



Sunshine STAR



Issue No. 1, 2017

MBCA | Southwest Florida Section

January / February 2017



**- Tom and Anne Harruff -
Club Leaders Extraordinaire**

Now what will they do with all their
spare time?



Peter Lesler, left, joins Tom and Anne Harruff, right, in welcoming Ron and Monica Cordeau as new SWFL Section President and Secretary respectively, at the 2016 annual Holiday Party.

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**"More Than a Car Club.
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Monthly Breakfast Meetings

Ft. Myers area...

2nd Saturday every month.

Next Meetings . . .

Mimi's Café Jan 14,

M-B Bonita Springs Feb 11



Naples area... Perkins on Pine Ridge

4th Saturday of every month.

Next meetings - Jan 28, Feb 25

Presidential Statement

From the 'New' President

Greetings to all members of the MBCA in SW Florida, from as far south as Marco Island, all the way to the most northern areas of Venice. Over 400+ strong, we can be proud of being the largest Section in the Southwest Region. Nationally, there are 85 sections, in 12 Regions. Our previous leadership with Tom and Anne Harruff, dramatically increased the membership, as well as events and outings, and achieved awards and accolades.

As the new President, I have a tough act to follow, but the outline is there to continue the club's progress and achieve experiences that we can all share and find fun and entertaining. This is what club membership is all about!

After all, this is OUR CLUB, comprised of friends who are considered family to some of us. Regardless of the year or condition of your Mercedes-Benz, you are welcome to not only attend any or all of our functions, but to throw out ideas for the group to consider. These could be car shows, brunches, dinners, picnics, shows and plays, museums, historical places, races, tours etc. We welcome your input! Our previous leader, Tom always mentioned 'you will be our best spokesman for recruiting new Club members'. We are always looking for volunteers to become directors, in charge of an event, or helping the club on web sites, newsletters and assistants. Whatever part you can provide will benefit all of us!

I will inform you on the details, flyers, contacts and dates of upcoming events and gatherings. These have been continued from prior years and are presented in our emails. But, we are always looking to new choices and opportunities to have a gathering of members.

My experience with Mercedes-Benz automobiles is based on over 20 plus years of ownership, known as the 'Classics'. Of the 5 MB's currently owned, the newest is 24 years old, and the oldest is 44 years old! Since that era -70's thru 90's, is my specialty, it appears that I am quite knowledgeable on values, parts, service, forums, restoration and shows. I offer my experience in these areas to any member! Please contact me with any questions or comments.

My wife Monica has become the Club Secretary and also in charge of the "Ladies of Mercedes", planning a wide variety of functions. She is very supportive of my new role, and at my recent birthday, sang the 'Marilyn Monroe version' to me. Hah!

Wishing you good health and safe travels,

Ron Cordeau

President, MBCA SWFL Section



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Abspringen während der Fahrt ist verboten

The Southwest Florida Section *Sunshine Star* newsletter is published on odd-numbered months. It is mailed electronically or via post to all members of the Section, appropriate members of other Sections, MBCA executives and our valued advertisers.

All copy for inclusion should be received no later than the 15th of any even-numbered month.

Any technical tips, automotive experiences or interesting items relating to Mercedes-Benz are encouraged and welcome.

Members may advertise to buy or sell, free of charge, any personal Mercedes-Benz auto, part or accessory. All insertions in the *Sunshine Star* are the opinions and statements of the writers, advertisers, etc., and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of this Section or MBCA. Call concerning commercial advertising rates.

No authentication is given or implied as to the validity of any expressed opinion or statement.

**Questions? Call your Section Officer at 239-322-8817,
or our National Business Office at 1-800-637-2360 M-F 8am-5pm MT. Or visit www.mbca.org**



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES TO THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA SECTION, MBCA!

Since the last newsletter, Ernst and Christiane Endres, Gary Howe, Marijo Koval, Leonard Lewis and Maureen Larkin, Franklin and Lisa Neves, and Douglas Peterson
We're so glad you've joined us!

And **Thank You** to our **41 Renewed Members** for your continuing MBCA Membership!



SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
SECTION



Ladies of Mercedes Event

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, February 18, 2017, 2:00 PM

Our Sixth Annual **Ladies of Mercedes Afternoon Tea** will be held once again in the beautiful Lobby Lounge of The Ritz-Carlton, Naples, 280 Vanderbilt Beach Rd., especially for the Ladies of our Section and their friends.

See the separate flyer, or call Monica Cordeau, Secretary, 239-322-9813

Reservations must be paid **no later than January 30th, 2017**

Friday Fun – MBCA National Board Meeting

While the National Board members of MBCA were busy holding their meetings at the *Bel-lasera* on Friday, a group of their spouses, along with some of our own SWFL Section members, took in a couple of local Naples places of interest.

We began our morning with a tour of the *Palm Cottage* on 12th Ave South. It is the oldest remaining house in Naples, built in 1895. Although the cottage looks to be quite small from the street, appearances can be deceiving. The interior is quite large and full of historical photos, furnishings, and memorabilia.



Our docent, Jerry, was really informative and well versed in the history of this house and the role it played in the growth of Naples.

Even the members of our group that currently live in Naples learned a lot about how it grew from wilderness to be the beautiful city that it is today. And although many of us may have realized that Barron Collier, the namesake of Collier County, was a wealthy man, we did not know the story of his humble beginnings and dedicated work ethic, not only as a worker, but also as an employer. Because of his concern for the well-being of his employees the entire Tamiami trail was completed through the Everglades without a single fatality. It is a truly inspiring story. I would highly recommend this tour to anyone interested in the historical past. I think it is a relatively unknown gem. They also rent out the house and beautiful adjacent garden for social events. You might keep that in mind if you are looking for a quaint venue for private affair.

After the tour of Palm Cottage we headed to lunch at *Brambles Tea Room*, tucked away in the back of the Landmark Building on 5th Avenue South. The atmosphere is cozy and the staff was gracious and attentive. We were offered 3 types of tea to choose from, as well as an assortment of 4 types of sandwiches and a delicious scone served with clotted cream and jam. It was a pleasant way to get to know each other and chat over a nice cup of tea. I learned from Trish (originally from

England but now in Western Michigan) that Earl Grey with Vanilla is nothing like Earl Grey with a spot of milk, which is how it is done in the UK. The Brits know their tea!

Friday evening, after the National Board members finished their meetings, we ended our day by joining them at a cocktail party at *Wahoo's River Bar and Grill* near the Naples Airport. Great food, cold drinks, and good friends came together. One of our Section members set up a slot car track for the enjoyment of the guests. It's all fun and games until someone (Mario "Andretti" Puente) goes too fast and sends the car flying off the track breaking it's windshield! Apparently a slot car doesn't handle like a Mercedes. It was a day full of making new acquaintances and getting together with friends from near and far. And this is just one day of a four day MBCA National Board Meeting Event. Many thanks are due to Tom, Ann, and Josie & Peter Lesler for their ideas, hard work, and making all the arrangements. They do it so well and make it look easy, but it is a huge effort. And as always, it turned out beautifully. Well Done!

Monica Cordeau



2016 Treasurer's Report Mercedes-Benz Club of America Southwest Florida Section

It is my pleasure to provide the 2016 Treasurer's Report for the Southwest Florida Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America (MBCA). I am pleased to report that the Section had a cash balance of \$9,851.45 as of November 30, 2016.

The Section continues to enjoy unprecedented membership growth, which results in increased rebates of member dues from the MBCA Nation Business Office (NBO). The rebates are provided by NBO to each section to help defray local section operating costs. Also, our Section has enjoyed generous support from local businesses advertising in the Section's newsletter. In addition, we continue to have significantly reduced printing and postage costs by distributing our award winning newsletter primarily by email.

We continue to utilize some of the available cash to underwrite the cost of a number of events for members during our busy winter season. We partially subsidized two major section events, the annual Holiday Party and the annual Farewell Picnic. We provided gift baskets for several section events, including two Ladies of Mercedes events, the annual Fort Myers car show, and the Holiday Party, purchased several MBCA items for drawings at the Holiday Party, and we purchased supplies and drinks for the Farewell Picnic. We made a donation in support of the Punta Gorda Oktoberfest car show. We also supported the larger community by helping to sponsor a scholarship at a local automotive technical school.

The Section hosted the MBCA National Board Meeting during 2016. This was a major endeavor, and received accolades from those attend-

ing. The Section shared the cost of the Board Meeting with NBO.

We look forward to being able to continue to help defray the costs of Section events so that more members will want to participate in those events. Hopefully, new members will be attracted to our reasonably-priced events, where they can discover the MBCA community.

Please continue to suggest new events, knowing that your club directors are available to assist, and that financial support is also available as we seek to grow and discover new ways to be a special-interest, caring and responsible community. Also, please continue to patronize our local advertisers so they will continue to support our Section.

Respectfully submitted,
Joel C. Taub
Treasurer



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Service recognition at the SWFL 2016 annual Holiday Party saw Joel Taub, our Treasurer receiving the award as Officer of the Year, Southeast Region, while Jerry and Anita Kinderman received Member(s) of the Year award, SWFL Section, for Newsletter Editor and Membership Chair, respectively.

The November **2016 MBCA National Board Meeting** was held in Naples, under Tom Harruff's coordination. Here Tom relaxes at the dinner with (from left)



Mike Cozza, M-B of Naples, Glen Scholl, VP SWFL, Tom, Terry Kiwala, President MBCA, and Anne Harruff, SWFL Secretary.

And retiring DAL Josie Lesler shows Anita the Thank-you bracelet she received for her many years of dedication.



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Editorial Oil...

Another year into the books, and we've got 2017. The strangest thing will be not seeing "Tom Harruff, President" on communications. He and Anne really put their hearts into everything they did for and with our club. Thank you Tom and Anne!

Now Ron and Monica Cordeau slide into the President and Secretary seats and we'll give them all the support and help they need to keep our Section growing and flowing!

Ron says "This is OUR CLUB", and that it is. It's what we all make it.

Membership Chair Anita says to be sure your email is up to date so you'll get our little notices, and this newsletter. You have to update at www.mbca.org; we can't do it at our end. And if you are reading this in a black-and-white paper copy that was mailed to you, it means that for some reason we don't have your email address at all. MBCA does NOT share or sell addresses, if that's what's

worrying you. They have not shared mine, and I keep track.

Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year to you and yours!

Moooving along,

Jerry



Smile! They'll wonder what you're up to..






About the Mercedes-Benz Club of America

The Mercedes-Benz Club of America (MBCA) is the largest Mercedes-Benz enthusiast organization in the world. As a non-profit 501(c)(7) organization, the Club proudly serves close to 30,000 Members who belong to one of 85 MBCA Sections throughout North America. MBCA's mission is to provide Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts with unique access to casual and competitive car shows, cash savings on new Mercedes-Benz vehicles, 24/7 online technical advice, parts and accessory discounts at participating Mercedes-Benz Dealerships, performance driving events, safe driver training, plus world-class membership conventions not available elsewhere. A subscription to the Club's 100+ page magazine, *The Star*, is delivered to Members every other month and is included with annual membership dues of \$55/ U.S.; \$65/Canada & International.

MBCA's national business office is headquartered in Colorado. For more information about membership and member benefits, please visit www.mbca.org or call 800.637.2360 weekdays 8am-4:30pm Mtn Time.


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**The 6th Annual Fly-In Cruise-In will be
8am - 3pm, February 4th, 2017.
See you at the Naples Municipal Airport!**

What could be better than pancakes, fast cars, fast bikes and even faster planes? If you attended our 5th Annual Fly-In Cruise-In, you know!!! If you did not attend, make it a point to be there this year. This is the only show in South Florida that has Planes and Autos and Motorcycles ALL on the runway. It's like four shows in one!



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As I'm writing to thank you for another excellent newsletter, the thought occurred to me to share the best club benefit I've received to date.

When Carol and I were here in July, I made Tom Starrett a solemn promise to fly here for Octoberfest. In August, I found the S500 and decided to sell the 450SL when we returned to Ft. Myers. Coming here for Octoberfest and then driving down here 2 weeks later was probably not the smartest use of time and energy, but a 14 year birthday on October 14 for our youngest grandchild was a must (as was a promise to Tom).

As you both know, the 450 was officially FOR SALE at Punta Gorda.

On Wednesday, the 19th, I took photos of the car in a beautiful spot and was quite proud of my efforts. Then I recalled, Jerry, you commenting at Punta Gorda that Mario gets more out his photos of a car than most.

I knew I wanted to use Hemmings because Mario had shared with me his success with them earlier this year. I also knew I was asking a good price (\$25,000) for the car (the last I looked, out of 18 1980 450 SL's listed, only 5 were over \$20,000).

I called Mario and asked for his help with the photos. He said he would be glad to and we met on Thursday, the 20th. He did his

thing.....hardtop on, then off. Soft top up and then topless. As I waited for the time for photos, I got busy with the copy that the Hemmings form provides for and thought about how to get the photos and description together for submission. Called Mario and he said send it to him and he would take care of it. After the photo session I gave him money to submit the ad and the next day it was on line. I found out later about cropping and re-writing until it was just right.

The most brilliant thing about my copy was to suggest to Mario to edit as he saw fit.....(Jerry, I told you I need an editor, and as you are seeing, I still do!) The first response was from Portland, OR.

The second response was from Athens, Greece. Cash in Ft. Myers sent that one away. That is when Mario said that he would meet any prospective buyer or buyers representative with me. He also suggested using his warehouse as a place to show the car. The stipulation was I would talk price and other information.

The third response was from Indiana on Monday last week to see if the car was still available. He would come to Ft. Myers on Friday to look at and drive the car. At Mario's suggestion, we put the car at his place, covered it and decided to uncover it once the soon-to-be buyer arrived. The look on his face as we did the uncovering (or should I

say, unveiling) was priceless.

It was perfect. The prospect only spent 10 minutes driving it, came back and said, "I want this". Wrote the check for the full amount and came back Saturday for a successful delivery. Incidentally, the check cleared the bank immediately Friday.

Here's my purpose for writing. Mario Puente agreed to help a fellow club member without hesitation. However, I think he has a valuable talent for this and others could really benefit from his service. I paid him after the fact, not because he asked, but because as this process evolved, it became obvious that this was a service to assist me sell the car. I have no idea if I gave him enough or not but as we discussed afterward, he did more than I expected and I'm sure more than he did. The next person would pay based on the situation, I'm sure.

The photos, the copy, the car, the price all go into the effort and Mario will give his opinion. For example, my price was "plenty" and one of my responses to an email inquiry was that I was a "tough cookie".

All I know is I got my price in 14 days.

Dick Davis

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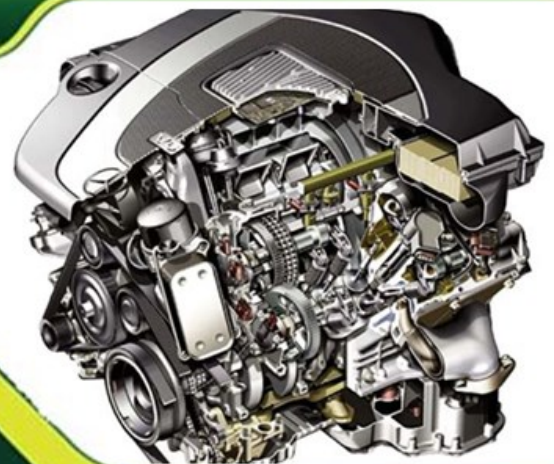
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Classified Ads automatically expire after 60 days unless renewed.



Upcoming Events

Southwest Florida Section, Mercedes-Benz Club of America

DATE & TIME	2017	CONTACT
Jan 14, 9:00 AM	Breakfast Meeting, Mimi's Ft. Myers	239-322-8817
Jan 28, 9:00 AM	Breakfast Meeting, Perkins, Naples	239-322-8817
Feb 4, 8AM-3PM	Lorenzo Walker Tech College Fly In/Cruise In Pancake Breakfast, Naples Airport. We are a sponsor of the event; show your support- participate! call Peter!	Peter Blackford 239-272-1328
Feb 11, 9:00 AM	Breakfast Meeting, M-B of Bonita Springs	239-322-8817
Feb 11	Cars on Fifth... www.carsonfifth.com	
Feb 18, 2:00 PM	SWFL Ladies of Mercedes <i>Tea at the Ritz</i> call Monica	239-322-9813
Feb 25, 9:00 AM	Breakfast Meeting, Perkins, Naples	239-322-8817
Mar 4	AACA Car Show, Naples Depot www.naplesmarcoaaca.org	
Mar 10 — 12	Amelia Island Concours; Group road trip to Amelia Is. with Peter Blackford	239-272-1328

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