



THE Ottawa Tri-Star

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Another Year Draws to a Close

It seems as though winter has arrived earlier this year. The snow and cold make it feel more like mid January instead of early December.

My car is safely tucked away in the garage under its cover and connected to the battery chargers waiting for Spring to come.

As the year end approaches, it is nice to remember the events we had this year. The last event was our Annual General Meeting and Dinner, held at the Canal Ritz. This event was very well attended and everyone enjoyed the evening.

At the AGM, Larry Lomas announced that he was retiring from the position of President, having served in that role for five years. Larry has done a commendable job helping to keep the club as a viable organization and we owe him a great deal of thanks for the work he put in.

We will be holding our annual planning meeting on March 7th to discuss what sort of events we will hold next year. We welcome members to provide their suggestions. More info will be provided prior to that meeting.

On behalf of the club executive, I'd like to wish everyone the very best of the season and look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Drive Safe!



Mike McKinnon
President &
Ottawa Tri-Star Editor

Visit the Ottawa Section of MBCA at
www.ottawa.mbca.org



Message from the Past President By Larry Lomas



President No Longer

Board members are very aware that I have been anxious to drop back to the rank of club member for the past few years. I much appreciate their support and that of our fellow members while I served.

While we Board members have introduced items to be voted upon I made

it a point not to vote unless there was a tie and I don't recall ever voting. Such was our collective concern of doing what's best for the members we serve.

The very capable Mike McKinnon was promoted to President from VP unanimously by the ranking board officers and that in itself was a pleasant retirement present. Yet, I was given much more.

Stay turned to hear more from Mike about our very important planning meeting in March. It's vital that we members continue to present interesting event options for 2019 as we have in the past.

Larry

Message from the New President By Mike McKinnon



I'd like to thank Larry Lomas for the excellent service he provided to the Ottawa Section while serving as President for the last five years. While Larry will continue to support the Club, hopefully he will find some time to pursue his other passion, sailing.

For those of you that may not know me, let me introduce myself. I've been a member of the Ottawa Section since 2010 and served as the Newsletter Editor and Vice President for most of that time.

I moved to the MB brand after having owned several MG's. My first MB was a '77 450SL that I owned until 2016 when I upgraded to a 2005 SL500.

I've been married to my wife Diane for 41 years. We have two sons and four grandchildren.

We've enjoyed the social aspects of the Club and believe that it is one of the features that has made our Section successful for so many years.

I look forward to working with the Board of Directors and Club members as we move forward to 2019.

We will be having our Planning Meeting in early March and encourage members to attend or provide me with any suggestions for activities you'd like to see for 2019 driving season.

I look forward to seeing you in 2019.

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The Ottawa Tri-Star

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Long Distance Road Travel - Then and Now (Continued from Q3 Tri-Star)

By Larry Lomas

Continuance of the article in Tri-Star Q3 issue.

The other disturbance was of loud sounds and spectacular light displays at what appeared to be a nearby stadium. The US 4th of July fireworks has absolute authority relegating the infinitely more powerful thunderstorm to a backup role. Weather radar confirmed it was moving east with lighter rain in its tail.

I entered the next rest stop in my GPS and headed west to eventually arrive at an enormous 24-hour Walmart where one could use their clean washrooms and buy bananas at 01:30 hrs. I awoke refreshed long before dawn and headed down the increasingly dull road. This routine was repeated through the mid-west states where biofuel additive from the great number of huge fields of corn would be rendered. It is a lasting vision with the long stretches straight and flat as far as one can see. I calculated that I was going to arrive a whole day earlier than planned.

I had plenty of time then to reminisce of past reunions in Colorado where at one in the mid-80s we arranged to meet up with members from the GTA and

States West to form a convoy of eight before crossing the mighty Mississippi.

We were communicating by Citizens Band (CB) radio used then by many of us and all truckers, long before cell phones. We took a more northerly route then and enjoyed mini mobile reunions at rest stops and motels along the way.

Later while travelling south in Wyoming two of our female cousins took advantage of no CB traffic to determine where a large adult beverage store was. Female voices were uncommon then on CBs and it appeared the truckers happily let them talk away. At that time the prices and taxes in Colorado were much higher so there was some urgency in their comms as we were getting close to the border. "Breaker one nine", (permission to talk channel 19) one of the truckers requested to which our ladies thought would lead to vital information.

"Go ahead breaker", was the reply. We heard an invitation instead. "Say ladies when you find that liquor store you wanna come to my motel room tonight and we will have us a party"? Then a swift reply with a touch of melody. "Well trucker, that will only happen in

your dreams. Good day to you." Then followed much laughter mixed with cheers to the ladies on the part of the many truckers listening in. The trucker who fully expected to be shot down seemed to appreciate the fast and effective response the most. By this time, we were losing those on the outer bounds of CB range and one was heard to say... "bet those ladies are cute and smart". Yes, trucker, they are both, to this day.

What we experienced early that morning was unidentified and diverse citizens of two countries having entered CB range while two ladies chatted. We briefly enjoyed an interesting bonding of sorts while travelling in a quiet corner of Wyoming. It was truly unique as it cannot ever be repeated.

Having spent hundreds of dollars in Wyoming at that important store, we were then to face an underdeveloped mountain pass in northern Colorado and more surprises awaited us.

To be continued Q1 2019.....

Larry

2019 Event Planning Meeting March 7, 2019

The Ottawa Section holds an Event Planning Meeting each year to collect suggestions from its members for events to be held in the upcoming driving season.

Our 2019 Planning Meeting will be held on March 7th. Details on the time and location will be announced closer to that date.

We encourage members to let the Board know what sort of events you'd like to see. If you are unable to attend the meeting, feel free to send them by email to any of the Club Directors prior to the meeting so they can be included in our discussions.

Suggestions can include:

- specific places to visit,

- areas you'd like to drive to,
- restaurants to have a meal, and
- other items such as driving classes or technical sessions.

We always welcome any offers from members to help organize and run events, which is fun and a great way to meet other members.



Annual General Meeting

By Mike McKinnon

The Annual General Meeting was held on November 1st at the Canal Ritz restaurant. Thirty-three members and associates turned out for the AGM and dinner. Members enjoyed a chance to socialize and reconnect with one another. Participants also enjoyed a slide show of pictures, prepared by Bob Mather, taken at the events this year.



Members socializing at AGM

Club President, Larry Lomas, provided a summary of 2018 activities and congratulated event organizers for a good program this year and thanked the members for their participation. Larry made a comparison with the Montreal and Toronto sections and noted we attract a larger proportion of members considering population and continue to have a higher percentage of member participation in our events.

Club Treasurer, Bob Richer, provided a status on the club finances, which continue to be in a solid position. Membership Director, Bob Mather, stated that the overall membership remained fairly stable this year with 10 new members joining and 8 members not renewing. The club has a total membership of 92 participants at year end including family members. The club continues to promote itself to attract more members. Bob mentioned that the position of Webmaster is still vacant which would help us promote the club through various media sources.

We encourage members to consider assisting in this important position.

Newsletter Editor, Mike McKinnon, mentioned he had published three newsletters so far and reminded members that he is always looking for articles to include in upcoming issues. The final newsletter for this year will be published in early December.

Larry Lomas announced his retirement as Club President having served in that role since 2014. In recognition of his service, Larry was presented with a Certificate of Recognition as well as a pen donated by Star Motors for his work promoting the MB brand. All the AGM attendees expressed their appreciation for Larry's work supporting the club.



Larry Lomas receives Recognition Certificate from Mike McKinnon

Mike McKinnon will take over the role of Club President and the change has been approved by the Board of Directors.

Mike stated he was looking forward to continuing the good work done by Larry and also encouraged members to consider joining the Board of Directors to help with the operation of the club. The positions of Webmaster and Secretary are still vacant.

Mike McKinnon was also presented with a plaque as Member of the Year for his efforts in producing the club newsletter.

It was mentioned that the next annual planning meeting will be held on March 7th. This meeting allows members to provide their suggestions on what sort of events they would like to have the



Enjoying dinner at AGM

club hold next year. Some suggestions have already been put forward including a visit to a special collection of cars in Montreal.

Also mentioned was the opportunity to participate in a Winter Driving Course held at Calabogie Motorsport Park. Details on this event are provided in a separate article in this newsletter.

Thanks goes out to Bob and Sue Mather for their efforts in helping to organize the AGM. It was a successful evening enjoyed by all.



Mike, Larry, Bob Richer, Bob Mather



Winter Driving Clinic

By Mike McKinnon

Ottawa Section member, Josef Ferner has been busy organizing a Winter Driving Clinic being offered through the Calabogie Motorsport Park.

As we can all attest to, winter driving in our area can be very challenging at times and even the most experienced drivers can find themselves in precarious circumstances. What better way to keep ourselves and our passengers safe than by having some training, offered by professional drivers, on how to deal with the hazards posed by winter driving?

The Winter Driving Clinic is a full day course to learn winter driving skills held in the snowy paddock of Calabogie Motorsport Park. The clinic will cover emergency braking, accident avoidance, slalom, and skid control. Any car or truck is permitted; no helmets or special equipment are necessary.

The clinic will include approximately 1.5 hours of classroom theory and each participant will get 2 hours of track time to practice driving skills. Driving Coaches will accompany drivers in their vehicles for the driving events.

Winter tires are not required on your vehicles.

Sessions will be limited to 22 persons per day.

Joe has been able to negotiate a group rate with Calabogie Motorsports Park (CMP) for the one day clinic. The regular price is

the group rate.

Available dates are January 26, January 27, Feb 9th, Feb 10th. We do need to provide the numbers for registration by no later than December 25th.

Note that there are no refunds within 7 days of the scheduled clinic date and there is a \$100 administration fee to reschedule within 7 days of the scheduled date.

Participants will be required to sign a MBCA participation form prior to attending the event.

Registration and details are available at the following website.

<https://www.calabogiemotorsports.com/winter-driving-clinic/>.

To obtain the group discount enter MBCO in the Discount Code field on the Check Out page.

If you are interested and need more information on this event, including the process on how to register, contact Joe by phone at (613) 325-4672 or email at JGFerner@rogers.com, and he can answer your questions and walk you through the registration process.

As mentioned, we need to provide registration information to CMP by no later than Dec 25th so if you are interested in participating, please contact Joe as soon as possible.



\$399 + HST per participant. If we get a minimum of 10 participants the group rate is \$375 + HST per participant. There is also a special rate for novice drivers (<3 yrs experience) at \$299 + HST, so if you have young drivers in your family who can benefit from this training there is a reduced price.

Joe has also reached out to the Toronto MB Club as well as the BMW club to help ensure there are enough participants to get





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The Story of the Mercedes Star

From Daimler.com

The stories of the Mercedes star and the laurel wreath began – quite separately from one another – 17 years before the merger. On 6 August 1909, Benz & Cie. submitted an application to have the "Benz" lettering surrounded by a laurel wreath registered as a trademark to the Imperial Patent Office.

In its formative years, the Mercedes star was used without a surrounding ring. Primarily it adorned the radiators, but it was also sometimes seen on the sides of the bonnets of Mercedes passenger cars, often still combined with the "Mercedes" lettering.

The laurel wreath was taken from the Benz symbol, the three-pointed star from Daimler-Motoren-Gesellschaft.

The three sections on the Star represent "Sky, Sea, Earth", which refer to the three areas that Daimler provided engines - aviation, marine and ground transportation.

It was from these beginnings that one of the world's most recognized trademarks still used to this day was developed.



This symbol was entered on the Register of Trademarks on 10 October 1910.



Daimler-Motoren-Gesellschaft had already applied for legal protection for the Mercedes-Benz star on 24 June 1909. It was entered on the Register of Trademarks on 9 February 1911.

Looking back, the fact that both car makers registered their new trademarks in the summer of 1909 seems to mirror the events of 1886, since this was when Gottlieb Daimler and Carl Benz invented the car powered by the fast-running internal combustion engine – without even having any knowledge of one another.

Some 23 years later, the two still competing companies pointed the way ahead with their new brand symbols, by immediately using them as a badge and signet on their respective vehicles.

Finally, on 18 February 1925, both brands registered their new shared logo – Daimler's Mercedes star in Benz's laurel wreath. This was a highly symbolic action in anticipation of the merger, which became effective on 28 June 1926.





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