



Tri-Angles

Minuteman Section MBCA
Official News-Letter
SUMMER 2012
VOLUME XII, ISSUE 2



Special points of interest:

- *Tech Session at EAS*
- *Special award for Nancy P.*
- *Classified*
- *Upcoming Events*
- *New SL350*
- *Winery article*
- *Hyannis Tech Session*

Inside this issue:

- Administrivia* 2
- Classifieds*
- President's message* 3
- Editor's Desk*
- High respect for the brand* 4
- by Peter Vanderveer*
- SL350* 5
- EAS continued* 6
- Tech Session in Hyannis* 7
- Hardwick Winery event* 8
- Nautical Cruise & Reservation form* 9
- Upcoming events* 10

EAS Tech Session

By Ronald Beaton

Members and friends numbering more than thirty came together at European Auto Solutions in Waltham for a tech session on April the 28th.

Even one prospective member came by to join in and have his car looked over.

Coffee and donuts were served and the tech session began at 9:00 o'clock on this beautiful, warm and sunny Saturday morning. At the end of the day, a raffle was held with various prizes awarded.

While there was a preponderance of SLs, (perhaps because they require more service) a lot of different model sedans drove in looking for a mechanical appraisal of their condition.

For the most part, owners were not surprised with the findings of the technicians.

Owners know their cars and know when something is wrong although they may not know exactly what or how much it will cost to repair. The technicians took about 15 minutes to look over each car and explain what needed to be done to keep the car in top notch condition.



The car is inspected by a technician



A technician explains what needs to be done to keep car in great condition

(Continued on page 6)

Nancy Piekaczyk receives special award



President John presents special award to Nancy Piekaczyk for her work as developer and ongoing editor and publisher of the club's website.

Nancy also serves as the club's Secretary and handles the email of notices and news-letters to the mem-

bers. Nancy and Bonnie Fancy also chaired the winery event this year for the second year in a row.

Nancy has done a wonderful job and deserves the credit and award many times over. Well done Nancy! (and thank you for all your hard work).



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Email-benz560sl4sale@aol.com



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President's Message

This spring we decided to sell our 1989 560 SL. The car was just too perfect and original, I couldn't bring myself to drive it.

We sold it to a private collector and now it was time to find a replacement that we would drive. We decided on an SL 500, push button hardtop would make it easy for Nancy to enjoy, it would enable her to drive it on her own without having to worry about a manual top. Now the search was on for the perfect SL. I had black and silver in mind but didn't want the usual interior choices, about a week later we found a 2005 Brilliant Silver over a rare Berry and Charcoal interior. The car was at Viti Mercedes Benz in Tiverton RI. I knew Steve Koertje, the Used Car Manager and Minuteman Member so I called him and went down the next morning. Salesman Gary Garofalo had the car waiting for me. One look and I was sold! We put 1,500 miles on the SL in less than 2 months which is more than we would put on the 560 SL in a Year! Viti was our first Web Advertiser and they made the purchase so easy that on a service visit Nancy bought a C 300! Gary is now a Minuteman Member, give him a call for your next Mercedes Benz.

Spring has been busy for the Minuteman Section. In April we had our tech session at

European Auto Solutions new facility. Section VP Ed Owen and the entire staff at EAS have gone to great lengths with this facility to provide the ultimate service experience for the Mercedes-Benz driver and they now boast 2 acres of parking! The event was great as usual and I want to thank Minuteman Members Tim, Ed, Arthur and Scott for their support of the Section. I also want to thank Jim Parker Minuteman Member and Parts Director for Mercedes-Benz of Westwood for all the raffle items he donated. He and MB of Westwood are longtime supporters of the Minuteman Section.

In May we had a Cruz In at Prime Mercedes Benz Service Center in Hyannis. They are a new Web Advertiser and put on a great event. Manager David Slayter and his staff provided a DJ and a cook out for our members who came as far as Springfield, Ma to enjoy the Cape.

It was nice to see members from the Cape who don't usually make it to other events. I hope a Cape member will step up and run more events. Thanks David!

In June Bonnie Fancy and Nancy P. ran a Wine Caravan from Ernie and Bonnie's new house in Holland to the Hardwick Winery and on to the Steaming Tender for

lunch. Thank you ladies for a great event.

Classic Motorsports of Merrimack, NH, is our newest Web Advertiser. Click their banner for used classics, thank you Andrew.



If it seems that I mention our Sponsors often it's because they are the ones who enable the Section to have great events. Without their support we would have events of less quality and fewer of them as well. Please support those who support the Minuteman Section.

Next up Ken Bourque's Nautical Cruise Presented by AlphaCars and then Germanfest XXVI Presented by Intercity Lines followed by Farberaylle Presented by European Auto Solutions

John S Piekarczk
President Minuteman Section, MBCA

The Editor's Desk



Welcome to the summer of 2012. Spring made up for the short snowfall last winter—one of the mildest in memory with very little snow and many days of moderate temperatures and lots of sunshine. My car was almost a daily driver. We were short of water in our reservoirs, lakes and ponds, but the abundant rains in the spring helped bring water levels to near normal.

The first event of the new year was a tech session with our friends at European Auto Solutions. About 48 members brought their cars in for a 15 minute free peek-see by EAS' staff which would alert owners to prob-

lems incipient or prospective. There was also a small concours with Benzes of every type and a raffle with plenty of prizes. Grand winner of the SL was Greg Bottone. Spencer Fancy picked the winning tickets from a hat and did a great job! He did not win the car.

Another tech session was held at Prime Mercedes-Benz in Hyannis with inspections on every type of car. This is a new facility opened by Mercedes-Benz of Westwood for Cape customers. Everyone had a wonderful time and were delighted with the extensive knowledge of the technicians.

The caravan ride to Hardwick Winery and dinner at The Steaming Ten-

der on June 10 was most enjoyable. Many took the opportunity to wish Bonnie and Ernie all the best in their beautiful new home which they had graciously opened to welcome the caravaners and provided coffee and Danish.

We are all looking forward to the great events upcoming in summer and fall. Ken Bourque's Nautical Cruise, John Slamin's Germanfest XXVI and Mark and Becky's Farberallye XXXV. These promise to be great fun and not to be missed. See you there!

- Ronald Beaton

HIGH RESPECT FOR THE BRAND

By Peter Vanderveer

A customer with a 2008 C300 4-matic recently asked, "Why does my white C300 have bigger tires in the back which of course also cost more and they don't last as long as the front tires which are smaller. Why did Mercedes do this? I just had to buy new rear tires only and the cost surprised me." Good question and one which Mercedes doesn't take lightly at all! The main reason for wider tires in the rear is one of safety. If you go back to Mercedes' original philosophy of transporting the sixteen year old and the ninety-six year old from one place to another safely - this use of tires makes perfect sense. When developing the new C-class, the test drivers found that in a light and powerful car (like the C300 4-Matic) sudden steering changes simulating interstate highway panic maneuvers can cause the rear of the car to break loose and swing around in an uncontrollable skid. To the chagrin of the C-class owner in this case, obviously Mercedes felt it best not to cut corners on the tires - which after a hundred years of experience they know what is really important, perhaps better than the current customer. All automotive manufacturers run into this kind of problem and most can't expect drivers to anti up for bigger rear tires on the small chance they may make a difference in rare circumstances. But as the Mercedes ad says "The Best or Nothing".

As a responsible corporation Mercedes-Benz A.G. must answer to The U.S. Department of Transportation,

as well as heeding The Environmental Protection Agency rules and C.A.F.E. (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) regulations. To help keep the Mercedes fleet green (smaller carbon footprint) the A-class is coming out in 2013 with GLC (mini SUV) and CLC (4-door) vehicles. As for the present Mercedes-Benz models, the fuel economy requirements (C.A.F.E.) compete with the need for safety. A major step forward here is more complex automatic transmissions with 7 speeds - more like those used in Mercedes ML350's. With this new technology we can use a smaller engine to do the same work. I like the technology, because it allows for better mileage - again a smaller engine to do the same work - rather than

making the vehicle lighter to get better mileage which can compromise structural strength or safety. So another customer asked why her 2006 ML350 needed a transmission valve body at 150,000 miles (for \$1,500.00). The answer was you're driving a Mercedes-Benz - the 7- speed transmission is more of an expensive solution to the fuel economy regulations without compromising the metal in the vehicle which can remain strong and protective in all driving conditions.

Peter Vanderveer is the Tri-Angles technical editor. He owns and operates Vanderveer Motors in Norwood, Mass. Tel. 781-255-0797 www.vanderveermotors.com

CLASSIFIED FOR SALE

1966 Mercedes-Benz 250 Se Coupe



Graphite Grey(DB 190), Red Leather Interior (Roser Red #1079), Polisander wood trim (#203 interior color package) Complete and correct repaint and weather seals in 2003. 57,000 gentle miles. Engine bay original and very clean, trunk original and in exceptional condition Interior in excellent original condition with less patina than you would expect in a 46 year old car.

Original spare, tools and manuals, full documentation from new. Glass and chrome is exceptional, stainless steel exhaust.

\$30,000, John Slamin, Tel. 781-345-9122, jslaminknee@comcast.net

The New SL350

If there is such a thing as a 'cheap' Mercedes SL, it's the SL350. This entry-level model comes with a 3.5-litre V6 producing 302bhp and a price-tag that's likely to be over £10,000 less than the SL500's.



as the standard suspension, so specifying it may not be worthwhile.

Refinement is excellent, and with the roof up you'd be hard pushed to notice you were in a convertible. There's virtually no wind or road noise, and squeaks and rattles are notable only by their absence.

Compared to the old SL350, this new model

In terms of performance, the two cars aren't

split by as much. The SL350 sprints from 0-62mph in 5.9 seconds, while the bi-turbo V8-powered model completes the same sprint in 4.6 seconds, but the way this power is delivered is the biggest difference between the two.

Where the SL500 is happy to deliver a huge hit of acceleration in any gear and at any speed, the SL350 needs to be revved to get the best out of it. That takes away some of the SL's relaxed driving experience, but adds a new depth of involvement.

Changes to the handling are minimal, with the SL350 feeling a little lighter on its feet and keener to change direction. Both are far more accomplished than their predecessors, but without the heavy V8 engine at the front, the SL350 is certainly the more nimble of the two. It corners in typical SL fashion though, which means plenty of grip and little drama, but next to no feedback.

But the SL has always been comfort-biased, and the SL350 boasts the same pillowy-soft ride as the more expensive SL500. Our car was equipped with the optional Active Body Control suspension, which does improve handling, but it's just as comfortable

is 140kg lighter, and that helps in achieving the fuel economy figure of 41.5mpg, which is 30 per cent better than the outgoing model. The seamless 7G-Tronic gearbox and stop/start system also play their parts.

The surprise is that two cars that differ only in the engines that power them can feel quite so different on the road. The added agility and rev-happy nature of the V6 engine mean the SL350 has more of a sports car feel than the SL500, which is the more GT-inspired of the two.

Price: £75,000

Engine: 3.5-litre V6, 302bhp

Transmission: Seven-speed automatic, rear wheel drive

0-62mph: 5.9 seconds

Top speed: 155mph

Economy: 41.5mpg

CO2: 159g/km

Equipment: Full leather upholstery, climate control, heated seats, cruise control, sat-nav

On sale: April

This article originally appeared in Auto Express, written by Luke Madden

EAS Tech Session

(Continued from page 1)

An impromptu concours was also held with winner and car at right.....

The grand prize SL was won by Greg Bottone. There were plenty of prizes to go around and most present won something.

EAS has recently added a vintage car restoration center at their shop. Jack Daly, who previously worked at Russell's in Essex, is in charge of the work. This is something special and worth your consideration for that vintage work. (781-315-2847)



Concours winner



Grand Prize Winner Greg Bottone



Nancy shooting for website article



EAS owner Ed Owen with Minuteman members



Jack Daly with current project



Bruce Kline, Kevin & baby, with Ernie Fancy



Nancy & Bonnie with Joanna & Rudy



Ed Owen and Ernie Fancy



President John with Rudy



John Gates with his blue 560 SL



Mike Chen & Daughter Catherine

Tech Session/Prime Mercedes-Benz Service Center in Hyannis

By Bonnie Fancy

May 20: Cape Cod's only authorized Mercedes-Benz Service Center invited Minuteman members to tour their new facility and have their cars inspected during a tech session. Prime's Sales and Service Department is now ready to assist you with all your Mercedes-Benz needs without going off the Cape. A great service in a great facility for our lower south shore-cape members at 95 Falmouth Rd., Hyannis.

Mercedes-Benz of Westwood opened its Service Department in Hyannis for an informal car show and a great lunch. About 30 members attended. Along with the chance to look at some beautiful cars, there were several drawings for gift bags.

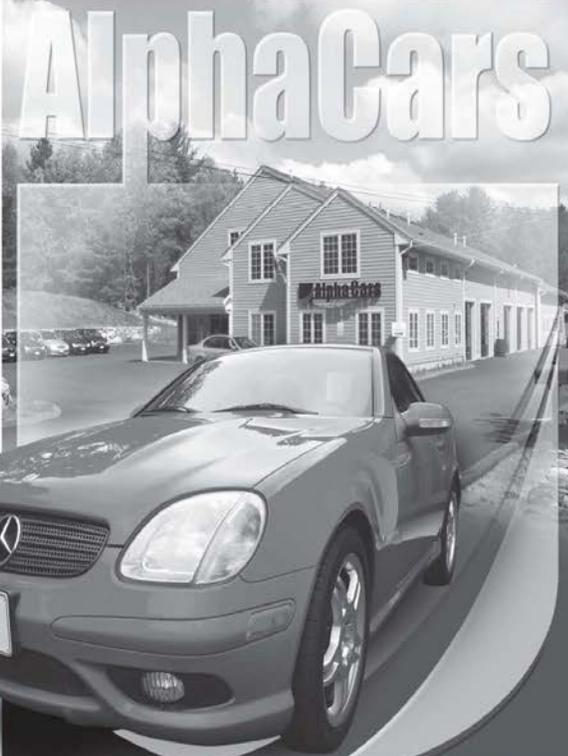


Drs. Kamalika and Mahlin Weeratne chat with Ernie Fancy





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2012 Hardwick Winery Caravan & Luncheon at the Steaming Tender

**Hardwick MA / Palmer MA
June 10, 2012**

More than 50 people gathered at the Fancy's new home in Holland MA, bright and early for coffee and Danish before heading out for a glorious ride on the winding back roads to the Hardwick Winery. Bonnie took charge of refreshments inside and Nancy and John Piekarczyk lined up the rally goes outside to ensure a prompt 10:45 a.m. departure to the Winery.

The owner of the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery was ready for our arrival, promptly welcoming us to her establishment and guiding us through their historic home to the upper floor for our wine tasting. Others had the opportunity to enjoy cheese and crackers while watching a brief video about the restoration of the facility. The Hardwick Winery was featured on WCVB's Chronicle as well as Fox 25 News Zip Trip and HGTV's restore America.

After touring the winery and sampling the wines, we went on to Palmer, MA to the Steaming Tender Restaurant. The Steaming Tender is situated in the old Palmer Railroad Station, once the third largest train station in Massachusetts. The building, designed by Henry Hobson Richardson, was in danger of being torn down when it was purchased, fully restored and turned into a restaurant. It was featured on Chronicle in 2012 and on Good Morning America in 2008.

An all-you-can-eat buffet was ready for the group spot on as we arrived at 1:30 p.m. including the Steaming Tender's signature dessert Whiskey Pudding. We want to thank Nancy Piekarczyk and Bonnie Fancy for organizing this wonderful event.



Ken Bourque's 2012 Nautical Outing presented by AlphaCars



The annual MBCA Minute-Man Section Nautical Cruise will be held on Sunday August 12'th . This year we will cruise on the Schooner Fame located at Pickering Wharf for a two-hour sail around Salem and Marblehead harbors and the islands. Snacks, soft drinks, beer and wine are sold on board, and passengers are welcome to bring their own snacks. However, coolers, glass bottles, and alcoholic beverages may NOT be brought aboard.

Afterwards, we will dine at CAPT.'s waterfront restaurant on Pickering Wharf, one of the finer restaurants in the area, where we'll enjoy a delightful dinner and dessert. A cash bar will be available for your convenience.

The restaurant is located near the dock on Pickering Wharf and we will have a reserved second-floor room overlooking the harbor and historic Derby Wharf.

We will meet on the Wharf at 3:30PM, for a 4:00PM departure. Free parking is available curb side on Congress Street and in a parking lot off this street and there is also paid parking in a building at the corner of Congress and Derby Streets.

The entire cost of the event, which includes the cruise and the dinner, is \$55.00 per person. Your reservation will be guaranteed by an early prepayment to "Minute Man Section, MBCA" to be followed by an email receipt/notice.

The boat can only accommodate 40 people so please register early.

Appetizers include Fried Calamari, Vegetable Pizza Squares and Pan-Seared Scallops wrapped in Bacon. First course is a choice of Creamy New England Chowder or French Onion Soup with Garlic Toast.

The choices of dinner entrées are:

- A) 6 oz. Tenderloin Steak
- B) Fried Clam and Scallop combination Plate
French Fries, Cole Slaw and Tartar Sauce
- C) Charcoal Grilled Salmon Filet.
Lemon, dill compound butter

All served with rolls, coffee or tea or soft drinks.

Your choice for Dessert will be:

- 1) Dark Flourless Chocolate Hazelnut Cake Sundae.
- 2) Sticky Toffee Pudding served warm with Ice Cream and Toffee Sauce.

Make checks payable to: Minute Man Section, MBCA

All responses must be received by Friday, August 3'rd.

Detach form and mail to:

Kenneth Bourque
18 Thompson St.
Dedham, MA. 02026

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Number of reservations: _____ @ \$55.00 each = _____

Mailing Address: _____

OR

e-mail address: _____

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 12, Ken Bourque's Annual Nautical Cruise presented by AlphaCars



Sailing from Pickering Wharf in Salem, Mass., on *The Flame*. Dinner follows this 2-3 hour cruise at nearby Capt's restaurant. Reserve early as this is a sell out. Refreshments are available on board. Part of the fun is the attentive and courteous crew. Get a little

sun and salt in your hair.

RSVP Ken: 781-326-5158 See P9 for reservation form and details.



SEPT. 16, GERMANFEST XXVI presented by **InterCity Lines**, at the Larz Anderson Museum in Brookline. One of our club's premier events: a don't miss. RSVP slamin@conformis.com See all the details at MBCA.org/minuteman



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Scroll to "August 17" then to "MBCA - Legends of the Autobahn"

For event details and a registration link, go to www.legendsoftheautobahn.org and click on the MBCA logo or Mercedes-Benz name.

For information, contact Laura Simonds at 650.592.7613
or simonds1@pacbell.net

OCT 12-14, FARBERALLYE XXXV presented by **European Auto Solutions**. See details and reservation form at MBCA.org/minuteman