

December 3rd
Annual General Meeting and
Holiday Party
Hayden’s on the Lake Tualatin
6pm

December 3rd
Board Meeting
After Dinner at Hayden’s
Approx. 8pm

Annual General Meeting & Holiday Party

Saturday December 3rd, Hayden’s On The Lake, Tualatin 6pm

By Jim Thompson, Portland Section

Join the Portland section on December 3rd for the Annual General meeting and Holiday get together. After a year of great events, it is time to celebrate 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. This is a special event this year as MBCA Portland Section celebrates 40 years!

See page 5 for details

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Saturday November 12th, Sidedraught City, Portland 10am-12pm

Join the Portland section on November 12th at Sidedraught City. The focus of this event is battery maintenance and choices. Just in time for winter there will be a guest speaker discussing battery tenders and battery types. Neil will also have some new products from Griot’s Garage to show us. I always look forward to these events myself!

Meet at 10am and we are looking to be done by 12 noon.

Sidedraught City
9125 SE 64th Ave.
Portland, OR 97206
Mercedes-Benz Club
of America,
Portland Section

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Welcome, New Members

Frank Bertinchamps Beaverton
Verdan Curgus St. Helens
Jason Fields Portland
James Goodwater Milwaukie
Julious Griffith Springfield
John Hall Beaverton
Bernd Hoffman Ridgefield
Matthew Prinvale Vancouver

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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.

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President’s Message

By Section President Ron Woodruff

RADIOS

Mercedes Benz primarily installed Becker and occasionally Blaupunkt brands. The ones I think are the best are from the late 60’s to mid-70’s. They have a pin stripe face plate and chrome bezel. These would be the transistor models, which were the next step up from the old tube type. Some had internal amplifiers and some were remote versions attached with wire pigtail connections. These radios were made exclusively for a specific year and model of car. What this means is that if you own a 230 through 280 SL or SE sedan (especially a late 60’s - 71 coupe or cabriolet W111, 112) that does not have a stock radio, you can’t just “plug” in a radio from an equivalent sedan - it simply will not fit. For the person restoring one of these beauties, this exclusivity translates into $$$$$.

These radios came in the basic Europa brand, ranging from the mono (no stereo) and the Europa II stereo, to the signal-seeking Grand Prix model, with a multi-band dial, SW, MW, AM, FM. Some came with a multi-button Short Wave Adapter that I really never understood, but that looked great mounted just below the radio, under the dashboard. The later-model Beckers, with the pin-striped dial, were the Becker Mexico that had a cassette player built into the radio. Some of the earlier Becker radios had a separate cassette module mounted near the radio on the lower portion of the dashboard. These were common accessories for the mid-late 70’s W107 SL’s and W108/109 sedans. They were used in other European cars, as well.

And the Grand Daddy of all complications (with regard to the correct Becker radio/intercom system) would be to attempt the restoration of a 600 Pullman long wheel base model from the late 60’s or early 70’s. These were essentially custom made and based on the initial factory customer order specifications.

These radios were antiques in the 80’s and 90’s, which is why they were discarded for the new CD radios, that had a black front and no fancy chrome bezel. Now, however, you can have the best of both worlds with your vintage Becker or Blaupunkt radios. How’s that, you ask? You can have a DIN pig tail (which was part of the radio’s original design) added to your radio. This will allow you to plug the pigtail into an IPHONE or other electronic storage device. You now have all the music or audio choices without CD’s, tapes, etc. But, I still think it’s fun to have a cassette or two around for my Becker Mexico – “just cuz!

Another chapter in radios goes back to the tube-type Beckers for Pontons, Adenauers and early SL’s, from the late 40’s to the early-mid 50’s. But, that’s an article for another time.

As a closing note, in looking up the history of Becker radios, I noticed that the Becker brand was a pioneer in technical innovations from the late 40’s on. But that should not really be a surprise considering Becker radios are consistent with the innovation history and quality of the Mercedes Benz brand.

For those of you who are interested, here’s some web sites with more information on Becker radio history: www.blackforestLLC.com www.soundlabsgroup.com.au www.becker-mexico-retro.de
August Arrive and Drive to NW Mogfest
(Event Report)

By Stacy Rollins, Portland Section

Last August 20th members of the Portland section took a drive through the Willamette Valley, eventually ending at Mog Fest in Sheridan, Oregon. That day was the hottest of the summer; it was 107 degrees in the sun in Sheridan. Despite the heat, everyone seemed to have good time during the drive and afterwards watching the Mercedes-Benz Unimogs and G Wagons driving around the obstacle course.

The Saturday morning drive took members south through the valley along back roads to the east of I-5. We drove through countryside, passing nurseries, farms, and vineyards. The route circled around the east and south side of Salem, crossing I-5 and heading west toward the Willamette River. The drive paused for a few minutes at I-5 to take a break, and add a couple of members from the Salem area to the caravan. The drive continued west through rolling hills south of Salem, which had unexpectedly stunning views of the Willamette Valley. We crossed the river at Independence, and headed northwest toward Sheridan. The entire drive took about 2 ½ hours.

Shortly after Noon, and in time for lunch, we arrived at Mog Fest – a gathering of Unimog enthusiasts (and drivers of other European off-road vehicles such as Mercedes G-Wagons, Range Rovers, and serious off-road vehicles not imported into the USA). Our members stayed around until late afternoon and then headed home.

Many thanks to long-time members Greg and Nancy Buechler for designing the driving route and road-testing it a couple of times. And thanks to the Mog Fest organizers for inviting us to the festivities.
Annual General Meeting and Holiday Party cont.

WHAT: Annual General Meeting and Holiday Party
WHEN: 6PM, Saturday December 3rd
WHERE: Hayden’s On The Lake , 8187 SW Tualatin-Sherwood Road, Tualatin, OR
COST: $42.35 per person. Use coupon below to mail.

No Host Bar from 6pm to 6:40pm
Dinner includes salad, entre, desert and tip. Choices are Cedar Plank Salmon, Chicken Saltimbocca or RR Rank New York Steak.

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Mt. Adams Fall Drive Recap

By David Abarr, Portland Section

The weather gods cooperated and we had a beautiful fall day to enjoy during the Mt. Adam drive in October. About 17 Mercedes-Benzes participated as well as a lone Jaguar. We had a few r170 and 171 chassis SLKs, r107, r129 and r230 chassis SL's, a w211 E class, w108 and more attending.

As we started our journey cross the Hood Rover bridge heading north on Washington State 14 along the magnificent Columbia river. We all converge at the start of the drive at the Chamberlain Lake rest area. From there we went up 142 following the Klickitat River and canyon country. The beauty is quite the distraction along these great roads as all the cabriolets and roadsters had our tops down. It was the low and mid 70's so really the last nice day of 2016 graced our presence.

As we headed north we turned on to the Glenwood Highway. This took us to the town of Glenwood where we took a bit of a rest. The threat of emending rain urged us to put our tops up. We didn’t however get any. We headed west and then south along highway 141 back into the town of White Salmon and then into Bingen. He had lunch at Beneventi’s Pizza and visited. It was great fall day and member commented how much they had a great time. I took the long route home back to the Willamette Valley visiting Crown point and the picturesque Columbia River gorge. Great driving event to top off a great year.

Thank you Stacy Rollins for another well planned out great event.

Social Media and the MBCA

By David Abarr, Portland Section

The ever expanding world of how to connect with one another begs the question of how can MBCA connect and promote the club as well as grow membership? No longer do we have just verbal and written communication in the traditional senses. Facebook has revolutionized how we do that. MBCA has been growing its presence on all social media platforms. In the flash of a second we can connect and engage a large audience. Never before in history has it been so easy to reach tens of thousands of people. MBCA National Facebook has 21K followers and MBCA Portland section has 2900. So we are reaching far outside the scope of members. Sharing what’s new in the world of Mercedes-Benz, Events and pictures has never been easier as well. Real time media has reached new heights. I broadcast live for MBCA national throughout Monterey Car Week this past August. Any feedback to do with social media and content feel free to contact me. I am serving on the National Communication Social Media Board for MBCA as well. I created a Instagram account for our section to share photos as well. Search PDXMBCA. We are Mercedes-Benz Club of America/Portland Section on Facebook. Mike Spicer and myself moderate that. New to this? Give it a try and ask if you need help!
M-100 Club Lodefest Meet in Portland

By Section member Mike Spicer

This year’s International M-100 meet (Lode Fest) was held in our very own back yard here in Portland Oregon. Hosted by Luis Pacheco and Ashley Aitken the event activities were top notch and attracted members from all over the globe. The Friday tour started from the Benson Hotel downtown where normal commuters were treated to a motorcade of classic Mercedes 600’s, 300SEL 6.3’s and a 6.9. These striking cars attracted a lot of attention as we drove up to the historic Timberline Lodge on MT Hood for lunch. It proved to be good entertainment for all the hood-to-coast runners that were pounding the pavement that day too. From Mt. Hood we drove to the Naked Winery in Hood River for wine tasting and hung out on the river bank watching boaters, dogs and kids swimming with summer in full effect. We finished the day with a great dinner at the Three Rivers Grill. The weekend was capped off with a Saturday tech session at Hartman Motors that got members under a 1970 600 Pullman as well as other M-100 powered cars. This is a fun group and Its wonderful to see all these amazing limousines in action.

Camas Wings and Wheels Recap

By Section member Paul Pietrowski

The Wheels and Wings event was held on Saturday September 17, 2016 despite the heavy rain. Nine of us met at the Georgia Pacific paper mill to convoy for the 10 a.m. event at Grove Field Airport Camas, WA. A sumptuous feast of free hot dogs was available for those who like an adventurous breakfast. Three additional Mercedes arrived during our two hour stay for a final total of twelve cars. I sincerely thank those who attended the event and I understand why those who elected to cancel did so due to the very heavy rain. Our Mercedes participants did receive six trophies which did shed sunshine on the corral. I would appreciate any feedback by those members who participated to determine if we should plan to attend next year, hopefully, with better weather.

Below section member Matthew Nenninger proudly displaying his sponsor choice award in the rain next to his r107 450sl!
The Day I Met My Heroes

By David Abarr, Portland Section

As someone who gets around I have meet Sir Moss, Wayne Carini and Jay Leno. I attend a lot of events. This past September I got the call from past MBCA Portland Section Allen Stephens to go to the California desert and spend the day with Jeremy Clackson, Richard Hammond and James May formerly of Top Gear UK fame. Something I have dreamt about for a decade or so. The 3 hosts after leaving Top Gear in 2015 amid a bevy of controversy now have a show in the making soon to be on Amazon prime streaming service. It was an amazing experience and the opening sequence that was filmed that day involved every super car you think of, Mad Max style vehicles, Burning Man cars and characters and a few concourse cars in the California desert. A burning caravan aka trailer as they are called in the UK, a 3 wheeler Morgan hinted at the hugely influential show of the past would be a bigger and better. I was able to meet the hosts and get autographs. Cellphones were not allowed but my wristband is now a cherished memento of that weekend and sharing a lot of fun with Allen. Watch the premiere of The Grand Tour on Amazon Prime on November 18th. The American portion filmed near Victorville, California will be the kick off to the new series.
Vision Mercedes-Maybach 6 World Premiere

By David Abarr, Portland Section

While attending Monterey Car week this year I was lucky enough to get an invite to the world premiere of the Mercedes-Maybach 6. Named so for the 6 meter of length this masterful exercise in car design spans. In attendance was the world’s car press as was Jochen Mass, Sir Sterling Moss and Gorden Wagener head of design for Daimler AG pictured here next to the Vision coupe.

As described by Mercedes-Benz “Study of an ultra-stylish luxury-class coupé: the Vision Mercedes-Maybach 6. The 2+2 seater is a homage to the glorious age of the aero coupés and consciously carries this tradition forward into the future. The coupé reinterprets classic, emotional design principles in an extreme way, following the Mercedes-Benz design philosophy of sensual purity.”

The coupe is a self-driving all-electric car. It has around 80kWh worth of capacity, resulting in an impressive 200-mile EPA-estimated range. It's capable of outputting a staggering 738 horsepower. Not bad for a big luxury car. Mercedes equipped the Maybach 6 with some clever technological features as well. It has a maximum charging capacity of 350kW, meaning in just five minutes, 62 miles of range can be added to the battery with a wired connection. And if you’re looking for even more convenience out of your ultra-luxurious electric coupe, it can be charged wirelessly via an electromagnetic field. The Maybach 6 has four magnet synchronous electric motors, putting that horsepower to all four of its 24-inch (!) wheels. Mercedes estimates 0-60 mph takes less than four seconds, with an electronically limited top speed of 155 mph. For a car that looks like it weighs around three tons, those are some impressive numbers.

December Board Meeting

The next Portland Section Board Meeting is Saturday, December 3rd 2016 approximate 8pm at Hayden's on the Lake after the Holiday dinner. We encourage all member to stay after to attend to discuss 2017 events and planning.

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. Planning for 2017 is underway and we all looking for ideas and chair people.
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Portland Section
Schedule of Events

**November 12th** Fall Detail @ Sidedraught City 10a-12p (details in the Nov/Dec issue)

**December 3rd** General Annual Meeting and Holiday get together. Hayden's on the Lake, Tualatin 6pm no host bar. Dinner at 6:40pm

**December 3rd** Board Meeting @ Hayden's after the Holiday Dinner approx. 8pm

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