



THE Ottawa Tri-Star

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Feelin' The Heat

With summer now upon us, it is great to get some warm weather. With that comes the opportunity to spend time outdoors. Whether it be doing jobs around the house, going for walks, enjoying a meal on an outdoor patio, or simply relaxing outside, we can all appreciate the wonderful summer weather.

It also means that we can finally get in some good driving tours.

So far our Club has had a three great outings - a lunch at the Army Mess, a BBQ and tour at Star Motors in Ottawa and a luncheon at the Ivy Lea Restaurant on the St. Lawrence River.

These events were well attended and included some new members who signed up at the Star Motors event. We welcome them to our Club and hope they continue to take part in the upcoming events.

We have several more events in store this year and hope that you have the chance to participate.

As always, I'm interesting in getting articles to include in the Tri-Star newsletter so if you have any stories that you would like to share with the other members, please send them to me.

Drive Safe!



Mike McKinnon
Vice President &
Ottawa Tri-Star Editor

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Message from the President By Larry Lomas



Will EQC Beat Tesla?

While certainly not ignoring further development in internal combustion engined autos including diesel, Mercedes has almost finished its last of four years of development and testing of their EQC (Electric Intelligent C class) series of vehicles which will be launched in 2019.

There are 500 separate tests that the product manager and his staff will sweat through in order to obtain Daimler product validation. Due to their increasing popularity the first model will be a sports SUV with a range expected to be 500 km.

Since Daimler expects this series, to number six or more models in time, to have universal appeal it has been test driven in northern Sweden at -35 C for its second of three winter trials in snow and ice. At that temperature the battery also needs to heat itself to some set degree as well as providing cabin heat. Apparently all has gone

well, as expected.

Almost 200 prototype and preproduction units were built and tested in their workshops, however the road driven ones are sporting the



usual disruptive paint patterns and paste on plastic pieces to hid their true naked skin which will be fully exposed in time.

At this point some thirty of them are on test tracks and roadways in southern Spain at temperatures up to

+50C where the battery also needs to provide power to cool itself and of course the cabin.

Further road work including continued testing of all components, both smart and dumb will be conducted in other countries including the USA, Italy, Dubai, South Africa and of course everyone's biggest market, China.

Its cost is expected to be about \$100K CA and it appears the government's rebate may soon be on life support at least in Ontario. The production will be split between Germany and the Mercedes \$1B plant in Alabama.

Production planning could be frustrated by off the cuff, early morning tweets of tariff changes. One wonders if the competition's planning and preproduction phase was hurried and its testing portfolio somewhat thinner.

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The Ottawa Tri-Star

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2018 Events Calendar

Here is the listing of the remaining events planned for the 2018 Driving Season.

Details of the events will be provided by email closer to the event dates.

The success of the Club depends on the participation of its members so we encourage members to attend as many events as possible.

The main focus of the Club is to socialize with other MB owners. It does not matter what model or year

your car is, or how young or old you are for that matter!

We are always open for suggestions on what to do for outings so please pass them along. Also if you are interested in helping organize an event we would be happy to hear from you!

Come out and join in the fun!



Ottawa
Section

Planning Date	Event Description	Coordinator
July	Open	
August TBD	Drive to "Shakespeare on the St Lawrence" with lunch or dinner. Consider matinee performance.	Sue and Bob Mather
29 Sept	Benz Meets Rolls at Chateau Montebello Que. Buffet lunch and parking on the front lawn. See info below on this event.	Hubert Drouin
1 November	MBCA Ottawa Section AGM and Annual Dinner. At the Canal Ritz	Sue & Bob Mather

Benz Meets Rolls at the Château Montebello - Saturday, September 29, 2018

Mark your calendars for this popular annual event at the Fairmont Chateau Montebello featuring the hotel's splendid buffet lunch of roast beef, scallop potatoes, salads and a myriad of other choices in the main dining room. This event proved to be one of the most successful ever last year with 27 cars and 58 members in attendance. The hotel is once again providing the entire front lawn as a venue to showcase our cars.

As in previous years, we will be joined by members of the Laurentian Rolls Royce Club and the Mercedes Benz Club of Montreal.

More information will follow closer to the event.



Starfest 2018

By Michael Hoegl

This year's Starfest was held in Birmingham, Alabama in May 2018. I decided to take an older vehicle, (a 1913 Benz W5 8/20HP car), to the venue this time, which meant that I had to put it in a trailer and tow it there, otherwise I would be still on the road. It took almost 3 days to get there and every day it became warmer. When I arrived in Birmingham it was 35 degrees with a humidity we would normally not see until July.

I was surprised how many hills there are in that area and that created a challenge for me. I only have 20 HP in my car and any incline slows me down considerably. A friend of the organizer was able to tour and guide me for one day around the

class, the SUV line was not visible due to the new model coming this year being produced. Surprisingly they kept the c-class line going for us due to a shortage of parts. Apparently a supplier producing a magnesium part in Michigan had a

results will be published in the Star coming soon.

Sunday we were able to drive on the Talladega Oval NASCAR course, which banks up to 18 and then near the top to 33 degrees. You need enough speed to stay there, otherwise you keep dropping down, no matter how hard you try to stay there. It was interesting for me to see what it feels like when I ventured to the 18 degree bank. By running near top speed at 45 mph I was able to weave up and down from there. What an experience.

In the afternoon I entered in the Autocross, a slow to medium speed pylon



area. We went to Barber Motorsports and the brand new dealership in Birmingham where the newest AMG was on display. In the afternoon we toured the scenic area of the city.

The next day we had a tour of the factory to see the assembly of the C-

devastating fire and the supply of these parts was short.

On Saturday we had the concours at the factory grounds. There were all kinds of newer and older Mercedes-Benz on display and we were lucky enough, that the weather was holding up until mid afternoon. Pictures and

course. My best time was about 63 seconds, while the newest Mercedes, a 2018 GT-R did it in about 40 seconds. All that horse power and 105 years later just gets you 23 seconds. At least some improvement in over a century.





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Benzfest 2018

Sponsored by Star Motors of Ottawa

By Bob Richer

What a wonderful way to start off the first driving event of 2018 for our Section!

On Saturday, May 16 we were graciously hosted by Star Motors of Ottawa on 400 West Hunt Club. As each member arrived, their vehicle was driven to their detail location and given a wonderful exterior wash. This was a nice way to treat our vehicles after their long winter storage. The vehicle was then returned and parked and displayed on the front lawn of Star Motors.



We were subsequently treated to a tour of their mechanical service area where mechanics were on hand to illustrate the latest technology as well as answer any questions that our members had.



We then made our way to their body shop where once again we were given an extensive tour and provided with interesting information, techniques used to repair damaged vehicles and informed of warranty of paint work done by a Mercedes dealership is guaranteed for life.

Despite the wet forecast we were very fortunate in that the rain held off for the entire day. As an added bonus, we were then treated to a steak barbeque for all of our members as well as any guests of the dealership who happened to be present that afternoon.

We had a very good turnout with 30 of our members in attendance throughout the day. We were also provided an opportunity to have a display table inside the dealership to provide guests of Star Motors in attendance with information about becoming a member of MBCA and the Ottawa Section. I know that a few individuals signed up to become new members.



At the end of the day each member was provided with a "loot bag" from Star Motors, which included a number of items including a Mercedes-Benz



keychain as well as two glasses with the Mercedes-Benz logo. A very memorable keepsake.

We want to thank Yves Laberge, the Manager of Star Motors of Ottawa for initiating and hosting this event. Hopefully it will become an annual event for our Section. His staff was very supportive and went out of their way to ensure that we were accommodated and that we enjoyed our event – and we certainly did!

We look forward to next year's event!

Bob Richer

Out For A Cruise

(But not in our car)

By Mike McKinnon

In last month's Tri-Star, I included an article about a trip my wife, Diane, and I took around South America in January.

It seems like I am becoming a travel journalist because I am including an article about another cruise we took in May, in this issue. I have to say this was an exceptional year for us in terms of travel and certainly not the norm!

In recognition of a significant birthday for Diane, (I am not going to tell which one), we decided to go on a river cruise in Europe. This has been on our wish list for quite a while and had heard great things about these cruises from friends who had taken them. Although we have been on several ocean cruises, we were looking forward to the smaller ships and a different type of holiday.

We decided on a 10 day cruise with Scenic going along the Danube River from Budapest to Prague (both new



Mike and Diane in Budapest

destinations for us). We spent a couple of extra days in Budapest prior to starting the cruise



Budapest at night

and were able take in many of the sites as well as sampling some Hungarian cuisine.

The atmosphere on the river cruise ships is very different from the large ocean going vessels. With only ~160 passengers on board, it felt very friendly. We got to know many of the people and staff over the course of the voyage.

Unlike many of the ocean cruises, the vast majority of passengers on our trip were Canadian, which made for fun times.

The food and beverages were first class and often included fresh ingredients bought locally along the route. The nightly entertainment was not as lavish as on a large cruise ship but was interesting as it often included entertainers from the places we stopped so we could experience some local culture.

The excursions were all well organized and very informative.

One of the more unique items, which was a highlight for us, was the opportunity to ride electric assist

bicycles along paved bike trails beside the Danube. A group of 40 of us rode 35 kms and met up with the ship at the end of our ride. We rode through vineyards and medieval towns, taking frequent breaks so it was not too onerous, even for senior participants!

Our stops included Vienna, Durnstein, Melk, Regensburg and Nuremberg. Side trips were offered to Salzburg,



Biking along the Danube

Bratislava and Cesky Krumlov. Dedicated Scenic tour buses followed the ship so that you always had the same drivers and quality of transport



Idyllic scenery on the Danube

for the off-ship excursions. (Cont'd next page)



Out For A Cruise - Continued

(Cont'd from previous page) - Although we are familiar with the lock system on the Rideau canal, it was interesting to experience going through



Going through a lock on the Danube

several locks on the Danube built to handle the long river cruise ships and barges that travel the river. We were amazed at how popular river cruising

has become in Europe with many ships travelling the river.

We departed the ship in Nuremberg and were transported by bus to Prague (which is not on the Danube). We spent two nights in the Marriott Hotel in downtown Prague and were able to tour much of the old part of the city. Although we had travelled fairly extensively through much of Europe,



Going aboard the Scenic Amber



St Charles Bridge in Prague

cruising along the Danube was a unique experience and one we definitely look forward to doing again in other parts of Europe.

Lunch at Ivy Lea

By Mike McKinnon

On June 7th, the Club held an outing to the Ivy Lea Restaurant located on the St Lawrence River near the Thousand Islands Parkway. Thanks goes out to Bob and June Graham who helped organize the event. We had a beautiful day and a good turn out of members.

We all enjoyed our lunch on the patio overlooking the harbour area and river. There was also an option to visit the



boat house at Bolt Castle on the St Lawrence.

We were pleased that several new members joined us for this event.





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