



Tri-Angles

The official MBCA Minuteman Section News-Letter

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Summer 2015



European Auto Solutions Tech Session



See

Advanced Driving (p5)

Nautical Sail (p6)

New Estate Wagon (p7)

Inside this issue:

Cover Story	1
Administrivia	2
President's Message & Editor's Desk	3
Cover story cont.	4
Advance Driving	5
Nautical Sail & Starfest 2017	6
The new AMG C63 Estate Wagon	7
Classified ads	8
Starfest	9

Article and photos by Ed Owen

On Saturday April 25th European Auto Solutions hosted the [Mercedes-Benz Club America - Minuteman Section](#) for what has become a rite of Spring, the 9th Annual Tech Session.

This was one of the biggest turn-outs yet with an eclectic mix of over 40 vehicles that filled our lot from a 1964 230SL to a 2015 S-Class Coupe. Many thanks to the members and officers of the Club, to [Mercedes-Benz of Burlington](#) for providing door prizes, and of course to Mother Nature for providing such a great Spring day!





FOR SALE!



1988 Mercedes-Benz 560 SL

It's increasingly difficult to find an antique Mercedes-Benz 560SL Roadster like this one. With just over 100,000 original miles this classic 1988 gray (interior and exterior) convertible sports coupe with automatic transmission has always been garaged, not driven during the winter, and therefore is in great shape. There are no dings, dents or rust. There are two roofs, wire wheels and some gold plating. Asking \$13,500 Tel. 508-209-0467



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Ronald Beaton Tel. 781-337-1717 email: Weyjournal@aol.com

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Ronald Beaton/Editor & Publisher

ADMINISTRIVIA

President – John Piekarczyk
 508.943.5747 560sec@charter.net

Vice President– Ed Owen
 781-642-0667 – ed@virtualeas.com

Treasurer – Mark Fancy
 508.347.1814 – fancymb@Charter.net

Secretary – Steven Coulter
 781-956-4770-stephencoulter@comcast.net

Technical Editor – Peter Vanderveer
 781.255.0797 pvanderveer@comcast.net

Website Editor/Publisher - Nancy Piekarczyk
npiekarczyk@msn.com

Membership Chairman
 Jim O'Sullivan
 617-879-0017 jimo55@comcast.net

Tri-Angles Editor/Publisher
 Ronald Beaton 781-337-1717
weyjournal@aol.com

Board of Directors

Ken Bourque
 781.326.5158 – kenbourque@juno.com

Stephen Coulter
 781-956-4770-stephencoulter@comcast.net

Richard Doucette
 781-598-2009-rdoucette@thebostoncup.com

Rich Garick
 603-898-3980 – rgarick@comcast.net

Kevin Caputo
 413-566-5063 - kjcaputo@charter.net

Dean Coclin
 781-789-8686-dean.j.cocin@verizon.net

Courtland Brannen
 617-970-8156-sailantares@yahoo.net

Joseph Pawelczyk
jpawelczyk@krausecars.com

Northeast Regional Director
Ernie Fancy
 413-3911887 fancyer@cox.net

www.mbc.org/minuteman

President's Message

With Summer heating up so are the plans for Starfest 2016. The website is now live at <http://starfest2016.mbca.org/>. Online registration is now open with prices at or below Starfest 2012! A full list of events and venues are listed including hotel registration, which is a direct link to Mohegan Sun, this ensures that you'll get the Starfest room rate.

A lot of time and effort has gone into the planning to make this the best Starfest The Club has ever seen. If you can't find something to do at Mohegan Sun, it doesn't exist.

Our track day at Thompson

Speedway Motorsports Park will act as tune up for Starfest track events. The track is smooth and flowing and once you get the rhythm it's a blast to drive.

Register early as events and rooms will fill up fast.

In November we will be hosting The National Board Meeting at the Burlington Marriott. Here's your chance to see how The Club works on a national level, you can join in on the meeting and share your opinions. Info will be on the website shortly.

Enjoy the rest of your Summer and buy a friend a Membership!



John S Piekarczyk
President Minuteman Section

www.mbca.org/minuteman



The Editor's Desk



Summertime and the living is easy... After a long cold spring, we are getting a little warmer weather with the summer months, but not what we usually have for this season.

It seems as though winter is still lingering. But that will not dampen

our spirits or lessen our enjoyment of the planned events for the rest of the year.

Next up of course is Ken Bourque's Nautical Outing this year in Falmouth. See the write-up with registration details elsewhere in this news-letter. This usually sells out, so register early.

On July 21, the Advance Driving Skills and Track Day at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park will be held. This is limited to 50 drivers so hurry to register.

Germanfest on September 27 and Farberallye on September 26

through the 28th are also scheduled.

Nancy Piekarczyk has developed a new Starfest website for us. Thanks again for all the work you do Nancy.

Events are being planned for Starfest 2016 as we go to press. This promises to be the most exciting and important event the Minuteman section has ever held. We are expecting hundreds of participants from all over the country. Plan to join us for the great fun.

Details will be posted regularly here in the news-letter and on the www.mbca.org/minuteman website.

- Ronald Beaton

EAS Tech Session (continued from 1)



Grand Prize Winners of the door prizes:
Paul Mercandetti won a 4 day lease of a 1977 450SL courtesy of EAS
Marilyn Jarvis won a weekend in a new Mercedes-Benz courtesy of Mercedes-Benz of Burlington

Advance Driving Skills and Track Day at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park

On July 21st The Section will hold a Full Course Track Day at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park. This will give you a chance to drive your car, at your own pace in a safe environment and learn the advanced driving and safety features built into your Mercedes-Benz. You don't need any experience in high speed or race driving. Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park (TSMP) offers the latest in track safety with Safer Barriers on the corners, advanced EMT and Safety crews and trained Corner Works stationed around the track.

Before driving the Road Course alone, each member will be given personal-on-track instruction on how to drive his/her car properly and the correct line around the 1.7 mile track. Drivers will be grouped as Novice, Intermediate and Advance and will enter the track in timed intervals to ensure safety and maximum enjoyment.

You will learn the advance handling qualities built into your Mercedes Benz and be a better driver at the end of the day.

The day will start at 8AM with a Drivers Meeting and Tech Inspection before taking to the track.

Requirements:

You must wear a long sleeve T-Shirt and a Snell 2005 approved Helmet and closed Toe Shoes. TSMP offers a Racequip Full Face Snell 2010 Helmet for \$184.00. You can order by calling Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park at 860-923-2280.

Racequip sizing chart <http://racequip.com/allsizecharts.html>

Your car must be inspected within 6 months of the event, using The [MBCA Club's Tech Inspection Sheet](#).

Cost:

The cost is \$250 per driver and includes Lunch.

The event is limited to 50 participants so Register Early. Cutoff date is **July 17th**.

Directions:

Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park is located 50 minutes from Boston in Thompson CT. From Boston, Mass Pike west to the Auburn/Worcester exit, RT 395 South to exit 99. Left off the ramp 3/4 mile to Flashing Light/ Stop sign, left 1.5 miles bear right at the TSMP sign. The Paddock entrance is at the bottom of the hill.

Please RSVP to John Piekarczyk

860.315.5575 or 560sec@charter.net

Falmouth Sail Day

Falmouth, Mass. August 9.

Ken Bourque's annual nautical sail event is all set and ready to go.



Minuteman members and guests will sail for two and a half hours in and around Falmouth Harbor on the schooner *Liberte*. Refreshments will be available on board. Dinner to follow at the Flying Bridge Restaurant

Reservations must be in by August 3. This is an annual sellout so reserve early.

See further details and reservation form at MBCA.org/minuteman website.

Starfest 2016 planning session



John and Nancy Piekarczyk, Joe and Pat Pawelczyk, Ed Owen, Rich Garick, Court Brannen, Peter Vanderveer, Ronald Beaton, Mark Fancy and new board member, Barry O'Neil, attended the June 12 planning session for Starfest 2016.

Court Brannen will be the Rallemaster. Events to include a rally, Mystic trips, Track events and Concours all to be followed by an awards banquet.

This will be the Mercedes event of the year and the biggest event for the Minuteman Section ever. See you at the races.

The new AMG C63 Estate Wagon



It's the driving experience that counts most in a car like this, and in just about every dimension you can think of, the C63 estate doesn't disappoint. It's a sensational car to drive that just so happens to boast a huge dose of practicality into the bargain. If ever a car could be worth sixty thousand pounds (US\$90K, this is it.

We've already driven and been mostly blown away by the new [Mercedes-AMG C63](#). But that was on another day and, more importantly, in another country, on roads that are very different from the ones we have here in the UK.

So having now driven it on home soil as well, the crunch questions are; is its ride quality flexible enough to work on a UK road? Is its new turbocharged V8 engine a sincere replacement for the old thumper of an atmospheric V8 that powered the previous C63 with such gusto? And is it really worth the [premium](#) that Mercedes-AMG is attempting to charge compared with rivals from [Audi \(RS4/5\)](#) and [BMW \(M3/4\)](#)?

The estate version we try here costs £61,260 before a single option has been specified. By comparison the equivalent RS4 costs £56,595 while the saloon C63 is also several grand more than the M3 at £60,060.

The good news is; the C63 backs up its lofty price tag with a fairly dazzling array of not just on-paper appeal but on-road ability as well. Its new 3982cc twin-turbo petrol engine produces more power and torque than

any of its closest rivals - 469bhp and 649Nm, or 504bhp and 700Nm if you opt for the pricier S version.

But the even better news is that, despite being turbocharged, this new V8 engine is still bursting with personality and suffers from virtually no lag whatsoever - to a point where if you weren't told that it is turbocharged, you probably wouldn't guess. And the ride quality, indeed the entire chassis, steering and suspension system, also works beautifully back here in the UK as well.

It's also fast with a capital F, the new C63, Mercedes quoting a 0-62mph time of just 4.2sec even for the regular estate model. Go for the S saloon and that drops to 4sec dead with zero to 100mph coming up in well below 10sec. All versions are restricted to the inevitable 155mph top speed

This estate model is big on practicality, too. With 490 litres of space with the seats up, it matches its Audi RS4 Avant rival - but fold the rear seats down and that expands to an Audi-beating 1,510 litres

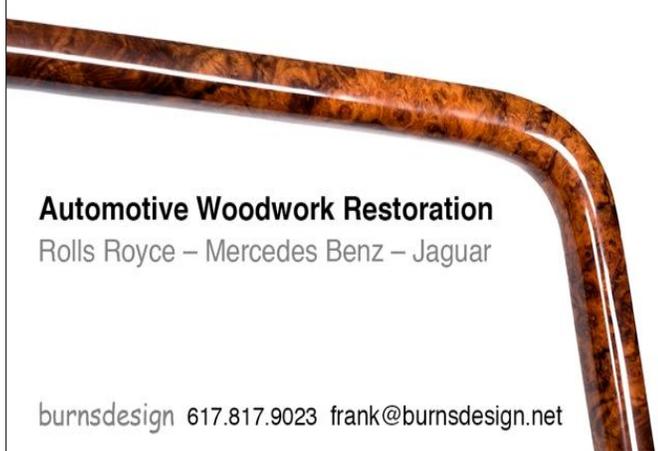
As you'd expect from any new AMG, there are numerous different set up alternatives that can be selected manually via the car's dynamic drive program. But in this instance you can tailor the programs individually to suit your needs, or the terrain beneath. So you can select any combination you fancy when it comes to the car's throttle, steering, gear change and ESP system responses. No two C63's will be the same, in theory, when on the move.

The gearbox is an uprated version of the previous C63's not-so-brilliant 7-speed MCT (multi clutch transmission), and in this instance it has been much improved, with sharper downshifts and creamy smooth upshifts (or thumping hard ones if you select Sport +. Either way, it works far better than before.

One slight disappointment is the car's kerb weight. At 1785kg for the estate model you see here, or 1715kg for the saloon, the C63 is almost 200kg heavier than a BMW M3. This has obvious knock-on effects not only when it comes to pure agility - the C63 definitely feels like a bigger machine to muscle about on a UK road - but also on emissions, fuel consumption and even tyre wear in the fullness of time

Then again, the C63 does feel like a bigger and more grown up kind of car compared with the latest M3, period. Its cabin is both richly appointed, especially so for a Mercedes, and has an extra whiff of maturity to it beside the racier-feeling M3. The moment you climb inside the C63, you know where your money is being spent.

This article was written by Steve Sutcliffe for *Auto Express* magazine. -Ed



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August 3-6, 2016
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Mercedes-Benz Club of America

MBCA's Premier 2016 Event

StarFest 2016 will take place in Connecticut's "Quiet Corner" with lush green valleys and picturesque hilltop farms, it's also known as the Antique Capital of Connecticut. From the seashore near the host hotel, to the lush greenery near the host track, the two linked by a short trip on I-395. Spectacular scenery and iconic New England towns await your discovery.

Mohegan Sun Resort and Casino, the host hotel, is known for World Class shows, Spas, Restaurants, Shopping, and of course the Casino. Located 2 hours from New York City, 1.5 hours from Boston, and 30 minutes from Hartford and Providence, there is something for everyone to enjoy. Mystic Seaport and the seashore are close by.

Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park, the nation's oldest Closed Road Course, is the site of all Track Events. Newly renovated in 2014, it incorporates sections of the original track and new turn complexes over its smooth 1.7 mile layout. Fun for the novice, yet challenging for the expert. With onsite restaurants and championship golf course, it's the premiere motorsports destination in New England.

The Concours d' Elegance Presented by Intercity Lines, will be held at The Golden Lamb Buttery, a picturesque 1,000 acre New England Hilltop Farm. It's the perfect backdrop for the Stars to Shine.

Other Events Include ...

Nautical Cruises from Mystic Seaport, The Ladies of Mercedes-Benz event, and of course the Rallye.

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AIRSTREAM



Get updates online at:
starfest2016.mbca.org