



# Sunshine STAR



Issue No. 1, 2019

**MBCA | Southwest Florida Section**

January/February 2019



<i><b>In This Issue:</b></i>	Page
President's Column + Contacts	2
Membership Report	3
Picnic Flyer	6
Editorial	8
Classified	11
Calendar	12
Amelia Island Info.	14



**"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 - February 9th, March 9th



**Naples area... Perkins on Pine Ridge Rd.**  
4th Saturday every month.  
Next meetings - February 23, March 23

## President's Perspective



This is our first newsletter of the 2019 year, and we look forward to many good events and meetings for all to enjoy and participate. Of course we have traditional events that occur annually, but we will enjoy some new ones as well. We try to schedule as much as possible in the time that our snowbirds are with us up until about April, so that all can enjoy the car and social events.

February will have the Cars on 5<sup>th</sup> Show on the 9<sup>th</sup>, and we will be returning to a private group session at RENNtech on the other coast on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. On Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will offer our Annual Picnic which is normally a few weeks later, but we only had certain dates to lock up at Lakes Park. This is a great event that is always fun, but will be even better because of the cooler weather in early March. Our annual trek to Amelia Island Concours is from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup>. We have a group that travels together on a Thursday, stops at an interesting venue, stays overnight, and arrives in Amelia on Friday. Following the Sunday show, we drive a short distance to St. Augustine where we dine, sleep and tour the next day before driving home. Our member Peter Blackford is a superb guide and plans a perfectly detailed trip that is always enjoyable. On April 6<sup>th</sup>, Monica has planned a *Ladies of Mercedes* event that Anne Harruff suggested and will assist. They will go to the Baker Museum in Naples for an interesting exhibit and lunch. And our Annual Car Show in Ft. Myers will be at the dealership on Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing many of you at these events!

All the best to you in the new year. To your health, safety, and happiness!!

Ron Cordeau



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Hank Webb hankwebb58@bellsouth.net

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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

**Since our last newsletter our club has added 12 new members. Unfortunately we had 10 members who did not renew, but we did have 47 members that *did* renew making our new total membership right at 407 members.**

**As always, I encourage you to get out there and invite any and everybody you think might be interested in our club to sign up! Let's shoot for 500 members!!**

**Tom Harruff; Membership Chair**

### **IN CASE YOU MISSED IT. Naples Breakfast Meeting, 26 January, 2019**

Curtiss Alden of MB Naples made a case for always finding a qualified mechanic for your Mercedes. He told us that as of 2003 the electrical systems in the 1800 cars that were produced daily in Sindelfingen, Germany contained anywhere from 1-3 MILES of wire depending on the model. Can't imagine trying to trace those connections!

Upcoming events were discussed:

Peter Blackford talked about the Amelia Island trip coming up in March. Lunch and Tampa Auto Museum tour is planned for on the way up. We need to get an accurate count of members who will be joining us ASAP.

Glen Sholl is planning a trip to Renntech in Stuart, FL scheduled for Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Renntech is not normally open on Saturday, but Mr. Hartmutt has graciously invited us back this year. Jonathon Casimini enthusiastically shared his perspective of Renntech based on the last visit. It is a cool place to experience. We'll get detailed information for that out ASAP.

Our annual picnic is set for March 3, 2019 at Lakes Park. 24 Members have already sent in their reservations! It should be a great time. Flyers and reservation forms are available.

On Saturday, April 6, 2019 the Ladies of Mercedes will tour the Isabelle de Borchgrave: Fashioning Art from Paper exhibit at Hayes Hall on the Artis-Naples campus. Lunch to follow at the Brio Tuscan Grille in the Waterside Shoppes, just a short walk from the exhibit. Flyers for this event are now available.

Peter and Josie Lesler are back in town. It was good to see them! Peter spoke of upcoming Concours. He also said that there is talk of bringing Star Tech to Melbourne, FL in Sept.

In closing the meeting Mal Newbourne stood up and offered kudos to Peter and Josie Lesler and Tom and Anne Harruff, stating that they are the core of the club. They have certainly laid a good foundation for the rest of us to build on moving forward.

Stay warm ☐

Monica Cordeau





SOUTHWEST FLORIDA  
SECTION

## Southwest Florida Section Ladies of Mercedes Event

*Save the Date!*

# Artis—Naples

*The Baker Museum*

**Isabelle de Borchgrave:**

## Fashioning Art from Paper



This exhibition celebrates de Borchgrave's unique life-sized costumes created from the careful manipulation of paper and paint. Drawing inspiration from contemporaneous paintings and historical costumes, each work provides a window into fashion of the early modern European period from elaborate gowns to whimsical costumes.

Our Ladies of Mercedes event is planned for

**Saturday April 6, 2019**

**Museum Tour at 10:00 AM**

**Lunch to follow at 11:30 AM**

**Brio's Tuscan Grille In the Waterside Shops**

- Please contact Monica Cordeau, 239-322-9813, as soon as possible with your interest in attending this Ladies of Mercedes event. Paid Reservations must be received by March 21, 2019. Cost per person is \$10 for the museum tour and \$20 for lunch at Brio's for \$30 total. Lunch will include a selection of soups, salads and pastas. Payment is Non-refundable.

Not just for the Ladies, Gentlemen are most welcome to attend.

Artis—Naples is in Naples west of Rt. 41 and just North of Pine Ridge Road, at 5833 Pelican Bay Blvd. Due to renovations at the Baker Museum this exhibit will be located inside Hayes Hall. (See attached map)

\*\*\*\* NOTE: Small bags only, no cameras and luncheon prices include non-alcoholic beverages only!



**~ SWFL MBCA Ladies of Mercedes Museum Tour & Luncheon~  
Saturday, April 6, 2019 at 10 AM**

**Send this RESERVATION and your check payable to SWFL/MBCA to:**

**Monica Cordeau 12969 Turtle Cove Trl, North Ft. Myers FL 33903**

Member(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Guests: \_\_\_\_\_ Total number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Final reservation date is March 21, 2019**



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## SWFL MBCA 6th Annual End of the Season Picnic

Sunday, March 3, 2019, 12:30 PM, Lakes Park  
Lakes Regional Park 7330 Gladiolus Dr. Ft. Myers FL 33908

Wish our snowbirds and second-section members 'Auf Wiedersehen' and a safe trip North with hugs, handshakes and a bountiful spread of good food, and still just \$12 per person!

**WHERE:** Lakes Park, Ft. Myers, in Pavilion D-1.

**WHAT:** *Famous Dave's Legendary Pit Bar-B-Que*. The menu includes barbecued chicken, St. Louis style ribs, sliced brisket, pulled pork, corn on the cob, green beans, Cole slaw, baked beans, corn bread and fries. Come hungry! Bring a dessert to share, if you wish!

The cost of the meal is subsidized by the Southwest Florida Section, so the price per person, including soft drinks, hasn't changed...just \$12 per person. Guests are welcome, of course.



**WHEN:** Sunday, March 3, 2019. Lunch 1:00 PM—4:00 PM, but we have the pavilion *all day*.

Parking is \$1 per hour or \$5 per day, at a kiosk in the parking areas by credit card or cash. Lee County annual parking stickers are accepted. Alcohol and pets are prohibited in the park.

**RSVP and payment by February 20, 2019**, to Joel and Sylvia Taub. Questions? 239-549-0435, [taub.joel@gmail.com](mailto:taub.joel@gmail.com)

Lots to do at the park if you come early, or stay after the picnic. 279 acres with 158 acres of freshwater quarry lake. Good fishing for bass, bream and other fresh and saltwater species. See more at [www.leeparks.org](http://www.leeparks.org)



~ SWFL MBCA 6th Annual End of the Season Picnic 2019 ~

Send this **RESERVATION** and your check payable to **SWFL/MBCA** to:

Joel Taub, 5312 SW 8th Court, Cape Coral, FL 33914



Member(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Guests: \_\_\_\_\_ Total number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed, Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Final reservation date is February 20, 2019**

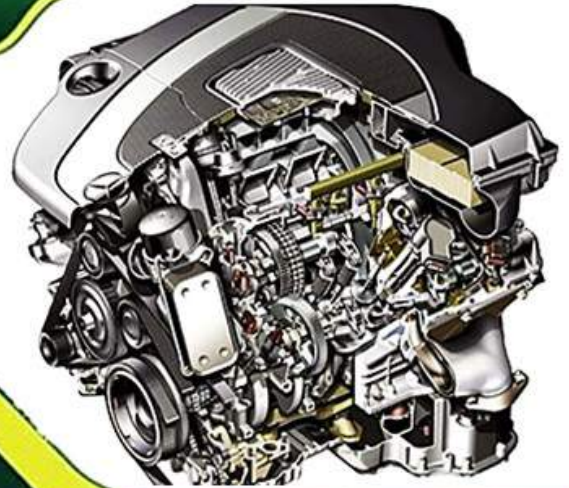


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## Editorial...

Here we are. Well on our way into the New Year. It's hard to believe that a month has already gone by! So many things happening, so many things to do, so many people to see (already have had dinner with a few of them). Personal schedules to keep, and club events to look forward to. Before we know it, the dog days of summer will be upon us again!

One of the best things about this time of year, especially where it concerns our club, is that we get to renew acquaintances with club members we haven't seen for a while. As Monica Cordeau mentioned in her piece on the last Naples breakfast meeting, it was great to see Peter and Josie Lessler again. They are such an instrumental part of our club, especially at the National level, that it is almost an honor to have them in our section. We know

know that Peter has had some health issues and it is great to see him back on his feet, picking up right where he left off!

I too have had a couple of health issues and it serves as a reminder that, as we move down the road, we need to be as aware of maintenance to ourselves as that of our cars! Just as with your beloved Mercedes, be sure to schedule that all important "tune-up" at regularly scheduled intervals! Don't put it off!

While this issue of our newsletter looks pretty much the same as always, I am considering ways to "change it up" a bit and give it a bit of a new look. Not that this current look is a bad one, but I guess it's just my creative juices flowing that have me feeling like it might be nice to fiddle a bit. We do have some constraints as it relates to MBCA national and what we cannot

can and cannot do with the content herein, but it does have the possibility for change. Where I'm going with this is that it is **YOUR** newsletter, and I am open to suggestion regarding what you like, don't like, and would like to see added. My email address is listed on page two of this publication so, feel free to drop me a note with your thoughts. I welcome them! ENJOY THE YEAR!

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

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**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2019  
7:00 AM**

**MBCA SWFL Section trip to *RENNtech*!**

We will be leaving as a group from the Cracker Barrel on I-75 exit 141 at 7:00 AM

Trip will take ~3 hours, and the meeting will begin at *RENNtech* @ **10:30 AM**. We have a special presentation by Service Manager John Bologna. It will be a fun drive and exciting tour.

***RENNtech***

7825 SW Ellipse Way  
Stuart, FL 34997

<https://renntechmercedes.com>

(visit their website to check out all that they do!)

***RENNtech***<sup>®</sup>  
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All are welcome to come, however *RENNtech* would like an approximate number of participants to plan for (during our past visit light refreshments were provided). If you are going with us please let us know by email ASAP to Glen Sholl [gsholl@comcast.net](mailto:gsholl@comcast.net) and Ron Cordeau [roncor@hotmail.com](mailto:roncor@hotmail.com) so that we can provide an approximate "count" to *RENNtech*. Any questions or suggestions call Glen Sholl at 239-272-1328

*RENNtech* has become the premier Mercedes-Benz specialist and Hartmut Feyhl himself is regarded by many as USA's foremost authority in Mercedes tuning. His vast experience comes from 12 years spent at AMG Germany before serving as the North American division's Technical Director. Prior to the tuning company's merger with Mercedes-Benz in 1999, by the request of AMG Germany, Feyhl branched out on his own to start *RENNtech* and service the existing AMG North America customers.

Performance without compromise. This is the foundation upon which we have built our reputation. Established in 1989 by Hartmut Feyhl, *RENNtech* has evolved and grown from servicing AMG's customers into the foremost authority on tuning and customizing AMGs and Mercedes-Benz. *RENNtech* also offers tuning solutions for Porsche, Audi and Bentley vehicles, along with other European luxury cars.

Over the years, we have developed high-performance products for virtually all Mercedes-Benz AMG vehicles. Some of the most notable among these are the 200 mph *RENNtech* E7.4RS (which claimed 'Fastest Sedan in the World' honors by Car and Driver Magazine in 1996) and the more recent 945 LB-FT 5.5L V8 Biturbo *RENNtech* R3+ Monster. Each of these vehicles are just a sampling of what *RENNtech* has achieved, featuring extreme performance, upgraded aesthetics and a fit and finish that rivals factory vehicles.



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**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.**



## Upcoming Events 2018

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

February 9th	Breakfast Meeting; Perkins Ft Myers; 6 mile Cypress & US 41 9:00am
February 9th	Cars on 5th Naples
February 16th	Pelican Preserve Car Show
February 23	Breakfast Meeting; Perkins Naples; Pine Ridge Rd 9:00am
February 23	Renntech Stuart Florida (see page 10)
March 3rd	Club Picnic Lakes Park Ft. Myers (see page 6)
March 3rd	B.I.G. (British, Italian, German) Car Show Cape Coral
March 7-10	Amelia Island Caravan, Cars & Coffee, and Concours
March 9th	Breakfast Meeting; Perkins Ft. Myers 6 Mile Cypress & US 41 9:00am
March 23rd	Breakfast Meeting Naples; Pine Ridge Rd. 9:00am
April 13th	Breakfast Meeting Perkins Ft. Myers 6 Milke Cypress and US 41 9:00am
April 16th	Ladies Of Mercedes Baker Museum Exhibit
April 20th	Club Car Show Mercedes Benz of Fort Myers
April 23	Breakfast Meeting Perkins Naples Pine Ridge Rd. 9:00am

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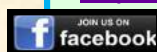
The Club and our own Section use electronic communications and we email our newsletters. So be sure to let the NBO know of any changes to your email address to ensure up to date information with both the NBO and your Section. Contact Membership Services with your updates... [mbca.org](http://mbca.org) 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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**March 2019**

## **MBCA: 2019 Amelia Island mini-tour by Peter Blackford**

### **Return to Amelia**

On the extended weekend of March 7-11 we will once again be touring up to the Amelia Island Concours. The drive will begin early Thursday morning at our "usual" stepping off place - Cracker Barrel located at Exit 141 on I-75.

From there we will proceed north to (TBD) where we will enjoy lunch at (also TBD). [This year's side-tour will remain a mystery, for a short time....] This will be followed by a short drive to our evening stop, at a nearby hotel to be designated. [but none of the foregoing is as time-critical as what follows]

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 preview) arriving at **in Jacksonville:**

**DoubleTree by Hilton Jacksonville Airport**  
**2101 Dixie Clipper Drive**  
**Jacksonville FL 32218, US**  
**T: +1 9047411997**

where you need to make a reservation (no rooms blocked this year, so first-come and all that) - and breakfast is provided each day.

Friday evening we will have a group dinner, to be arranged....

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 on Saturday, and if you are accepted as a participant you'll also get free parking on the lawn.

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](http://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. In the evening there will likely 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) **[again, make your reservations ASAP, and plan an extra day there if you want to enjoy St. Augustine].** and night of the 10th (more, if you wish) at

**Hampton Inn & Suites St. Augustine-Vilano Beach**  
**95 Vilano Road**  
**Saint Augustine FL 32084, US**  
**T: +1 9048279797**

This will find us closer to home, where we can enjoy dinner close to the hotel.

For more info and details contact me at: [priuspete@gmail.com](mailto:priuspete@gmail.com)