

Volume 30 - Issue 3

BC BENZ BULLETIN

September 2021

MBCA BCStars

BRITISH COLUMBIA SECTION



INSIDE:

Our photo competition. 50 Years of the R107
Winning entry!

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From the President

BC Stars Volume 30 - Issue 3 - September 2021

Greetings fellow Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts. I take the reins as your new section President from Matthew Peck, who left us for a new life closer to family in California. Thank you Matthew for the fine camaraderie that you engendered during your presidency. I hope to continue your efforts.

I have been a club member for over 25 years and was section president many years ago. Things appear to have come full circle and many Mercedes have come and gone from my driveway in those 25 years.

I would love to report an itinerary of upcoming events, however, the Covid-19 situation has complicated things, however, we are currently permitted to have gatherings of up to 50 people, and can hold indoor masked meetings. We are in discussions with various Mercedes-Benz dealers, now owned by the Dilawri Group, to hold monthly meetings in their boardrooms, and we anticipate that this will begin in 2022, if not sooner. For now, we will continue the monthly zoom meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 6pm. The link will be emailed to the membership in advance.

Our 2021 Show and Shine, which has been held at Waterfront Park in North Vancouver, was not held this year because of a combination of Covid restrictions and the new prohibition of automotive events at this park, since it has become a liquor permitted park. We are investigation new locations for future gatherings.

For the fall, we hope to stage a half day country drive ending at a lunch restaurant. We would also like to mark the 50th anniversary of the 107. Details are still being worked out and will be announced on our website and social media sites. Hopefully by the end of the year we will see reduced Covid restrictions and can plan a great schedule of events for 2022. Looking forward to seeing you and your cars soon.

Leigh Gayman
President

EDITORIAL TEAM

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Contributing Editor: Sean Clark

Contributing Editor: Tony Millikin





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Mercedes-Benz SL of the R 107 model series: Premiere 50 years ago in April 1971

- Eight-cylinder engines in the production SL for the first time
- During the 18 years of its production, more than 237,000 Roadsters of this model series were built
- The open SL was the basis of the SLC luxury class coupés in model series C 107
- Continuous expansion of the model range with six- and eight-cylinder engines

Stuttgart. Fifty years ago, in April 1971, Mercedes-Benz initiated a new chapter in the fascinating history of the SL sports car: the 350 SL was the brand's first SL with a V8 engine and the first model in the R 107 model series to bear the "R" abbreviation for "roadster" for the first time. The completely new development, as an open two-seater with a fully retractable fabric top and removable hardtop, was a self-confident, sporty but luxurious vehicle and combined both performance and ride

comfort perfectly. In the same year, Mercedes-Benz derived the four-seater luxury class coupés of the C 107 model series from the R 107 model series.

The R 107 is a worthy addition to the ranks of the SL family alongside the 300 SL racing sports car (W 194) from 1952, the 300 SL standard-production sports cars (W 198, as a coupé from 1954 to 1957 and as a roadster from 1957 to 1963), the 190 SL (W 121, 1955 to 1963) and the "Pagoda" SL of the W 113 model series (1963 to 1971). In 2021, the brand with the star is continuing its tradition of SL sports cars by launching the Mercedes-AMG SL in model series R 232.

A model for success with 18 years of series production

The R 107 was produced from 1971 to 1989, during which time it was kept up to date with regular facelifts and new engines. With the exception of the G-Class, no other Mercedes-Benz has been produced for longer. Technically speaking, the Mercedes-Benz 350 SL launched 50 years ago had little to do with its

direct predecessor, the W 113 “Pagoda” SL. Instead, the designers forged much closer links to the brand’s current passenger car range of the time: the front and rear suspension systems, for example, were based on the “Stroke/8” models of the upper medium-size category. The 147 kW (200 hp) V8 engine with a displacement of 3,499 cc was a carry-over from the premium-class Mercedes-Benz 280 SE 3.5 of the W 111 model series (coupé and cabriolet) and the W 108/109 model series (saloon).

The technical innovations found in the open sports car included the enhanced safety body development with an independent frame-floor unit made of sheets of different thicknesses to provide defined crumple behaviour, the fuel tank installed above the rear axle to protect it in the event of a collision, high-strength steels in the A-pillars and windscreen frame with its glued-in glass, as well as the interior with a new four-spoke safety steering wheel, padded surfaces and deformable elements as a contribution to passive safety. From March 1980, this SL was fitted with the ABS anti-lock brake system and, from January 1982, with a driver’s airbag and belt tensioners as a supplementary restraint system – these items were available as optional extras.


Wide variety of engine options

Following the debut of the 350 SL, Mercedes-Benz continued to expand the range of this model series. In 1973, the 165 kW (225 hp) 450 SL, also with an eight-cylinder engine, that had initially been reserved for export to North America from autumn 1971, appeared on the European markets. In 1974, the six-cylinder 280 SL (136 kW/185 hp) version followed. For the first time in the history of the SL, this meant that a model series was now available with a choice of three different engines.

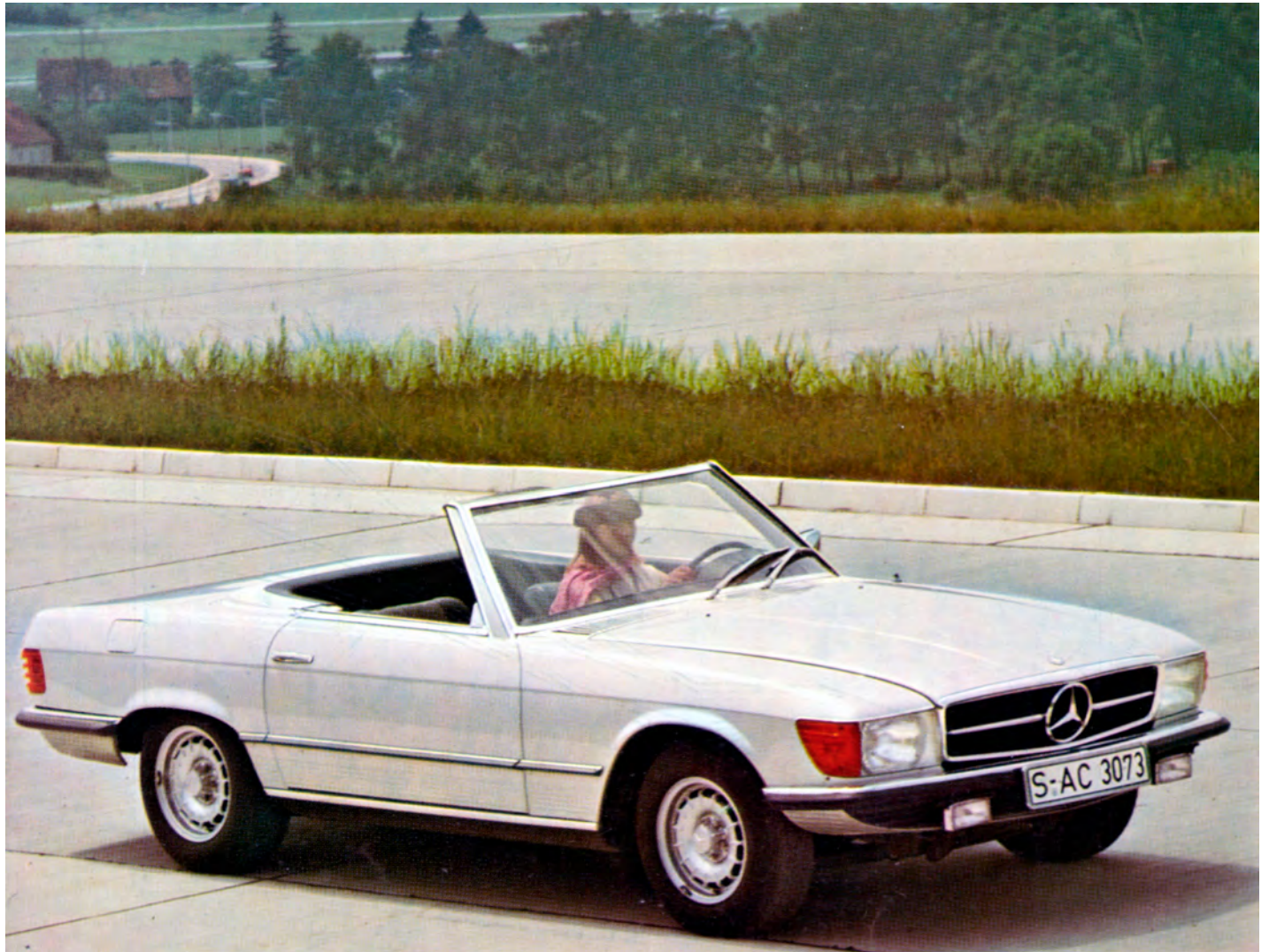
As a result of the 1980 facelift, the 380 SL (160 kW/218 hp) replaced the 350 SL, and the 500 SL (177 kW/240 hp) took over the position as the top model in place of the 450 SL. As part of the extensive overhaul, the interior of the sports cars, among other things, was adapted to match the S-Class Saloons of the 126 model series. In addition, the engineers upgraded numerous technical items, such as the transmission. Externally, the facelift was restricted to a few discreet improvements, among other things involving new bonnets made of light alloy and a front

spoiler. The 500 SL was also fitted with the light-alloy boot lid with a black plastic rear spoiler from the SLC Coupé with the 5-litre V8 engine.

In 1985, Mercedes-Benz once again presented a completely revised model range for the R 107 model series. Besides slight changes to the exterior with 15-inch wheels and a uniform front spoiler for all the models as well as improved front suspension with zero scrub radius, the main focus was on an updated choice of engines. A highlight for all the fans of the sports cars with the star was the 300 SL with a 3-litre six-cylinder engine – because this 138 kW (188 hp) sports car revived the model designation with which the SL story had begun in March 1952. The 420 SL (160 kW/218 hp) was a completely new addition, while the 500 SL (180 kW/245 hp) was given a redesigned engine with an electronic ignition system and the Bosch KE-Jetronic electronically controlled mechanical fuel injection system. The top model of the R 107 series was the 560 SL with a spectacular 5.6-litre V8 engine, which, however, was reserved for export to North America, Japan and Australia. All the models were now offered with a closed-loop three-way catalytic converter.

Production of model series R 107 ended in August 1989, after more than 18 years. Over that period, the Sindelfingen plant had produced a total of 237,287 cars. Today, these open two-seaters are sought-after classics: the combination of luxury and sportiness still fascinates enthusiasts to this day. 









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Mercedes-Benz Club of America
British Columbia Section
presents



Winning



POST-COVID DRIVES

PHOTO
CONTEST



The competition is now closed. Winning entries below!

The competition prize is a Weber Outdoor Gas Grill, kindly donated by our friends at **Curtis Tire and Wheel** in Abbotsford.

Credits:

- Photo and car – Bobby Izat
- Graphics Design – Elton, at studio306design inc.
- Prize Sponsor – Curtis Tire and Wheel



The Wakening - Photo Competition Winners



The winning entry, above, submitted by **Peter DeVries**. The judges enjoyed the composition, the play of light in the left upper frame leading to the dappling in the middle foreground and the evocation of spring.



The judges were also impressed with this entry, left, submitted by **Viktor and Viera Hold**. The committee wanted to award a runner-up prize to Viktor and Vera.

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DATES

Mercedes Freude - Tuesday, November 2nd - Friday, November 5th, 2021

Legends of the Autobahn® East - Saturday, November 6th (Port Royal Golf Course)

Hilton Head Island Concours d'Elegance - Sunday, November 7th (Port Royal Golf Course)

Register NOW on the MBCA Website !

PRIMARY REGISTRATION will include the ability to participate in most events and activities, as well as the Meet & Greet Reception and Final Banquet. PRIMARY PLUS REGISTRATION will include everything noted in the Primary Registration, as well as the ability to attend the Educational/Tech Sessions on Wednesday.

Along with our MBCA Event, we will experience the kickoff of Legends of the Autobahn® East on Saturday, & the renowned HHI Concours d'Elegance on Sunday.

INCLUDED ACTIVITIES are a Welcome Reception, Historic & TSD Rallies, local shopping, potential cruises, Educational/Tech Sessions, Cars & Cocktails, our final MBCA Banquet, & a barbecue dinner with Legends' participants on Saturday evening.

Special limited tours continue to be prepared, but sell out quickly!

The hotel reservation link is open and available to book hotel rooms:

<https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/hilton-head/meetings/mercedes-benz-club-of-america-10302021>

OR call Omni central reservation at 1-800-843-6664. Ask for the group code: 110221MERCEDES.

Rick Siefert
National Events Chair
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Your club executive is exploring the possibility of holding events. Please note that whether we are able to run these events or not will depend on the guidance given by the Provincial Health Officer at the planned time of the events. Please check the [club website](#) for the most up-to-date information on any planned events.

Update on Election of Club Officers at Recent AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America - BC Stars Section was held on August 7th.

A new Executive Committee was elected to office for a one-year term.

Elected officers names are listed in the box on the following page.

We thank all those who have volunteered their time to serve on the committee.

Welcome New Members

The BC Stars Section warmly welcomes the following new members to our club:

- Douglas Bencze, Vancouver
- Luc Durand, Vancouver
- Stan Alldritt, Surrey
- Tanya Petraszko, West Vancouver

BC STARS EXECUTIVE

President: Leigh Gayman

Vice President: David Cooper

Secretary: Manfred Stenzel

Treasurer: Gary Pullyblank

Member at Large: Sean Clark

Member at Large: Anthony Millikin

Newsletter Editor: Joseph Anthony

Club Historian: Marie Stenzel

Webmaster: Mark Block

Alaskan Officer: John Fouse

PNW Regional Director: Jeff Shindler

