



THE NORTHWESTERN STAR

Vol. 43 • No. 2

Portland Section

Spring 2017

SPRING FEVER!



Portland Section Members
Pagodas Enjoying The Lush Trees
At The Forest Grove Concours d'Elégance



GARAGE TOUR



WINE TOUR



AUTO SPA

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New Board Member



The club officers would like to welcome newly appointed board member Jim Hendershot. Jim is located in the southern Oregon region and will be a great addition to represent that part of the state. Feel free to reach out to Jim as the plan is to provide some additional events to our southern section members. A little bit more from Jim.

"Starting with a 300SE in 1990, I've owned a Benz off and on for many years. Currently I have two Mercedes. One Benz is a 560SL project car, mostly just for the fun of driving a roadster I have always admired, the other is a 6.9, which, believe it or not, is my daily driver. I'm an engineer at Radio Design Group, working of RF and wireless systems, and an active Amateur Radio operator, callsign WA6VQP. My wife Kirsten has always admired the Benz's from the 80's, and since she's a Dane, red is her color! "

Welcome Jim!!

Dealer Ambassadors

The club now has in place ambassadors to the dealers around the state of Oregon. We will provide club materials and will be working with the various dealers for event opportunities and membership recruitment

Paul Pietrowski will serve Greater Portland

Dave Abarr will serve Central Willamette Valley

Jim Hendershot will serve Southern Oregon

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.

President's Message

By Section President Ron Woodruff



The Studebaker-Mercedes Connection, Part II

In the last newsletter I mentioned there would be a continuing narrative on the brief history of how the failing Studebaker-Packard Corporation would lead to the birth of Mercedes-Benz of North America in 1965.

In 1996 an article, "Strange Bedfellows—The Studebaker-Mercedes Connection," was published in *Automobile Quarterly* (Vol. 35, No.1, 1996) and written by Ken Gross. This article states, "The little-known alliance between Studebaker-Packard and Mercedes-Benz lasted just about eight years. When it ended, one partner was near death, and the other was about to be reborn."

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, my first car was one of the bullet-nose models that left you guessing which end was the front of the car! You could not tell whether it was going forward or backward! Some owners attached a propeller to the nose, which made it look like an airplane. This car was one of the many post-war aeronautic/rocket designs produced by many car companies, including GM, Chrysler, and Ford. (Virgil Exner, who was with Chrysler, promoted the "Forward Look" that sported airplane fins, intake louvers, rocket design metaphors, etc. (You might be wondering, "How can there be a connection between Virgil Exner, Studebaker and Mercedes? Read on ...).

When I bought my first Studebaker in 1962, Studebakers would only be produced for four more years. The company had manufactured everything from Conestoga wagons to cars for 115 years. They produced their first car in 1911 and stopped making wagons in 1921. From that time on, they focused exclusively on automobiles, trucks, and military vehicles. During their automobile production years, 1911 to 1966, Studebaker had a long history of automotive engineering firsts and the experience of merging with other "high profile" automotive marques, namely Pierce Arrow and Packard. In the 1920's and early 30's, Pierce Arrow and Packard were the equivalent of the S Class Mercedes, the 600 models of the early 70's, and the Maybach's.

Pierce Arrow merged with Studebaker in 1928, when the company needed cash. Studebaker hoped that the merger would provide the company's 3,864 dealerships with enough exposure to keep the Pierce Arrow "alive." But Pierce was also dying a slow death and finally expired in 1938, on the eve of the Depression.

As we all know, the Great Depression leveled the automotive playing field. The once great independents became "orphan cars" - cars such as Nash, Hudson, Willys-Overland, Kaiser Frazer, Crosley, Hupmobile, Cord, Auburn, and many others, went the way of the dinosaurs. These are cars that many people have never heard of - especially some of the British models.

Studebaker barely surviving the Depression, realized it needed to re-tool and produce lower level models such as the Champion. At this time Studebaker was No. 4, behind Chrysler, Ford and GM. In the early 50's, Henry Ford II was competing so hard he was selling cars at \$50-\$100 over cost. This proved to be the death knell for Studebaker. In 1954 Studebaker merged with Packard, hoping that one would save the other. However, the Glory Days of Studebaker and Packard were long over.

In order to provide some up-dated styling in the late 1920's, Studebaker hired Ray Dietrich, who was a top-notch designer for Packard. Virgil Exner, who was still with Studebaker, created the first real post-war automotive design. Studebaker also had one of the most famous industrial designers of all time, Raymond Lowey, heading up the design team in the post-war period of the late 40's and early 50's. He helped them create the Starliner, "Lowey Coupes," and later the Avanti. But the Lowey Coupe, which is in the Metropolitan Museum of Art for excellence in automotive design, was too little and too late.

Welcome, New Members

Imagination International Inc.	Eugene	John Niemeyer	Gresham
Pat Edwards	Vancouver	Paul Schlatter	Grants Pass
Peter Flynn	Camas	John Thorkildson	Milwaukie
Barry Harte	Vancouver	Clint Herr	Eugene
Robert Zeeck	McMinnville	Peter Holman	Vancouver
Eric Merrill	Vancouver	Rye Zimmerman	Beaverton

Skamania Lodge Weekend

By Paul Pietrowski, Portland Section



Have you ever been to the scenic Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, Washington? It's located off of Washington State Highway 14. The MBCA Portland Section has teamed up with the Collector Car Club of America in a joint car show/corral weekend at Skamania Lodge. This is a family oriented event as there are many activities for the whole family to include hiking paths, zip line, gift shop, and an in lodge Spa. A group rate for MBCA and CCCA members has been approved and will be honored by identifying yourself as a member of either club. Room reservations are required for those staying at the lodge. Please be advised that Skamania Lodge is a national and international tourist destination. The event dates are in the beginning of the summer tourist season. It is therefore necessary that room and dinner reservations be made in advance with a cutoff date of 01 April 2017. Please join us for a fun filled weekend of activities and fellowship.

EVENT DETAILS:

Where: Skamania Lodge 1131 SW Skamania Lodge Way Stevenson, WA 98648

When: 20 – 21, May 2017

Reservations for rooms (509) 427-7700* (800) 221-7117*

*Remember to identify yourself as an MBCA member when making room reservations.

MBCA Portland Section Event Contact: Paul J. Pietrowski (Not for rooms reservations)

Email: spietro122@comcast.net

Driving Tour and Wine Tasting

By Mike Spicer, Portland Section



Join us for a wine country drive to McMinnville and a walking tour of four wineries on Sunday June 11th

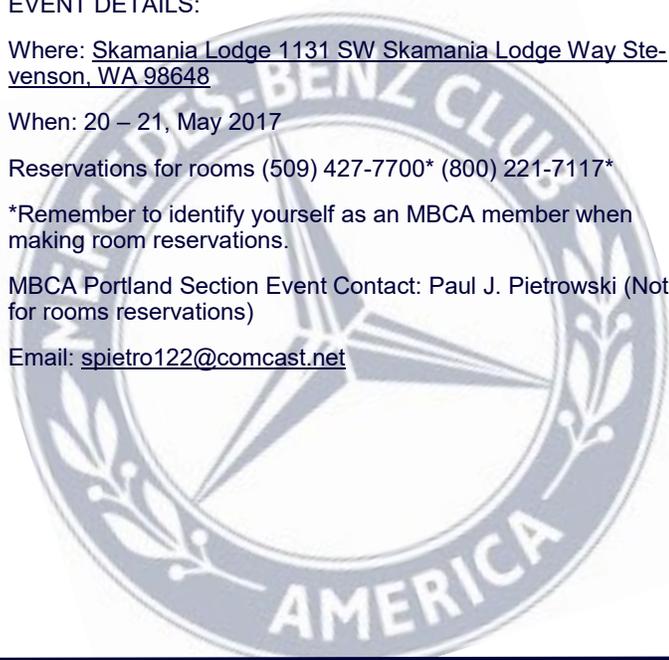
Meet in the parking lot at between Starbucks and Jamba Juice.

14700 SW Murray Scholls Pl
Beaverton, OR 97007

You can get gas and coffee at this location prior to start.

We will Depart promptly at 11AM from the parking lot for a leisurely drive through the country side to McMinnville OR. Where we will have lunch and do a walking tour of some wineries starting at Elizabeth Chambers. The route will be given to you when we depart.

RSVP to attend to ensure we can have room for you and an accurate head count for lunch.
Mike@spicercollectorcars.com



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Portland Vintage Racing Festival @ PIR

Forest Grove Concours d'Elegance



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 29th and 30th. 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



MBCA Portland Section members are invited to display their Mercedes-Benz at the Forest Grove Concours d'Elegance, Sunday July 16th at Pacific University in Forest Grove. Your car will be on the show field with over 300 classic and collector cars. You can enter your car in the display-only MBCA Corral, or in the judged Concours class. You'll have a wonderful day in the shade, and enjoy the company of fellow Mercedes enthusiasts. Plus the event features great food, music, and beer and wine. Enter today at www.forestgroveconcours.org, and select Class MBCA for the Corral, or Class R-1 for the Judged Concours. The Entry Deadline is June 30th.

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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Mercedes-Benz

Save the Date 2017 – Portland Section Events

David Abarr, *Portland Section*

May

Saturday and Sunday 20-21st, Skamania Lodge Drive and Tour

June

Date TBD. Cars & Coffee MB Event @ World of Speed in Wilsonville
Sunday 11th Elizabeth Chambers Wine Tour and Lunch

July

Saturday and Sunday 8-9th PIR Vintage Festival, Portland
Saturday and Sunday 16-17th Forest Grove Tour and Concourse, Forest Grove, OR
Sunday 30th Oak Bay Collector Car Festival , Victoria BC Canada

August

Possible Lake Oswego Car and Boat Show

September

Saturday 16th Camas Wings and Wheels, Camas, WA

October

Sunday 8th Willamette Valley Fall Drive

November

Open / Possible Tech events

December

Saturday 2nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Christmas Party, Hayden's of the Lake, Tualatin

Please be aware that events could change after the newsletter goes to press. This has happened with the annual MBI event.

We send out email blasts several time for each event. Ensure the club has your current email address. Go here to update.

<https://www.mbca.org/>

Go you the link above that shows "Your Profile" to update current info on your membership.

We plan on monthly updates as well soon.



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The *NEW* Newsletter !

You will notice the new all FULL color newsletter and redesign . This has been a project for a while. Thank you Mike Spicer for all the help. I would like to welcome a new advertiser as well ! Mercedes-Benz of Medford is now a big supporter of the Northwestern Star. The newsletter will now be published quarterly with the following dates.

Winter	January 1st
Spring	April 1st
Summer	July 1st
Fall	October 1st

There will be monthly *email blasts* for event updates and news as well.

As always we are looking for member stories about your cars and a chance to be featured on the cover. I know we all have a story or two about our love affair and adventures with our beloved automobiles.

Dave Abarr

Gallagher Auto Spa Recap Member Profile

By David Abar, Portland Section

By Allison



Portland Section member R.E. has love affair with MB. His lucky lady wrote this article about said affair...Above is his newest addition to the collection of beauties.



A nice sunny winter day greeted Portland section members as we gathered at [Scott Gallagher's](#) new location in Tualatin. A very conveniently located location right on Tualatin/Sherwood Road. A great turn out and some sun made everyone very happy! Scott's hospitality is always welcoming and his new shop is very large and can service a lot of cars. He went through the basics of preparing and car for clay bar, polishing and waxing. He highlighted interior detail s well. The sample car was this monster of a C7 Z06 modified to make 1K HP! The start up was quite loud. I think it would give a GT-S a run for the money. Getting to see members post holidays was fun and to start talking about 2017 events exciting.

Click on the link on his ad to make an appointment today. Tell him the club sent you!

His love affair began sometime in 2011. My intuition proved to be correct. I was no longer his number one. He now seemed distracted and pre-occupied. The proof surfaced, when after a long trip away from home, he asked 'how is my girl?' That girl was no longer me! His obsession began with a flawless golden beauty. She was only 25, and still in her prime. She appeared to be very elegant, but sturdy, reliable, and stable. She seemed to have it all. How could I even compete? Soon one wasn't enough, and his conquests became a ritual of nightly pursuit. Hour after hour on the internet, I was a witness to his longings, and that grin on his face. Soon local 300's weren't enough. Flying to far away destinations became a reality. One turned into two, two doubled to four, and four has almost become a five. He fell in love with yet another 25 year old, followed by a 24 year old, and then..... a 34 year old classic "300 D" that he now calls "CREAMPUFF!" He is now the proud owner of a HAREM! He seems to have a weakness for the same body type. Elegance, and low mileage. I decided I really needed to strengthen our relationship. Instead of being jealous and controlling, I slowly realized how happy he had become. Through his life, he never really did have time to enjoy life. He spent most of his time flying circles around the globe, in the big jets. Now, he found a new passion! Highly intelligent, he has become a walking encyclopedia on every aspect of the 300. He reads publications from cover to cover, and gathers information from the experts! Come to find out, he isn't alone in his need to "possess." There are many with similar addictions. I'd call them "Mercedes groupies," who live all over the world. I guess counseling isn't needed after all. Taking all of this into consideration, I began to embrace his new found passion. Can't beat em, join em, became my new motto. We now take mini vacations together in pursuit of perfection. I see the glimmer in his eye, and I know another trip is in the horizon...

Bill Jabs Garage Tour Recap

By David Abarr, Portland Section



1941 Holmes Wrecker Tow Truck.



Both 1929 Packard 640. The moss green one in original condition is ex NYC mayor Jimmy Walker's car. The Tan and Burgundy was famed San Francisco Architect Bernard Maybeck's car.

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Very nice sunny winter day greeted the members at Bill Jabs garage in Eagle Creek. Bill is the director of the Oregon section of the Classic Car Club of America. Bill's shop near his house is very impressive. Above is small sample of the cars we saw. Just some of the cars was 1965 Corsa which is a Canadian Corvair, 1930 Model A coupe, 1939 Ford Deluxe 4 door convertible, 1936 Dodge Canopy Express truck and much more. We saw a lot of prewar cars. But Bill has a great variety of cars. Bill has 1 full time employee that he works with at the shop in the constant job of restoring these old gems. Bill's wife Mary operates the Eagle Creek Lavender farm next to the house and house. This part of rural Oregon was very beautiful right next to the Clackamas River. We thank Bill and Mary for the great hospitality and a look into a very nice collection. A great turn out and thank you for all those that came out! Make sure you look at the other event planned with CCCA this May on page 4 at Skamania Lodge.

May Board Meeting

The next Portland Section Board Meeting is *Sunday, May 7th, 2017 10am* at Mercedes-Benz of Wilsonville, 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.

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 _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

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

SIGN ME UP FOR: (check one)

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INTERNATIONAL: (including Canada)

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

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APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE _____

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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)

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.

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NW Star provides no guarantees as to the quality of the items being sold and the accuracy of the information provided about the sale items. Ads are posted per information from sellers and are not verified by the NW Star.

For Sale 1959 220SE Sedan

Great project for a Mercedes enthusiast. Car was disassembled for restoration, but loss of storage forces sale. Straight and rust free body. All chrome and trim is present. Interior wood, Motorola radio and gauges in good condition. Drivetrain is complete, with 4-speed column shift transmission. Fuel injection system will need to be rebuilt. \$8,000 or best offer.



Call Rick at 541-292-1310 or rmkaufman@yahoo.com

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\$ 98,000 FOB Portland

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Portland Section Schedule of Events

May 7th, Portland Section Board Meeting
Mercedes Benz of Wilsonville

May 20-21st, Skamania Lodge Drive and
Tour with Classic Car Club of America
Stevenson, WA

June 11th, Elizabeth Chambers Cellar
Tour and Lunch

July 15-16th, Forest Grove Concours d'
Elegance

July 29-30th, Vintage Racing Festival @
PIR

July 30th, Oak Bay Collector Car Festival ,
Oak Bay Victoria BC

August 18th, Legends of the Autobahn,
Nicklaus Club, Monterey , CA
(National MBCA Event)

Follow the Portland Section on Facebook!



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