



TRI-ANGLES

Volume XV, Issue 2

Summer 2014

Official MBCA MinuteMan
Section News-Letter

First Annual AutoCross 2014



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John Slamin, past president and current Germanfest event chairman, took first place in his beautiful and powerful Lotus.



Autocross Fastest Five	
John Slamin	20.41 Seconds
Tom Cabral	21.05
Court Brannen	21.28
Joe Pawelczyk	21.45
Ed Owen	21.50

Nancy Piekarczyk, web mistress, on the left — and Bonnie Fancy, right, columnist, with event manager, Frank Cozza before their run for the flag.



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1994 Mercedes 320 estate wagon

Great condition! Engine rebuilt 2k miles ago. Smoke Silver/Tan Leather interior. Burr Walnut Trim. Electric Seats and Electric Sunroof, 8 hole alloys, Air bags, New small wire harness, New Hood insulation, New alternator, Rebuilt transmission and new mounts, new coil springs, new water pump and battery. Runs like new!
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TRI-ANGLES



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President's Message

I hope everyone has had a chance to dry out. I've heard that Arks are selling at a premium!

We need members to run new events, with the exception of the Pumpkin Rallye last year and the Autocross this year, the same members run the same events every year. Not only is it unfair to the members running the events, but I can't believe that out of 750 members no one steps up to suggest or run a new event. You'll get all the help you need from the Board and me.

It's not hard, you may think what you have in mind for an event won't fly, run it past us.

The Autocross run in May had 21 members learning how to drive their Mercedes-Benzes at their

personal limits with a number of members trying to find the limits of their cars. Everyone had a big smile at the end of each run. It was a great way to use the handling and safety features of our MBs and other cars. I'd like to run another in the fall and hope to have an even larger turn out, I think holding it on Memorial Day weekend hurt attendance, my fault.

Let me know if there is interest and we'll make it happen.

As always I can be reached at 560sec@charter.net or 860-315-5575.

John S. Piekarczyk

President Minuteman Section,
Mercedes-Benz Club America



www.mbca.org/minuteman

The Editor's Desk



As you can see from the cover story, continued on page 4, the First Annual AutoCross event was a huge success. Some 21 cars and 26 people attended and/or drove the course.

I was among the unsure and did not participate this year. Most of the people who attended drove a lap or two to practice, then drove it for

real. After watching the fun, I will certainly drive in next year's event. Ed Olbon was a spectator too and he among many other observers will join me next year as we try to take John Slamin's crown.

Still time to sign up for Ken Bourque's Nautical Cruise on August 10. It is from Gloucester this year and is always a wonderful event. A few hours on the water sailing followed by a fine dinner. See reservations page 7 for all the details. This mid-summer event usually sells out early—so good luck!

While Catherine and I have always loved this day on the water, I am out of town this year so we will be absent.

News for members who have sig-

nificant others who are not members. You can call MB in Colorado and add them to your membership as an associate member (no additional cost) and this will give them many of the benefits regular members receive and will increase our membership numbers.

Tel. 800-637-2360

We have Germanfest coming up later and, of course, the always popular weekend Farberallye which will be in Williamstown, Mass., this year. See you there!

As always, we welcome your comments, participation and article submissions for the club's newsletter.

- Ronald Beaton

By Ronald Beaton

May 24, 2014 at The Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park brought the first annual AutoCross to our Minuteman Section Club.

The weather was moderately overcast, but warm enough for the participants.

An Autocross is run using rubber cones to lay out a twisting course with the participants timed on each run.

Speeds are usually less than 40 mph. This is a great way to learn to use the safety and handling features of your Mercedes-Benz. It gave some drivers a better understanding of the capabilities of their cars and it was a lot of fun; the only thing to hit were rubber cones.

John Piekarczyk, the club president, organized the event. John Slamin, a former president and chairman of our fall Germanfest event, had the best time and won the competition. Our thanks and congratulations respectively to the Johns.

Next year's event will be somewhat longer and even more fun! See you there! By the way, you can see a video available on the website!



I did OK. It was light blue!

By Shawn McBride



Last year you could find my 1972 Mercedes-Benz 280 SE 4.5 W108 for sale in Severna Park, MD with a bid price on ebay for \$10,200. That was the winning bid along with shipping to Boston. I thought I would be outbid and my dream would be just that. As much as I wanted this classic, I do not enjoy car repairs or the bills that come along with ownership. But I had lots of free time last spring and started hunting for the classic and affordable 200 series sedan. Since I would be using the car from May to October I wanted a summer color, but not light blue, and preferred a natural leather color MBTEX interior. Not so easy to find.

Someone donated my car in 2010 to a non-profit. The infamous pebbleandrock, known for his ebay store filled with classic autos and cereal marshmallows, bought the car at auction from Desert View Auto Auctions in San

Diego California. DVAA specializes in 'serving the needs of the Auto Donation Industry and Charities.'

The pebbleandrock video can still be seen on youtube. Listening to his evaluation, knowing how much more I know about the car now, is amusing and a bit unsettling. Lucky for him he ended up selling it to a man in Maryland for 8K. That gentleman put 13K into it only to end up putting it on ebay because his wife thought their baby boy needed a safer vehicle. They actually lived in Thailand and would use it when they visited the States. Logically these cars need to be driven to run well, not sitting in another country. He had submitted the car on Bring a Trailer and the DailyTurismo (see Rags To Riches & Rags To Riches Followup).

On May 8th, 2013 the old girl slowly and with much chugging, backed her way off the trailer from Maryland to its new home in Dorchester's Melville Park neighborhood. It arrived with a new battery and lots of issues. I was able to drive it all summer when it wasn't in the shop. Of course the fiddling is endless but I do know when I get all the little things fixed it will be a complete joy. I am guessing when I pick it up next week that I have put 8K into it if I add up every expense from day 1 of ownership. But the car still gets me out of bed each morning. Recently on ebay a 280se 6CYL in very nice shape sold for \$27,200. So I tell myself I did OK. It was light blue.

Shawn McBride is a Minuteman member and an account manager at Stark Carpet at the Boston Design Center, in Boston, Mass.

Classified AD

2010 Mercedes-Benz C300 Sport Sedan with rare 6-Speed manual transmission. Really fun to drive. 33,500 miles. Silver in near perfect condition with all maintenance records. \$21,500 Call Joe at 508-586-7000 or 508-942-1230 cell.. jps@stadelmann.com email



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Call Ronald Beaton to place

New C class Mercedes-Benz Estate Wagon



The Mercedes C-Class Estate is the more practical alternative to the [C-Class Saloon](#). It goes head-to-head to with cars like the [Audi A4 Avant](#) and [BMW 3 Series Touring](#), offering a boot with a maximum capacity of 1,510 litres. The all-new model was introduced in the middle of 2014, boasting a stylish design, a range of clean engines, plenty of hi-tech gadgets and a luxurious interior.

Arguably better looking than the Saloon, the C-Class Estate even makes a good case for itself as the most handsome car in this class. Basic SE models look good, but the 16-inch wheels could do with being a bit bigger. The amount of chrome is limited on these models and there are no stylish LED running lights, either. Upgrading to Sport brings more chrome trim, bigger wheels and a stylish rear diffuser. But best of the bunch are AMG Line cars, which get an aggressive bodykit and 18-inch wheels as standard. You can even upgrade to 19-inch units if you want.

The interior is definitely a highlight, boasting an understated, well laid out design with plenty of high quality materials. The AMG Line cabin the most stunning because you get stitched imitation leather on the dashboard. Even without it, though, the gloss black centre console and satin chrome door handles give it a really class feel.

Both the C250 BlueTEC and C220 BlueTEC are powered by a 2.1-litre diesel engine, providing plenty of in-gear performance. The C250 comes with a seven-speed automatic as standard, and in typical Mercedes fashion it smoothes out shifts for a really relaxing drive. Officially, the 250 will go from 0-62mph in 6.9 seconds, while the C220 takes 7.6 seconds.

But, while we've got no qualms with the performance we're not so sure about the refinement. Keep engine revs low and it's OK but if you're at full throttle or in Sport mode – where the gear-box holds on to the gears until the last minute – the 2.1-litre unit sounds seriously gruff and noisy. The C300 BlueTEC HYBRID is a bit better; it has the same engine but it's boosted by an electric motor so it never seems to be working quite so hard.

We've only had the chance to drive Estates on the optional air suspension (£895 at the time of writing), and it provides a marvellous smooth ride on rough motorways. Bumps are smoothed out to a gentle bounce at speed but we found the system gets caught out over sharp ridges and potholes when you're driving around town. Occasionally you hear a loud thud and feel a jolt in the cabin.

Handling is OK but no match for the BMW 3 Series. The steering feels quite quick, which makes the C-Class feel initially sporty, but you soon find it's nowhere near as composed on the limit as the BMW. With the air suspension set to comfort, the C-Class leans a bit too much in to bends, but switching to Sport does help things slightly.

The clearest indication of Mercedes' excellent reputation for reliability comes with our 2014 [Driver Power](#) survey where owners propelled the German brand to a top 10 finish. That was down to their build quality and reliability, which is something we expect to be carried over to the C-Class Estate. Most cars will be a powered by a tried-and-tested 2.1-litre diesel that has been used extensively in Mercedes models for years now.

The Saloon was awarded a five-star rating from Euro NCAP for crash safety and it's safe to assume that the Estate will similarly get top marks. That's because it comes with seven airbags as standard, drowsiness detection, tyre pressure monitoring and traction control.

Also available is an autonomous braking system, lane-keep assist and an internet-connect piece of software that can call the emergency services to your location in the event of an accident.

This report was written by the *Auto Express* testing team for *Auto Express Magazine*.

Nautical Cruise – August 10



This year the annual nautical cruise will depart from the pier located on the Harbor Loop off Rogers Street in Gloucester on the Pinky Schooner ARDELLE at 3:30 PM on August 10, 2014. The schooner is ideal for seeing the historic shores of Gloucester’s outer harbor, the mansions along Eastern Point, its famed Dog Bar breakwater, Norman’s Woe and beyond the shores into Massachusetts Bay. Aboard her you can help the crew warp her in and out the old way (under sail) haul a historic lobster trap or just relax and enjoy the trip.

The schooner can accommodate only 49 people so please respond early. All replies must be received by Friday, August 8 with a check made payable to Minute Man Section, MBCA.

Parking can be found in two metered parking lots adjacent to the restaurant at fifty cents per hour until 6:00 PM. Please arrive by 3:00PM for a 3:30 sailing as the traffic may be heavy on a Sunday afternoon in Gloucester. Included in the event is a pass for the adjacent Museum.

After the cruise we walk to and dine in Buffet Style at the famous Gloucester House Restaurant at 63 Rogers St. A cash bar will be available for those needing to stabilize their legs after the sail.

Dinner menu includes:

Appetizers: Golden Fried Calamari and Italian Style Meatballs.

Also a Caesar salad will be awaiting you at your table set up with linen and matching napkins.

Entrees: Baked Stuffed Shrimp with Crabmeat Stuffing, Chicken Cordon Bleu served with Hollandaise Sauce, Sliced Roast Beef and Lobster Ravioli in a Lobster Cream Sauce garnished with Scallops and Shrimp and all with Oven Roasted Potatoes and Rolls and Butter.

Dessert: Brownie Sundae with Vanilla Ice Cream and Chocolate sauce and Coffee or Tea.



Detach and mail form below to: Ken Bourque, 18 Thompson Street, Dedham, MA. 02026

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Number of members: _____ @ \$50.00 each = _____

Number of non members: _____ @ \$75.00 each = _____

Total enclosed: _____

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2014

August 10, Ken Bourque's Nautical Sail in Gloucester, aboard the schooner Ardelle (register early, this sells out!)

September 28, Germanfest XXVIII presented by InterCity Lines at the Larz Anderson Museum in Brookline



October 18-19, Farberallye XXXVII in Williamstown, Mass. details to follow.

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!**

400+k miles. Asking \$3500.

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