



THE Ottawa Tri-Star

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Get Ready For A Great Summer!

Having braved the not so bad winter, a new driving season has finally arrived. I couldn't wait to get my car out of storage and go for a top down cruise.

The MBCO Executive has a great series of events planned for this year and encourage club members to participate, have fun, socialize with other members and support the MCBO.

In this issue of the Tri-Star, we've included a schedule and info on this year's events to entice you to sign up! We also have some interesting stories submitted by MBCO members in this issue, (keep those stories and pictures coming!).

Just like many magazines and newspapers, the Ottawa Tri-Star newsletter has gone high tech and is now being distributed in electronic format . This allows us to include colour pictures and significantly reduces the costs and effort associated with producing and mailing out hard copies. We hope the Club members will enjoy the convenience of receiving the newsletter electronically. Feel free to pass it along to your friends, family as well as any prospective MBCO members to let them know what our club is about and why you are proud to be a member.

Have a great, safe summer and be sure to join us at this year's terrific MBCO events.

Mike McKinnon
Ottawa Tri-Star Editor

Visit the Ottawa Section of MBCA at
www.mbclubottawa.ca



A Letter From the President

By John Fisher

You're welcome! That's not a response to a "Thank you!" It's a statement that's common throughout our Club. By which I mean both our local club (MBCO), and the much larger Mercedes-Benz Club of America (MBCA), with its 88 local clubs or Sections consisting of around 20,000 members all across the United States and Canada.

Of course, all local members are welcome to attend our local events, but did you know that your family and friends are welcome to join us at most of our local events (the very few exceptions have been where space is limited.)? And beyond that, we also welcome complete strangers to our local events. Anyone driving a Mercedes-Benz can join us at most of our local events. (We have to restrict participation to Mercedes cars for insurance reasons.) In theory, we welcome these "strangers" in the hopes that they will have so much fun that eventually they will join the club. But nobody is pressuring anyone to fill out a membership application, nor do we restrict the number of events that these 'guests' can attend. The more the merrier is our credo. The only things we ask is that they pay their own expenses, such as for meals or admission fees for any site that we might visit.

We also restrict their eligibility to officially place in a competition and carry away any prizes or hardware that the membership has acquired or paid for. That's only fair. On the national level, the attendance of non-members is determined by the local event organizers. But for you MBCO/MBCA Members, you're totally welcome! Any member of MBCA is welcome at any of the 88 local section's events. You are also welcome at any National event, such as "Starfest" and "Startech", and at any Regional event, such as Northern New England Stars Section's annual October "Faberallye", a two-day drive and rally, or Greater Washington Section's Family Picnic, Autocross, and Summit Track driving events. In fact, there's hardly a single weekend goes by without several MBCA events happening all over North America. And our members are welcome to attend and participate in every one of them. In fact, you'll find that you're not just welcome at these events, they'll love you for coming. Most Sections even offer prizes for the people who have driven the farthest to participate in their event, and I've found that the American clubs are particularly thrilled to host Canadian members at events. Try it and you'll soon find that you have "20,000 best friends" all over the continent! At least, that has been my personal experience. My wife and I have had occasion to visit about twenty-five MBCA Sections over the past twenty years, and we've been amazed at the warmth and friendliness of people, just because we happen to have a common interest in MB Cars, and belong to the same club. Joan and

I have made hundreds of 'instant friends' who have befriended us, shown us around their local areas, and even had us stay in their homes overnight. And we have standing invitations to come back and visit anytime. Our Christmas Card List has become enormous, and we are all the richer for it. I encourage all members to check this out for themselves. Look at the 'Star Dates' section of any Star Magazine, and consider planning a road-trip vacation that will take you to several MBCA events. You'll be glad that you did!

I close with some sad news: Brian Doddsdworth, a long-time member and good friend lost his battle with cancer on April 15. We will miss him.

John Fisher, President



Brian Doddsdworth

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The Ottawa Tri-Star

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2012 Calendar of Events

We have a terrific line up of events planned this year. Mark them on your calendar now!

- Saturday June 9 Wings and Wheels at Rockcliffe Air Museum
- Sunday July 8 Merrickville Car Show
- Saturday July 28 Rideau Lakes Meander and BBQ
- Saturday Aug 11 Tour and Tasting at Jabulani Vineyard and Winery
- Wed-Sat Sept 12-15 LodeFest 2012— M-100 Group International Gathering
- Sunday Sept 23 Tech Session at Young St Garage
- Sunday Oct 7 Benz Meets Rolls at Chateau Montebello

See more details on these events in this issue of the Tri-Star.

A STAR Is Born

By Mike McKinnon

Ever dream about becoming a movie star? Well new MBCO Member Sal Alkaraguli had that dream come true, or at least his 1992 190E did.

Last October, John Fisher was approached by movie producer Allen Roulston who was shooting the movie "The Monsters Among Us" in the Ottawa area. Allen was looking for help to locate a white MB to use in a few shots in the movie.

know he had some brush with fame in the movie industry.

Hopefully Sal will get an invitation to the red carpet gala when the film opens!



Sal's 1992 190E Movie Star!

John polled the MBCO community and Sal was kind enough to offer his car to be used in the movie.

Although Sal did not get to witness the scenes with his car, it is still nice to



Do it yourself repairs?

NEW 2013 SL65 ANNOUNCED

By Roy Spencer, Editor MercedesHeritage.com



Steve Wakefield, editor of ClassicDriver.com, summed up the SL65 quite well last week noting that within the genre of an expensive car for those "not really interested in cars (or driving), the SL in recent years has had few equals." Hmmm, extreme high performance cars for those not really interested in cars or driving – that's quite a conundrum and begs the question: Why would a car with 600hp require 'Attention Assist'?

And it's why I'm always at a loss as to what to write about such cars. Wakefield probably feels the same. These are amazing creations that showcase new technology and garner massive publicity – 'halo' cars if you will. The new SL65 raises the bar for its German and British rivals on all levels – power, refinement and driver comfort. However, I've really never figured out what I would do with

such a car were I in the position to own one. The urge for attacking corners and opposite lock powersliding is amply satisfied when I plant myself in my 125cc shifter kart at Sonoma's Infineon Raceway.

Regardless, we and Mercedes-Benz are thankful for SL65 buyers, posers or otherwise. Were there no posers, there would be no 600+ hp SLs, no Lambo Aventadors or Corvette ZR1s and the automotive world would be much the poorer. With no supercars to eviscerate, Top Gear would likely go off the air which would be a shame. All we can say is bravo Mercedes-Benz for giving us outrageous, overpowered street cars. The 2013 SL65 will be launched in September of this year and will be very

expensive. Some SL65 specifications follow.

- Displacement 5980 cc
- Bore x stroke 82.6 x 93.0 mm
- Compression ratio 9.0:1
- Output 463 kW(630 hp) at 4800-5400 rpm
- Max. torque 1000 Nm at 2300-4300 rpm*
- Vehicle weight acc. to EC 1950 kg
- Fuel consumption, NEDC combined 11.6 l/100 km
- CO2 emissions 270 g/km
- Acceleration 0-100 km/h (62mph) 4.0 seconds
- Top speed 250 km/h*



CAR DISCOUNTS FOR CANADIAN MEMBERS!

MBCA members in Canada can receive up to \$1500 discounts on their purchase of new Mercedes Benz . The discounts are in addition to any dealer discounts or promotional offers. To qualify you need to have been a MBCA member for a minimum of one year.

Members should negotiate their best deal with the MB Dealership. After negotiations, Members should show the dealership their MBCA membership

card and inform the salesperson that you are eligible for the New Car Discount Program in order to have the additional discount applied. The latest discounts are listed below. This is a great benefit to the members of our Club.

2011 Model	Discount
Smart fortwo	\$500
C-Class	\$750
GLK-Class	\$750
F-Class	\$500
CLS-Class	\$1000
CL-Class	\$1500
S-Class	\$1500
SLK-Class	\$750
SL-Class	\$1500
R-Class	\$750
M-Class	\$750
GL-Class	\$750

MBCO Members: Save on this car today!!



A WHEELER DEALER

By Hubert Drouin

It all happened in late November 2010. I went to Star Motors to chat with the sales representative, Zel, who had been checking out which new models would be arriving soon. I entered the dealership through the service department and asked the Service Advisor if they would please install my winter wheels from storage on my 2005 E500 while I spoke with the sales rep about the 2011 models that would be coming in over the next few months. The Service Advisor told me that I would need to make an appointment for the wheel switch as they were booked until the following week. In jest, I remarked that in that case, I might as well purchase a new car to get winter wheels installed!

I walked into the showroom and there, in the middle of the showroom floor..... a gorgeous new 2011 E550 in Platinum Silver with a Panoramic roof in all its glory with more bells and whistles than I will ever need. As I approached the car seemed to be whispering to me, "Take me home please". I took one quick walk

around the car and spent a few minutes at the wheel. The next thing I knew I was saying to Zel as he approached me, "I'll take it, let's talk". The very next day, I drove it out of the showroom with new

winter wheels installed; the old ones didn't quite fit.



Hubert's new E550



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A LABOUR OF LOVE

By Bob Richer

The story starts with an MBCO event in the summer of 2009. While talking with one of the members, Richard Leitch – who has since passed away, he mentioned that a friend of his had an older 250S Mercedes for sale. When I contacted the owner, it turned out he was the original owner of this car having bought it from a Mercedes Benz dealer in Ottawa (Carling Motors) on March 28, 1966. It was for sale; however, he did want to ensure that it went to a good home. I drove over to his home in my 1985 380 SL, which I keep in very good condition. I wanted him to know that his car was going to a good home and to someone who loves to care for and keep their Benz' nice and clean.

My wife Cathy and I went to his home and when he opened his garage we were immediately attracted to the beautiful Arabian Grey colour and condition of the car. When I walked to the front of the car and saw that beautiful front grill - I was sold. We sat in it and saw what wonderful condition this "old" vehicle was in and how well it had been maintained. It was like it had just come out of the showroom. He owned a newer EClass 500 Mercedes and had not driven this older car and had stored it in his garage for the previous four years. The odometer read 50,575 original miles!

After some discussion we agreed on the price and I had the car picked up by a flatbed and driven to a mechanic to work on the car and prepare it for driving.

Of course the usual items had to be checked and worked on: check the fuel tank, and fortunately it was in good condition. The original owner had drained all the fuel from the gas tank before he stored it. All of the oil and fluids were drained and replaced. Spark plugs were replaced, as well as a new distributor cap, ignition rotor and wire set. Brake fluid was bled and replaced and new front and rear calipers were needed. Both steering tie rods and centre drag link were replaced, and a wheel alignment was completed on all four wheels. The dual carburetors were

cleaned and adjusted. This took some time to get them just right, but once they were properly adjusted the car ran very well.

With the work completed it was finally ready for the road. The four speed manual transmission worked very well and it was a treat to drive this classic vehicle. The original owner had mentioned to me that in 1966, Mercedes was just introducing the automatic transmission and he wasn't confident in it

followed by waxing and buffing it, to really bring the paint up to its original shine and luster.

I have a number of service manuals that the owner included with the sale. He also had two grease guns, that I won't use, but are nice to have. He was a very "hands on" owner and used to grease the car himself on a regular basis, as this vehicle has many spots that need to be greased and at least an annual basis. I have it greased when I have the oil changed



Bob Richer's 1966 S250

just at that time, so he opted for the manual transmission. In retrospect, he felt it was the right decision to go with the manual transmission.

It's fun to drive this car and difficult not take my eyes off the beautiful shining star on the front hood!

The mechanical work was completed, so it was time to address the engine compartment and interior. I invested over 60 hours on cleaning and detailing the car, both inside and outside. Fortunately I met another car nut who enjoyed detailing and working on his car as much as I did and he shared some of his techniques and products with me that allowed me to clean and shine the car to close to its original look. I worked on the exterior and used a rubbing compound, buffing,

each year. The original tool kit in the trunk is also in excellent condition.

I have brought my car to various local Benz meets and I have received many compliments on the condition and look of the car. It makes all of the hours invested in working on the car very worthwhile.

My wife and I look forward to many years of enjoyable driving and cruising in our beautiful '66 250S. The only downside is that I have to store it for the winter months and can't drive it all year round!

I must have been bitten by a Mercedes bug that year, because later the same year, I ended up buying a 1987 560SEC - but that's another story for another day!

2012 MBCO EVENTS

Wings and Wheels at Rockcliffe Aviation Museum

Saturday June 9

Capital Classic Wings & Wheels at the Canada Aviation and Space Museum at the Rockcliffe Airport featuring warbirds, classic aircraft and vintage cars and flying displays. Bring your car and join the fun. Contact Mel Roy, roymel2@aol.com, (613) 834-4187, John Fisher, john@fishers.ca, (613) 736-1795 or Karen Lockhead, kaen.lockhead@videotron.ca, (613) 304-2699 (June 9 only)

Merrickville Car Show

Sunday July 8

Join other MBCO members and display your car at this popular show in historic Merrickville. Last year there were more than 1000 cars on display, including 15 Mercedes in a shady yard allocated to the MBCO! Contact Barry Phillips, bphillips1@sympatico.ca



MBCO at Merrickville 2011

Rideau Lakes Meander and BBQ

Saturday July 28

This year the MBCO Meander will take a scenic tour through the country side and visit several villages in the Rideau Lakes area. The tour will wrap up with a BBQ at a historic century farm house. Contact Mike McKinnon, benzowner@xplornet.ca, (613)-762-9655



Tour and Tasting at Jabulani Vineyard and Winery

Saturday Aug 11

Based on the success of last year's visit to Beau's Brewery in Vankleek Hill, we have arranged a visit to a local vineyard and winery. Jabulani Vineyard and Winery located near Richmond will provide us with a tour of their vineyard and a tasting session with snacks for several of their vintages. Contact Mike McKinnon, benzowner@xplornet.ca, (613)-762-9655



M-100 Group International Lodefest

Sept 12-15

This year, Ottawa is the location for the International M-100 Group Lodefest, a gathering of Mercedes M-100 owners from around the world. The MBCO will welcome the visitors to our city. Details to follow.

Contact John Fisher, john@fishers.ca, (613) 736-1795



Tech Session at Young Street Garage

Sunday Sept 23

Once again our friends, Kurt and Winfried Hillebrand from Young Street Garage, have graciously offered to share some of their extensive knowledge of Mercedes Benz vehicles by hosting a technical session at their facility. Details on the session will be available closer to the event date. This was a very popular event in previous years so plan to attend.

Contact Kurt Hillebrand, kurt.h@rogers.blackberry.com



2011 Young St Garage Tech Session

Benz Meets Rolls at Chateau Montebello

Sunday Oct 7

The annual Benz Meets Rolls event will again be held at the beautiful Chateau Montebello. This event gives MBCO members a chance to display their vehicles and socialize with members of the Montreal MB Club and the Ottawa Valley Rolls Royce Club. Contact Larry Lomas, LOMASL@aol.com, (613) 725-2177



MBCO at Chateau Montebello 2011



Rolls and Bentleys at Chateau Montebello 2011



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