



Sunshine STAR



Issue No. 3, 2018

MBCA | Southwest Florida Section

May/June 2018



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

Breakfast Meetings, 9 AM

Ft. Myers area... 2nd Saturday every month.

Next Meetings - June 9, July 14



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

Next meetings - May 26, June 23

President's Perspective

There were several Events during this past March and April starting with the B.I.G. Car Show in Cape Coral. British/Italian/ & German cars were featured in a relaxed and picturesque setting in the park. It was interesting to see some unique cars from BMW, Ferrari, Jaguar, Rolls, Triumph, MG and more. You couldn't ask for a better day viewing these local show cars - shaded by trees on the grass. Don't miss out on next year's event in March, and look for our email reminders. When you hear about these car show events, you can either enter your car, or just show up as a spectator who appreciates quality automobiles. You can visit with fellow members, and stay as long as you like.

The Amelia Island Concours is always an enjoyable weekend featuring the top show cars in the nation. We followed Peter's Blackford's plan of driving up the day before, stopping at the Don Garlit's Museum and spending the night. We continued our road trip the next morning and drove through the rest of NE Florida on the back roads. The event was amazing as always, and some of our members displayed their cars on the lawn in the (invitation only) Cars and Coffee show. It is quite an honor to have your car looking its best on the field with thousands of spectators walking around! Mercedes-Benz USA was one of the top sponsors, having their tent perfectly placed on the Concours lawn. We hope you might consider joining us next year for this annual event either in our road trip caravan, displaying your car, or just driving up on your own.

Our annual end of season Picnic at Lake's Park was very well attended (don't miss it next year). We had great catered food in a relaxed private setting, and sampled member's desserts. The food was partially paid for by our club making it more affordable for the members that attended. Organized to perfection by Sylvia and Joel Taub.

We went to the Broadway Palm dinner theater to see 'Mama Mia' and enjoyed their excellent dinner buffet. Tom and Loretta handled the details. And our last event was a local fun car show at the Mercedes-Benz dealer in Ft. Myer, featuring almost 30 of our member's cars. We visited around each one, and the owners spoke of the background of their cars. We promise to have the microphone working next year!

With the snowbirds heading north, our events are greatly reduced. That's why when they're announced, you should participate in as many as you can – including our twice monthly breakfast meetings!

Regards,
Ron Cordeau



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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.

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**

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Tom Harruff, Membership Chair SWFL

As of this writing our SOUTHWEST FLORIDA SECTION has 413 Members

★**New Members and Associates** *since the last newsletter*; Roland Behm, Clifford Bickerton, John Cane, John Catalano, Herman Hoffman, John Kosar, Antonio Lopez, Michael Simons, Gary Sissel, Mike Wayne.

We are happy you've joined us!

★And **Thank You** to our **31 Renewed Members** for your continuing MBCA Membership!
...now let's have some M-B fun!



HAVE YOU HEARD?



Section's New Bank Account

The Section's bank account has been moved to Suncoast Credit Union, and the account at Bank of America (B of A) has been closed. Suncoast branches are conveniently located throughout the SWFL region. The Section's account had been at B of A for many years. However, it has become increasingly difficult to conduct business at many of the local B of A branches. B of A has closed most of their drive-in windows, and has decreased staffing in the branches, resulting in long lines.

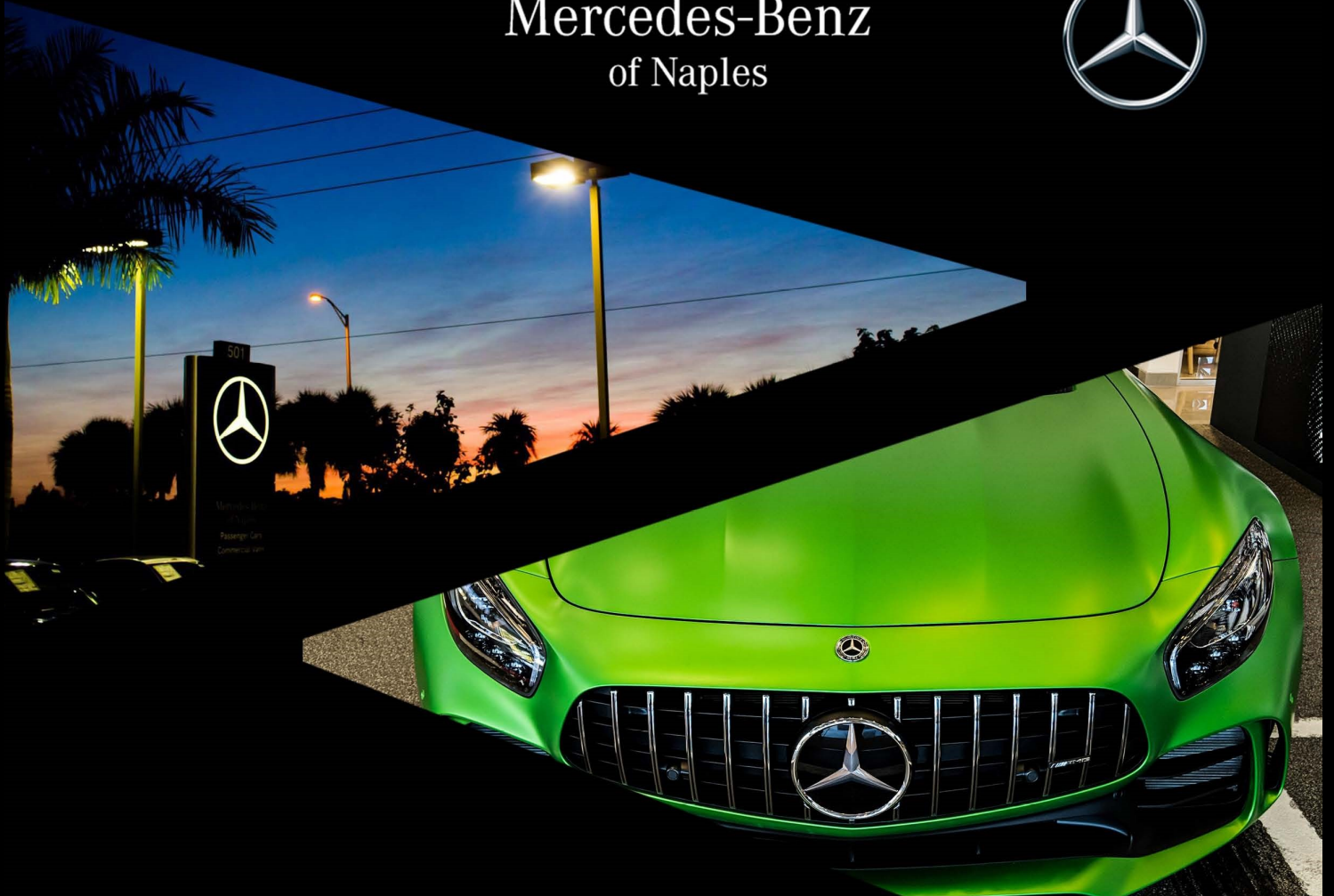
We look forward to a long and happy relationship with Suncoast, where we are not just customers, but also we are now credit union "members"!

Joel Taub
Treasurer

Breakfast Anyone??



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SWLF MBCA Annual Car Show Mercedes of Ft Myers April 7, 2018



Around the Town Miscellaneous thoughts and happenings in our Mercedes world

CONGRATULATIONS!

Kudos to SWFLMBCA members Steve Weiner, and Tom Starrett for their inclusion in the March/April Star Magazine article on the W124 Cabriolet!!

AND

A hearty WELL DONE to Mario Puente and Al Rubin for their recognition at the Amelia Island "Cars and Coffee" taking home the awards for "BEST SEDAN" and "MOST ICONIC" respectfully. And, they too, appear in the May/June issue of THE STAR!!

WE'RE FAMOUS!

Do You Know This Man?



Our very own Dick Davis showing off his very fashionable hose from Car's on Fifth!

WOW!

Club members Larry and Caroline Smilsky just returned from an amazing 9 day tour of Europe with the Corvette Club of Naples! To say it sounds VERY COOL would be an understatement! Can't wait to hear all about it!



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AMELIA ISLAND 2018 CONCOURS d'ELEGANCE

Despite the rain, this year's Amelia Island Concours car show was once again a wonderful and successful event! Several members of our club made the trip via caravan (adroitly put together once again by Peter Blackford) and were even able to bring home some "hardware" from the Saturday "Cars and Coffee" event! Well done to Mario Puente and Al Rubin for being awarded "Best Sedan" and "Most Iconic" from among the dozens cars being displayed. The journey to North Florida included a stop-off in the Ocala area and a visit to the "Big Daddy Don Garlits" museum. One of the Garlit's prize possessions was a **1969 300 SEL 6.3!**

Peter does such an outstanding job putting this all together for our club members that when the time rolls around again next year we should all give some serious thought to attending! It is ALWAYS a great time!!



← GARLITS MUSEUM →



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Editorial...

Well, another winter season has passed and, as Ron our President mentioned in his column, it was a productive and busy season for our club. Lots of activities and memories to be sure! Just because our Northern members have returned to their homes up North however, doesn't mean that things have to grind to a halt here over the summer. There are still lot's of us here, and we still have the capacity and desire to do more **Mercedes stuff!** We still have our two meetings each month, and now is the time for you to step to the plate and suggest any and all fun things that may come to mind. We are open to suggestion!! The key word is **PARTICIPATE!** We're counting on you.

As you can see from the front page of this newsletter, this weekend brings to us another Memorial Day Holiday. This is the one National Holiday that really affords us an opportunity to recognize and

appreciate the men and women of our military, and to honor those that have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our great nation and our way of life. This year, instead of beers and barbeque, why not seek out a member of our military, police, fire brigade, or anyone else who helps maintain our freedom, liberty, and property and **THANK THEM** for their dedication and perseverance in the face of increasing upheaval at home and across the world. Without the sacrifices made by these men and women both now, and in the past, none of us may have had the opportunity to enjoy the things we most covet, like our beloved cars. Liberty is a precious thing, and so are the aforementioned people of our armed forces and civil service organizations.

I am quite sure that we number many veterans in our club (I can think of several), and I would like to personally reach out to each and every one of you and express my heartfelt appreciation

with a resounding **THANK YOU!** You are an inspiration and I am proud to be associated with you as both a fellow Mercedes Benz enthusiast, and more importantly, as a friend!

Tom Starrett



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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BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN

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



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

ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A 2018 Mercedes-Benz S560 Cabriolet

MBCA's 2018 Spring Raffle

Details & Dates

- Prize: 2018 Mercedes-Benz S560 Cabriolet
- MSRP: \$133,300
- Tickets are \$50 (US) each
- Last day to purchase tickets is Wednesday, June 13, 2018
- Drawing is Thursday, June 21, 2018
- For more information and to purchase tickets, visit raffle.mbca.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 \$99,975 (US) will be sent. The winner will shop for their vehicle at the dealership of their choice. If fewer than 5,250 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: R36432





Upcoming Events 2017

Southwest Florida Section, Mercedes-Benz Club of America

May 26	9:00 AM Breakfast Meeting at Perkins, Naples
June 9th	9:00 AM, Fort Myers Breakfast Meeting. TBA
June 23	9:00 AM, Breakfast Meeting, Perkins, Naples



??????

Be sure to check out the next issue of the “Sunshine Star” to find out what happens next!!

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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.

Southwest Florida Section MBCA On The Web!

<http://southwestflorida.mbca.org/>
and...
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/SW-Florida-Mercedes-Benz-Club-of-America/258407040951839>

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