



Tri-Angles

Volume XIV, Issue 4

Winter 2013

Official MBCA MinuteMan
Section News-Letter



PumpkinRallye '13

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By Ronald Beaton

Our first local rally organized by our newest club director, Court Brannan and Pear Plianumpai, began at Papa Razzi in Concord, Mass. At 9:00 AM October 12. The members came in their favorite automobile to drive in the Pumpkin Rallye. This was a choice of time and distance or a quiz rally where you had to locate clues to win. The clues were numerous and fairly easy to find. One sign had been changed from the time the organizers laid out the route and there was a question about it, but the rallymaster ruled (in his own favor).

The weather was mild but cloudy. The spirits of the drivers were upbeat. The route wound through towns, mountains and valleys with beautiful fall scenery.

We met again at 1:30 for lunch at Papa Razzi. No one got lost. Good fun!

Winners: First Place - Corey Mabe. 2nd. Peter Vanderveer. 3rd. Richard DeVito

(Continued on Page 9)



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President's Message

2013 was a busy year for the Section. We appointed three new Directors who will bring new ideas and events. We named Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park. (TSMP) as Official Road Course of the Minuteman Section, while across New England TSMP is the oldest Closed Road Course in this country predating Lime Rock and Watkins Glen by quite a few years.

During 2013 TSMP underwent a \$4 million reconstruction including a complete repave of the Road Course with new turns added as well. New Paddock and Garages were built along with a Scoring Tower and Autocross area. This is a complete Motorsports venue with a 5/8 Mile High Banked Oval (the oldest Paved Oval in the country) and 1/4 midget track. With an 18 Hole Championship Golf Course, Restaurant and Banquet Facilities it's the most complete Motorsports Venue in the Northeast.

The biggest "New" for 2014 is the Autocross at TSMP on May 24 th. An Autocross is run on a slow speed

course laid out with rubber cones and run against the clock. The goal is to drive as fast as you can while hitting the least amount of cones. You'll learn to use the safety and handling features built into your Mercedes Benz and be a better driver and with the only thing to hit being cones you won't damage your car or yourself. This is just the prelude!

In 2015 we plan to hold a full track day at TSMP which will run the full Road Course against the clock. This will give our members a taste of what racing is all about in a safe controlled way. We'll need volunteers to help with the event and it will serve as training for an event in 2016, more on that later.

In the Fall of 2015 we plan to hold the National Board Meeting which will give our members a chance to see the Club government at work, this is something every member should experience at least once. At this meeting we will make a presentation for our Section to hold **Starfest 2016 !** Starfest will be held at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park with Mohegan Sun as the host hotel.

This event includes track days, a car show, rallye, vendor seminars and banquets. This event has never been held in the Northeast and we'll need your help to make it happen.

I'd like to welcome our newest Director Joe Pawelczyk to the Board. I've known Joe for almost 43 years and I'm sure his contributions will be many.

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

John S Piekarczyk

President

Mercedes-Benz Club America,
Minuteman Section

www.mbca.org/minuteman



The Editor's Desk



2013 was a very good year for our club. Our events were interesting and fun, with at least one new event in the fall.

2014 is shaping up to be an even better year. We will have a taste of real competitive racing in May with the Autocross at Thompson



Speedway in Connecticut.

Several of us toured the speedway recently and we were impressed with the new features and improvements.

Be sure to see the reservation form for the Annual Theatre, Dinner and Meeting event scheduled for 2/23 on page 7. The Play *Victorian Secrets* will be performed by the Hasty Pudding Club and dinner will be in a great nearby restaurant. Officers will be voted in during the annual meeting so get there early and vote often. This is a limited seating event so get your reservation in early. Our thanks go to Rich Garick for his hard work and commitment to the

club. This annual event sells out rather quickly so send in your reservation as soon as possible.

New member Clark Baldwin Loth attended his first event at the Pumpkinrallye and said he had a wonderful time. He said he plans to attend many more events next year.

Our collective thanks to the dedicated members who chaired our events and made our membership much more valuable than the annual dues. A toast to you with a cup of cheer! B&B for me.

Happy Holidays to everyone!
See you next year.

– 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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Mercedes A180 CDI Eco 2014



Mercedes is more linked with luxury than efficiency, but a new ECO version of the A-Class could teach rivals from [BMW](#) and [Audi](#) how to go green. The Mercedes A180 CDI ECO joins the range at the same time as the sporty [A250 AMG 4MATIC](#), and emits just 92g/km of CO2

This makes it a lot cleaner than any [Audi A3](#) or [BMW 1 Series](#) on sale, although it can't match the 85g/km [Volkswagen Golf BlueMotion](#) or 88g/km [Ford Focus ECONetic](#). It looks the same as any A-Class, too, with no special badges or wheel trims. But the ECO model is very different from the regular A180 CDI SE, which it replaces in the range

To achieve its incredibly low CO2 rating – and claimed fuel economy of 78.5mpg – Mercedes has fitted a more aerodynamic grille and flat panels on the underbody, which make the A-Class create even less drag

To achieve its incredibly low CO2 rating – and claimed fuel economy of 78.5mpg – Mercedes has fitted a more aerodynamic grille and flat panels on the underbody, which make the A-Class create even less drag

So what's the effect of all these changes on how the A180 drives? Well, the 1.5-litre diesel produces the same

107bhp as it did before – so the 0-62mph time of 11.3 seconds and the 118mph top speed are unaffected. But it takes time to adjust to the new gearing. Shift too early and the revs will drop away alarmingly, forcing you to scramble for a lower gear. Still, the small 16-inch alloys and fat tyres mean that despite the lower ride height, the A180 CDI is more comfortable than versions on bigger wheels

Hitting a manhole cover or bump will still send a thump through the seat, but it's a lot less intrusive than in AMG models. While there are still some niggles, like the overly light pedals and odd steering that leave you disconnected from the driving experience, for most buyers the economy will be more important than the dynamics

On a test route, the trip computer recorded over 65mpg, and even after some enthusiastic driving it never dipped below 52mpg. The facelifted [Lexus CT 200h](#) hybrid is the only premium hatch that will be cheaper as a company car, as it emits just 82g/km in entry-level 'S' trim – but it also produces around half the Mercedes' 260Nm of torque.

Questions remain over the quality of the A-Class's cabin – some of the switchgear and plastics are a little

flimsy to the touch. That said, in SE trim it still comes with plenty of kit, and the price has only risen by £175 for the ECO tweaks – which seems good value to us. The [BMW 116d EfficientDynamics](#) is more fun, also slips below the 100g/km CO2 barrier and is a little more comfortable, but the Mercedes is streets ahead for style.

The boot is a reasonable size, although passengers in the back will feel hemmed-in by the low, dark roof and cramped footwells. If you want a more versatile family car, the latest [Golf BlueMotion](#) will still be a better bet.

The Mercedes A180 CDI ECO is a welcome addition to the A-Class range. It isn't perfect, but the low CO2 emissions and more relaxed dynamics mean it comes closer to matching the class best. Keen drivers will still be let down by the inconsistent steering and bizarrely lifeless pedals, although the economy figures impress. Better still, it looks and feels just like the standard A-Class inside and out – unlike some low-CO2 special editions

This article was written by Paul Bond for *Auto Express Magazine*



The Hasty Pudding Theatricals Proudly Presents its 166th Production:

HPT 166: ***Victorian Secrets***

Written by **Brian Mendel '15**, **Petey Menz '15**, and **Ian Nightingale '15**

Music composed by **Dylan Marcaurele '16**.



Something's rotten in the state of England! Lady of the evening **Mona Lott** has been found dead at Victorian Secrets, a brothel run by no-nonsense madam **Harriet Upinthere**. Everyone wants to know who did it, but as long as dim-witted cop **Billy Club** is mounting the investigation, they're not going to find out. Is creepy professor **Hannibal Lecture** innocent, or is he Jekyll-and-Hydeing his crimes? Did crackpot scientist **Ella Mental** have a hand in the murder, or does she just have a hand preserved in a jar? Will ex-missionary **Sharon Secrets** spill the beans, or will she just get herself to a nunnery? One thing's for certain—chimney sweep **Colby In-mahlungs** needs to get that cough checked out. Slum's the word in the Hasty Pudding Theatricals' 166th production,!
(*This is a must see! -Ed.*)

Join us on Sunday, February 23, 2014 for the MBCA Minuteman Section Annual Meeting and Theatre & Dinner Event

The Show:

Harvard University's famed Hasty Pudding Theatricals returns to the architecturally acclaimed Farkas Theatre (formerly the Hasty Pudding Theatre) and performs their 166th annual presentation, "VICTORIAN SECRETS" - this year's hysterical offering of comedy, song and dance as only Hasty Pudding Theatricals can pull off.

Cocktails & Dinner:

Immediately following the show we will enjoy cocktails and an extraordinary dinner at the award winning Harvard Square restaurant, Sandrine's Bistro, located next door to the Theatre. Limited underground parking is available across the street from the Theatre, below the Holyoke Center Arcade.

Member Cost: A super value at only \$50.00 per person (thanks to a large contribution from the MBCA-MINUTEMAN SECTION). There is limited seating for 50 people* only and reservations will be on a first-come first-served basis.

Hurry, this event annually sells out quickly, so send in your reservations now! Theatre tickets and directions will be mailed out in mid February, but please include an E-MAIL address for confirmation.

**MBCA members may invite no more than 1 non-member guest to accompany them. Preference will be given to Minuteman Section Members.*

REGISTRATION:

Theater tickets and directions will be mailed out in mid February, and 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 by **February 1, 2014** to:

Event organizer and chairman: Rich Garick, 19 Gordon Mountain Road, Windham, NH 03087, rgarick@comcast.net (603-898-3980)

MINUTEMAN SECTION-MBCA
ANNUAL DINNER, THEATRE EVENT & MEETING
DETAILS AND RESERVATION FORM

DATE: Sunday, February 23, 2014
PLACE: Hasty Pudding Theatricals Presents: *"VICTORIAN SECRETS"*
 At the **Farkas Theatre**, 12 Holyoke Street, Cambridge, MA
Cocktails & Dinner: **Sandrine's Bistro**, 8 Holyoke Street, Cambridge, MA
TIME: Theatre: 3:00pm. Cocktails & Dinner: Immediately following the show.

Join the MBCA Minuteman Section at the Farkas Theatre to enjoy

Hasty Pudding Theatricals' - "VICTORIAN SECRETS"

*Harvard University's famed Hasty Pudding Theatricals returns to the architecturally acclaimed **Farkas Theatre** (formerly the Hasty Pudding Theatre) and performs their 166th annual presentation, **"VICTORIAN SECRETS"** - this year's hysterical offering of comedy, song and dance as only Hasty Pudding Theatricals can pull off. Immediately following the show we will enjoy cocktails and an extraordinary dinner at the award winning Harvard Square restaurant, **Sandrine's Bistro**, located next door to the Theatre. Limited underground parking is available across the street from the Theatre, below the Holyoke Center Arcade.*

COST: *A super value at only \$50.00 per person (thanks to a large contribution from the MBCA-MINUTEMAN SECTION). There is limited seating for 50 people only 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). Theatre tickets and directions will be mailed out in mid February, but please include an E-MAIL address for confirmation.*

(This will be the only notice of the event; do not delay your reservation)

Cut and mail **RESERVATION FORM** with a **CHECK** by **February 1, 2014** to:

Rich Garick, 19 Gordon Mountain Road, Windham, NH 03087

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

2014 MINUTEMAN SECTION-MBCA ANNUAL DINNER EVENT RESERVATION FORM

NAMES: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

_____ Total Guests X \$50.00 = \$_____

Make check payable to: **MINUTEMAN SECTION-MBCA**

Send Reservation Form, Check & Self Addressed Stamped Envelope for posting tickets to:

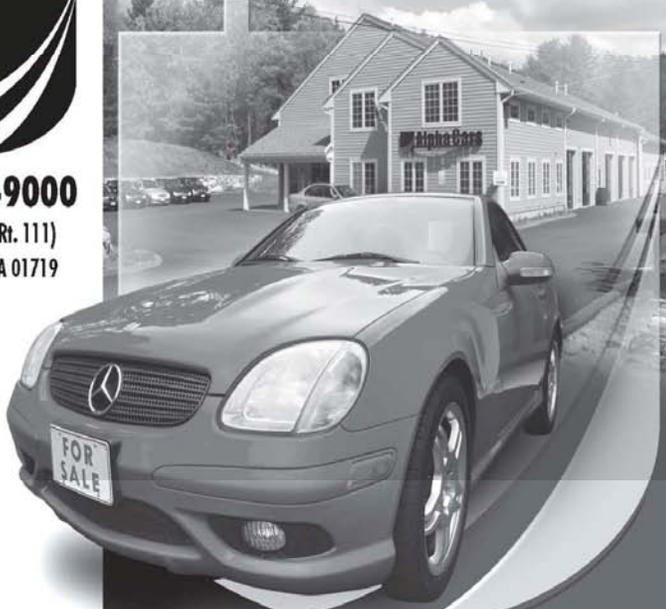
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Mercedes-Benz Club Pumpkin Rallye '13



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2014

Dates and Times to be detailed later + New Events

Annual Meeting, Theatre and Dinner Event in Boston

Tech Clinic at European Auto Solutions, Waltham

Ken Bourque's Nautical Sail, presented by AlphaCars

Farberallye XXXVII

Germanfest XXVIII presented by Intercity Lines
at the Larz Anderson Museum in Brookline



AutoCross at the Thompson Motorsports Park in Thompson, Connecticut

1973 450 SL *For Sale*

Both tops, good running condition, minor rust. Was a California car and would make a great restoration project.
425k miles. Asking \$6000. Call Ted: 617-901-2906

