



# Q1 2016 TriStar Newsletter

## Triangle Section

### Articles in this issue:

- Cars at the 2016 Consumer Electronics Show
- Features of the New Mercedes E-Class
- Tech Session at Automotive Collision Specialists
- SEMA vs. EPA
- New Members

### 2016 Calendar of Events

#### See details inside

- April 16, Wilmington area members (and others) meet at the home of Carl Heide
- April 23 – Gathering at the NC Transportation Museum in Spencer
- April 29-30 - Pinehurst Concours d'Elegance and Fairway Club Car Corral
- May 20 at 7:00 - Evening with Art and Mercedes at the North Carolina Art Museum
- May 29 and 30 - Historic car racing at Virginia International Raceway
- June 14 - Dinner Meeting
- June 25 – High Performance Driving Event at NCCAR in Garysburg, NC

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### President's Message

Hello Triangle Section Members,

This year is off to a fast start. We had a great business meeting in January and with the overwhelming support of the members in attendance, you voted for the Triangle Section to support a larger presence at the Pinehurst Concours with a tent sponsorship and open house for all MBCA members on the Friday night before the Concours on Saturday.

That set the wheels in motion for us and as of this date, we have 28 cars in the "Fairway Club". That is up from the 15 we had last year, plus we have participation from other section members in the Eastern Region.

We had over 30 members tour *Automotive Collision Specialist* in Fuquay-Varina for a very informative tech session. John Byrne and I got to share our experiences with ACS and show the excellent work they do. Bill Faison left his 2002 SL600 Silver Arrow with them that day to do some paint work and other appearance items. Another member, Ben St. Johns, had an estimate done that day and is having ACS paint his 560SL! If anyone is considering any type of paint & body work I would highly recommend them.

The momentum is building for the Pinehurst Concours d'Elegance on April 29-30. We are very excited to have Terry Kiwala, President of MBCA, Pete Lesler, National Concours Chair and Josie Lesler, Enthusiast Chair, joining us at Pinehurst this year. Be sure to come by the tent to meet them and say hello. They will also be at both dinners. If you haven't made plans to make a weekend out of this event, I encourage you to do so as we have dinners planned for both Friday & Saturday night. We are extremely fortunate to have this major event in our area and it has the potential to be the 3rd best Concours in the country! Go to <http://pinehurstconcours.com> to read all about it!

In an effort to have more activities for members on the coast, Wilmington Area Director, Carl Heide, has arranged a cookout & get-together for members in the Wilmington area to meet each other on April 16th. Several members from Raleigh will attend as well. If you are in or close to Wilmington and would like to attend, please contact Carl at [blue190@aol.com](mailto:blue190@aol.com)

I am very pleased to see so many members like Carl Heide getting involved, organizing and leading new events. It makes for a much stronger club and more diversified activities when additional members take ownership of these events. If any of you want to get more involved and help, please contact me.

Speaking of getting more involved, Pam Redwine is now our new Secretary!

We also need for a member to help manage our Triangle Section website and keep it updated. It is a great way to get involved and help the section communicate with fellow members and potential new members. If you would like to help, please contact me at [steve\\_redwine@yahoo.com](mailto:steve_redwine@yahoo.com)

As always, remember to bring a friend and fellow Mercedes enthusiast to the next event and sign them up as a member!

Steve

## Upcoming Events

**April 16<sup>th</sup>** – This is the first meeting of the Wilmington Area Members (WAM) of the Triangle Section at the home of Carl Heide, 91 Beaumont Circle, Hampstead NC 28443. Contact Carl at [blue190@aol.com](mailto:blue190@aol.com) to confirm attendance.

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>** Parking in an assigned at the NC Transportation Museum area starts at 10:00 am with a half hour train ride at 11:00. Lunch is either on your own in the museum picnic area or at an Italian restaurant across the road. A 1 ½ hour guided tour will start at 1:30.

**April 30<sup>th</sup>** is the Pinehurst Concours and Fairway Club Car Corral. See some of the finest cars in the world along with many of your friends from the MBCA. <http://pinehurstconcours.com/schedule>

**May 20** is the Evening with Art and Mercedes at the North Carolina Museum of Art at 2001 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh. Starting at 7:00, there will be 12 Mercedes vehicles on display in the courtyard of the museum. Food and drink will be available from the museum restaurant.

**May 28 and 29** are the dates for the HSR Historic Races at Virginia International Raceway (VIR) in Alton, VA. As a “time machine” of sights and sounds, HSR provides a venue for competitors and spectators alike to share in the wonderful history and excitement created by the cars that competed at race tracks around the world. <http://virnow.com/events/historic-sportscar-racing/>

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## Cars and Consumer Electronics

The January Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas is the traditional venue for world-wide manufacturers to unveil the latest in big screen TV, fastest computers and new hand held gadgets. This year it was virtual reality, drones, smart houses and automobiles. Some say the CES looked more like the Detroit Auto Show with 12 different car makers there using 10% of the exhibition space. The exhibits ranged from the fantastic 1,000 horsepower Faraday Future’s electric car, FFZERO1, reminding us of concept vehicles from the 1950’s and 60’s. The makers term it “a car of concepts rather than a concept car” but they are backed by LeTV, termed the Netflix of China, so there is the potential for some of these concepts eventually emerging in a production vehicle. There was quite a bit on self-

driving cars, particularly the investment in Lyft by General Motors. It may seem self-defeating for a car company to encourage vehicles that can be shared by a number of riders, but if that is the future, GM wants to be part of it. Also in the short term they put themselves in a preferred position for car sales to current Lyft drivers.

Many more of the innovations shown dealt with the integration of your future car with electronics in your home or on your person along with entertainment to keep you from getting bored in your self-driving car (end).



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## Mercedes-Benz 2017 E-Class

At the North American International Auto Show itself in Detroit, Mercedes-Benz was showing many of the features of the new 2017 E-Class. Full details do not seem to be out yet but many functions can be controlled from a smart phone or the steering wheel, including self-parking. There are numerous safety features that include braking and steering for crash avoidance that are not yet available on Mercedes more expensive vehicles along with a very updated interior.

In an ongoing effort for product differentiation and passenger safety, there is a new feature called “Pre-Safe Sound”. Apparently ear damage is common in auto accidents (exploding air bags?), but can be diminished by taking advantage of an effect called the stapedius reflex. When an accident situation is detected, the car’s sound system emits an interference signal that sends the eardrum into a defensive state where there is less likelihood of hearing loss (end).

Interior of 2017 Mercedes-Benz E-Class





## Tech Session at Auto Collision Specialists in Fuquay-Varina

Section members had a very fine Saturday February 27<sup>th</sup> to drive to Auto Collision Specialists in Fuquay-Varina, NC to tour the facilities there. Approximately 30 members drove 15 cars to attend the event. Organized by John Byrne of the Triangle Section, our group was hosted by the shop owner, Alan Woodard.



As its name implies, this business started as a place to repair damage from vehicle accidents. Over time, however, the owner and technicians working there found themselves taking the kind of care in their work more characteristic of restoration shops. They have two spray booths and the equipment to custom mix colors. They found color matching to be more accurate when done at their shop and in their lighting than running back-and-forth to the paint dealer. They do spray single-layer paint for older cars but prefer to use BASF Glasurit for most work. That is the same paint used by Mercedes-Benz on their new cars and the base/clear coat system gives good long term protection from sun exposure.

The shop did the body and paint work for John Byrne's restoration of his green 1970 280SL. It has done very well in judging at MBCA events and has been accepted for the 2016 Pinehurst Concours d'Elegance.



The shop also recently repaired the rear quarter of Steve Redwine's red 1985 280SL after an "unfortunate incident". The shop not only matched the color properly but also gave the right amount of orange peel to simulate the factory paint (continued next column).



Steve's blue 1970 280SL is currently undergoing a new coat of paint in the shop.



After our tour there was lunch at Garibaldi's restaurant in Fuquay-Varina and a driving tour to Adam's Vineyards in Willow Spring (end).



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**313 West Academy Street, Fuquay-Varina NC 27526 : Tel. (919) 552-0333**

## SEMA vs. the EPA

(Thanks to Fred Hayes for the lead to this article)

According to EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) regulations, once a vehicle manufacturer has qualified the engine management and pollution systems for a new car, it is illegal to make any changes. The systems can be repaired with equivalent parts, but not modified in any way. An entire industry (SEMA, the Specialty Equipment Manufacturing Association), however, has been based on the fact that there was an exemption for new vehicles to be used exclusively for racing. Since there was a legal racing use for parts that enhanced performance, it was not illegal to make those parts just illegal to install them on the car you drive to work. Now, however, the EPA is

claiming that there never has been a racing exemption and that it is illegal to make performance enhancing parts. It is obviously a lot easier to enforce a regulation on a few hundred manufacturers than it is on several hundred thousand car owners. Since this could mean the end of an industry that sells \$38 billion of product each year, some push back on the EPA is being generated. Given the somewhat confusing wording of the regulations and the likelihood of a great number of lawyers being involved, the outcome of all this is not clear.

## New Members

Bettina Boylorn	Moncure
Catherine Church	Pinehurst
Ron Crowson	Raleigh
Elizabeth Bass	Elm City
David Deardorff	Garner
Michael Jackson	Pinehurst
Daqing Jin	Raleigh
Tad Danley	Wake Forest
Len Capristo	Raleigh
Dwight Crim	Wilmington
Ted Sampson	Wilmington

## Newsletter Article Submission

There are a lot of things that make interesting articles for the TriStar News. It is helpful to other members to see write-ups and pictures for events that have significant Mercedes participation. Those articles allow them to decide whether they might want to participate in that event in the future. A full write-up or a few pictures and a little description are all it takes to get your article in the newsletter. Pictures and a history of your particular Mercedes can also make an interesting article. You can submit any of these topics to Rob VanDewoestine at [rvandewoestine@nc.rr.com](mailto:rvandewoestine@nc.rr.com) for publication.

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