



# Sunshine STAR



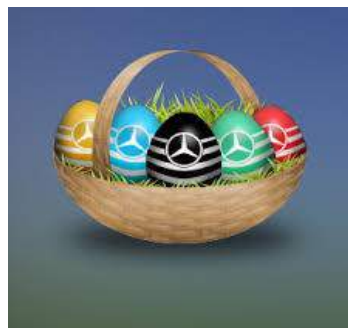
Issue No. 2, 2019

**MBCA | Southwest Florida Section**

March/April 2019



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

## **Breakfast Meetings, 9 AM**

**Ft. Myers area...Perkins @ 41 & 6 Mile Cypress Pkwy.**

2nd Saturday every month.

Next Meetings - April 13th, May 11th



**Naples area... Perkins on Pine Ridge Rd.**  
4th Saturday every month.

Next meetings - April 27th, May 25th

## President's Perspective

Our monthly Breakfast meetings – 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in Ft Myers and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in Naples, have become popular because of convenient locations, member's Mercedes, updates on various topics, and seeing our friends. Don't be shy about attending these meetings! Please feel free to join us, as we all own Mercedes and have an interest in driving, servicing and maintaining our cars. Ask questions, give us first hand experience or hear from others. A couple hours on a Saturday is all you need!



The club had several events that were well attended, diverse and interesting. The **Cars on 5<sup>th</sup>** show in Naples was again outstanding, as it featured some of the finest cars such as Porsche-Mercedes (10 of our club's) and others. **RENNtech** invited us to their world headquarters in Stuart. Glen arranged the event that included an early 2 hour drive/caravan of around 15 cars all keeping up and doing the legal speed limit! **The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Picnic**, with hosts Joel and Sylvia was held on a beautiful Sunday at Lakes Park in Ft Myers with Barbeque and more. The deserts were plentiful, and we had more food than guests. *Make an effort next year to get out - on a Sunday for a couple hours and eat, relax and chat with fellow members. It will be more than worthwhile!* The **Amelia Island Concours** was again planned out to perfection by our guide Peter Blackford. The weather was perfect and we enjoyed a safe trip, saw a beautiful range of Mercedes on display at Cars and Coffee. The Sunday Concours show lived up to its world class reputation, with the finest cars in the country on the field.

April will feature the *Ladies of Mercedes* **Baker Museum Tour** and lunch with lots of enthusiasm. Over 35 members and guests registered for the event that Anne and Monica organized. **The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Show** in Ft Myers on the third Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup> at Mercedes-Benz of Ft Myers will again be a fun and interesting event. Early registrations have been very light. *Think about it....Come out and see our members' beautiful Mercedes Benz cars, or participate and put your car in the show. No harsh judging, just wash and show! The dealer is providing space right by the front entrance, free food and the use of their facility! You can check out new and used cars, buy parts, and see Mercedes clothing -hats-keys-luggage and other gear. We advertise this event well in advance, but yet participation is low.* With over 400 members in our club, surely we can get more than 20 participants! Come and check it out.

Ron Cordeau



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### SWFL OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:

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**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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.mbca.org)**



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Total members 407

New (since 1-25-19) 9

Lost (Since 1-25-19) 14

Renewed (Since 1-25-19) 49

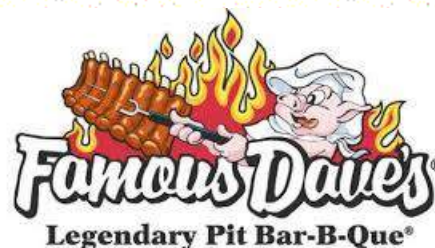
New Members since 1-25-19: Ed and Laura Bishoff, Renate Daughtry, Thomas and Charlene Gale, Carol Wayne Helms, Benjamin Kiesinger, Bill O'Connor, Carolyn Walters, Lee Williams, and Terry Wilshear.

### 6th Annual SW Florida Section End of Season Picnic

The SW Florida Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America held its 6th Annual End of Season Picnic on March 3, 2019. This annual event recognizes our Section members who are seasonal visitors from the north.

The picnic was held in a waterfront pavilion at beautiful Lakes Park in Fort Myers, Florida. The weather was perfect for a picnic, with temperatures in the upper 70s, gentle breezes and a cloud-free blue sky.

The delicious barbecue food was catered by Famous Dave's Restaurant. There were also incredible cakes and desserts provided by several members. About 50 members and guests attended the event, which was once again hosted by Section members Joel and Sylvia Taub. A good time was had by all, and no one left hungry !



# ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A 2019 MERCEDES-AMG GT 63 4-Door Coupe



## MBCA's 2019 Spring Raffle

### Details & Dates

- Prize: 2019 Mercedes-AMG GT 63 4-door Coupe
- MSRP: \$136,500
- Tickets are \$50 (US) each
- Last day to purchase tickets is Wednesday, June 5, 2019
- Drawing is Thursday, June 13, 2019
- For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [raffle.mbc.org](http://raffle.mbc.org), call the NBO at 800-637-2360 or check your mailbox for an official mail-in order form.

Open to MBCA Members only. Must be 18 years of age or older. No limit on the number of tickets one member may purchase. The winner will choose an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealership where a check in the amount of \$102,375 (US) will be sent. The winner will shop for their vehicle at the dealership of their choice. If fewer than 5,450 tickets are sold, the raffle prize will be one-half (50%) of the gross raffle ticket sales - less Federal withholding of 25%, or at least \$5,000 (less withholding), whichever is greater. Vehicle featured in this ad is representative only. Odds of winning depend on the total number of tickets sold. Must be a current Member of MBCA at the time of purchase and day of the prize drawing. Members may attend the drawing (not required to enter or win). 100% of net raffle proceeds shall be devoted exclusively to the lawful purpose of MBCA International Stars Section. Raffle License Number RS2158.

Image in contest promotional materials does not entirely represent actual prize being won.  
Photo Credit: Mercedes-Benz USA



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[instagram.com/mercedesbenzdubamerica](https://instagram.com/mercedesbenzdubamerica)





# 2019 Tour



On February 23rd several of our members drove *en masse* across the state to **Stuart Florida** and the facilities of **RENNtech** for a tour and tech session. The trip, organized and hosted by our very own Glen Scholl, was not only informative, but offered our members an opportunity to see first hand the technological advances small independent companies like RENNtech are making to enhance the performance parameters of Mercedes Benz's both new and old.

Judging by the comments from a few of those who attended, the drive was lots of fun, the hospitality was first rate, and the information gleaned was awe inspiring! All together, a VERY productive road trip. Thank you Glen for, as always, putting together a fantastic trip!





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# Mercedes-Benz

Southwest Florida Section  
Ladies of Mercedes

## ARTIS—NAPLES The BAKER MUSEUM



This past Saturday, April 6th, the “Ladies of Mercedes” toured the Baker Museum at Artis Naples and enjoyed the current attraction and exhibit, “Fashioning Art From Paper” as created by Isabelle de Borchgrave. The event, planned and hosted by Monica Cordeau and Anne Harruff, was attended by over 35 members and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

After the tour of the exhibit, the ladies adjourned for lunch at Brio’s Grille in Naples where everyone enjoyed a relaxing meal waterside in the Naples Waterside Shoppes. Monica and Anne have done a remarkable job in creating specialty events for the Ladies of our club, and have embraced the concept of “**something for everyone**” especially the LADIES OF MERCEDES!!

Below is a brief description of the exhibit

*Fashioning Art from Paper* presents the full breadth of Isabelle de Borchgrave’s exploration of historical costume through the artful folding, crumpling, painting and sculpting of paper. From masterful recreations of elaborate Renaissance gowns to whimsical costumes from the Ballet Russes, de Borchgrave’s breathtaking, life-size works have been featured in major exhibitions around the world.

The exhibition celebrates the diversity of de Borchgrave’s work since the mid-1990s, including pieces from *Papiers à la Mode*, a survey of 300 years of fashion history presented by The Baker Museum in 2013; her Splendors of the Medici series exploring the Italian Renaissance costumes depicted in contemporaneous paintings; and her most recent work, *Les Ballet Russes*, which dovetails perfectly with the Naples Philharmonic’s performances of Stravinsky’s *Pulcinella* and *The Firebird*. Many of the costume designs represented in *Les Ballet Russes* were fashioned by artists like Picasso, Bakst and Matisse.

In addition, organizing partner Frick Art and Historical Center commissioned de Borchgrave to create a gown inspired by a painting from Peter Paul Rubens, *Portrait of Charlotte-Marguerite de Montmorency, Princess of Condé*, from ca. 1610. Both the dress and the original Rubens portrait will be on view at Artis—Naples.

*Exhibition organized by Artis—Naples, The Baker Museum; the Frick Art and Historical Center, Pittsburgh; the Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Memphis; the Oklahoma City Museum; and the Society of the Four Arts, Palm Beach.*



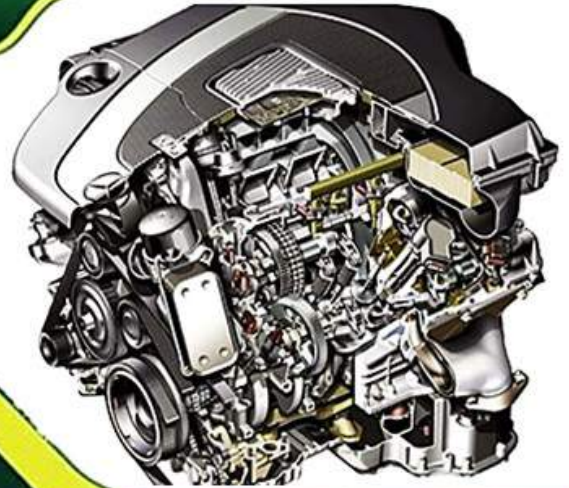


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## Editorial...

Happy Easter! Spring has finally arrived and, with it, the time has come for our seasonal members to head north to cooler climes. Here in Florida these beautiful days will give way to hot sun and afternoon thunderstorms. Humid and wet, scorching heat, mosquitos the size of small bees....sounds uninviting doesn't it?

Well, it need not be. There are always enough nice weather days to get out there and enjoy a drive in your beloved Benz! The roads are far less crowded, you can actually get into restaurants at first attempt should you want to stop for a bite. Prices for everything from food, to hotels, to entrance fees, to fuel, often are significantly less than during the winter season. Time to take advantage!

You club will also remain active during

the summer months. Monthly meetings, summer driving events, car shows, or just an enjoyable dinner out with a fellow club member, are all opportunities for you to stay active and true to the Mercedes lifestyle! Help the club thrive throughout the summer. It's a good way to beat the heat!

As a corollary to the aforementioned, we often ask that you provide your ideas for what, where, and when your club can do to add excitement to our calendar. It really is **YOUR** club, and without your input, things tend to become a bit stale and or repetitive through the year. Monthly meetings are great, and it is always fun and informative to have breakfast with fellow members, but don't let it stop there! Speak up! Toss out your ideas and suggestions. You don't need to be fearful of being "volunteered" into a time eating commitment. Others can

help in that regard. It is your IDEAS that are valuable as much, if not more than, your time.

I often hear members say that they enjoy various driving events. I count myself among those with that sentiment. Give some thought as to where we can go with such an event, and make some suggestions on how to plan for it. Along with that, talk up the club to your friends and neighbors. Membership is slowly dwindling and it is time to get out there and RECRUIT new and active members. The effort is minimal and the rewards are great!

Tom S.



## 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](http://www.mbca.org) or call 800.637.2360 weekdays 8am-4:30pm Mtn Time.

**More Than a Car Club.  
We're a Community.<sup>sm</sup>**

A blonde walks into a bank in New York City and asks for the Loan officer. She says she's going to Europe on business for two weeks and Needs to borrow \$5,000.

The bank officer says the bank will need some kind of security for the loan, so the blonde hands over the keys to a new Mercedes Benz SL 500.

The car is parked on the street in front of the bank, she has the title and everything checks out. The bank agrees to accept the car collateral for the loan.

The bank's president and its officers all enjoy a good laugh at the blond for using a \$110,000 Benz as collateral against a \$5,000 loan.

An employee of the bank then proceeds to drive the Benz into the bank's underground garage and parks it there. Two weeks later, the blonde returns, repays the \$5,000 and the interest, which comes to \$15.41.

The loan officer says, "Miss, we are very happy to have had your business, and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are a little puzzled. While you were away, we checked you out and found that you are a multimillionaire.

What puzzles us is, why would you bother to borrow \$5,000?"

The blonde replies, "Where else in New York City can I park my Car for two weeks for only \$15.41 and expect it to be there when I return?"

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See Dealers for Additional Details.

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# Rise & Shine It's breakfast time



**Fort Myers Meeting March 9, 2019**



**Amelia Island Cars 'n Coffee 2019**

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Picture with ad, \$15.00 per issue.

**Classified Ads will be removed unless renewed at least  
two weeks before publication of the next issue.**





## Upcoming Events 2019

### Southwest Florida Section, Mercedes-Benz Club of America

April 13, 2019	Breakfast Meeting Fort Myers; Perkins, Corner of US 41 and Six Mile Cypress 9:00am
April 20, 2019	Annual Car Show; Mercedes Benz of Fort Myers 10:00am to 2:00pm
April 27, 2019	Breakfast Meeting NAPLES; Perkins, Pine Ridge Rd. West of 75 9:00am
May 11, 2019	Breakfast Meeting Fort Myers; Perkins, Corner of US 41 and Six Mile Cypress 9:00am
May 25, 2019	Breakfast Meeting NAPLES; Pine Ridge Rd west of 75 9:00am



#### 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](http://mbca.org) or call 1-800-637-2360.

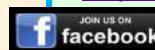
Southwest Florida Section MBCA On The Web!

<http://southwestflorida.mbca.org/>

and...

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As Summer Approaches, Thoughts Turn to “Mercedes on the Grille”



Photos courtesy of Dick Davis

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## Something to Ponder Something to Ponder

