



Q3 2015 TriStar Newsletter

Triangle Section

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- Shelton Vineyards Mercedes-Benz show
- Visit to Tom Lewis' Mercedes shop and fire station
- New Members

2015 Calendar of Events

- September 12, Cars and Coffee, Reynolda Village in Winston-Salem, 9:00-12:00
- September 12, Autolawn European Car Show at the SALT Block in Hickory, NC. Call the Hickory Museum of Art to register at 828-327-8576.
- September 26-27, Virginia international Raceway, Heacock Classic Gold Cup vintage racing (see article on the next page)
- October 3, Touring Joara in Morganton, Sports Car Rally, <http://touringjoara.org/>
- October 17, EURO Auto Festival at The Preserve at Verdae golf course in Greenville, SC
- November 7, Business meeting and planning session for 2016 at Mercedes-Benz of Cary
- December 5, Triangle Section holiday lunch at TPC Wakefield Plantation in Raleigh

Triangle Section Mercedes-Benz Club of America 2015 Section Officers

President – Steve Redwine
Steve.Redwine@yahoo.com P: (239) 872-0342
Vice President – Tom Lewis
tlewis5095@charter.net P: (919) 418-5095
Treasurer – Marty Watz
satin@frii.com P: (919)-556-8838
Secretary – Barbara VanDewoestine
barbvande@nc.rr.com P: (919)-309-4517
Membership and Events Chair – Bill Faison
drcbill@aol.com P: 919-469-9228

President's Message

Hello Triangle Section Members,

I hope everyone had a great summer and are ready for cooler weather. Fall is the best season to go for a drive in a Mercedes while attending a MBCA event.

The events that we have had to date this year have been top notch and well attended. A big "THANK YOU" goes out to everyone involved in the planning, execution, hosting and reporting on the events. Plus, I want to thank all of the members who have come out to enjoy them.

The 9/26 VIR event that is listed in this newsletter, will be a fun day. We will all be together in one area for the car show, watch the vintage race and then be able to drive on the track! So, if you are thinking about going, please use the link I provided in last week's email, complete your \$49 registration and then email me with an RSVP so I can inform VIR on how many spaces to hold for us

As you are probably aware, we had to postpone the "Art in the Evening" at NCMA, but are working on a date for late May. It will be a fun night for MBCA members.

Our November meeting at MB of Cary will be a "2016 Planning Session" where you can get involved, make suggestions for events, volunteer to help or head up an event, or to just learn more about what the events will be for 2016. This meeting is member driven, so it is your chance to get involved at any level you would like. Our goal is to have enough varied events to ensure a great experience as a MBCA-Triangle Section member.

And as always, remember to bring a friend to these events and help them sign up as a new member!

Steve

Heacock Classic Gold Cup Vintage Racing and Car Show

The weekend of September 26 and 27 will bring vintage car racing and a Saturday car show at Virginia International Raceway. Located in Alton, VA, the track is just over the state line and in easy driving distance from the Raleigh/Durham area. You can just go up and watch the races or enter your car in A Show and Shine car show. The show is from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm. Registration for the show and two weekend tickets is \$49.00 until noon on Wednesday September 23rd or \$60.00 after that. The awards for the show are "people's choice" with no formal judging. Registration can be done on line at www.SVRA.com/carshows or call 847-421-2891.

Mercedes-Benz Show at Shelton Vineyards

Saturday August 22nd was a virtually perfect day for a car show at Shelton Vineyards. Temperatures were in the low 80's with some high clouds to keep the sun under control. With 83 vehicles in attendance, it is a little hard to capture the whole scene above the small stream and series of ponds that run through the venue but the following two pictures give you some idea.



The number of cars this year was large enough that parking areas on the other side of the stream had to be used. The Tarheel Section took the lead in organizing the event with support from Triangle and Carolinas Sections. Other Sections were represented by participants who came from Virginia and Alabama.

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Best of Show was awarded to a 1957 Mercedes-Benz 220s Cabriolet. Done in brown and cream, the two tones followed the body lines giving the car a very graceful appearance.



The wood and leather interior was an additional compliment to the exterior. Note the shift lever on the steering column is the control for a four speed manual transmission. Torque from the engine is such that the car can often be started in second gear.



Jamie Skotidas was in attendance with his brilliantly red 1960 190 SL



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Shelton Vineyards (continued)

Jamie Key was at Shelton again with his very high mileage 1971 280SE.



Marcus Brinks brought his 1970 280 SL from Patrick Springs, VA.



No Mercedes-Benz show would be complete without at least one Gullwing. This 2011 SLS 6.3 was shown by William Beall from Charlotte



Tour of Tom Lewis' "Garage"

The universal complaint for those of us who enjoy owning and restoring classic vehicles is insufficient space for both storage and active work. One member of the Mercedes-Benz Club who found a very creative solution for this problem is Tom Lewis of the Triangle Section. Tom's love of Mercedes began in 1985 with the acquisition of a 1980 240D. He had previously owned a variety of other cars but never went back to any of them again after the Mercedes.

Tom's solution to having enough space for his cars came around the time of his retirement a few years back. A volunteer fire department in a small town just outside Raleigh, NC decided to



enlarge and become full time. This meant the construction of a new firehouse and a decision to sell the firehouse built in 1976. You might think that there would not be much market for a rural firehouse but 6 people beside Tom were interested. As you might expect, dealing with a committee (the fire department board) in a property sale would have its complications, but Tom exercised both patience and ingenuity and eventually became the proud owner of an empty firehouse.

His facility consists of two areas of high bay with a living area in between. There is about 5,000 square feet in all with most of it being in shop area. The main shop area has two large doors in front and one in back. There are two lifts with plenty of room to work on 3 cars along with all the tools and bench space restoration requires. The shop came with heating equipment and then Tom installed air conditioning to make work comfortable during the summer.

Tom played host to about 40 members of several MCBA on August 1st. The middle area of the firehouse contains a meeting room that Tom uses to house a host of Mercedes memorabilia along with antique stereo equipment and just about anything else that catches his eye. There is also a kitchen and bedroom.



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The shop on what Tom calls “the greasy side” contains a world of hand and power tools along with the cars that are in progress. Three years ago, Tom had 13 cars and was planning to reduce that number. Now he has 19 and is still planning to reduce the number. Tom’s shop is so big it is hard to capture its extent in a single picture. This image below shows the two lifts but only about half the space on the active side.



The storage side of the firehouse contains numerous parts as well as 3 more Mercedes and a very operational fire truck along with the visiting club members.



Tom travels the US and Europe looking for parts he needs or might need some day. His office also contains extensive records on Mercedes parts history including a microfilm reader.



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You might think that someone with a firehouse, 19 Mercedes and a fire truck has just about everything they need, however, a problem with the zoning commission started Tom looking for a place to live outside the fire house. The solution was an empty branch banking office just down the road. On the outside it looks much as it was when a bank with a cover over the drive through where Tom can park two of his cars.



The inside, however, is quite bright and cheerful. Tom knocked out some walls and extended the rear to turn a building with two tellers and two offices into a two bedroom home.



Not every home has a 20 ton functioning steel safe just off the living room, but it makes a very secure office area.



NEW MEMBERS

Harris Berman
John Cruz
Nancy Goodman
David Grossman
Steven Hamelly
Martin Little
Christopher Ollif
Wolfgang Streckler

TRANSFER MEMBERS

James Brown
Ravi Kanuri

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**Mercedes-Benz Club of America
Triangle Section**

5001 Swift Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27606