



Tri-Angles

Volume XIII, Issue 1

Spring 2013



Annual Meeting, Theatre and Dinner

By Ronald Beaton

Great seats for the Jersey Boys show at Citi Colonial Theatre in Boston were obtained for us by event chairman, Rich Garick.

The play was about the original Four Seasons: Bob Gaudio, Frankie Valli, Nick Massi and Tommy DeVito. They rose from obscurity in New Jersey to headline the Pop scene during the '60s. They led the way with such songs as *Oh, What a Night, I Can't Give You Anything But Love, You are the Apple of My Eye, Earth Angel, Sunday Kind of Love, My Mother's Eyes, I Go Ape, Who Wears Short Shorts, I'm*



in the Mood for Love and a couple dozen others.

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Awards presented at the Annual Meeting



Rich Garick receives award from President John and VP Ed Owen for chairing the day's events. Well done Rich! Mark Fancy received award as Northeast Officer Of The Year with congrats from mom and dad.



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TRI-ANGLES



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President's Message

On March 3rd we held our annual meeting once again Rich Garick did an outstanding job with the play and dinner. We thanked Rich with a Mercedes Benz wheel clock. We held elections with most Officers returning, the exception being that Stephen Coulter replaced Nancy Piekarczyk as Secretary. I'd like to thank Nancy for her work as Secretary and her continuing work as Webmaster. We also elected Dean Conclin to the Board of Directors. I want to thank all the Officers and Board Members for their contributions to the Section.

For me the highlight of the meeting was presenting Mark Fancy with the Northeast Officer of The Year award. Mark went above and beyond the call of duty in 2012, making trophies for Germanfest and Farberaylle, running Farberaylle, judging at Germanfest and his work with the Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and being a father and husband. I have not felt this strongly about anything with the Club since I convinced the National Board that

Chrysler Crossfires should not be allowed at our events. Mark you did an outstanding job and the award was well deserved. Thank You!

You may have noticed that there are fewer events this year than in the past. The reason is that no one new is stepping forward to run events. The same 10-15 members run and volunteer for events every year. Each year I ask for recommendations for new events and members to run them. Only Nancy Piekarczyk and Bonnie Fancy have come forward with an event.

The members that are running the current events may be tired or disenchanted with doing all the work. National By-Laws state that we have to have an event every quarter, if these members decided not to do it, the Minuteman Section would cease to exist. We need new events and members to run them and we need them now!

Speaking of members stepping up, I would like to thank Arthur Aucoin for

replacing me as Chief Judge at Germanfest. Arthur has been involved with Mercedes Benz first with Hatch and Sons and currently as a Partner and Lead technician at European Auto Solutions. He has Judged shows around the northeast and will uphold the Germanfest Judging tradition of Cleaness and Originality.



As always I can be reached at 508-943-5747 or 560sec@charter.net

John S. Piekarczyk
President Minuteman Section, MBCA

www.mbca.org/minuteman

The Editor's Desk



Spring. It seems to be everyone's favorite season. Sweet birdsong fills the air. Mother Nature bursts forth with her annual imperative. Life is renewed.

The Minuteman Section of MBCA also renews itself in the spring. The first event of the new year took place on March 3, with the Jersey Boys play at Citi Colonial Theatre in Boston, then dinner at Avila, with the Annual Meeting just before dinner-superbly arranged by Rich Garick. See the story in this issue. The second event was at European Auto Solutions in Waltham on April the 27th. See the story in this issue.

President John is asking members to step up and chair an event. It could be a beach outing like we had at Webster, a few years ago, a caravan to an interesting lunch spot or whatever you want to do. It takes about a day to organize an event and we like to do them once a year. Call John with your idea.

It's time to dust off the Benz and get 'er on the road. There are several events where she would be welcome: The nautical sail, the caravan to wine country, Farberallye and Germanfest are all in the works. And Rich Garick is already planning next March's theatre and dinner event. These are well-planned events with good fun and

good company... very popular with the members. Join and or plan the events as you wish but do participate in some manner to get the most benefit of your membership.

I would also encourage you to share the fun of the club with friends who are enthusiastic Mercedes-Benz owners.

Remember that we have a bank of knowledge within our membership. Their expertise is available to all and withdrawals are encouraged.

And, if you'd like to assist in the News-Letter, call 781-337-1717. Everyone is welcome...we will train!

— Ronald Beaton

Spots on the garage floor

By Peter Vanderveer

The other day a customer with a 2002 E320 4-Matic (last model year of the 210 chassis) arrived at the shop and said “there are oily spots on the garage floor where my Mercedes is parked.” So we put the car on a lift and had a look. First, there were a couple of underside panels to remove and then we saw fluid leaking from two components – the engine and the transmission as well. The customer left after we assured her that the leaks were common issues and the repairs would be finished by later that same day.

What we found was a small amount of motor oil escaping from the valve cover gaskets and slowly running down the side of the motor dripping onto the concrete floor of the garage. Nothing really drastic at this point - but over time the leak will get worse

and one really doesn't want a lot of oil around the hot exhaust pipes which are directly below the leaking gaskets. A set of new valve cover gaskets will solve this problem.

Now what about the transmission oil leak? This leak appears to be fairly common with 210 chassis transmissions and again it is not a big repair. To improve automatic transmission performance Mercedes-Benz and others have switched from the old fashioned “physical” sensors (like vacuum and cables) to computer-controlled electronic shifting which more precisely matches engine load. This enhanced level of precision helps manage fuel mileage, emissions and begins to play a role in vehicle stability under emergency maneuvers. This transmission oil leak is caused by a leaking seal (an improved seal is now available)

where the new electronic control cables enter the transmission. If the transmission is scheduled for an oil and filter service anytime soon, now is a good time in conjunction with the oil seal work.

What to do with the mess of spots on the concrete garage floor? We have found a neat trick for getting oil stains to disappear. Kitty litter works just fine. Take a short piece of wood (6 inches of a 2x4) and use the wood to work a small pile of the litter granules in a circular motion onto the area that needs to be cleaned. The clay material in the kitty litter cleans up the concrete floor better than most cleaners out there. Voila!

Peter owns and operates Vanderveer Motors at 930 Washington St. Norwood, Mass. 781-255-0797

A Summer's Day Sail on Ken Bourque's Annual Nautical Cruise



Event chairman, Ken Bourque, has made arrangements for this year's August 4 sailing on the *Liberte* from Falmouth at 3PM with dinner to follow at Oysters Two Restau-

rant in Teaticket. This event is always sold out so be sure to reserve your place early! 781.326.5158 –

kenbourque@juno.com

Mercedes E-Class Estate review

Keen drivers looking for the ultimate in sharp handling should look elsewhere, as it only takes a short stint behind the wheel to realize the Mercedes has been developed with comfort in mind. All versions get adaptive dampers as standard, which help make the E-Class one of the most comfortable estate cars money can buy. Estate models have self-leveling rear air suspension too, so handling isn't compromised when you're carrying heavy loads. Better still, low noise levels and a perfect driving position make it a superb long distance cruiser. Yet with its slick steering, decent body control and rear-wheel-drive chassis, the big Mercedes can be hustled through corners with surprising pace and composure. Entry-level versions get gruff four cylinder diesel powerplants or a smooth petrol. Only the entry-level E220 diesel can be had with a vague and clunky six-speed manual gearbox – the excellent seven-speed auto is standard on all other cars. Pick of the line-up is the refined and rapid 3.0-litre V6 diesel.

There's no doubting the Mercedes E-Class Estate looks a little old fashioned when lined up alongside sleek rivals, such as the BMW 5 Series Touring and Audi A6 Avant - even after its facelift of 2013, which added new, hi-tech part-LED headlights. Still, it's arguably the best looking model in the E-Class line-up, as its extended estate body is better proportioned than the awkwardly styled saloon version. Buyers wanting to make even more of an impact should opt for the AMG Sport version, which adds a neat bodykit and attractive 18-inch AMG alloy wheels. Mercedes has a hard won reputation for quality, so it's no surprise to find the cabin is solidly built and bursting with first-rate materials. What's more, it's very well-equipped, with all models getting Bluetooth, heated seats and parking sensors. So it's a shame that the angular and upright dash looks so dated and unattractive.

As you'd expect from a Mercedes, the E-Class put on a strong five-star display in the Euro NCAP tests. Sturdy construction, a full complement of seven airbags and standard fit electronic stability control all helped the Mercedes notch up a top result. What's more, all versions also get a driver fatigue detection system, plus there's the option of a night vision set-up, lane keep assist, blind-spot monitoring and radar-guided cruise control which can even steer the car, provided you keep one hand on the wheel. Solid engineering suggests that the E-Class should be as dependable as its famously tough ancestors, while the standard three-year warranty is backed up by the firm's Mobilo scheme, which delivers breakdown cover for up to 30 years if you continue to have your car serviced at a Mercedes main dealer.

The E-Class is a big estate car, so it's not a surprise to find it has a huge load area. Open the standard powered tailgate and you'll be confronted with a vast 695-litre load bay, while folding the rear bench flat liberates a cavernous 1,950 litres of carrying capacity – no other rival gets close to matching these figures. Better still, all models benefit from self-leveling rear suspension, so heavy loads never upset the car's composure. Five adults have enough head and legroom to lounge around in comfort, plus there's the option to add a third row of chairs. These rear-facing units fold out of the boot floor and turn the E-Class into an occasional seven-seater. A quick inspection of the interior reveals plenty of useful storage cubbies, plus a large glove box and a huge lidded compartment between the front seats.

Almost all the models in the E-Class line-up feature the brand's BlueEFFICIENCY eco-friendly badge of honor.



Yet it's the E220 CDI and E250 CDI that are the cleanest of the lot. Thanks to the stop-start technology, both models emit 143g/km of CO2 and promise to return 52.3mpg. But even the muscular E350 CDI diesel will manage over 45mpg and emits only 162g/km. As with any Mercedes, exploring the options list can end up costing a small fortune – specifying sat-nav or a real leather finish for the seats will leave your bank manager in tears. And as with its saloon counterpart, the E-Class Estate suffers from surprisingly poor residuals, with some models only just holding onto around 40 per cent their value after three years – the BMW 5 Series Touring and Audi A6 Avant are stronger performers here.

(I think this is a great car—Ed.)
This article first appeared in Auto Express magazine.

Tech Session at European Automotive Solutions

By Ronald Beaton

Minuteman members and guests enjoyed a great day at European Auto Solutions at 1486 Main St. in Waltham on April 27. We had a gloriously beautiful, warm, sunny day for the trip.

This had to be the best ever attendance over the several years EAS has held this event.

Ed Owen and his staff took time with every car to make sure they were free of incipient problems that would ruin a spring day's outing. Particular attention was given the front end alignment on their new machine which is super accurate.

Unable to find the reason for the low speed front end rumble in one member's car, Ed personally took it for a test drive and found a tire belt had separated and a new tire was needed.

Refreshments were provided as well as a raffle with prizes.

The prizes ranged from MB caps, key chains, cups, and a beach chair to the grand prize miniature replica of an SL.

The grand prize was won by club president John Piekarczyk who generously offered it to members with grandchildren. Ken Bourque and Francisco Silva-Tulla were in the running, but Ken, in another burst of generosity, told John to give the prize to Francisco who gave it to his grandson, David Andron-Silva.



Ed Owen presents grand prize to Francisco Silva-Tulla who gave it to his grandson, David, 3.

Jersey Boys Continued

The music was exciting, the performances were electric. Our toes were tapping, genes jingling and hormones humming as we reached back in time for a short while to remember those exciting times of yesteryear.

The play told the story of these young men with a gift for songwriting, singing and their appeal to audiences. The interplay: jealousy, competition and sour notes when one member made a lot of trouble for everyone and was eventually let go.

Frankie Valli's career continued in Las Vegas for many years as a solo act. The play was great fun!

Dinner followed at Avila, just a few steps from the theatre. We ordered from the menu and everyone was pleased with their selection. Appetizers, entrees, desserts with coffee and tea completed the meal.

Just before dinner, we had our annual meeting with most of the same officers and directors re-elected.

Awards were conferred upon:

Rich Garick for chairing the event; Nancy Piekarczyk for her excellent website work (she also covered as secretary this year); Ed Owen for his kind support; Ronald Beaton the News-Letter guy; Mark Fancy, as Officer Of The Year. Gary Garofalo of Viti MB in Tiverton, RI was recognized for his support. The event, as usual, was sold out. Thanks again, well done Rich



Officers and directors sans media drones



John Piekarczyk is Member of The Year



John recognizes Gary Garofalo from Viti



Ernie and Mark listen to Henry's point



Bonnie and Ernie Fancy



Gary and Joyce Garofalo



Special congratulations for Mark from mom

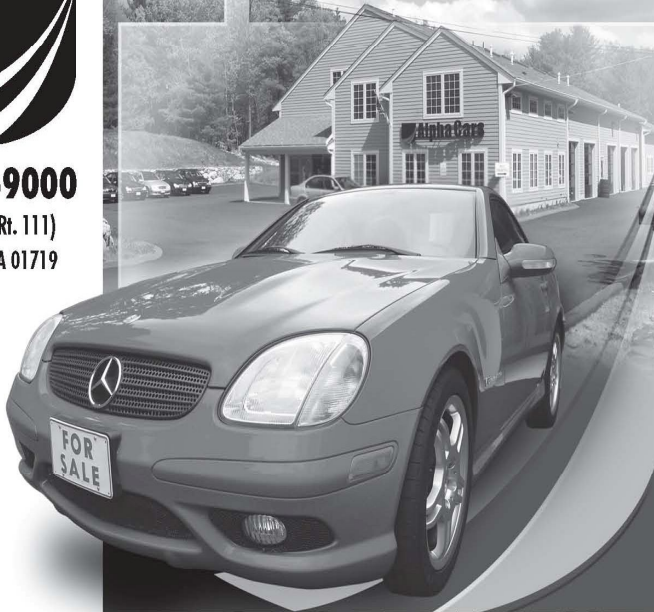
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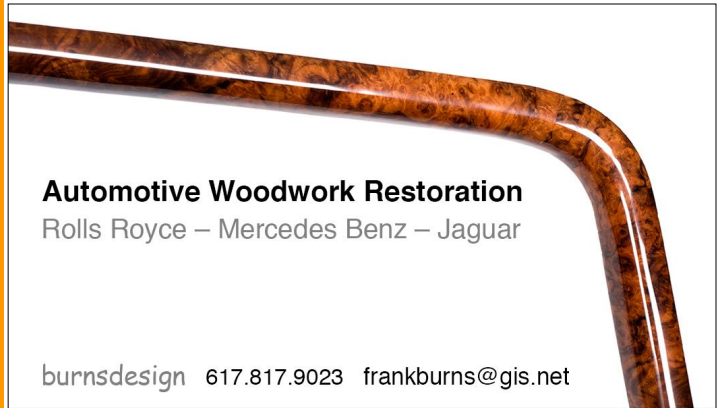
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UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2013

July 13, Tech Clinic - J E Robison Service

Join us for a Tech Clinic at J E Robison Service, 347 Page Blvd, Springfield, MA from 9:00 AM to Noon
Have your car inspected and diagnosed by a J E Robison Technician.

RSVP by 7/11 to Maribeth 413-785-1665

J E Robison is a long-time supporter of the Minuteman Section.

August 4, Ken Bourque's Nautical Cruise presented by AlphaCars

For the 2013 annual nautical cruise, we will revisit Falmouth and the schooner we so enjoyed last year. We will depart from the pier located behind the Clam Shack at 227 Clinton Ave. Falmouth, MA on Sunday, August 4th. Free parking is available in the Clam Shack's parking lot. The Libert , a 74 foot three-masted schooner, will sail for 2 hours in the waters off Cape Cod. Light refreshments will be available on board. Please plan to arrive at 2:30PM for a 3:00PM departure. Of course dress comfortably but appropriately for potential sea spray depending on the weather.

After the cruise we will drive a few miles to the famous Oysters Too Restaurant and lounge in Teaticket, one of the favorites in this area, for a half hour cocktail period to stabilize our sea legs.

The schooner can accommodate only 49 people so please respond early. All replies must be received by Sunday, July 28 with a check made payable to Minute Man Section, MBCA and your choice(s) of entrees. See mbca.org/minuteman for reservation form.

Reserve early, this event is always sold out quickly...

**Sept. 15, Germanfest XXVII presented by Intercity Lines ..
Larz Anderson Museum. Questions? Contact John Slamin at
john.slamin@conformis.com**

**Late September, Farberallye XXXVI hosted by the Northern
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