



Q4 2015 TriStar Newsletter

Triangle Section

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- Tech Session at MB of Cary
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2016 Calendar of Events

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- January 12 Dinner Meeting at 6:00 pm at the Bennett Pointe Grill in Durham
- February 27 at 10:00 am Tech Session at Auto Collision Specialists in Fuquay-Varina
- March 11-13 Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance
- April 29-30 Pinehurst Concours d'Elegance and Fairway Club Car Corral
- May 20 Evening with Art and Mercedes at the North Carolina Art Museum
- June 14 Dinner Meeting

Triangle Section Mercedes-Benz Club of America 2016 Section Officers

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President's Message

Hello Triangle Section Members,

WOW, what a fast paced year it has been! The Triangle Section offered a diverse choice of events to attend for 2015. The year started with a tour of Bruce Adams' shop, the Pinehurst Concours, the Bennett Place tour, a tour of Tom Lewis' bank/home and firehouse/garage, the Shelton Vineyard Mercedes car show and the Christmas lunch where we collected toys and \$431.00 for Toys for Tots!

What a first year as President it has been for me. I was overwhelmed by the support I received from so many of the members in the Section. I would like to thank Terry Crawford for helping me during the transition, answering the numerous questions I had for him and guiding me when I needed it.

Bill Faison stepped up and became Events/Membership Chair and our "Unofficial Ambassador" to other Sections and National MBCA Officers. Tom Reedy has been working behind the scene with me photographing and planning events like Pinehurst.

Richard Talach volunteered to create our Facebook page and has done an outstanding job of setting it up, and contributing links & photos. I encourage all of you to visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/TriangleMBCA/> and add your 2 cents as well.

Rob VanDewoestine won "Member of the Year" for his excellent work as editor of our newsletter, submitting articles to the "Star" magazine and his efforts in making our Section better.

Barbara Van Dewoestine won "Officer of the Year" as Secretary for her organizational skills in following the meeting, writing the minutes and her work behind the scene setting up the Bennett Place tour, following up on unfinished business and reminding me about things we need to accomplish.

I could continue to list other members who have stepped up this year to help the Triangle Section, but my main point is that this is your club and it is up to all of us to do what we can to make the Triangle Section a great experience for all of the members.

On that note, I would like to add that the office of Secretary is STILL OPEN and the membership has given me the authority to appoint anyone who volunteers for the position. Barbara Van Dewoestine and the rest of the Officers and Board members will help you with the position of Secretary, so don't be shy and contact me.....

The Section's finances are in good shape and should end the year after final expenses with \$8,300.00 in the bank.

We are adding a High Performance driving event in April to our 2016 Calendar of Events as well as other exciting and fun events throughout the year. I look forward to seeing you at the 2016 events. Look for the announcements and the updated calendar in emails sent to you during the year.

Thank you all for allowing me to be President for the Triangle Section again for 2016!

Steve

Upcoming Events

The **January 12th** dinner meeting will be held at 6:00 pm at the Bennett Pointe Grill at 4625 Hillsborough Road in Durham. The main topics for the meeting are continued work on activities in 2016 and the Section budget.

There will be a **February 27** technical session starting at 10:00 am at Auto Collision Specialists at 313 W. Academy Street, Fuquay-Varina. This will be followed by lunch at a local restaurant.

March 11-13 is the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance. There is an opportunity for club members to display their cars at a Cars and Coffee at the Amelia Island Ritz Carlton on Saturday March 12th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Participation details are at this link on the MBCA web site.

<http://www.mbc.org/event-notice/2016-03-12/mbca-members-display-mercedes-benzs-amelia-cars-and-coffee-concours>

April 30th is the Pinehurst Concours and Fairway Club Car Corral. There are currently 20 slots open for cars from the 3 North Carolina Sections of the MBCA. Application for a place is through Bill Faison, (drcbill@aol.com or 919-469-9228). The fee is \$100/car and includes two tickets to the Concours which is being held the same day as the Corral this year.

November Tech and Planning Session at M-B of Cary

Approximately 40 section members attended a tech session and planning meeting at M-B of Cary on November 21st. A large modern conference room and an excellent buffet lunch were provided by Peter Hansom, general manager of the dealership.



People from the dealership service department, Caliber Collision Repair (a Mercedes-Benz authorized repair center) and Majestic Solutions of Raleigh were on hand to answer questions about maintenance and repair of our favorite vehicles.

(Continued in next column)



There was a recommendation against any mechanical car wash that used brushes or other applicators that touch your vehicle. Hand washing with two buckets, one for upper areas of the car and a separate bucket for the lower areas was seen as best. High pressure washers are acceptable for a quick cleaning for all vehicles except for convertibles. Unless the pressure can be adjusted down, high pressure washers can damage convertible top seals. A mild soap or cleaning product without any wax was recommended for convertible top cleaning or a kit with cleaner and sealer. For maintaining external rubber parts, special seal conditioning products are available (Zymol). A number of topics for maintaining and repairing body paint were also covered. We found out that navigation system map updates were supplied by a third party and their degree of update depended on specific Mercedes models and years.

Of course, there was also time to check out the new Mercedes cars with their Christmas bows on the showroom floor all ready for new owners.



Bill Faison used the dealership's computer projection equipment to take attendees through event planning material developed by the Peachtree Section. This kicked off a session to look at various events that could be done by our section in 2016, particularly toward the coast to enable attendance by members located there.

Triangle Section Holiday Lunch

The Triangle Section holiday lunch took place at the TPC Wakefield Plantation in Raleigh on December 5th with over 40 attendees. In addition to the great lunch and opportunity to talk to other Section members about topics of mutual interest, the meeting was a fundraiser for Toys for Tots and a planning session for activities next year. Attendees at the lunch brought around 20 presents for contribution. In addition, Mercedes-Benz of Cary contributed a sleek pedal car that was the prize in a raffle.



Also, Mercedes-Benz of Raleigh donated a Yeti cooler that was used for a silent auction with Pam Redwine the highest bidder.



Between the car and cooler, over \$400 in cash was raised for Toys for Tots in addition to the presents contributed by lunch attendees.

(Continued in next column)



The meeting endorsed a slate of officers and directors for next year. A slide show of a half dozen Section events from 2015 was set up and shown during lunch. Participation in both the Amelia Island and Pinehurst Concours are in the planning stage for the first quarter of 2016 along with a February tech session.

There was recognition for Richard Talach for setting up a Section Facebook page.



All officer positions are filled for 2016 except for Secretary. Anyone interested in that position should get in touch with Steve Redwine. It has been decided that Section President will be a two year term with the Vice president succeeding the outgoing President.

The board of directors will have 6-9 members with 3 year terms.

Directors in the final year of their terms are:

- Larry Murray
- Fred Hayes
- John Byrne

New directors are:

- Tom Lewis
- Richard Talach
- Tom Reedy

2015 Formula One Racing Season

The 2015 formula 1 racing season ended in about the same fashion as the 2014 season. Mercedes-Benz won the constructor's trophy and Louis Hamilton won the world driving championship with 10 wins. His co-driver on the Mercedes team, Nico Rosburg took second with 6 wins. In contrast to 2014, the two Ferrari drivers took third and fourth places with 3 wins. No other team won any race.

The season ended at the \$1.3 billion dollar Yas Marina Circuit built in Abu Dhabi in 2009 with Mercedes easily taking first and second places. It is the only Formula 1 race run at night and provides spectacular aerial views not to mention the fireworks at the end of the race.



Ferrari's improved performance in this past season provides hope for a more competitive season in 2016. The first race for the new season is the Australian Grand Prix March 18-20. For the first time in many years there is an American team in Formula 1 racing, Haas F1 Team. They are headquartered in Kannapolis, NC along with Gene Haas' NASCAR team. The chassis for their car will be built by Dallara in Italy and be powered by Ferrari engines. A very experienced Romain Grosjean will be one of the team drivers. NBC provides spectacular aerial and on-track coverage of the races.

While the next F1 racing season will take place with technology quite close to 2015, car builders and the F1 association are looking toward future improvements, particularly for driver safety. With huge gains in cockpit integrity and driver restraint over the past few years, the largest current risk to the driver is flying debris. McLaren just showed a novel design where the driver is enclosed behind a screen that is photochromic, shatter resistant and sheds rain. The tires are also enclosed in separate pods along with many other not as obvious data collection and management systems.



New Member

Kathleen Romanovich Swansboro, NC

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 for publication.

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Mercedes-Benz Club of America Triangle Section

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