



Tri-Angles

Volume XV, Issue 4

Winter 2014

Official MBCA MinuteMan
Section News-Letter



Farberallye XXXVII 2014

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Past presidents at the 2014 Farberallye banquet at Williams Inn.

Photo by Al Larsson

By Ronald Beaton

On October 17, 18 and 19 the club enjoyed its annual Farberallye weekend in Williamstown, Mass. We had a beautiful day for the driving event amidst the colorful foliage.

Road rallies, also known as Time-Speed-Distance, or TSD, rallies, take place on public roads and focus on navigation and maintaining a set speed rather than attempting to drive as fast as possible. Anyone can enter, and you don't need a special vehicle. The participants had a choice to be judged by time-speed-distance or the quiz test-building points by identifying objects along the route. There was also a Combined (time, distance, speed and quiz) category for the first time-this gave everyone a good chance to snare the gold ring!

Several members thought this was the best rally ever because they were able to choose in keeping with their abilities. This was a beautifully arranged rally for everyone. (cont. page 4)



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



1986 Mercedes-Benz 560 SL Convertible Roadster



ALL ORIGINAL!! No paint work / no body work. Immaculate condition and clean carfax. Two tops - ice cold A.C. Champagne with chocolate brown interior. **63K miles.** This classic beauty speaks for itself! \$17,000.

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President's Message

Welcome to 2015, hope everyone's Holidays went well. Nancy and I had a quiet, enjoyable time with family.

The big news for 2015 is the Advance Driving Skills and Track Day at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park on July 21st. This is a chance to learn the handling and performance capabilities of your Mercedes Benz in a controlled environment with personal on track instruction.

Our cars are built with advanced performance and safety features that few of us use, learning how to drive your Mercedes at higher speeds will make you a more capable driver both on the track and the

street.

You'll be on the track with drivers of the same experience level IE; Novice, Intermediate and Advanced. This will ensure that everyone will be able to drive at speeds comparable to each other and not have to deal with cars attaining speeds higher than your experience level.

The notice, requirements and forms are on the Web, you will need to have your car inspected by a Certified Mechanic (see our sponsors) within six months of the event, something every car could use and a helmet.

Rich Garick's Annual Dinner event will be a new and unique

experience, the email has been sent and the event notice is in the Newsletter and on the Web.



Other events will be posted as info becomes available. If there's an event you'd like to run, just call or email me.

John S Piekarczyk
President, Minuteman Section

www.mbca.org/minuteman

The Editor's Desk



I have edited this news-letter for 10 years now. I am still thrilled to be a part of this wonderful Minuteman Section of The Mercedes-Benz Club of America.

My enthusiasm for this endeavor continues.

The friendships formed with officers and older members and the joy of meeting new friends as they join our group—is most rewarding. I invite you to join us and share the fun at the various events.

You are encouraged to continue to submit articles of general Mercedes

interest to me for publication. You are also invited to join me in publishing this news-letter. Your skill level in editing/publishing is less important than your interest in providing the best publication we can. I can teach you the technical aspects. If you have any interest, please let me know.

With the onset of winter, many of us put our cars in the garage with added air in the tires and a trickle battery charger to preserve the battery while awaiting the spring.

It's already been 3 months and I'm getting a little anxious to get behind the wheel and let those horses loose.

Big things coming soon! Rich Garick has organized our annual theatre and dinner event during which we also

hold our annual meeting to elect the club's officers. That is scheduled for March 29 and may already be sold out. See the reservation on Page 5.

The other big news for 2015 is the Advance Driving Skills and Track Day at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park on July 21st. See full details on pages 7 and 8.

We are pleased to have had so many past presidents of the club attending this year's Farberallye. They seldom receive the recognition they deserve for a difficult job. Recognition is given herewith for a job well done by each and all. Thank you! See cover photo.

See you in the spring.

-Ronald Beaton

(Farberallye Cont. from 1)

Catherine Kelly and I particularly enjoyed this year's event. We used her 350CLK for the drive and she was the driver. I was the navigator. We actually won the Turtle, a coveted and highly esteemed Fancy prize. It was unclear which category the prize represented, but we accepted with a small speech and quiet aplomb.

Whether we succeeded because Catherine drove especially well or due to my incredible navigation skills, we'll never know. The correct route eluded us from time to time, but we did more or less complete the course. We were undecided regarding which type rally we were going to drive hoping to claim the better of the two at the end. The Fancy rallye masters cast a sardonic glance my way over this.

Other winners: Richard and Nancy Diefenbach 1st place Quiz. Al and Dotti Larsson 1st place TD. Jim and Lauren Foot 1st place Combined. Charlie and Jill LeMay 2nd place Quiz. Ashok and Winnie Nayak 2nd place TD. Donald and Carol Walczyk 2nd place Combined. Ed and Emily Hilbert 3rd place Quiz. Greg and Debbie Bobar 3rd place TD. Guido and Leslie Voss 3rd place Combined.

Catherine Kelly and Ronald Bea-

ton won the dubious Fancy Turtle award. (Or did I mention that before?)

The beautiful route wended its way through small New England Villages in the Berkshires - mountain roads, highways and byways. Each turn of the road brought us to even more splendid, colorful vistas eliciting oohs and aahs with the majesty of the season in the northwestern Massachusetts area. I don't think we were supposed to visit New York as many times as we did.

Catherine soon grew tired of my inept navigation skills and may have raised her voice in frustration. Then we decided to relax and enjoy the ride. This proved to be the best rally we have driven over the past 10 years! And resulted in an award. Figure that!

After a couple of hours on the road, we stopped for lunch with the rest of the group. Great food mixed with excited conversation as we relaxed and caught our breath. There were comments about the previous evening's reception at the Heritage

Room of the Williams Inn where we had clean, spacious rooms.

Lunch was concluded, tabs paid and the hunt for glory continued. The afternoon's route incorporated part of the morning's trail (at least I thought so) and ended at the beginning back at the Williams Inn.

We turned in our half-completed forms for evaluation and returned to our room for relaxation and got ready for the banquet/awards ceremony in the evening.

After a wonderful dinner, the winners received their plaques, a drawing with several gifts was conducted with Spencer Fancy pulling the winning tickets from a hat.

We visited the expanded Clark Museum on the Williams College campus on Sunday morning. This was a most appreciated bonus treat! Many thanks Rallemasters!



Automotive Woodwork Restoration
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Museum photo

Theatre-Dinner-Annual Meeting

DATE: Sunday, March 29, 2015

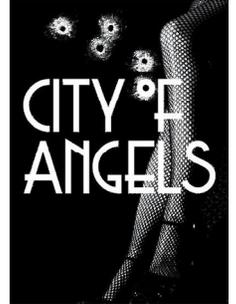
PLACE: Theatre Event: "CITY OF ANGELS"

The Lyric Stage Company of Boston, - 140 Clarendon Street, Boston, MA

Cocktails & Dinner: FOGO de CHAO - 200 Dartmouth Street, Boston, MA

TIME: Theatre: 3:00PM. Cocktails & Dinner: Immediately following the show.

Join the MBCA Minuteman Section at The Lyric Stage Company of Boston Theatre to enjoy



"CITY OF ANGELS"

Set in the seductive Hollywood of the 1940s, "City of Angels" chronicles the misadventures of Stine, a disillusioned young novelist attempting to write a screenplay for a tyrannical movie producer. As his marriage falls apart, we follow Stine's film alter-ego, the dashing detective Stone, who is haunted by the memory of the girl that got away. With a jazzy, brassy score, "City of Angels" simultaneously spoofs the glamorous real world of old Hollywood and the film noir "reel" world of thugs and femme fatales.

"The clever lines, lyrics, and songs keep on coming! It's a rarity that has all three!" - New York Times

Immediately following the show we will enjoy cocktails and a superb dinner at FOGO de CHAO - An Authentic Brazilian Steakhouse, just a few blocks away from the theatre. FOGO de CHAO, a Zagat rated "One of America's Top Restaurants," offers an International Dining Experience like no other, featuring unlimited, table-side served Grilled Entrees and a fantastic Gourmet Salad Bar.

COST: A ridiculously super value at only \$50.00 per person (thanks to a huge contribution from the MBCA-MINUTEMAN SECTION). There is limited seating for only 50 people and reservations will be on a first-come first-served basis. Hurry, this event annually sells out quickly, so send in your reservations now! (Preference will be given to Club Member and one guest only). Theatre tickets and directions will be mailed out in early March, but please include an **E-MAIL** address in your reply for confirmation and a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope for mailing the tickets.

Cut and mail **RESERVATION FORM** with a **CHECK** to: **MINUTEMAN SECTION-MBCA** by **February 12, 2015** to: **Rich Garick, 19 Gordon Mountain Road, Windham, NH 03087** rgarick@comcast.net (603-898-3980)
NAMES: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____ Total Guests X \$50.00 = \$ _____

Send Reservation Form, Check & a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope for posting tickets to: **Rich Garick, 19 Gordon Mountain Road, Windham, NH 03087**

Questions? (603-898-3980) rgarick@comcast.net

Classified AD



Four Rial 17x8 wheels with 225/45-17 Michelin Alpin snow tires and pressure monitor senders from my 2010 Mercedes-Benz C300 Sport Sedan. Driven about 7,000 miles. \$500 Call Joe at 508-586-7000 or email jps@stadelmann.com

THIS SPACE FOR RENT

Bring your message to the finest homes and auto owners in New England! Reach thousands of our readers with your message! Our rates are most inviting.

Call Ronald Beaton to place

Advance Driving Skills and Track Day at Thompson

Speedway Motorsports Park

July 21, 2015

Name		Car Model				
Address		Cit y		State		
Club Name			Section			
Experience		Novice	Intermediate	Advanced		
Telephone		Email				
Track Cost	\$250 per driver <i>(includes lunch for driver)</i>	No. of Drivers		Total	\$	
Guest Lunch	\$20 per guest lunch	No. of		Total	\$	
					Grand	\$

Return Form with Check payable to MBCA/Minuteman Section before July 17th to:

John Piekarczyk
108 Gawron Road
Thompson, CT 06277

Classified AD



Four Rial 17x8 wheels with 225/45-17 Michelin Alpin snow tires and pressure monitor senders from my 2010 Mercedes-Benz C300 Sport Sedan. Driven about 7,000 miles. \$500 Call Joe at 508-586-7000 or email ips@stadelmann.com

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Bring your message to the finest homes and auto owners in New England! Reach thousands of our readers with your message! Our rates are most inviting.

Call Ronald Beaton to place

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 with in 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

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GERMANFEST XXVIII Concours d'Elegance

Larz Anderson Auto Museum, Brookline MA
September 28, 2014 **AWARD WINNERS -Congratulations!**
Presented by Intercity Lines, Inc.



Group 2 - Historic, Neo Classic

First Place European Auto Solutions 190 SL
Second Place Steve Kent 220 S
Third Place John McKeon 180A

Group 4 - Early Modern

First Place Henry Coehlo 280 SE
Second Place Keith Morgan 250 SE
Third Place SL Tech 280 SEL

Group 5 - Modern

First Place Steven Mosher 300 TD
Second Place Larry York 300 TD
Third Place Kevin Dinsmore 560 SEC



Group 6 - Contemporary

First Place Guido Voss CL 600
Second Place Rudolph Boentegen S600
Third Place Manuel Razetto E350

Group 6A - Contemporary

First Place John Harrington SL 500
Second Place Ara & Pam Gechijian SLS63
Third Place Robert Favicchia SLK 320

Group 7 - Sports

First Place Jerry Robinson 230 SL
Second Place Paul Irishman 280SL
Third Place Caleb Stewart 280 SL

Group 8 - SUV and R Class

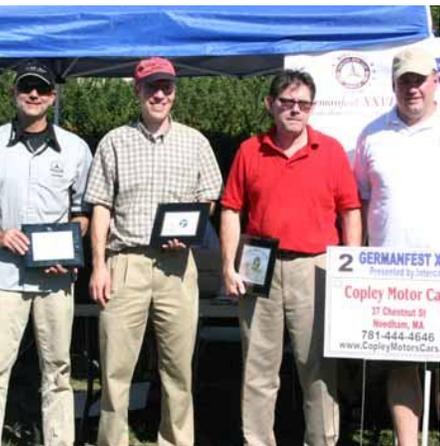
First Place Tom Joy ML350
Second Place European Auto Solutions GL 450

Group 9 - All Others

First Place Micahel Milano CLK 63
Picardi
Second Place John Cormier 380 SL
Third Place Chris Hague C 63

Group 10 - Show Class

First Place Tom Larson 300 SL
Second Place Old Timer Restorations 300 SL
Third Place Bob Hatch 280 SL



GERMANFEST XXVIII



Photos by John Slamin

MERCEDES-BENZ EVER GOING FORWARD...

By Peter Vanderveer

A question concerning what turns out to be ABS and Traction Control systems on Mercedes-Benz automobiles frequently arises. On several occasions, especially when conditions are wet or snowy, owners have seen a flashing yellow triangle on the speedometer. Sometimes this yellow light starts flashing while stepping on the gas pedal and other times while stepping on the brake pedal! For that instant the gas and brake pedal don't seem to react to pedal pressure, as if something else is controlling the car!

Well, that is exactly what is happening - one of the car's brain boxes has taken over how the gas pedal position effects the engine and how your foot pressure on the brake pedal slows the car.

With 2000 and newer Mercedes-Benz automobiles, you can literally floor the gas pedal in the snow. In a split second the car senses tires spinning and the Traction Control brain box dials down the engine power to prevent skidding out of control. These and other safety systems have been engineered into Mercedes-Benz cars for decades starting as far back as the 1970s. As Mercedes-Benz and other automobile engineers come up with new technologies, for instance - the wireless manager and Bluetooth, they immediately think "how can this be of assistance in our most important mission" – driving safety.

With Bluetooth availability, engineering departments are now thinking -why can't the car in front of you tell your car "I am slowing down FAST and you should take immediate steps to do that, too"! Alert the driver with a tested and effective warning; i.e., a flashing triangle on the display and in a nanosecond power down and apply the brakes. All this is happening ahead of even the most alert driver's ability to act.

This is an example using Bluetooth technology to show how automobiles become more able to transport their precious cargo from the sixteen year- old to the ninety six year -old from point A to point B safely. Mercedes-Benz is a unique company always at the forefront, taking the best new technologies and testing them either at the track or on the road simulating our driving experiences.

And congratulations to Mercedes-Benz on their 2014 sweep of driver and constructor championships in the pinnacle of motor sports – Formula One Racing!

Peter Vanderveer is the *Tri-Angles* Technical Editor. He owns and operates Vanderveer Motors in Norwood, Mass., an independent Mercedes-Benz maintenance and repair shop. He can be reached at 781-255-0797

Events scheduled for 2015

March 29, Theatre, Dinner and Annual Meeting in Boston. (See page 6 for details)

July 21, Advance Driving Skills and Track Day at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park

1994 Mercedes 320 Estate Wagon

Great condition! Engine rebuilt 2k miles ago, new small wire harness, New Hood insulation, New alternator, Rebuilt transmission and new mounts, new coil springs, new water pump and battery. Over \$12k in updates and repairs. Smoke Silver/Tan Leather interior. Burr Walnut Trim. Features include: Electric Seats, Electric Sunroof, 8 hole alloys, Air bags, automatic transmission and new tires. Runs like new—ready for many more years of dependable service.

Call Ed - (413) 596-6845



1973 450 SL For Sale

Both tops, good running condition, minor rust. Was a California car and would make a great restoration project. No major problems, car runs great!

Asking \$2500. Call Ted: 617-901-2906