



TRI-ANGLES

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Spring 2014

Official MBCA MinuteMan
Section News-Letter



Annual Meeting

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By Bonnie Fancy

The MinuteMan Section held its annual meeting recently and Rich Garrick did his usual good job in setting up the event. The first order of business was a trip to Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals to see the performance of "Victorian Secrets". (Cont. P-8)





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President's Message

Finally some warm weather to take the SL 500 out for a little fun drive. I thought this winter would never end!

In February we held our Annual Meeting and once again Rich Garrick did a great job. I would like to thank the Membership for returning the same slate of Officers. We have a Board that works well together and with a potentially large task looming on the horizon, continuity will be key.

By the time you read this, the European Auto Solutions (EAS) Open House will have been run, so I'll thank Ed, Tim and Scott for being a huge supporter of the MinuteMan Section.

Next up is the Autocross at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park. This is a great opportunity to explore the handling features of your Mercedes-Benz and have a lot of fun. Deadline is May 15th.

There are more events in the works and I encourage all of you to join in.



John S Piekarczyk
President Mercedes-Benz
Club America, Minuteman
Section

www.mbca.org/minuteman

The Editor's Desk



Ah, spring is here! Sweet birdsong fills the air, writers wax poetically to express the optimism of the new season which brings forth Mother Nature's annual imperative: The annual renewal of nature at her best.

We too have exciting new projects in store for our members. The most interesting of which is

the AutoCross at the Thompson Motorsports Park in Thompson, Connecticut scheduled for Saturday, May 24. This ought to be a fun-filled day as you can drive your car in a rally on a real race track in relative safety because there will be no other cars racing with you on the track. You will be time-tested as you negotiate the twists and turns on it.

President, John Piekarczyk, was mostly responsible for planning this event. Several board members visited the track to get an idea of what was involved. It looks great! I hope to see lots of you there!

The tech session at EAS was a very good event with a lot of new faces bringing their cars in for inspection and discussion. It was a pleasure to meet them.

We also have Farberallye, Germanfest and the annual nautical sail arranged by Ken Bourque, is from Gloucester this year. Be sure to make an early reservation because this very popular event sells out quickly.

Well, I've been hammering away at this newsletter all day and I think it's time for a break on the front porch in this beautiful spring sunshine. See you at the races.

– Ronald Beaton

Autocross 2014



Date: May 24, 2014

Place: The Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park Thompson CT

The Minuteman Section is planning an Autocross for May 24, 2014 at The Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park.

What is an Autocross? An Autocross is run using rubber cones to lay out a course with the participants timed on each run. Speeds are usually less than 40 mph. This is a great way to use the safety and handling features of your Mercedes Benz. It will make you a better driver, it's a lot of fun, and the only thing to hit are rubber cones.

Modern Sporting Facility Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park, located just 50 minutes from Boston and 30 minutes from Providence and Worcester is the oldest Closed Road Course in the country. Having undergone a major renovation during 2013 it has all the amenities of a modern sporting facility. For the golfers there is an 18 hole Championship Course on site and we can arrange Tee Times for the afternoon after the morning's Autocross.

Early Interest Registration Requested

Please email me at 560sec@charter.net if you are interested, I need 20 entrants to make this work, more is always better. The cost would be \$75.00 per person for the Autocross. Golf is extra.

John S Piekarczyk 560sec@charter.net or Tel. 860-315-5575

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EAS Tech Event

By Ronald Beaton

On April 26 European Auto Solutions held a tech session for the Minuteman Section.

The weather was rainy and cold. Fortunately, fresh, hot coffee and donuts were available for some comfort.

EAS proprietor, Ed Owen, and staffers were on hand

to welcome the members and answer questions about Mercedes-Benz automobiles in general and specific questions about members' cars.

Despite the adverse weather, a large number showed up with their cars for inspection and technical advice.

Several newer members

took advantage of the opportunity for technical inspection, service, advice as well as the regular tech session attendees.

At the conclusion of the session, door prizes and raffles were given to members. They were provided by Prime Mercedes-Benz of Westwood.



EAS Tech Session Cont.



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: _____



Photos by Nancy Piekarczyk
Left: Rich Garrick receives gift card for handling the event. Right: Ed Owen receives a plaque for Member Of The Year.



THE ELECTRONIC AGE

By Peter Vanderveer

In these days of electronic displays behind the steering wheel - anything can be expressed to you, the driver. It is surprising that more information is not displayed on the instrument cluster and I suppose there is a point where too much information is a distraction from driving. When it comes to checking your engine oil level we find that the newer cars often don't come with dipsticks. Many people grew up attending to this simple and satisfying ritual. The dipstick tube is still there, so where's the stick!

A customer told me he tried to check the engine oil, but there was no dipstick to be found. We know your Mercedes computer will warn you on the dash display if the engine needs a top off of oil - so not to worry. All these years of opening the hood and pulling out the oil measuring stick to check engine oil level - are they gone? How about checking to see if the oil looks dirty? How can you buy a used car and not be able to give the oil on the dip stick the eye? No can do. In reality the onboard electronic dipstick works really well and will alert you if the engine is down a quart. Today's tight engine tolerances don't promote oil losses anyway and regular maintenance generally keeps things in check. If you change your oil when the display requests the service, you should be fine.

Next question is about the service letters like A, B, C or D which appear on your dash display as a maintenance-due reminder. This is for all modern Mercedes from approximately a 1996 W210 E-class on up. The reminder can say "service B in 300miles" which will become for many drivers service B exceeded by 200 miles! Being a little late for these services is O.K., in fact as these cars get older the service A's and B's etc. can get out of sync with the your car's actual needs. Best to have a simple windshield sticker with last oil change mileage and date as an accurate record and to decide when the next oil change is due. For me, another very important practice is flushing out old brake fluid which can save money on brake hydraulics down the road, but even more significant it helps keep the brake system healthy.

As I write this article the 2014 Mercedes-Benz factory team has dominated (came in first and second) in the second Formula One race of the year in Malaysia after having won the first race in Melbourne, Australia. Good luck to the team! The new hybrid engines called "power units" have about twenty percent electric power which gives the nod to today's alternative power designs. The battery is charged in part by harnessing rear brake energy via alternator-like motors at each rear wheel. Have to wonder when this kinetic hybrid technology will enter the production of Mercedes-Benz road cars!

Peter Vanderveer is our Technical Editor and is the owner/operator of Vanderveer Motors in Norwood, Mass. specializing in Mercedes-Benz repairs. 781-255-0797

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2014

May 24, AutoCross at the Thompson Motorsports Park in Thompson, Connecticut

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.

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