

# Tri-Angles

Minuteman Section

Winter Edition  
January-February-March  
2005



## Tech Session...Storing cars and Pre-Purchase Inspections

On Saturday February 12, AlphaCars (www.AlphaCars.com) will host a Technical Session focusing on storing a Mercedes and pre-purchase inspection. The technical session is meant for technical and non-technical people.

We will meet at AlphaCars at 8:45AM.

*Continued on page 4*



Speed  
Style  
and  
Beauty

1938 Bugatti

**A rare exhibit of some of the finest cars in the country is being held in our own backyard.**

Fifteen of Ralph Lauren's cars are on exhibit at The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. You may have seen one or two at Paul Russell's shop during one of our tech sessions, but 15 in a single display has to be an unforgettable experience!

Sunday May 15, 2005 join the members of the Minuteman Section for a tour of the entire museum including the special **Speed, Style and Beauty** exhibit of Ralph Lauren cars at 12:30 PM to be followed by a private club museum cocktail reception (cash bar) at 2:00 PM.

Advance reservations are required and priority will be given to members and one guest. A limited number of tickets are available. Please read on for further details.

*Continued on page 3*

## Minuteman Section-- MBCA Annual Banquet, Theatre and Meeting

**A Sold Out**

**Club  
Event!!**

**Sunday,  
April 3, 2005**

**"The  
PHANTOM  
of the OPERA" at "The Opera House",**



*Continued on page 7*



## Speed, Style, and Beauty Exhibit: The Ralph Lauren Collection

Continued from page 1



*1958 Ferrari 250 Testa Rosa*

Sunday May 15, 2005 join the members of the Minuteman Section for a tour of the entire museum including the special **Speed, Style and Beauty** exhibit. A limited number of tickets are available at the prices listed below. Reservations are on a first come first serve and will be limited. Don't delay this will be a sell out. All reservations will be acknowledged by the program coordinator.

Please fill out the form and mail to: Steve Wiener, 237 Stoney Gate, Carlisle, MA 01741.

Or for more information call Steve at 978.369.8206 or e-mail: [stevew190@hotmail.com](mailto:stevew190@hotmail.com)

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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people (limit 2) @ \$25.00 each: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional people (limit 2) @ \$50.00 each: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: Minute Man Section MBCA

Mail to: Steve Wiener, 237 Stoney Gate, Carlisle, MA 01741.

## Tech Session...Storing cars and Pre-Purchase Inspections

Continued from page 1

AlphaCars has been servicing the needs of the Boston and Metro-West area since 1989. AlphaCars specializes primarily in late model high-quality European automobiles.

Please contact **Mark Fancy** (fancymb@charter.net) at 508-347-1814 for further information. AlphaCars is located at 649 Mass. Ave. (Rt. 111), Boxborough, MA 01719, which is just 1.5 miles east on Rt. 111 off Rt. 495, exit 28

## MinuteMan On Line Chat

Do you have a question about where to get work done, value of a specific model, want advance notice of upcoming events, or other car facts, figures or just want to chat on line with other MinuteMan members? The MinuteMan Chat Line is growing in numbers and value. It is easy to join directly at [www.yahogroups.com](http://www.yahogroups.com) or send a e-mail to [MinuteManMBCA-subscribe@yahogroups.com](mailto:MinuteManMBCA-subscribe@yahogroups.com) or [steves190@aol.com](mailto:steves190@aol.com). Please include your name, e-mail address, and MBCA member number.

The group is  
[MinutemanMBCA@yahogroups.com](mailto:MinutemanMBCA@yahogroups.com)

**Steve Wiener**  
[steves190@aol.com](mailto:steves190@aol.com)



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**Information: [www.alphacars.com](http://www.alphacars.com)**  
**Email: [sales@alphacars.com](mailto:sales@alphacars.com)**

## Mercedes Marketplace Swap Shop--Classified

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For Sale: 4 alloy wheels 5 spoke with Goodyear 205 X 55 R16 snow tires. Were used on a 1999 CLK but am going south for the winters. \$150. Call Bob Carey at 781-275-2793 or e-mail at [rlcareyjr@comcast.net](mailto:rlcareyjr@comcast.net) (winter-05)

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For Sale: Replacement convertible top for Model 113 230-250-280SL, blue Sonnenland classic German cloth with tan doobby backing, three bow style, bought wrong one and can't return, new in box, \$150, contact Barry at 781-223-5213 or [bsol@comcast.net](mailto:bsol@comcast.net) (fall-04)

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Garage Space for Rent: Looking for a place to store your pride and joy? Clean, heated garage storage available in Carlisle Mass. Multi-car and multi-month discounts available. Contact Maxine at 978 369 1709 or 978 204 6439 (fall-04)

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For Sale: 1995 E320A Cabriolet, beautiful smoke silver/parch leather/brn top, 77K mi, near mint classic, ASR, htd sts, 6CD, LoJack, runs/looks excellent, everything works, needs nothing, \$30,900, contact Barry at 781-223-5213 or [bsol@comcast.net](mailto:bsol@comcast.net) (fall-04)

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For Sale: Set of four (4) 14-inch wheel rims for W123 sedans. Alloy "bundt cake" style. Decent condition. \$200 for set. Call for details. David Bryant. 781-326-8288 or [DavidBryant29@cs.com](mailto:DavidBryant29@cs.com) (fall-04)

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## Our First Car Rally

We have an old car from 1950 so we knew we couldn't go as fast as some other cars, so we decided to do the question and answer part of the rally.

Some things were fun. Some of those things are finding the clues, it was like going on a treasure hunt. Some clues were hard to find and some were easy to find. We kept wondering if we were missing a bunch of the clues along the way. We constantly met Henry and Jim at many places. When we got to the beach we wondered how we were supposed to go straight like the directions said! At the beach I found wood that looked like spaghetti and my sister found wood that looked like the letter "Y".

We found all sorts of other things too. We found lots of churches, moose- lots, all on the same street in Maine, and Bison! We never found the white rabbit but we do know where the Kozlowski's live because their neighbor's told us. Sometimes we got more than one answer to a question so we wrote them all down.

We did a lot of things over and over again. They were: driving in reverse, going in circles, Mom saying "there it is" and "stop" after we passed a clue and dad drove backwards. We kept meeting Henry and Jim at many places and I started getting tired of it. In the directions it said "drive toward Canada" which got us worried when we wondered how far it was to Canada.

Our goal was to have fun, not to break down, and make it back in time for dinner. Since we accomplished all of that we think we did great! I just can't wait for next years rally!

--Sophie Nahrman

## Calendar of Events

### February 12, AlphaCars

([www.AlphaCars.com](http://www.AlphaCars.com)) will host a **Technical Session** focusing on storing a Mercedes and pre-purchase inspection. The technical session is meant for technical and non-technical people. *(Note details in accompanying article in this issue)*

### April 3, Minuteman Section--MBCA Annual Banquet, Theatre and Meeting April 3

*(Note details in accompanying article in this issue)*

**May 15**, join the members of the Minuteman Section for a tour of the entire museum including the special **Speed, Style and Beauty** exhibit of Ralph Lauren cars and private cocktail reception at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston *(Note details in accompanying article in this issue).*

**Theatre Event,  
Annual Banquet and Meeting --  
Sold Out Event!**

Continued from page 1

539 Washington Ave., Boston,  
MA--**Cocktails & Dinner** at  
**Vinalia Restaurant & Wine  
Bar** 34 Summer Street,  
Boston, MA (Across from  
Macy's)



**Theatre--2:00pm.**

**Cocktails & Dinner:**

Immediately

following the show.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's "***The PHANTOM of the OPERA***" is being presented in the magnificent, newly renovated "***The Opera House***". MBCA members have this tremendous opportunity to view Broadway's current longest running musical and the winner of 7 Tony Awards in this opulent setting. Immediately following the show we will enjoy cocktails and an extraordinary dinner at ***Vinalia Restaurant & Wine Bar*** just two short blocks from the theater.

Theatre tickets and directions will be mailed out in February to Club Members who have registered with Rich Garick.

**Questions contact: Rich Garick, 23 Rutgers  
Road, Andover, MA 01810 (978-470-3287)**

**Dear Fellow Mercedes-Benz  
Enthusiast,**

After all the excitement is over, what are you going to do to beat those post season holiday blues? Well, nothing could be finer than to be in Carolina in the spring so join us for StarTech '05 in Raleigh/Cary, NC hosted by the Triangle Section April 22-24, 2005 for the first StarTech on the East Coast.

StarTech is the Mercedes-Benz Club of America's premiere attraction for Mercedes drivers interested in the operation, maintenance, repair and/or restoration of their vehicles. StarTech satisfies those seeking just general knowledge about their vehicles as well as those with specific questions about specific models.

The event features a vendor's show and an opening reception on Friday, April 22. Noted experts in their fields offer multiple concurrent presentations on Saturday. Lunch is included on Saturday and the day concludes with a banquet featuring a noted speaker. Visit our website: [www.mbca.org/startech](http://www.mbca.org/startech)

The headquarters will be The Embassy Suites Hotel ([www.embassysuites.com](http://www.embassysuites.com)) in Cary, NC just 35 miles off I-95 on I-40. It's an easy drive for those anywhere along the east and convenient to RDU International Airport for those flying.

We look forward to seeing you April 22nd to the 24th for the first StarTech on the East Coast.

M. Dee Ogilvy  
StarTech'05 Chairman

Greg Wilkins  
StarTech'05 Co-Chair

**Tech Talk**

**Letters to the Technical Editor** If you have a technical question regarding a Mercedes Benz related topic or have been looking for advice on the maintenance of your car--send a letter or e-mail to the technical editor. Your question and response will be published here in the next issue of Tri-Angles. Send to Peter Vanderveer [pvanderveer@comcast.net](mailto:pvanderveer@comcast.net)

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**The question of the day...A club member asks...**

*“Is there a difference between the fuel that I use in my car in the winter and the fuel that I use in the summer?”*

**Technical Q and A**

Every spring and fall in New England a lot of cars go in for service with unwarranted complaints about hesitation and or hard starting. Usually these problems don't show up in the on board diagnostic readings used by the technician nor does the check engine light come on. Now the time of the year this happens is predictable only because pump gas is formulated completely differently for colder and warmer seasons. A little known fact about gasoline is that there are more volatile mixes used in the colder winter and “non-volatile” mixes used during the warmer summer.

After the car is brought in for service to correct for hesitation (which may not help at all), presto the problem simply goes away on its own. It can do this after a fresh tank of fuel and/or a different brand is used. For whatever reasons (including storage

problems and price) different oil companies can be weeks behind the season for getting the correct volatile or non-volatile fuel formula into your gas tank. You could have a full tank of “summer” fuel, then not use the car until November and it's hard to start on a cold morning. What's happening is that the lower energy summer fuel doesn't develop the vapor needed for easy starts in below freezing temperatures. That's the job of the hotter blooded winter fuel mix which can all too often arrive behind schedule and sometimes arrive at different times at different gas stations.

But what happens if winter fuel is left over and used in the warmer summer months? This higher vapor fuel mix creates what else ... but vapor lock! So the car comes in with early summer hard starting issues caused by vapor lock. Try a different brand of fuel and see if the problem goes away.

### **Fuel Follies**

**--Peter Vanderveer, Technical Editor**



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