



# Sunshine STAR



Issue No. 5, 2019

**MBCA | Southwest Florida Section**

September/October 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 - November 9th, December 14th



**Naples area... Perkins on Pine Ridge Rd.**  
4th Saturday every month.  
Next meetings - \*\*October 26th (11:15am Wahoo's, 475 North Rd Naples),  
November 23rd (Pine Ridge)

## President's Perspective

Going through some old *stuff*....

Recently, I spent some time in the garage working on a couple of minor repairs to the cars and some home fixit projects. Having success on minor car repairs is not a guarantee or assurance that home fixits can be done in a short or timely fashion. (It took almost a week of trial and error to fix the drips under the kitchen sink, and several days to replace the fixed TV wall mount to one that tilts and rotates. A "one or two hour job" that turned into a long agonizing project!)

In the garage, I sorted through some old Mercedes car parts, and wondered how one accumulates so much *stuff* for this one hobby! This *stuff* also includes tools, jacks, nuts and bolts, screws washers and fasteners.

Then I got the total clarity of what my Mercedes Benz stuff actually was over the years! Memorabilia - in the form of pictures and paintings, brochures and posters, magazines and all types of soft and hard cover books on Mercedes cars, topics and repairs. Not to mention - flags, hubcaps, license plates, various wall plaques, thermometers, trophies, car models, bags and cases, and neon lights. And that was just in the garage! Looking around inside the cabinets, drawers and bins there is upkeep and detail *stuff* like soaps, buffers, waxes and polishes for every conceivable car surface, with the corresponding towel, cloth or mit. Plus... I can lubricate, paint, clean, tape, fasten or glue almost anything. That is what I meant by my *stuff*.

I didn't just gloss over all that with a casual glance. Rather, I thought of the time and effort it took to find and accumulate the items that I used to take for granted, but now very much appreciated. Mercedes Benz has something for everyone. What a fun and rewarding hobby this has been. So I took some time off in my busy, preoccupied daily life, reflected and smiled inside with the good feelings that all my *stuff* has brought me!

Especially the pictures. They accumulate on our devices where we view and sometimes share them with others. Each time I look at old memories frozen in time, I have pleasant thoughts and vow to do it more often.

I suggest taking a moment or two to pause, and give yourself an opportunity to notice and acknowledge the simple pleasures in life. Look at *your* good stuff tucked away in drawers and cabinets and smile!

I recommend this to everyone!

Ron Cordeau



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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 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](http://www.mbca.org)**



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of today Oct 9<sup>th</sup> we have 377 active members. In the past 60 days we have lost 10 members, gained 6 new members, and had 14 renew their memberships.

Join us in welcoming the following new members to our club!

Jim Blakeslee  
Mark Coleman  
Craig Higdon  
John Nolan  
Robert Stemplinger  
Arthur Stine



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**RADIO**

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## 3rd Prize

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



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TICKET PURCHASES (including your Official Order Form and payment) MUST BE RECEIVED BY December 4, 2019.

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Make your check/money order payable to: MBCA, International Stars Section

Mail to: Raffle, 1907 Lelaray Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80909

MBCA Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**No limit to the number of tickets you can buy. At least one phone number is required.**

Home Ph. # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Ph. # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Ticket Quantity \_\_\_\_ x \$50 each = Total Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Paying by (select one):

☐ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Money Order # \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Credit or Debit Card\*

\*(MUST complete credit/debit card information on reverse side)

**SEE NEXT PAGE**





## To Purchase Tickets

Go to  
[raffle.mbca.org](http://raffle.mbca.org)  
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tickets or to print a  
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(see mailing instructions  
on reverse side)

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## OFFICIAL RULES. PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.

1. You must be 18 years of age or older and a current Member of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America (MBCA) to purchase tickets. You must be a current Member at the time of the drawing to be eligible to win.
2. Credit and debit cards accepted. U.S. Members only may pay by check/money order in U.S. funds. Checks must be exclusively for the payment of the ticket(s) and not include other purchases or renewal payments.
3. Void where prohibited by law.
4. An Official Order form, or copy thereof, must be used to purchase tickets when ordering by mail. Order forms have been mailed to members and are also available upon request from the National Business Office (NBO) or at [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org). Mail order form requests to: Raffle, 1907 Lelaray Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80909.
5. Ticket orders must be received no later than December 4, 2019. Ticket orders and checks arriving after December 4, 2019 will be returned to sender.
6. All ticket sales are final at the time of purchase. There are no refunds.
7. Tickets will only be issued in the name of the Primary Member listed in the MBCA membership files and does not include Associate Members. Prizes will be awarded on the same basis. Winning tickets cannot be assigned, transferred or sold. Membership must be current at the time of purchasing a ticket(s) and at the time of the drawing.
8. Paid staff, contractors of MBCA and The Star® magazine, their immediate families and household members may not participate in the Raffle.
9. Odds of winning will be based on the number of tickets sold.
10. Prize winners must complete a form from the NBO and return it within 45 days of the mailing of written notification of winning.
11. The drawing will be held and certified at 444 Church Street, Flint, MI 48502 at 10:30 a.m. EST on December 12, 2019. Any MBCA member may attend the drawing; attendance is not required to win. Results will be posted at [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org).
12. The raffle is sponsored by MBCA, International Stars Section and ticket requests are subject to its acceptance. This Raffle is licensed under the laws of the State of Michigan. License Number R55182.
13. A minimum of 4,450 tickets MUST BE SOLD to award prizes. 1st place will receive \$56,200 less 25% tax-withholdings; 2nd place will receive \$44,500 less 25% tax-withholdings; 3rd place will receive \$10,500 less 25% tax-withholdings. The 1st and 2nd prize winners will shop for their vehicle at the dealership of their choice. The 3rd prize will receive a check that may be applied towards the registration of a 2020 German trip. **If fewer than 4,450 tickets are sold, 1st prize will receive 50% of one-half (50%) of the gross raffle ticket sales; 2nd prize will receive 40% of one-half (50%) of the gross raffle ticket sales; and 3rd prize will receive 10% of one-half (50%) of the gross raffle ticket sales - less Federal withholding of 25%, or at least \$5,000 (less withholding), whichever is greater. The 50% 1st prize, 40% 2nd prize, and 10% 3rd prize will be paid directly to the winner. If the winner is a Michigan resident there will be an additional withholding of 4.25%.**
14. 1st and 2nd prize winners will select the vehicle of their choice at the Dealership designated (see rule #13). Any expenses incurred to take possession of the vehicle, which exceed the 1st and 2nd prize payment check awarded to the Dealer, will be the sole responsibility of the 1st and 2nd prize winner. The winner will be responsible for all licensing, registration, taxes, fees, duties, insurance and other costs as well as transportation to and from the Dealership.
15. The withholding deposited on behalf of the winner may not be all of the taxes owed depending upon the winner's tax bracket. The gross amount of the prize will be added to the winner's income for the tax year of 2019.
16. If fewer than 4,450 Raffle tickets are sold, MBCA will substitute one-half (50%) of the gross sales revenue from the entries sold as of the time of the entry deadline as the Prize, in lieu of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize (see Rule #13).
17. Acceptance of a prize constitutes permission for MBCA to use the winner's name, Section affiliation, likeness and photograph in any MBCA publicity worldwide in all media including the Internet without additional compensation.
18. By participating in the Raffle, participants agree to be bound by these Official Rules.

Credit/Debit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Card Holder Signature

( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

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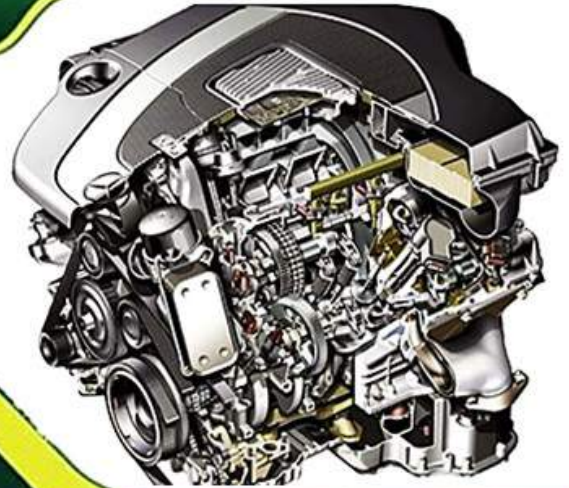


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## Editorial...

Fall is upon us, and with it, along comes cooler temperatures, sunnier days, and our thoughts start to turn toward holidays and gatherings with family and friends.

The same holds true with our club! Members start to return from their summer hiatus and the events start pick up in both number and frequency. Specialty events like the Rev's Institute Cars 'n Coffee next weekend, our annual Oktoberfest dinner next week, the always popular annual Christmas party in December and, of course, our two monthly meetings where we gather with friends and fellow Mercedes enthusiasts for some great conversation and information exchange.

As we contemplate these things and the calendar year winds down (even as our events calendar winds up) I would like

to take a moment to profusely thank Ron & Monica Cordeau for their faithful and unflagging leadership of our club for these past couple of years. Ron has intimated that he will be stepping down from his post as President at the end of the year. Both he and Monica will be missed. It has been an interesting ride watching them both grow into their roles as leaders of our small band of motorheads. I have watched them grow into their roles from their first days of office. From the uncertainty and tentativeness of conducting their first meetings, to the quiet confidence and strength they exhibit today. It is not a simple task to take on the leadership role of any organization, let alone a club like ours with its divergent interests and expectations. It's actually part of what I like most about our MBCA Southwest Florida club. Some people enjoy the old classics.

Some, the modern performance variants Mercedes offers. And then there are some that just appreciate the cars, no matter old, or fast, or lean or gracious. And that has been the genius of Ron & Monica. They have been able to coalesce all of these preferences among our members into one cohesive unit that works! Their investment of time and energy into keeping the club humming along *(and this is the point where I must also recognize Tom Harruff, Glen Sholl, Mal Newborne for getting us here)* has been extraordinary and greatly appreciated. So I think I speak for us all, and certainly for Loretta and me, when I say **THANK YOU RON & MONICA!!!!** We appreciate all that you have done!

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.

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# Southwest Florida News & Notes

## “Cars & Coffee / Wash & Shine Detailing Clinic”

The 2nd MBCA SWFL meeting of August 2019, normally held at Perkins in Naples, was instead held at the **Mercedes Benz of Bonita Springs** dealership on Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was in conjunction with a “Cars & Coffee” and “Wash & Shine” detailing clinic and was well attended with close to 40 member participants, including 6 of our Ladies. The clinic was hosted by Graeme Morpeth and the Bonita Springs dealership, which provided Coffee, juice, fruit and doughnuts/bagels to our members. They also provided us with meeting space as well as a bay in the service area for demonstrations. Paul Viens of **Power of Excellence Detailing** in Gateway and our own President, Ron Cordeau, provided a detailed presentation of products and the best way to use them. Together they presented an interesting and informative program. Tips included using UV Protective soap if you’re not going to wax that day, blow drying to get where you can’t see or reach, denatured alcohol will remove pine sap, and silicon spray on tires will contribute to dry rot. Use UV Protective cream on tires instead. After the “classroom lecture” we moved out to the Service Area and got to experience how different stages of the detailing process looked and felt. Ron’s 1980 240D provided a “hands on” experience and showed us all how good a 39 year old car can look and how smooth the finish can feel. Touching was encouraged! *That NEVER happens!* The crowd was enthusiastic and asked questions. Ron was prepared with Handouts for our members’ future reference. We all learned something! Several positive comments were received from those in attendance. A big Thank You to Graeme Morpeth and Mercedes Benz of Bonita Springs, Paul Viens of **Power of Excellence Detailing**, and Ron Cordeau for his knowledge, enthusiasm and pulling this all together in a short period of time.





# News & Notes Continued

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Mercedes Benz Club of America, Southwest Florida Section



SOUTHWEST FLORIDA  
SECTION

## Ladies of Mercedes Event



Save the Date!

Return to Shangri-La Springs!

Saturday, January 11, 2020

Please join us at 11 AM for a docent lead Historic Walking Tour of Shangri-La Springs, then enjoy a delicious luncheon from the on-site organic restaurant, Harvest & Wisdom. There was a great response to this event last time. Seating is extremely limited. Look for more details to come soon!

---



### **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Talis Park**

**16665 Toscana Circle**

**Naples FL 34410**

**DECEMBER 1st, 2019**

**SAVE THE DATE!!**



## Upcoming Events 2019

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

October 26th	Cars 'n Coffee Rev's Institute 7:00 am to 11:00am
October 26th	Naples Luncheon Meeting Wahoo's Restaurant 475 North Rd Naples 11:30 am
November 9th	Breakfast Meeting Fort Myers; Perkins, Corner of US 41 and Six Mile Cypress 9:00am
November 23rd	Breakfast Meeting NAPLES; Perkins, Pine Ridge Rd. West of 75 9:00am
December 1st	Annual Christmas Party. Talis Park 6:00 pm
TBD	Road Trip and lunch to Muscle Car City Punta Gorda

#### 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.

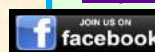
#### Southwest Florida Section MBCA On The Web!

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

and...

[http://www.facebook.com/pages/SW-Florida-](http://www.facebook.com/pages/SW-Florida-Mercedes-Benz-Club-of-America/258407040951839)

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



parting shot

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CARLOS DaSILVA

