

MBCA BCStars

BRITISH COLUMBIA SECTION



INSIDE:

R107 modifications

CarBS & Coffee

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EDITORIAL

BC Stars Volume 29 - Issue 1 - March

As I write this we are just starting to think about relaxing some of the social distancing that we have all been maintaining. However, currently club events have been cancelled or postponed for the foreseeable future. As one of our contributors asks on page 12, "Will it ever be the same again?".

But things are starting to look up. I see evidence of some careful, socially distant, drives being planned. Check out our club website for up-to-date information on events:

<https://bcstars.mbca.org/>

Until we see each other at an event, or on a drive, as Dr Bonnie Henry says: " Be kind, be calm and be safe".

Joseph Anthony
Editor

EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor: Joseph Anthony

Contributing Editor: Sean Clark

Contributing Editor: Tony Millikin



LET'S GET SOCIAL





Making modifications to an R107. New valve covers and custom brackets for the air filter housing. See p6.



What's a club member to do? Driving events in a time of COVID-19. See p12.

November 2019: R107 Winter Project With Master Craftsman, Viktor Hold

Creating Mounting Brackets for the Air Filter Housing

by
Sean Clark



Many of us enjoy a weekend drive during the summer months. A sunny weekend's meander with windows or sunroof open, perhaps the top down too. It doesn't need to be a long drive. A chance to get to know other Club members over coffee is a relaxing way to spend some time. I think we can all say that it has led to many new friendships and expanded our worlds, more than just a little.

As many of you know, my current Mercedes is an R107 Roadster. It's not the most expensive Mercedes, it's not the fastest, nor the rarest, but it does attract the attention of other enthusiasts, and is a pure pleasure to drive.

I was fortunate to run into other R107 owners in my area, the loosely formed group we dubbed, the "Coquitlam R107's". In the 2019 pre-Covid days, we would gather at a local Starbucks for a chat and some mutual admiration of each others' cars.



One such gentleman I met, was Viktor Hold. Viktor would sometimes bring his charming wife, Viera, a Mercedes SLK owner herself. Our little group has members of varied backgrounds. Viktor is a retired metal fabricator. He lavished some of those skills upon his beautiful red 380SL. Viktor had created a handy product to fill a need for every R107 owner - elegant shoulder belt guides made of stainless steel! I bought a set from him immediately, as did others. These chance acquaintances have certainly made Classic MB ownership a lot more enjoyable. I am pleased to say that many have now joined our MBCA Section.

In keeping with that theme, several of our local BC Stars Members travelled to Seattle last year, for the August 2019, Regional Show & Shine. Not only was it a fun roadtrip as a group, but we met many Members from other Sections of the PNW Region. We shared a great event, and I even carried home some prized engine parts, also. The Seattle Section's fund-raising raffle yielded me a set of beautifully polished aluminum, M117 valve covers, with just two dollars' worth of tickets.





ABOVE TOP: Viktor Hold (right) and Bob Armstrong celebrating the completion of the job. ABOVE BOTTOM & RIGHT: Viktor fabricating the part.

Back in Vancouver: It wasn't long before I had coffee with Viktor again. We had a chat and I showed him my shiny, sparkly, engine bits. I thought it would be nice to change over my 560SL's black-painted valve covers to the earlier style, polished ones. After a little discussion and a good look at the engine bay, we realized it would look quite sharp, but the challenge would be to create custom brackets to attach the aircleaner box, properly...

With his usual quiet modesty, Viktor said he 'might' be able to design something that would work. He went away thinking about things...

At the close of the summer driving season, I took the time to have some engine work done. Smoking valve seals were replaced, and valve train checked, then reassembled with fresh gaskets. With the end of the nice weather though, there were to be far fewer weekend

drives. Now was a great time to start my little project with Viktor.

Viktor used to run his own business at one time, and many of his machines and tools were now in his small garage, at home. Viktor's own 107 would have to sit outside in the driveway, so we waited for a dry day, and he graciously said to come on by.

On the first day, we began by removing the old valve covers. On a very cool November day, we had the garage door open and the back of the car stuck outside to give us room to work. I loosened the covers after disconnecting brake booster hoses, and some electrical parts. I did my best not to let oil drip onto Viktor's clean floor. After a short struggle, the old ones were off and the shiny ones in place.

Now, we found that the preliminary measurements we had taken using the 380SL



did not correspond exactly to my 560SL. My fault, entirely. The two engine bays looked similar, but unfortunately, Viktor was having to start his design all over again. He showed me that the brackets between the bolts on the head, and the bushings on the airbox, would require very precise, compound curves to fit properly. The original prototype was returned to the scrap metal bucket.

We had a good chance to talk while we worked. It became clear to me that this was a more complex job than I had imagined, and I was grateful that Viktor was willing to take it on. It was a privilege to watch, as he dedicated himself to the task. As he cut and bent the raw metal to fit, we talked about the years Viktor had his business. His shop was

quite near my own house. I was quite a bit newer to the area than he was, and I was interested to hear about how it used to be.

Viktor used his drillpress, his grinder, and his saw and vise, to slowly form rough new prototypes by the end of that day. Viera very graciously brought us coffee and snacks, chatted, and peered over our shoulders at the ongoing work.

On the second day, we were more prepared for the job at hand. I wore warmer clothing, and we started right off with hot coffee. Later, Viera brought us sandwiches, and her wonderful, homemade, poppyseed cake.



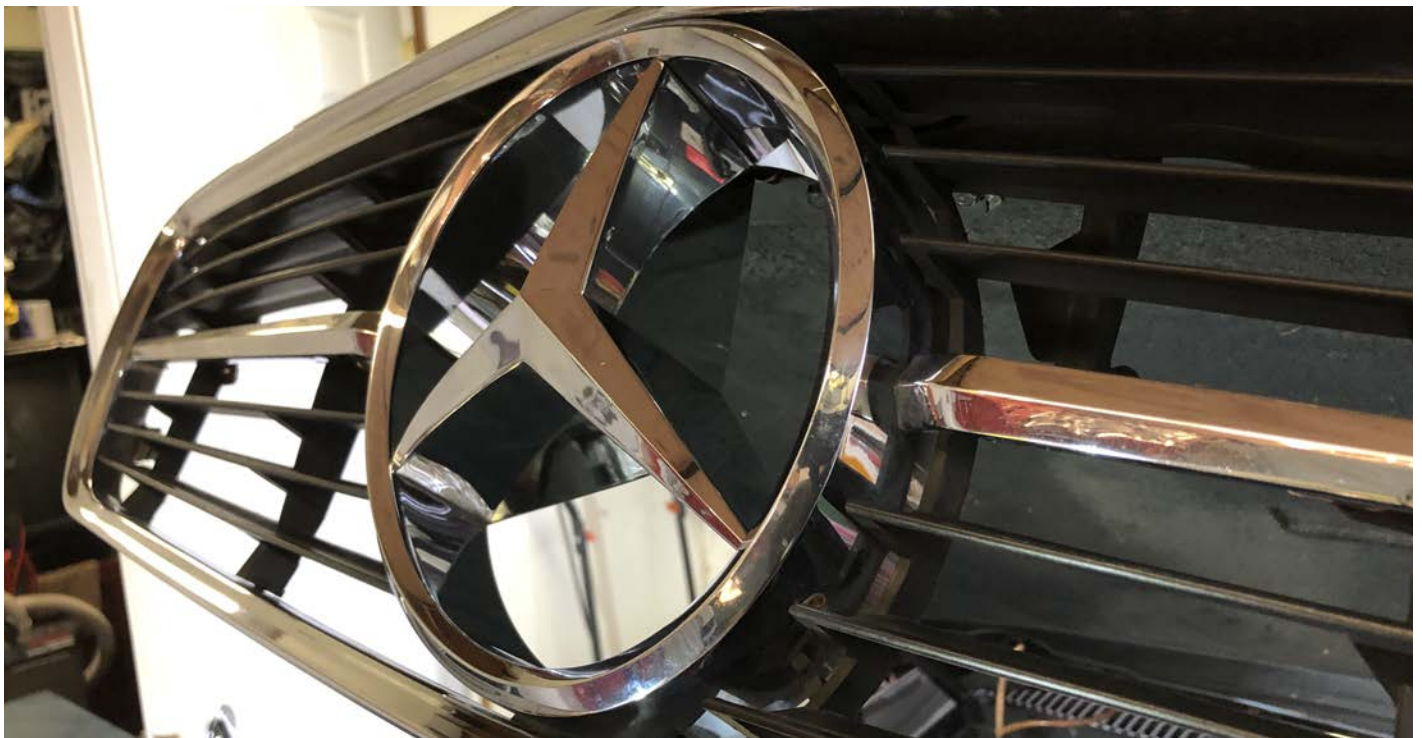
Viktor's crude prototypes of the day before, which were already as much I felt I could ask for, were in for a major re-working. The final pieces began to take form. Rough edges and jagged sides were smoothed over on the grinder.

The raw cuts were welded cleanly together into one flowing piece. I watched as once dull and scarred metal became a gleaming complement to the polished aluminum valve covers. Viktor aligned everything to a precise fit, as though the brackets came directly from Stuttgart, itself.

Viera stopped by to watch our progress. As did Bob Armstrong, Viktor's neighbour, and another R107 coffee-goer. We also took time to share a bottle of wine, while we admired the final products of Viktor's skill.

I am so very pleased with this outcome. Viktor really did a magnificent job for me. I am truly grateful. My many thanks to both Viktor and Viera, for their warm hospitality, also.

What a great way to spend a couple of days with people I met only through the shared camaraderie of our cars!





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Auto Renew is Here, Opt-in Today!

By

Doug Geganto, National Membership Chair

COVID 19 has totally disrupted our lives and many of the activities we've become accustomed to doing. Things like getting together with our friends, enjoying attending section events and getting out and meeting with fellow club members. However, one thing that has been severely affected is our ability to meet other Mercedes-Benz owners, tell them about the club and encourage them to join. We expect new member growth to be severely impacted this year because of our inability to host recruiting events. How can you help ensure that we stabilize our membership losses?

Have you opted into Auto-Renew yet? When it's time to renew your membership, it's now easier than ever. Simply log into your MBCA account, select the **Renew** link at the top of the page and click on the **Yes** button in the renew section. Your best deal is to renew for 3-years. That's all there is to it!

Why Auto-Renew?

- Never worry about your membership lapsing.
- Don't miss an issue of the Star® Magazine.
- Stay informed of local section and national events via your local section's newsletter and the national Click announcements.
- Have a chance to participate on of our annual Germany trips to visit Mercedes-Benz headquarters in Stuttgart.
- Have a chance at winning a new Mercedes-Benz by participating in our annual raffles.
- Lastly, by having your membership Auto-Renew each year, you help the club stay financially sound and help to stabilize our membership losses.

Our Auto-Renew option is new this year. Our goal for 2020 is to have 50 to 75 percent of our members sign up for Auto-Renew. Right now, we're at 5 percent with 831 members who have already signed up. We need your help to reach our goal this year by signing up for Auto-Renew today.

That's it. If you have any problems opting in or questions, contact the NBO at 1800- 637-2360, and a member representative will be happy to assist you in getting enrolled. I encourage you to sign up for Auto-Renew today.

Thank you for being a member of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America.



Doug Geganto

MBCA
National Membership Chairman
dgeganto@charter.net
404-754-9955

CarBS & Coffee at Cates Park March 15th Blowing off the Winter Cobwebs as we Face Covid 19

by Sean Clark



Just as the Spring Driving Season approached, and we all wanted nothing more than a sunny day for a drive, COVID-19 struck.

Hagerty-sponsored CarBS & Coffee, is one of the most popular organizers of casual Classic car get togethers in the Lower Mainland of BC. They were the first to announce a meet, despite a growing COVID-19 uncertainty. Approaching the weekend of March 15th, flights were being cancelled, “Social Distancing” was becoming a ‘thing’, hand sanitizer, and toilet paper were selling out. Where were we going...?

As I drove to Cates Park at 7am for our meet, I wondered what I would find when I got there.

It was to be the last unregulated gathering of ‘under a hundred people’ per the sudden new Government guidelines.

I was the first there. Would anyone else come? They did, and they had no idea what to expect either.

The organizers set up their Coffee Tent, as usual. I asked, “ Who else is coming? How many can we have?” “ I don’t know, but I have to pour your coffee for you, and only into our cups”.

We easily had 100 eager car loving enthusiasts, but we all wanted to know, “...will it ever be the same again?”



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Port Coquitlam



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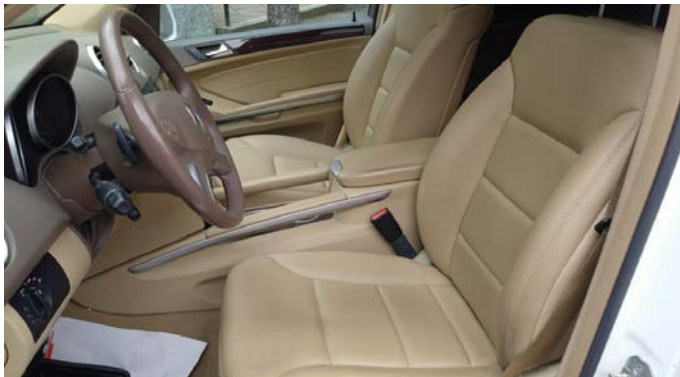
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Port Coquitlam



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