



THE Ottawa Tri-Star

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Happy Holidays!!!

With the balmy weather we have experienced lately it's hard to believe it is officially winter. I took my car for its final tour this year on December 4th which is by far the latest I've ever had it out. If the warm weather keeps up maybe I'll have it back on the road in January!

As we look back on 2015 the club had another great year with interesting outings and great times spent with our own club members as well as times spent meeting with members of some of the other local auto clubs. We wrapped up the season with a wonderful evening at the Bostaurus restaurant in Gatineau enjoying a great meal and conducting our Annual General Meeting. Thanks to Larry Lomas for organizing that event.

We have already received some good suggestions for events next year so it looks like we will have another interesting driving season in 2016.

On behalf of the Club Executive, we wish you all the very best for the holidays and look forward to seeing everyone in 2016.

Drive Safe!



Mike McKinnon
Vice President &
Ottawa Tri-Star Editor

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Message from the President

By Larry Lomas



We're a club on the move.

Not just Michael Hoegl who is our hands down number one long distance driver and no other member is in sight of the tail of his Mercedes in that contest. None in the fleet of his Mercedes are garage queens. He exercises them all although his 102 year old Benz model W5 is treated to a much more respectful and less vigorous workout.

We on the board learned more on the subject at our 3 November AGM held in an historic home in Aylmer QC. During a general discussion period I was prompted to ask the question to the 35 attendees as to their preference. That is, a drive to an event other than an auto show or a drive to and participation in an auto show. The vote was six out of seven favouring of the former. I then pointed out that whenever we are on the move, stop for a rest and when we position our cars at the site of event, we become an impromptu

Mercedes auto show. All of this past year's events save one were of the former. The one that was to be an auto show was cancelled due to weather by the organizers who admitted that their registered entrees were but a few even before the heavy rain was forecasted. So get set for more of same amongst next year's events.

Your club's board will be holding our yearly planning meeting mid February and we already have some excellent suggestions from member Karen Koivumaki. Like last year all will include a measure of voluntary physical exercise through the pleasure of walking. Attendees will recall our free tickets to roam Upper Canada Village and the walk about the fully operating Mill and an historic home in Manotick. Our golfers played eighteen holes of golf at the Carleton Golf & Yacht Club under a sun broiler and were in good spirits even

before they had anything from the bar at the nineteenth hole. Others will recall our day in Wakefield which included a fairly steep climb beyond the Mill Restaurant to the cemetery where former Lester Pearson is resting.

In the above photo you will notice a small feature over my right shoulder. It is the mighty Gatineau River on its run south to join the Ottawa River. It was taken recently while hiking with friends at a high point overlooking the cemetery and the valley nestling Wakefield.

Season's greetings from the Board of the Mercedes Benz Club of Ottawa.

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The Ottawa Tri-Star

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Annual General Meeting

By Mike McKinnon

We had a great turn out for our year end dinner and Annual General Meeting (AGM). This year the event was held on November 3rd at the Bostaurus Restaurant in Aylmer Que.

Larry Lomas organized the event and was able to get us a private room upstairs with a custom menu in the historic building.

Once the social part of the evening was completed, we got down to the business of the AGM. A recap of the year's events

wanted to have events that involved driving their cars to a point of interest that also involved a social component such as a meal.

There were a few changes made to the Board of Directors for next year. The following is a list of your current Board Members.

President – Larry Lomas;
 1st Vice President and Newsletter – Mike McKinnon;
 2nd Vice President and Webmaster – John Bartholomew;
 Secretary – Josef Ferner;
 Treasurer – Bob Richer;
 Membership – Bob Richer;
 Directors – Mel Roy and Bob Mather;
 and
 Technical Advisors – Winfried Hillebrand and Kurt Hillebrand

We would like to thank Joe Ferner for taking on the role of Secretary and for producing a very comprehensive set of minutes of the meeting. As has become a tradition at our AGMs there was the usual trivia quiz asked about some aspect of Mercedes Benz history and the draw for door prizes. Mike McKinnon was the lucky member this year and won a highly desirable Mercedes Benz coffee cup along with having a year's worth of MBCA membership dues being covered.



Larry Lomas presiding at the AGM

Thanks to everyone that came out the AGM. These sessions are important as they are your chance to influence how the club is run and to voice your opinions on any aspects that you would like or where you think changes should be made.

We look forward to seeing everyone when the new season starts.



Club members enjoying dinner at the AGM

was done as well as a poll conducted on what the main areas of interest is for club members in terms of activities they would like to participate in. The consensus was that the majority of members

2016 Events

We are just starting to plan our events for 2016 but already have one activity lined up in January.

Lunch at Army Officers Mess - Tuesday, January 12, 2016.

A lunch will be at the Army Officers Mess on 12 Jan from 1100 hrs. The Army Mess is located at 149 Somerset Street West, Ottawa. Larry Lomas will be there and we will be sitting down for lunch at 1200 hrs. There is another function on then so seating will be limited to 24 which is the capacity of the room booked. To be fair to all only e mails dated Dec 21 onward will be considered. Please send your attendance request to Larry Lomas at lomas@videotron.ca. You will be advised by email from Larry to confirm your reservation.

If you have already contacted Larry with your reservation you are at the table and we still have room for a few more.

Let Larry know (not Mike) if you are on for it at lomas@videotron.ca and he will provide any further information you may need.



Chicago to Key West

By Michael Hoegl

It was about one year before the MB tour from Chicago to Key West took place, that I signed up for it. At that point I did not know if it will happen and if enough people will sign up for it. As it turned out in the end, there were almost 100 participants for a great tour.

The tour had its hotels and dinner planned out every day, and during the day it was up to you and your GPS which route you wanted to follow. On August 15th, we had our welcome dinner and met other participants for the first time. There were a total of 7 people from Canada, from Ottawa, Toronto and Victoria, BC. He was our furthest participant for this tour.

When the tour started the next morning, the couple from Toronto, Victoria, Texas and myself started to build our group within the group. Surprisingly the 3 Canadians in the group were driving the same model car from various production years. We all drove SL V12's and since our fourth in the group had a CLS63 AMG we made him an honorary Canadian V12.

The first day took us the Auburn, IL where we will have dinner at the Duesenberg Museum, which had some beautiful cars on display. Along the way we decided to stop at the Studebaker museum, which was involved with Mercedes-Benz over 50 years ago.

The following day was the drive to Louisville, KY where the dinner was held at the Kentucky Derby Museum and our overnight stay was at the Brown Hotel, an old style century hotel which was a pleasure to stay at. Not being a horseman myself it was some experience to see the history of the

royal sport. While driving there we made a stop at the National Museum of the US Air Force in Dayton, OH. Unfortunately we did not have all the time we should have had. Seeing some of the older Air Force One aircraft and walking through them is seeing a different world altogether.

Then it was on to Chattanooga, TN where our overnight stay was an old railway station converted into a hotel. The rooms were converted rail cars, two rooms per car. Unfortunately sound proofing could have been better. One participant had a restless night, due to his neighbour snoring too much. I guess the rhythm was not the same as the noise of a moving car.

The following day we drove to Savannah, GA. This was the only day the weather did not cooperate and we had to keep the roof up for most of the way. It was also the longest driving day. That evening we had a trolley tour of the old town with its magnificent history.

On August 21st, we made our way to Florida, St. Augustine, FL. The oldest city in the USA. Our dinner was held at the Lightner Museum, a building full of 19th century art housed at the former Alcazar Hotel which was built in 1888. The dinner was served in the location where the original pool was located when it still was a hotel. It must have been something at its peak time.

From here the tour took us to the outskirts of Miami, FL. Since my SL was modified by Renntech in Florida, we were able to stop there and had a tour of their facility in Stuart, FL. It is a petrol heads dream what they do with

your Mercedes-Benz as long as you are willing to open your wallet.

For the final stretch of the tour we left Miami for Key West, FL. Driving from island to island connected by the bridge road and seeing remnants of the old railway bridge parallel to it, with the sun burning you crisp, it was the perfect ending to our trip to Key West, except for the last 5 minutes were the daily rain shower caught up with us. We had an additional 3 days enjoying the weather and unique life style of Key West. It must be the perfect weather in winter, but for August it was too hot and sticky for me. I compare it more to a sauna.

Finally we had to say good byes to our fellow travellers and started the trip home. The couple from Toronto and myself went to Orlando the first day of the return trip where we stayed overnight and took the Auto train from Sanford, FL to Lorton, VA. It was a very convenient way to come home in a relaxed atmosphere. From Lorton I had another days drive to make it home. I have to thank Renee and Ken Welsch for organizing this fantastic trip. If you never been on a MBCA organized trip, get moving because you are missing out.





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