



Sunshine STAR



Issue No. 1, 2018

MBCA | Southwest Florida Section

Jan / Feb 2018



Keeping the Club running like a V12 !
Thank you Ron and Monica for a fun 2017!



**"More Than a Car Club.
We're a Community!"**

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Breakfast Meetings, 9 AM

Ft. Myers area... Mimi's Café

2nd Saturday every month.

Next Meetings - Jan 13, Feb 10



Naples area... Perkins on Pine Ridge

4th Saturday every month.

Next meetings - Jan 27, Feb 24

President's Perspective



Our section finished the year with a wonderful holiday party, with well over 100 people in attendance - our most popular event. There were many that contributed to the success, and sincere thanks to them all. Some of those guests do not attend our regular events or breakfast meetings. We need to have events that will attract more members, guests, and potential members!

The section's events and meetings are comprised of social gatherings and car (Mercedes Benz) related topics. This month for example, the 'Ladies of Mercedes' (owners, spouses and guests) plan on a luncheon and tour of Shangri-La Springs Hotel & Spa in Bonita Springs. This event is already ***sold out!*** And March features our wonderful annual picnic at Lakes Park.

Our Mercedes Benz (car) events are growing in number, and there will be several over the next 5 months. Because our SW Florida Section includes many snowbirds, we try to hold these over the first half of the year. On Saturday, January 20th will be the Shell Point Car Show and Parade, Boat Tour, Luncheon, Photo Gallery, and more. They are looking for decades of Mercedes Sports cars- SLs to add to the field. Any SL owners please look for the flyer to be available shortly. February brings the Lorenzo Walker Fly In/Cruise In, followed by 'Cars on 5th Avenue' in Naples, and Pelican Preserve's Car Show. March offers a new event in Cape Coral featuring British/Italian/German cars (B.I.G.) Then, the wonderful Amelia Island Concours features a convoy of our members driving up and back and the weekend's prestigious Car Show. In April we look forward to our annual car show at Mercedes Benz of Fort Myers. This always proves to be a fun event for our club, the dealer and the public. May brings the MBCA National Event 'StarFest' to Alabama. This week long gathering features technical highlights, driving in track events, tours and more. We should take advantage of this nearby location and see what 'StarFest' is all about.

If you would like to attend some or all of these or our breakfast meetings, you and your spouses, family, associates and friends are more than welcome. Our club's growth is based largely on our members promoting benefits in a one-on-one basis to prospective members. We have lots of information and stories to share with them!

All the best for the coming year,

Ron Cordeau

President, MBCA SWFL Section

MBCA Southeast Regional Director:

Daniel Cabrera dcabrera2@tampabay.rr.com

SWFL OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:

President: Ron Cordeau

239-322-8817 roncor@hotmail.com

Vice President: Glen Sholl

239-272-1328 gsholl@comcast.net

Secretary: Monica Cordeau

239-322-9813 Monica.Cordeau@gmail.com

Treasurer: Joel Taub

239-549-0435 taub.joel@gmail.com

Membership Chair: Tom Harruff

239-591-8049 tharruff1813@comcast.net

Newsletter Design/Editor: Thomas Starrett

941-347-7119 tomstarr74@comcast.net

Webmaster: Thomas Starrett

941-347-7119 tomstarr74@comcast.net

Facebook Ace: Mario Puente

239-204-7434 mpuente-benz@hotmail.com

Activities Coordinator: Chet Young

(321) 446-0472 chetyoung30@gmail.com

Section Directors: The Officers named above, and

John (Jack) Meyer

239-450-1998 johnmeyersr@hotmail.com

Peter Blackford

239-592-9814 priuspete@gmail.com

Anne Harruff, Past Secretary

Frank Altieri, Director At Large

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 must 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.

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**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**

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of this writing our SOUTHWEST FLORIDA SECTION has 418 Members

★**New Members and Associates** since the last newsletter;

Dexter Goose, Robert Haff, Kris and Mary Jackstadt, Terry Kinnamon, Michael Lindstrom, Howard McCune, Christopher Pakietur, Todd Pulis, Marc Roman, and Laurie and Joseph Rose

We are happy you've joined us!

★And **Thank You** to our **32 Renewed Members** for your continuing MBCA Membership!
...now let's have some M-B fun!

SWFL MBCA Event at SHANGRI-LA SPRINGS

Saturday, January 20, 2018

Shangri-La Springs in Bonita Springs is known as a center for vitality through healing arts and nature.



We will be guided on a wonderful Historical/Botanical tour of the grounds at 11:00am

followed by organic lunch in our private dining room around 12:00pm. The lunch buffet will offer selections of organic Salads, Wraps, and dessert.



SHANGRI-LA SPRINGS
HISTORIC 1970s

Sorry, sold out!

The cost is \$35 per person (all inclusive).

Advance registration and payment will be handled by Monica Cordeau,
239-322-9813 Monica.Cordeau@gmail.com

We will meet inside the lobby at 10:30 AM, the tour starts at 11AM.



StarFest 2018

May 14-21, 2018

Register Today

Starfest 2018 is the flagship national event for Mercedes-Benz Club of America. So, what could be a more fitting loca-

tion than the Mercedes-Benz U.S. International Factory's Brand Immersion Center? Combining elegance, fun, history, and motorsports, this event is one you won't want to miss.

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Road Rallyes

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Reception and dinner at the famous Barber Museum



It's not too soon to start making plans to attend. Visit Starfest2018.mbca.org for more information and schedule.

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2017 Holiday Christmas Party

HOLIDAY FUN, FOOD AND FRIENDS

On December 3rd, 2017, members of the SWFL Section celebrated the Holiday Season at The Club at Olde Cypress. We had the entire room reserved for us, and we made good use of it. The live harp and violin music in the background set the theme, the food was excellent, the door prizes were great thanks to M-B Naples, and the camaraderie tied it all together.

This really set the mood for a Happy Hanukkah and a very Merry Christmas!



Everyone got a warm welcome from Monica and Anita at the Reception Table



Jerry and Anita retire



Tom Harruff named Member of the Year



The big tree was a popular hang-out



RETURN TO AMELIA

On the extended weekend of March 8-12 we will once again be touring up to the Amelia Island Concours. The drive will begin Thursday morning at our "usual" stepping off place - Cracker Barrel located at Exit 141 on I-75.

From there we will proceed north to Ocala where we will enjoy lunch at the Ivy House (historic building), as we did in 2017. This year's tour will be at the Don Garlits museum - where we may meet "the man" himself and enjoy a guided tour of both the automobile collection as well as the museum of drag racing. This will be followed by a short drive to our evening stop, the Homewood Suites, where dinner will be provided as part of the (modest) tariff.

Friday morning we will proceed on our own (there is typically an "early group" and a "later group", depending on which auctions participants may wish to view) arriving at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Kingsland, GA where our rooms are blocked at about \$119.70 per night (plus tax) - and breakfast is provided each day.

Friday evening we will have a group dinner, to be arranged at Ship-2-Shore as in past years, about two miles from our hotel.

Saturday will dawn clear and possibly chilly (bring some warmer-than-SWFL clothing - or plan a late-night trip to Walmart), when we will join our chosen few on the lawn at the Ritz for "Cars & Coffee". [NOTE: if you want to be on the lawn, we need your car info & a picture NOW! - ONLY a few will be accepted.] Spectator admission is free, and if you are accepted as a participant you'll also get free parking.

There will also be a silent auction inside the hotel, as well as some interesting seminars & panel discussions. TICKETS for those are required - as well as for the Sunday main event - and do sell out! See www.ameliaconcours.org for details (just the 'basic' Sunday ticket is all that's required, but other options are available).

Saturday is also a good opportunity to pick up your pre-purchased Sunday tickets at will-call, to avoid the crush the day of the event.

Saturday evening there will be an MBCA multi-Section dinner in Old Fernandina Beach (historic seaport).

Sunday morning will find us enjoying an entirely different gathering of the most elegant cars from all over the world on the lawn (OK, golf course) of the Ritz. Do stay

for the judges introduction in mid-afternoon, and find seating next to the MBNA tent where chairs & bleachers will be provided.

After the show, we will (having checked out of the hotel in the morning) be sneaking southward off the Island via a less-traveled road, along the coast (including a short ferry ride - maps provided) to our final hotel - Hampton Inn & Suites on Vilano Beach (St. Augustine). This is will find us closer to home, where we can enjoy dinner close to the hotel, as well as some "beach time" the next morning and/or enjoy historic St. Augustine before completing our return home.

This will all sound somewhat familiar to those who will be joining us for a "return to Amelia", with the enduring reminder that the first thing you want to do is confirm accommodations at Kingsland (I will share our group block confirmation numbers/ codes for all hotels as needed), and get tickets to additional Amelia events (particularly the seminars & panel discussions) as soon as possible.

All for now - contact me at priuspete@gmail.com as needed.

Peter Blackford, Event Coordinator

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Editorial tailpipe...

Happy New Year!

Tis with mixed emotions, I present my final issue of the Sunshine Star. Tom Starrett (STARrett) wants to be the Editor, and who am I to deny him the fun! Please be good to him, send him some articles, maybe a cow or two, especially pics of events that he and Loretta may not have attended. Add a few comments, too. You don't have to write a book.

I've had a lot of enjoyment and a few

strange rashes putting together this simple letter. There are a few guidelines by MBCA, but mostly I did it my way, and now Tom will do it his way, I look forward to his creations!

The newsletter belongs to the club. Send your submissions in timely enough so he doesn't have to re-arrange the whole newsletter at the last minute. Just sayin'.

In further news, Anita has turned over the Membership Chair to Tom Harruff who has had experience with it in the past.

Actually, he's had experience with everything in the past...treat him with respect!

Anita and I wish you and yours peace, happiness, love and a warm blanket for those chilly nights ahead!

Moooving along!

Jerry

Happy Moo Year!



Peter talks about the [Return to Amelia](#), page 6



Curtiss Alden, M-B Naples, keeps the Perkins breakfast attendees up to date on M-B happenings. A gen-u-wine treasure of information!



Ornaments swapped, time for breakfast! Oh yeah, a meeting too. More, page 12



When our R-Class needed a part and there were none available in the whole world, Joseph at European Motors actually cast one for us out of aluminum. That part will last longer than the car. That's called 'Dedication'. Thank you Joseph!

Jerry and Anita

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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MBCA SWFL Fort Myers Breakfast Meeting November 11, 2017

Due to the fact that Mimi's Restaurant has been closed for hurricane damage repairs, this month we held our meeting at **The Mix Italian Grill** on Palm Beach Blvd just west of I-75. A total of 28 members joined us to check out the new location. Although we didn't have a private room for our club, we were given one side of the restaurant to ourselves. Next month the private meeting room is ours, so we will give it another month to see if it is a good fit for our club.

Today is also Veteran's Day. President Ron began the meeting by giving a little background on why Veteran's Day is observed on November 11th. All veterans at the meeting were asked to stand so that we could acknowledge them and thank them for their making the sacrifices that serving their country entails. Member Jonathon Casimiri

generously picked up the breakfast tab for each veteran in attendance!

New faces & NJ natives, Don and Donna Marchetti, were introduced to the members. They are the proud owners of a 240D that looks like Ron's 240D's younger brother. Beautifully original and super well maintained.

Upcoming events were mentioned. The calendar seems to fill up fast. Glen Scholl, Mario Puente, & Jack Meyer all spoke of the various things that will be available to experience at StarFest in Alabama in May '18. Sounds like an action-packed few days. All info on StarFest can be seen on the MBCA website. Get your reservations in early!

Photos and report, Ron and Monica Cordeau



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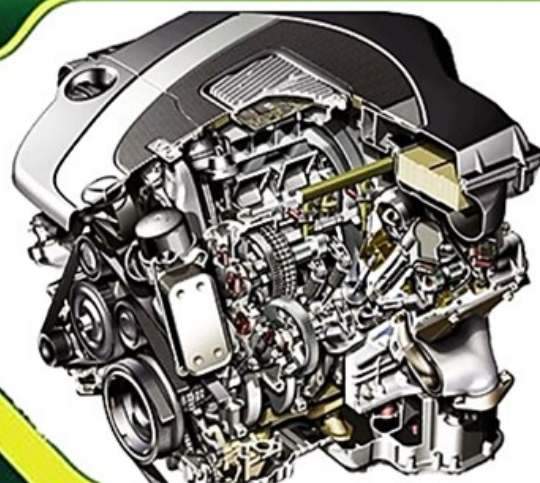
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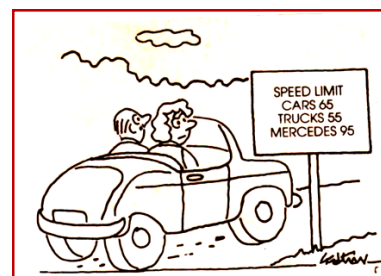
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Thanks to
 Barb Nolan for
 the chuckles!





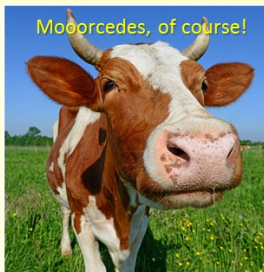
Upcoming Events 2018

Southwest Florida Section, Mercedes-Benz Club of America

Jan 13, Saturday	9:00 AM, Breakfast Meeting, Mimi's Café, Ft. Myers
Jan 20, Saturday	Shangri-La Tour and Luncheon
Jan 27, Saturday	9:00 AM, Breakfast Meeting, Perkins, Naples
Feb 3, Saturday	Lorenzo Walker Drive-in Fly-in
Feb 10, Saturday	9:00 AM, Breakfast Meeting, Mimi's Café, Ft. Myers
Feb 10, Saturday	Cars on 5th, Naples
Feb 24, Saturday	9:00 AM, Breakfast Meeting, Perkins, Naples
Mar 8—12	Amelia Island Concours
Mar 10, Saturday	9:00 AM, Breakfast Meeting, Mimi's Café, Ft Myers
Mar 24, Saturday	9:00 AM, Breakfast Meeting, Perkins, Naples
Mar 25, Sunday	5th Annual End of 'Season' Picnic
April 4, Wednesday	Broadway Palm Dinner Theater, "Mama Mia"



December 23 breakfast meeting at Perkins started with a Christmas ornament exchange. But it was Anita's left-right-left-right poem that created laughs and the occasional confusion over which left is right. Yes, we can get silly whenever we please!



Do We Have Your Current Email Address?

The Club and our own Section use electronic communications and we email our newsletters. So be sure to let the NBO know of any changes to your email address to ensure up to date information with both the NBO and your Section. Contact Membership Services with your updates... mbca.org or call 1-800-637-2360.

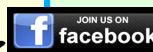
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