



# TRI-ANGLES

**The Official MBCA Minuteman Section News-Letter Fall 2017 Edition - 12/31/17**

**President's Message:**

**By Ed Owen**

Dear Minuteman Section Members,

As 2017 comes to a close, I'd like to reflect on what a great year we have had and look forward to what awaits in 2018. It seems it was a good year for our favorite marque, as they once again outsold BMW and Lewis Hamilton drove to victory in the 68th F1 World Championship. In our Minuteman section, we added several new events - in addition to the annuals - and had a lot of fun doing it! Many thanks to those who helped organize and run the events. I hope to see many more participating in the year to come.

The board and officers met recently to plan for 2018 - the schedule will be released shortly. Additionally, the election process will begin in the first quarter and Mark Fancy has announced that he will be stepping down from his position as Treasurer. I would like to thank him, on behalf of all of us, for his service in the various positions he has held over the years and I would like to thank him personally for all of the wisdom and guidance he has provided in my first year as president. With that said, there is now a vacancy in this position - if you have interest or would like to nominate someone, please contact me via e-mail.

Here's to another great year!

Happy holidays and best wishes to all,

Ed Owen - President

Mercedes Benz Club America, Minuteman Section



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## TRI-ANGLES

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Courtland Brannen/*Editor & Publisher*

## MBCA MINUTEMAN SECTION WEBSITES

**Section's Home Website:**

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

**Facebook Website:**

[www.facebook.com/MBCA.Minuteman](http://www.facebook.com/MBCA.Minuteman)

**MBCA's Main Homepage:**

[www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org)

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## **The Editor's Desk**

**Happy Holidays to members of the Minuteman Section!**

This year of 2017 has finally come to an end and the weather has turned bitterly cold. As 2018 starts up, we have a tentative schedule of events for the New Year that you will find towards the end of this newsletter. Many of the events are yearly favorites as well as some new additions. We'd love to have many more, so if you have an idea for an event, please reach out to a member of the board to help with planning or just get started on your own and tell us where to be and when!

### **REQUESTING ARTICLES:**

Coming up with topics to write about in the newsletter and hoping they draw an interest for reading is a challenge. Obviously, I am not a creative writer, so I'd like to request that members submit articles to be published in the quarterly newsletters. Share an experience with your Mercedes-Benz, pictures, an experience at a race, or even something you found interesting that you feel should be shared with other Mercedes-Benz owners. For the next newsletter, please send them to me by March 1st at [courtlandbrannen@gmail.com](mailto:courtlandbrannen@gmail.com). If you'd like to advertise your business, please reach out to me as well. Shoot me a scanned copy of your business card or a piece of your marketing materials. We'll get it into the newsletter and online on [www.facebook.com/MBCA.Minuteman/](http://www.facebook.com/MBCA.Minuteman/). See you next year!

Sincerely,  
Court Brannen



### **US Formula 1 Grand Prix**

By Courtland Brannen



After being fortunate enough to go to the Formula 1 British Grand Prix at Silverstone Circuit this past July, my wife and I were afforded another opportunity to go to the US Grand Prix at Circuit of the Americas in Austin, TX the middle of this past October. We were especially excited because Mercedes-Benz AMG Petronas was possibly going to win the Constructors Championship at that race. It was also entirely possible for Lewis Hamilton to win the Driver's Championship as well.

Through connections, we were invited as honored guests by Emirates Airlines (truly one of the best airlines to fly with – the service and seat comfort is top notch!) to join them on Friday in the Paddock Club for Free Practice 1 & 2. What an experience!

We arrived at 9am, parked right outside the racetrack in a parking lot designated for guests of the Paddock Club, and escorted to first class accommodations. The Emirates Airlines (a Global Partner of Formula 1) suite was right above the Renault Team garage.

*Continued on the next page.*

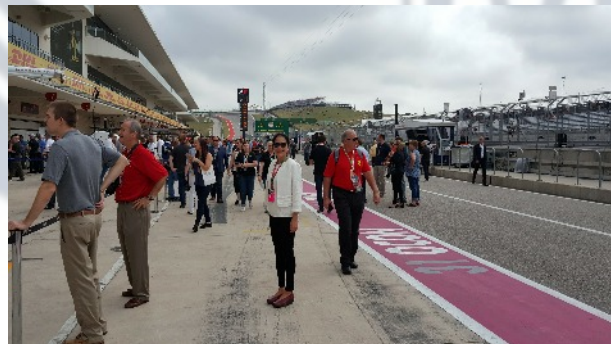
## US Formula 1 Grand Prix Continued...

We started out with mimosas, appetizers, and then later around 11:00 am, a full buffet with world-class chefs preparing food, including pasta and carving stations and service staff that is all first class. Oh, and a full open bar was included as well. Except for the open bar and racecar's part, my wife couldn't have been happier under the circumstances of going to Formula 1. I on the other hand, was in Heaven outside the suite watching Free Practice 1 & 2. However, there was an even better part of the Paddock Club experience that I think most AMG Petronas fans would appreciate. Walking down and standing right above the AMG Petronas section with my cameras and watching those Silver Arrows streak out of their garages with Valterie Bottas and Lewis Hamilton at their helms was. The second best part was the pit lane walk in-between Free Practice 1 & 2. Except this time, we were permitted inside pit lane and didn't have to "sneak in" like at the British Grand Prix (see last quarter's newsletter at the end of the British Grand Prix for an explanation).

For the rest of the weekend on Saturday & Sunday during Free Practice 3, Qualifying, and the Race, we went with the cheap seats and pre-purchased General Admission tickets. That meant you could sit anywhere on the grass a fold up seat or blanket could fit. We tried a few different areas on Saturday, but made it to turn one for the Race on Sunday. It was a good experience to try General Admission at least once, but that was enough for me. You get to try different views of the track in General Admission, but Sunday it rained the morning before the race, and that made turn 1 a mud bath. Finding a spot to put your fold-up seat in and get comfortable was a challenge. Then one of you had to stay with the seats until the race, 3 – 4 hours later rather than walk around to check things out or people watch. Let me just tell you, people watching at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, TX is almost as much fun as the race, and a lot more colorful! I think we'll go back to the stadium seats again next time.

In the end, Lewis Hamilton won the race, but had to wait until the Mexican Grand Prix a week later to win the Driver's Championship. However, because of Hamilton's win and Valterie Bottas's success in 2017, Mercedes-Benz AMG Petronas won the Constructor's Championship at the Circuit of the Americas and we were there!

If you are interested in seeing a few of my amateur videos of the US Formula 1 Grand Prix, please click on the following link:[US Formula 1 Grand Prix Youtube Videos](#)



## Farberallye XL

Faberallye XL was held on the weekend of October 14 at the Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center in Southbridge, Mass. There was a time and distance rallye, quiz rallye and combined (that is competing in both) and approximately 20 cars participated in one of the three rallye options.

The Minuteman Section would like to thank Ernie & Bonnie Fancy for organizing the events and rally, which started at the Conference Center.

The Minuteman Section would also like to thank European Auto Solutions once again for their continued support of the Minuteman Section and Farberallye. Prizes presented by European Auto Solutions, were awarded for all three types of rallye competitors and the winners are as follows.



### Combined



**Geoffrey and Nancy Scimone 1st  
Time & Distance**



**Guido and Leslie Voss 2nd**



**Court and Pear Brannen 1st  
Quiz**



**Al and Dotti Larson 2nd**



**Gregory and Debbie Bobar 3rd**



**Mr and Mrs Volger 1st**



**David Bryant and Patricia  
Aucion 2nd**



**Doug and Donna Simpson 3rd**

# Minuteman Section 2018 Tentative Events & Schedule

We have some great events already being planned for 2018. If anyone has a great idea for an event or would like to help plan one, please reach out to Ed Owen or anyone on the Board of Directors for help.

## January/February

- Annual Meeting/Theatre Event - TBD

## April

- European Auto Solutions Tech Session – Waltham, MA
- Art of the Automobile – City Hall Plaza, Boston, MA

## June

- Barrett Jackson Event & Caravan – MA and Mohegan Sun Casino

## July

- Myopia Polo Match – Hamilton, MA

## August

- Boat Cruise or Clam Bake Event - TBD

## September

- Germanfest/Mercedes Day – Larz Anderson Auto Museum, Brookline, MA

## October

- Farberallye

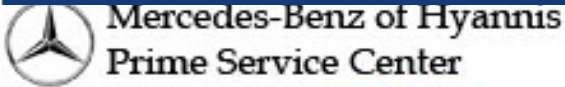
## TBD

- Studio Kitchen, Kingston, MA
- Cars & Coffee – Newport, RI and MOT
- Treasure Hunt Rally
- Cruise-ins

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