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MBCA BCStars

BRITISH COLUMBIA SECTION



INSIDE:

Porteau Cove Drive

Cars4COVID

CONTENTS

Information - BC Section AGM	5
Porteau Cove Drive	6
Cars4Covid	8
2019 German Car Festival Report	10
Classified Advertisements	13

On the Cover: 1933 Mercedes-Benz 380 SS | [America's Car Museum](#) | Image Joseph Anthony

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EDITORIAL

BC Stars Volume 29 - Issue 2 - June

As I write this, BC has entered "Phase 3" of our response to COVID-19 - restrictions are starting to ease a little and we see glimmers of the way things were before the virus. But we are by no means back to normal. Our BC Section "Show and Shine" - our flagship event of the year - has had to be postponed, probably until the summer of 2021. The 19th Annual German Car Festival @ Waterfront Park - another event at which the BC Stars routinely shine - has also been postponed. These things are disappointing, but I believe that one of the most important elements of being a member of a car club is the social connection - spending time with others who share a devotion to a marque. And we are starting to find that possible - in limited ways. Groups of car enthusiasts are able to go for group drives - as long as we don't spend any time too close to each other. Members are being creative and still managing to spend time with each other and their cars, while maintaining the precautions necessary to get us all through this time. As our provincial health officer, Dr Bonnie Henry, says now is the time to "Be kind, be calm and be safe".

Joseph Anthony
Editor

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Under a threatening sky, several hardy club members drove to Porteau Cove for one of the last group drives before social distancing orders came into effect. See page 6 for the full story.

BC Section - Annual General Meeting

As a result of COVID-19, the BC Registrar of Companies has allowed some flexibility in the timing of society AGMs, which may now be held up to December 31st, or into the following calendar year if an extension is requested.

The Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General has decreed an order that permits societies to hold virtual or hybrid meetings.

All of this is to say that the BC Section AGM will almost certainly be virtual this year, and that details will be announced soon - by email and on our section website. Please stay tuned.



BC Stars Porteau Cove Drive – March 1st.

by
Sean Clark



What is a driving enthusiast to do, when our world is teetering on a lockdown of “nonessential travel”?

At the beginning of March, just as we were preparing our cars for summer driving, we were told that we may have nowhere to go.

Our last pre-lockdown BC Stars drive would take four of our Members’ cars on a short Sea to Sky Highway jaunt, to Porteau Cove.



Memories of Porteau Cove



Chase with his 300CE

Leigh with his 560 SL



Tan with his Brabus CL600 V12

Sean with his 560 SEL



Cars4Covid - the Car Enthusiast's Response

by
Sean Clark



May 1st. and May 9th., the darkest days of Lockdown, and an uncertain journey. As we fought to keep up our own morale, we also paid tribute to the masked and gowned doctors and nurses, on the front lines of the pandemic. Tribute was paid in every neighbourhood with nightly 7pm pot-banging of support. It was as much to honour the medical staff, as it was to make us feel that we were doing something for the cause.

One group of car enthusiasts sought to harness the pent up energy of car owners, to show support in their own way. The organizers of "Cars 4 Covid", gathered cars and drivers together at Lougheed Mall. For a \$5 donation, they would sell you a bright green Covid windshield sticker. The money went towards support for medical personnel.

May 1st., we had about 50 cars in a convoy to Burnaby General Hospital. At 7pm we drove through the hospital parking lot, waving, and horns blowing.

The following weekend, May 9th, it is thought that over 200 cars gathered for a convoy to Surrey Memorial Hospital. How it had grown! Surrey RCMP assisted us to stage the cars in parking lots by the hospital. We circled the buildings, with groups of the staff waving back at us and videoing the parade of cars.

This enthusiastic event was a great boost for many doing their best to carry on through those days.



Dan, Leigh, Sean and Ron at a recent Cars4COVID event.

Cars4COVID



BC Stars Co-host the 2019 German Car Festival

9:00am to 3:00pm
Sunday, July 21st, 2019
North Vancouver

Story by Sean Clark

German Car Festival 2019

[With the cancellation of the 2020 German Car Festival due to COVID-19, we are reproducing this report of the 2019 edition - Ed.]

The 18th German Car Festival for charity, was a huge success. On a bright sunny day, North Vancouver's Waterfront Park filled up with 210 Audi's, BMW's, Porsche's and Mercedes. Participants were fighting to get past the gate even before the 9:00 am opening time.

This year, BMW's Rod Meares had a lot more help from the other Clubs. We worked more closely with our beneficiary, the North Shore Harvest Project, to find out what was needed most. Audi's Maxim Gotsutsov created GCF Social media accounts to get the word out to as many people as possible before the date.

Since the event's inception in 2002, the admission charge had always been \$10 per car. The contributions of our donors and sponsors were consistent, as were the efforts of our volunteers. Each year however, the purchasing power of the funds slowly eroded, as prices of commodities rose. After 18 years, the gate fee was finally upped to \$20 per car. We still had a tremendous turnout, thanks to the generous nature of our participants. A net amount of \$4,465, perhaps the most ever, was raised in cash, and a record amount of groceries was donated.

Mercedes had a large number of eager attendees, with 90% of the cars on the field by 9:30 ! Many came from out of town. Emmanuel Athans drove up from Seattle again with Rik Johnson, in a tastefully modified, W140 CL500. The local, Benzcouver Group, put in a good showing with some real beauties, also. Hardy Suelzer treated us to a look at his AMG GT-C, and there were a number of brightly coloured R107 SL's.

Rod Meares and Club Representatives will be making a public cheque presentation to the Harvest project before the end of August. Thank you, to all those prize donors, volunteers, organizers and participants who made this all possible.





Every year the German Car Festival makes a donation to the [North Shore Harvest Project](#). Charities are more in need than ever during this time of COVID-19. Please consider that although the German Car Festival has been cancelled for 2020, charities such as the Harvest Project still require support.



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