



Sunshine STAR



Issue No. 5, 2018

MBCA | Southwest Florida Section

September/October 2018



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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 - October 13, November 10th



Naples area... Perkins on Pine Ridge
4th Saturday every month.
Next meetings - October 27th, November 24th

President's Perspective



The fall time of year is approaching. This begins the annual return of our snowbird friends from the north. I know I miss seeing my Canadian neighbors from down the street, but they will be here shortly. Soon our twice monthly breakfast meetings will be overflowing with members from all over the country. The events will be more active because of their participation. Our annual Holiday Party is always a highlight event, and the most popular of the year. This year Glen Sholl has contracted with Talis Park in North Naples as the host. This upscale location will even offer valet parking, as well as a dinner menu that will feature hors d'oeuvres and entrees that are impressive. It is set for Sunday, December 2nd.

We are in need of volunteers to serve on committees for the Club. With over 400+ members, our SW Florida section is one of the largest in the country. By creating, developing and staffing these committees, it will sustain our club's future and create succession. Being involved with the club and its activities, and interacting with members helps groom the next set of possible club directors and officers.

These committees may include:

Computer tech – this would involve working on MBCA and SWFL web sites. Activities need to be posted prior to and summarizing after events. This would also include social media such as Facebook, where we already have a presence. (...names pop up such as "Mario P. Dennis C. Jonathan C. and Jerry K.")

Car technical info – servicing and maintaining our nearly new, classic and older Mercedes-Benz. Discussing and researching parts, vendors, and articles of interest. (...names are appearing such as "Mike M. Gary E. Glen S. Peter B. Graeme M.")

Driving and Show events – Rally's, Caravans, Car Shows, Amelia Island road trip etc. (...I hear "Jack M. Dennis C. Peter B. Raymond B. Chet Y")

Social events – *Ladies of Mercedes*, Dinners and lunches, Restaurants and Shows, Plays, Picnics etc. (...I see names such as "Monica C. Anne H. Sonny B. Tom S. Joel and Sylvia T. Judith F.")

MBCA Events – Regional and National events. Participation and news. (...wonder if "Glen S. Mario P. Kirk J. James Klu." might consider helping with this)

Mercedes-Benz Automobile – trends, latest news and updates. (... Maybe "Curtiss A. or Graeme M." could do this??

.Members who have an interest or wish to discuss possible contributions are encouraged to contact me anytime. If you attend any of our events or breakfast meetings and happen to take one or more pictures, please share them with us.

Ron Cordeau



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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**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

Automotive Lighting

Since the dawn of the automobile, manufacturers have been striving to improve nighttime visibility by adding lighting to vehicles. As vehicle electrical systems evolved, automotive lighting technology moved to electrical lighting.

In the early 1960's saw the development in Europe of the Halogen bulb. Halogen automotive bulbs solved many of the problems with traditional tungsten incandescent bulbs but had some drawbacks. Halogen bulbs still have a limited service life and are susceptible to failures caused by vibration and impact. They are also not very energy efficient and generate high temperatures. Through the 1980's and 1990's, European companies such as Hella, Bosch and Valeo, continued to push the boundaries in lighting technology and design. First, through improvements in engineering and materials, new lens and reflector technologies were developed to improve performance of halogen light sources. In 1983 Hella introduced the first mass-produced projector beam, known as a "DE Projection Headlamp" developed for BMW. Other innovations included the introduction of reflector-based optics to create the light pattern, which feature optical elements included in the reflector rather than the lens as was previously required. This development significantly changed the look of modern headlights. Clear headlight lenses are taken for granted now but when they were introduced in the 80's the look was revolutionary.

The first major leap in automotive lighting technology since the Halogen bulb occurred in 1992, with the introduction of the first-generation Xenon High Intensity Discharge (HID) headlamps, again developed by Hella for BMW. HID lamps offered numerous benefits over incandescent light sources including a greatly increased light output and color temperature much closer to daylight, while at the same time using less energy and producing less heat. Additionally, because HID lamps do not have a filament like traditional bulbs, the service life is typically 2500+ hours of operation, compared to 500 hours or less for incandescent bulbs. The main drawback to HID lamps has always been the increased cost of the technology compared to traditional incandescent light sources.

While HID technology is still in use, in the last 10 years it has been surpassed by light-emitting diodes (LEDs). LED is generally thought of as a recent development, but LEDs have been around for years, in fact the first use as a vehicle light was in 1992 as a third brake light. Since then LEDs have been improving in efficiency, performance and output and the automotive market has seen explosion of use for both interior and exterior vehicle lighting. LEDs have allowed automotive lights to be designed in sizes and shapes never before possible, all while consuming significantly less power than other lighting sources. As the technology improved, the early 2000's saw the first LED headlamps being offered in standard production vehicles. The first all-LED headlamp in the US, manufactured by Hella, was offered beginning in 2009 on the Cadillac Escalade. In the time since, LED headlamps have become standard on a wide range of vehicles from European luxury sedans to pickup trucks to economy cars. The history of automotive lighting has paved the way for a truly bright future!



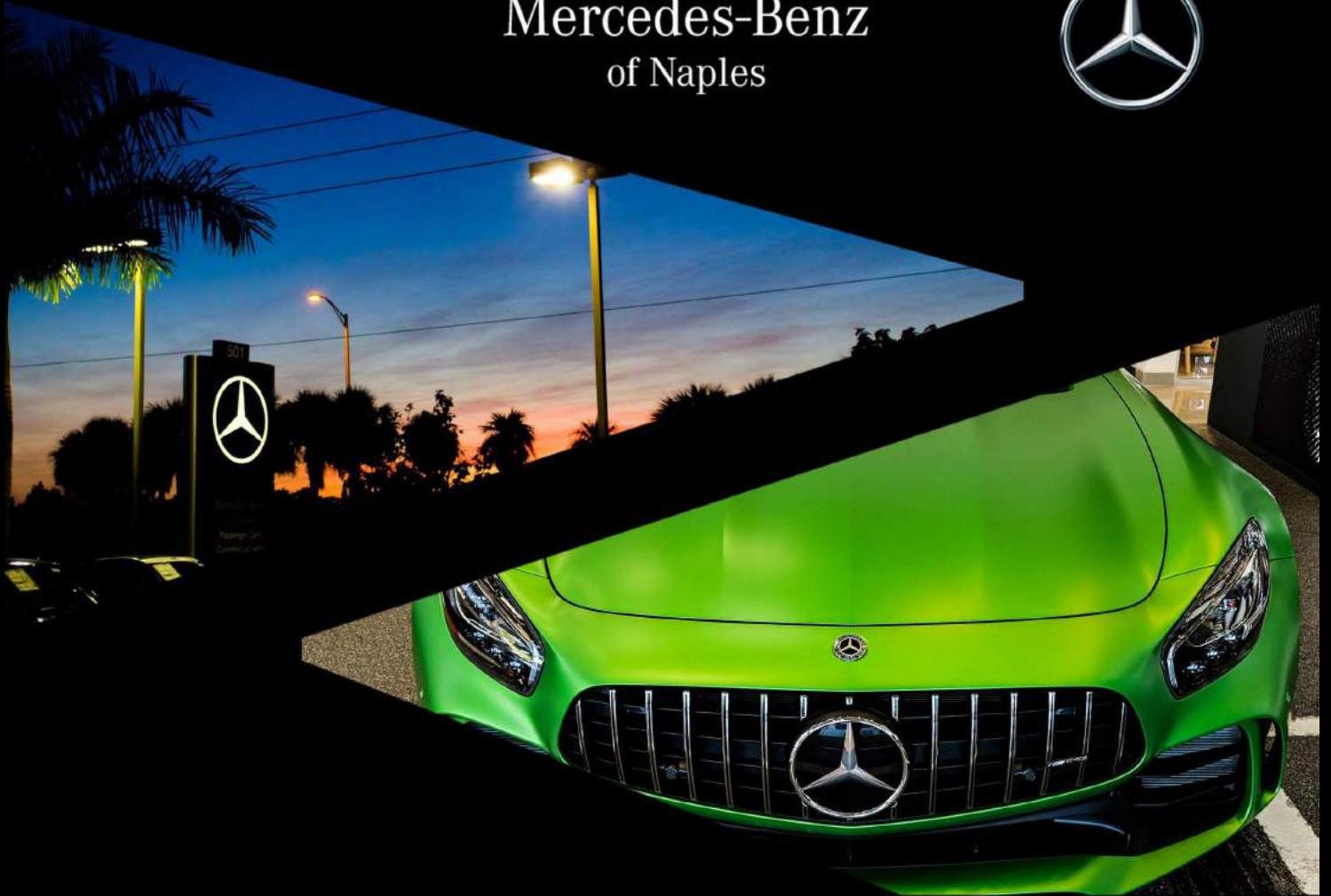
And Here's What's Coming !

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



DICK DAVIS

Dick has been a Mercedes enthusiast for a very long time. In fact, his very first Mercedes Benz was a 1977 300 D. He became enamored of these fine automobiles when he spotted a 1950's 300 Adenauer while looking at cars with his Dad. Dick was 11 years old at the time, and has been in love with the brand ever since. Over the years he has proudly owned 18 different MBs and it is still a passion that burns to this day.

Along with his lovely wife Carol (who he met in 1962 while still in high school) they currently split their time between Florida and Wisconsin where Dick owned a string of successful retail furniture stores. He has since turned the business over to his son, but he still likes to visit the stores occasionally while summering up north.

Of the 18 Benz's he's owned his favorites have easily been the 124 series as he counts 4 of them as past possessions. A 1992 300CE, a 1993 CE Cabriolet, a 1994 E320 and a 1995 E300 D Special Edition. The car he misses the most? His iconic 1980 450SL which he bought in 1997 and sold in 2006, only to buy it back in 2010, and resell it in 2016. I've seen the car, and she was a beauty!

Dick has been involved with the MBCA extensively for years, even serving as president of the Iowa Hawkeye section of the Midwest region from 2002-2003. He has participated in dozens of events, lending his time and business expertise to help foster the success of both local and regional events.

His proudest Mercedes Moment? Winning the best in show award at the Iowa Hawkeye section's annual car show a few years ago.

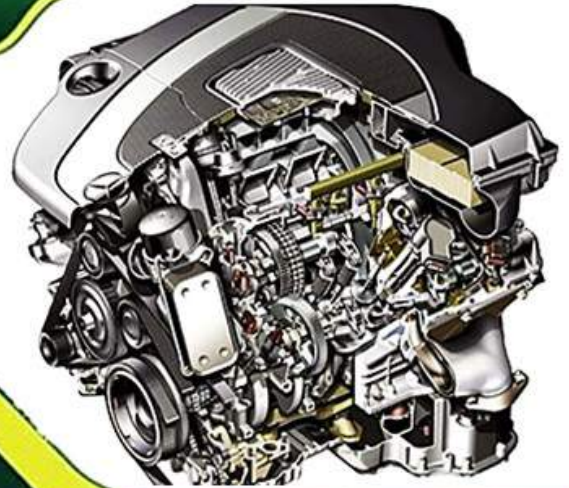
So the next time you are at a Naples Breakfast meeting, seek out one Mr. Dick Davis (he's usually there in winter, wearing his cap) and say hello. It will no doubt lead to a lasting friendship for you as it has for me. He's that kind of great guy!

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Editorial...

First of all, please accept my apologies for this issue of the newsletter being a bit tardy. Loretta and I were away for the better part of September enjoying a cruise around the British Isles. The cruise was great, the towns and cities we visited were superb, and the weather was pretty good...typical sun, wind, and spotty rain that seems to always be prevalent in that part of the world! Of particular note, throughout the trip we had cause to utilize roughly 8 to 10 transfers and cab rides. With the exception of 2 cabs (in downtown London) every vehicle we had was a....Mercedes Benz!! Use of the Mercedes Benz "V" class is obviously very popular (and very comfortable!) With the exception of right hand drive, I felt right at home in the familiar surroundings of Mercedes function and style.

It was good to see that those folks in the United Kingdom appreciate the same

style, reliability, and elegance that we all do here in the States!

Moving along, this issue marks the beginning of the fall holiday season. Oktoberfest, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Our days will be busy with things to do, places to be, and people to see. It also marks the beginning of the "Busy" season for our club. Events, dinners, car shows, and festivities will all be ratcheted up. To that end, I encourage you to participate as much as your schedule allows. To borrow the phrase, "THE MORE THE MERRIER" and it is your presence and participation that makes all the hard work to organize various events worthwhile. Our Annual Christmas party is always a memorable event and one of the highlights of our club calendar. This year, thanks to the amazing efforts of Glen Sholl, it will be held at a new venue, Talis Park in North Naples. Expectations are high and I am

sure Glen and President Ron will appreciate a BIG turnout to validate the solidity and success of our club to the management of Talis Park. Loretta and I will see you there!!

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 or call 800.637.2360 weekdays 8am-4:30pm Mtn Time.

**More Than a Car Club.
We're a Community.sm**

On the plane

A businessman travels on the plane, first class. He tries to start a conversation with beautiful stewardess:

-What's your name?

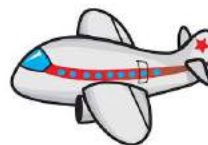
-Angela Benz, sir.

-That is a beautiful name! Is there any connection with Mercedes Benz?

-Yes, sir. A very close one.

-How close?

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NAME(S) _____

No. of Tickets _____ X \$65.00 = Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 10/16/18

MBCA SWFL

CHRISTMAS PARTY

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 2ND, 2018**

6:00PM COCKTAILS 7:00 PM DINNER

**Talis Park
16980 Livingston Rd.
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Cocktails 6:00pm Dinner 7:00pm**

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Classified Ads: Member, M-B cars or parts, no charge. Limit 6 lines with or without one picture.

Non-member, M-B cars or parts, \$10.00 per issue. Limit 6 lines. Picture with ad, \$15.00 per issue.

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

CLASSIFIEDS CONTINUED



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**CONTACT Michael Mariotti
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Upcoming Events 2018

Southwest Florida Section, Mercedes-Benz Club of America

October 1st	German Fest Dinner Black Forest Restaurant Naples
October 13	Breakfast Meeting; Perkins Ft Myers; 6 mile Cypress & US 41 9:00am
October 27	Breakfast Meeting; Perkins Naples; Pine Ridge Rd Just west of 75 9:00am
October 27	Joint Caravan w/ AACA From Perkins to the Museum of the Everglades. Lunch Afterward
November 2	Broadway Palm Dinner Theater. 42nd St. Colonial Blvd, Ft Myers 5:30pm (See Flyer In This Issue)
November 10	Breakfast Meeting; Perkins Ft. Myers, 6 Mile Cypress & US 41 9:00am
November 24	Breakfast Meeting; Perkins Naples, Pine Ridge Rd west of 75 9:00am
December 2	Annual Christmas Party Talis Park N. Naples 6:00pm (See Flyer In This Issue)

THOUGHTS TO PONDER From Peter Blackford

The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.
 Money will buy a fine dog but only kindness will make him wag his tail.
 If you don't have a sense of humor you probably don't have any sense at all.
 Seat belts are not as confining as wheelchairs.
 A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.
 How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?
 Business conferences are important because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without.
 Why is it that at school reunions you feel younger than everyone else looks?
 Stroke a cat and you will have a permanent job.
 No one has more driving ambition than the teenage boy who wants to buy a car.
 There are no new sins; the old ones just get more publicity.
 There are worse things than getting a call for a wrong number at 4 am; for example, it could be the right number.
 No one ever says "It's only a game" when their team is winning.
 Be careful about reading the fine print, there's no way you're going to like it.
 The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody needs the same size bucket.
 Do you realize that, in about 40 years, we'll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos?
 Money can't buy happiness but somehow it's more comfortable to cry in a Mercedes than in a Ford.
 After 60 if you don't wake up aching in every joint, you're probably dead.
 Always be yourself because the people that matter don't mind, and the ones that mind don't matter.
 Life isn't tied with a bow but it's still a gift.
 And remember, "Politicians and diapers should be changed often and for the same reason..."

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.

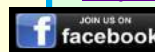
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<http://southwestflorida.mbca.org/>

and...

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