



MBCA BCStars

British Columbia Section

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Let's Get Social



2025 OKANAGAN WINE TOUR – A WEEKEND OF SCENIC DRIVES AND LASTING FRIENDSHIPS

Over the May long weekend, twelve members of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America's British Columbia Section and Seattle Section gathered for the much-anticipated 2025 Okanagan Tour. With eight gleaming Mercedes-Benz vehicles and a spirit of camaraderie, the group explored the heart of British Columbia's wine country, enjoying a thoughtfully curated itinerary that blended scenic drives, cultural experiences, and culinary delights.

Most of the group were able to meet on Friday for lunch at the **Fox & Hounds** in Aldergrove, before heading off in convoy for the scenic drive along Highway 3 to the Ramada Penticton Hotel & Suites, where participants were welcomed on Friday evening by Section President Sean Clark and event hosts Leigh Gayman, Dan Cachola, and Joseph Anthony. Despite the overcast skies and occasional rain during the weekend, spirits were high as members reconnected and new friendships began to form over a relaxed dinner next door to the hotel.



Saturday's journey took the group north to Kelowna, where the first stop was the **impressive KF Centre for Excellence**. Members explored a remarkable collection of vintage aircraft, celebrating aviation history and craftsmanship. After a casual lunch nearby, the tour continued with wine tastings at **Grey Monk Estate Winery** and **Sandhill Winery**, with an optional visit to **8th Generation Winery** *en route* back to Penticton. The day concluded with a scenic dinner at the **Hooded Merganser** restaurant, offering lakeside views and lively conversation.



Sunday offered a choice between a nostalgic ride on the **Kettle Valley Steam Railway** or a visit to the **Nixdorf Classic Cars Museum**—both perfect for automotive enthusiasts. Lunch at the whimsical **Dirty Laundry Winery** set the tone for an afternoon of tastings at **Poplar Grove** and **Ruby Blues** wineries. The day wrapped up with a delightful dinner at **La Casa Ouzzeria**, where laughter and stories flowed as easily as the wine.



The group at KF Centre for Excellence standing in front of the Conair CV580 tanker.



Riding the Kettle Valley Steam Railway drawn by the mighty 3716 Steam Locomotive.

On Monday, the group checked out and made a sweet stop at **Tickleberry's** in Okanagan Falls, famous for its ice cream and handmade treats. The final leg of the tour included tastings at **See Ya Later Ranch** and **Hester Creek Estate Winery**, with a scenic lunch at **Fairview Mountain Golf Club** in Oliver. Members then parted ways in Osoyoos, either heading home or continuing their personal adventures.

Despite the moody weather, the weekend was a resounding success. The tour not only showcased the beauty of the Okanagan Valley but also strengthened the bonds within our club. We extend heartfelt thanks to our organizers and participants for making this event so memorable. Until next time—drive safe and stay connected!



Additional photos may be found at [this link](#).

A LOVELY DRIVE TO SQUAMISH FROM WEST VAN

Event Report by: George Verdolaga

June 8, 2025 was the day of our first “DRIVE TO” event for the year. MB enthusiasts of various colours and stripes assembled at Starbucks at 840 Main St at Park Royal South in West Vancouver. Some early risers included Hamid Jahanmiri in his champagne-coloured 560 SL, Leigh Gayman in his black W126 560SEC, and Chandan Deol in his silver W210 E320.



MB owners started streaming in at 7:30 am for some coffee and chitchat and before long, 27 cars (and 32 people) had come together for the 45-minute drive to Squamish. A gathering of police officers and cruisers were watching the group with interest, wondering why so many Mercedes Benz vehicles had gathered at one location.

After a brief orientation and group introduction by event organizer George Verdolaga, it was off to the races at precisely 8:30 am as the group made their way up Taylor Way and headed out to Tim Horton's at 38930 Progress Way in Squamish; a trip that would cover 58.7 kilometers. What started out as a nice cloudless day ended up with the sunshine at full blast (and temperatures hitting 24° C) by the time had the group had completed the scenic drive up the sea to sky highway to Squamish.

A trio of E55 AMG sport wagons (part of a cohort of 7 station wagons in total that participated in the drive) in identical colour and kit blasted past the early leaders of the pack as they maneuvered to the front of the convoy in perfect formation along the highway.



This lovely AMG GT C Roadster, one of the youngest cars in the group - owned by an Australian couple from Perth – showed up.



By the time we'd moved to the Boston Pizza parking lot from Tim Horton's for the group photo shoot and videos (posted at Facebook's Benzcouver group page), the drive participants marveled at the stately presence of six R 107s, including Yen-Hsen Liem's 'Rally Benz' and MB club president Sean Clark's own black R107. Mercifully, Sean did not bring his own 12-cylinder AMG 600 SL R 129 which would have left everyone in the dust.



After posing for a group picture, everyone dispersed for the day. A few stayed behind to explore beautiful Squamish, and the rest had an early lunch before heading out for the lovely drive back to Vancouver. It turned out to be the perfect day for a fun drive, with several of the participants clamoring for another one, which as a result, has been already planned.

On July 13 we will be getting together at 8 am at Starbucks at Southpoint Exchange in South Surrey at 3061 152 St, in Surrey. We will be driving out at 9 am and will end up at the Flying Beaver, 4760 Inglis Dr, Richmond, 40 minutes later for picture-taking and an invite to brunch for anyone interested to satisfy their Sunday morning breakfast cravings at 10 am.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Cars & Coffee – Third Sunday of the month @ 8:30am. Starbuck's Como Lake Road, Coquitlam.

August 16th – Cars & Coffee Railway Museum. Special gathering. In addition to talking about cars (and everything else) over a cup of coffee, we're including a drive to Squamish where we'll visit the Railway Museum (39645 Government Rd)

September 7th Show & Shine 2025 – Hosted by Mercedes-Benz Vancouver, a Dilawri STAR DEALER, 550 Terminal Ave, Vancouver. Registration: [MotorSportReg](#)

