



Sunshine STAR



Issue No. 2, 2020

MBCA | Southwest Florida Section

March/April



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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.

Postponed until Further Notice



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

Postponed until Further Notice

President's Perspective



It was on a Friday the 13th of March, and Tom, one of our members, sent me an email asking if we were still planning on having our breakfast meeting the following day. A range of thoughts ran through my mind: 'we shouldn't show any fear, this virus scare was being overblown by the hysterical media, it's not a big deal – just a breakfast meeting with people we know'. So I replied that *yes it was still on even in these crazy times*. It was a 50/50 call and I thought the club would send a message that "life goes on and we have a positive attitude".

But then, plans were changing hourly... and our life and habits would never be the same from here on. There was no need to change the message and reply to Tom. Now we were being told that it would be unwise and possibly dangerous to gather together in a group with close contact. I felt comfortable with the ultra cautious decision to cancel because soon after that, this was supported by numerous organizations. Besides political correctness, if there was even a small remote chance that someone might become ill, the liability would be too great.

Slowly, the reality and details of upcoming events began to emerge. All Sports events where crowds gather were cancelled, even established and historical events like the Master's golf tournament in Georgia always held on the second weekend in April. That's when it started to sink in that whatever was going on was serious. Our little local events like the car show in Ft Myers and the annual end of season picnic were not only postponed, they were cancelled until further notice and have become insignificant in the scheme of things. Sure I'll miss the camaraderie of being with my friends. And it is disappointing to cancel future events "until further notice". But these are just minor inconveniences compared to the thought of how businesses small and large are being affected. Individual's earnings and the ability to provide for their families are hardest hit. So much sadness and cruel futures for so many. Of course the club will do its best to conduct future meetings and events for the enjoyment and participation of the members. *More importantly is the health and welfare of our group and mankind.*

Who knows what brought these chain of events to happen....possible conspiracies? The end result is a devastating blow to our economy, and putting the upcoming elections in uncharted waters.

Although we may not be happy with what has transpired and can only speculate on how we move on from here. The forecasts and modeling platforms to project the extent and impact were flawed and misinformed. This negative impact has led to policies that burden us all. So what are our choices? -fear? -shut down? -for how long? Yes, we have had a timeout, and need to reflect and reset. We must face the future with a positive approach and resolve to move on with the landscape changed forever.

Our power has been taken away. Take your power back, beyond any virus that's ever existed.

Our best wishes to all of you and your families, friends and loved ones. Stay strong in your resolve and adapt a positive attitude to handle what is next.

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.

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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**

In Good Hands!

Submitted by Joel Taub

My wife, Sylvia and I have enjoyed our 2004 Mercedes-Benz SLK 230 Kompressor for the past 14 years. To date, it has covered less than 50,000 miles, and has been a trouble-free fun car. Our SLK's appearance demonstrates that this car has been a pampered "garage queen".

Despite my continual pampering efforts, however, the leather on the SLK's steering wheel had not withstood the test of time. In fact, the leather on the steering wheel betrayed the overall excellent condition of the SLK. The leather had developed unsightly cracks, and small divots. For the occasional show where I entered the SLK, I covered the leather flaws on the wheel with either liquid or paste shoe polish. It worked fairly well, but soon wore off (as well as getting on my hands).

I considered buying a new OEM steering wheel, but the cost was prohibitive. Furthermore, the integral airbag made installing it a job best left to a professional, which increased the cost further. One fortuitous day, I was discussing my problem with Ron Cordeau, the President of our Section. Ron has had experience with the same leather steering wheel problem (which should not have surprised me, since Ron and his wife Monica own or have owned a number of gorgeous classic Mercedes cars!). Ron showed me the steering wheel on his beautiful 1991 420 SEL, and I could not tell that it had a leather cover on the steering wheel! The color was perfect, the texture of the leather was perfect. Ron told me the leather cover on his car came from "wheelskins.com". Ron graciously offered to help me install the *wheelskins* cover on my SLK.

The new leather cover for my SLK arrived within a week. The price was very reasonable - \$59.00 including shipping! I read over the directions, which seemed straightforward enough, and indicated the job should take about an hour. I made plans with Ron to do the work in his garage.

It was obvious to me that Ron was very familiar with the *wheelskins* product and how to install it. He carefully placed it correctly on the SLK's wheel. Stitching the cover on with the leather thread was not quite as easy as it looked. Also, I quickly discovered why the instructions said to wear gloves when doing the stitching. Even with Ron's experience and expert guidance, it took about 4 hours to install the cover.

The *wheelskins* cover was definitely worth the time and cost. The SLK's steering wheel looks beautiful, and feels great, too. I highly recommend this product.



Membership Report

Active Members 371 (as of 4-6-2020)

New 8

Lost 15

Renewed 54

New Members since last newsletter:

Margaret	Stengel
John/Angela	Sergeant
Jeffrey	Hulanick
Kenneth/Aurelie	Lewis
Edward	Green
David	Welch
Keith	Messery
Sara	Archambo

Submitted By:

TOM HARRUFF
Membership Chair
Past President





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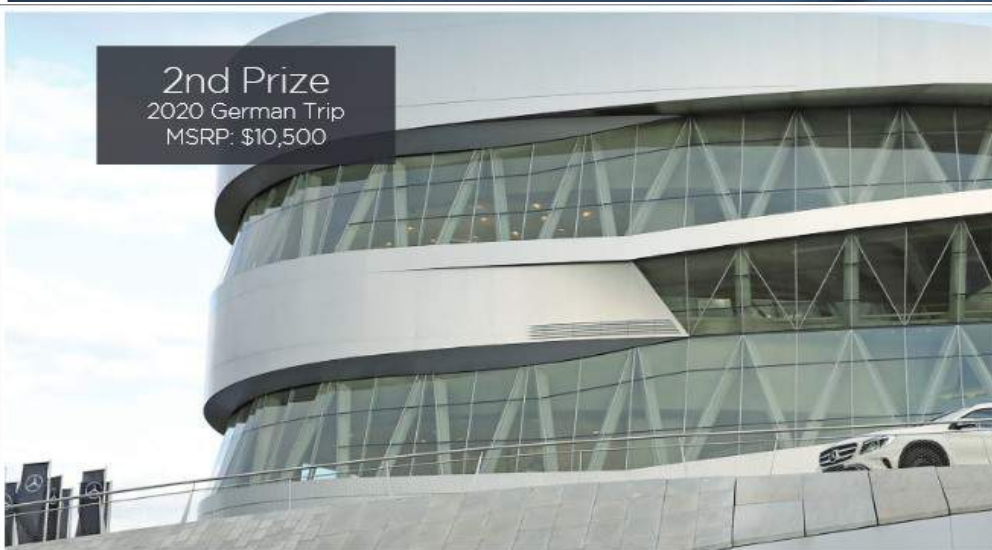


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3. Void where prohibited by law.
4. An Official Order form, or copy thereof, must be used to purchase tickets when ordering by mail. Order forms have been mailed to members and are also available upon request from the National Business Office (NBO) or at www.mbca.org. Mail order form requests to: Raffle, 1907 Lelaray Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80909.
5. Ticket orders must be received no later than June 17, 2020. Ticket orders and checks arriving after June 17, 2020 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 5754 South Dundas Road, Beaverton, MI 48612 at 10:30 a.m. ET on June 25, 2020. Any MBCA member may attend the drawing; attendance is not required to win. Results will be posted at 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 R57666.
13. A minimum of 5,535 tickets MUST BE SOLD to award prizes. 1st place will receive \$127,900 less 25% tax-withholdings; 2nd place will receive \$10,500 less 25% tax-withholdings. The 1st prize winner will shop for their vehicle at the dealership of their choice. The 2nd prize will receive a check that may be applied towards the registration of a 2020 German trip. **If fewer than 5,535 tickets are sold, 1st prize will receive 90% of one-half (50%) of the gross raffle ticket sales; and 2nd 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 90% 1st prize and 10% 2nd 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 prize winner will select the vehicle of their choice at a U.S. Dealership designated (see rule #13). Any expenses incurred to take possession of the vehicle, which exceed the 1st prize payment check awarded to the Dealer, will be the sole responsibility of the 1st 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 2020.
16. If fewer than 5,535 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 and 2nd 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.
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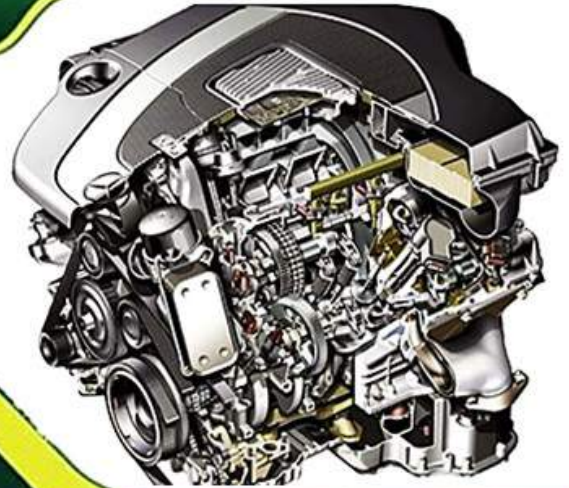
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Editorial...

Well, well, well. What a fine predicament we find all of ourselves in. Most of us sitting at home, not knowing what is to come next. Wondering how long this pandemic will continue. Worrying if we have enough toilet paper to last until the shelves are once again full, and then trying to figure out just how we can collect said toilet paper (not to mention groceries) when it does become available. Haven't we been told to stay home? These times are so unique. Everything is shut down, and frankly, so was my mind beginning to. I found it hard to apply myself to simple tasks at home, let alone this newsletter. But then I realized, all of you are in some way or manner in the same boat. Most likely, you are thirsting for something to occupy your mind and take you to a place of peace and inspiration.

What better vehicle than this, our Club's newsletter? Even if for only a moment, let your thoughts drift to happier times and things...our MERCEDES BENZ'S!

So, it is with great exuberance that I have re-energized myself to bring you this edition of our bi-monthly tome. Admittedly it will be more abbreviated than usual. We have a shortage of material to work with! Nothing is going on! But with the content that IS here, I will try and create a sense of excitement, interest, and wonderment revolving around our favorite automobile marque.

This edition represents the time of year that is the "season of renewal". Winter bids adieu, the trees and flowers begin to bloom, the holiest of holy days is upon us, and with a positive attitude and God's grace, we will see this thing through!

Before long, we will be back in our cars, enjoying meeting each other once again, and will all have an inner sense of pride and thankfulness that we have weathered the storm and come out the other side better than ever! Hang in there!

HAPPY SPRING!!

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.

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The 2020 Mercedes-Benz GLB250 Nails the Size and Shape ... and Most Everything Else

Reprinted from the April 2, 2020 edition of Autoweek Magazine
Jake Lingeman, Author



[Mercedes-Benz](#) introduces a new vehicle to its line like clockwork every few years, and normally I meet that with a [resounding yawn](#) or, alternatively, [outrage](#). I vary between the two. But when the new [GLB](#) came out last year I was cautiously optimistic. I like the size, just an inch or so smaller than the GLC (though I still don't understand why Benz needs a vehicle for every integer of length), I like the shape (it reminds me of the old GLK) and the engine output, at least, was agreeable. [And holy smokes, it offers three rows!?](#)

Both the [GLB250](#) and 4Matic options get a 221-hp, 258-lb-ft of torque turbocharged 2.0-liter I4 with an eight-speed dual-clutch transmission. 4Matics are all-wheel drive; base GLBs are front-wheel drive. Top speed is 130, and it feels like one could get there. I did not. The 4Matic gets to 60 mph in 6.9 seconds.

I like the output of this four-cylinder engine, but like the other vehicles across the company's range with the turbo-four, it just doesn't feel or sound like a Mercedes. This engine is buzzy, and sound comes through the GLB250's firewall in the higher rev ranges. It's particularly noticeable because the engine likes to rev: In normal mode, if you put the pedal down past halfway it revs almost to redline before shifting. In sport mode, it goes there almost every time. The amount of force makes it feel quick, but the delivery of said force feels a little jerky.

And it's not just the GLB250's eight-speed DCT. I actually thought it was a sportily tuned torque-converter automatic until I read the specs. The last few feet of braking, as well as the first few feet of takeoff, feel quite normal. But when you hammer the GLB midrange, it jerks forward and the engine wails until the next shift comes.

As for handling, the Mercedes GLB is a little closer to what you would imagine a Mercedes to be. The steering takes a medium effort, though it's generally direct, and most bumps are absorbed without complaint. The drive mode select button tightens up the adaptive dampers in sport mode, firming the ride, and, along with the higher shift points, makes the GLB250 feel much sportier. The small/medium overall size of this SUV helps here, too. It doesn't feel like you're trying to launch a land yacht around the corners like some of the company's bigger vehicles.

My GLB250 4Matic tester only had two rows of seating, but there was a ton of space in the rear cargo area for an office-worth of stuff. The GLB has more space than the slightly longer [GLC](#) in the cargo area.

From the driver's perch, there's a long screen that stretches from the central infotainment area over to where the instrument cluster would be, and it all looks great. You can change menus by touching the center screen, if that's what you like, but there's also a touchpad for the one person who likes those. [You can also say "Hey, Mercedes," but I'd advise against it.](#) The interior appointments are good, but the seats look and feel a step below the aforementioned [GLC](#). Of course, the GLB starts at about \$37K. Also, the visors don't extend to block the sun if it's on your right shoulder. I hate that.

Mercedes says the GLB competes against the [BMW X1](#), which is a full 6 inches shorter; it measures almost the same length as the [Land Rover Discovery Sport](#). This Mercedes is the best looking of those three to me. The Discovery Sport has a little more power at 246 hp. The X1 makes 228 hp. If you like a blockier luxury SUV/crossover, the GLB250 is a good choice. It's also a good choice if you need more space than the [Audi Q3](#) or BMW X1, but don't want to shell out for the GLC/BMW X3-size level. Just turn the radio up a little to drown out the engine noise and you'll be fine.

2020 Mercedes-Benz GLB250 4Matic Specs

Base Price: \$36,600 (FWD); \$38,600 (4Matic) **Drivetrain:** 2.0-liter turbocharged I4, eight-speed dual-clutch transmission, AWD **Output:** 221 hp @ 5,500 rpm; 258 lb-ft @ 1,800-4,000 rpm **FUEL MILEAGE;** (City/Highway/Combined) 23/31/27

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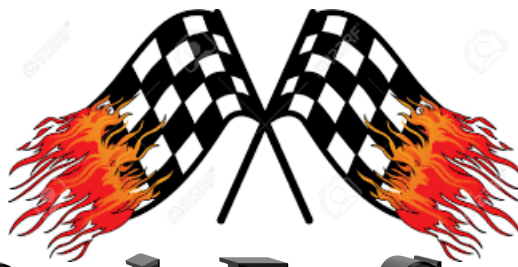
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Are You Ready For Some Racing?

*As you probably know, Mercedes Benz has recently made a major corporate commitment to participate in Formula E racing. Already a seemingly invincible juggernaut in Formula 1, the company's commitment to Formula E signals that they are equally focused on blazing new horizons but, at the same time, are using the experience as a "testing" laboratory for the exploration and trial of EV (electric vehicle) technology for use in the passenger car market. The following is an article written by Atidya Devendran of **DRIVETRIBE**, a publication dedicated to all things Formula 1.*

Editor



Formula 1 Mercedes



Formula E Mercedes

Formula 1 vs Formula E: The most pointless discussion in all of motor sport.

If you have been on the internet at least once in the past 2 months, you might be aware of this frankly, pointless debate. So I shall now proceed to break this argument down and show everyone why it is total BS.

The noise. The number of times this has been brought up can't really be counted.... And there is no clear winner. Noise might be important when you're in a car, but on the couch? Really? You're going to turn the volume down anyway, so as to not annoy whoever it is that you live with, so why? As much as I don't want to say this, Formula 1 will probably go electric by 2030, 2050 tops, so I think it's best we get used to it. The noise produced by the Formula E cars is no better... The whine the cars produce will probably give you a head ache in a few minutes. They also sound really robotic, and that gets boring really quickly.

The speed of the cars. In a race, a Formula E car would get absolutely destroyed by even a back marker Formula 1 car. The reason is simple. Formula E cars aren't really designed to be the fastest cars in the world. The cars are capped at 250 kW (~ 335 HP), which on street circuits is enough. Because of this relatively low max power output, the racing is a lot closer. The aero bits on Formula E cars are pretty simple as well. Most of the down force is generated by those massive rear diffusers, which don't affect the car behind the car as much as F1's huge wings, while the upper portion of the chassis doesn't really have a front or rear wing; those are replaced with small winglets. And as all the cars have a spec chassis, the main performance difference between the cars (excluding Fan Boost and Attack Mode) is the squidgy organic bit in the middle. That being said, Formula E cars are noticeably slower on the straights, though you do get used to the lack of speed after a while. (The adjustment period is pretty confusing; you can't really tell if a car is on it's in or out lap or a fast lap.).

The drivers. While most people view all Formula E drivers to be failed F1 drivers, this isn't true for all. Formula E cars are very, very different from Formula 1 cars. So, even if a driver lacks the skill set needed for Formula One, they might do exceptionally well in Formula E. There is a reason for this though. A lot of former Formula 1 drivers are in the sport, and a majority of them were dropped due to poor performances. So yes, in some cases, Formula E drivers may not be as good as Formula One drivers, but that doesn't mean they aren't skilled. They were good enough to get to Formula 1, and that is no mean feat.

Formula E vs Formula One cars as the future of motor sport. I am genuinely tired of hearing that Formula E cars are more futuristic than Formula One cars. There is no denying that electric cars will become the norm in motor sport in a few decades, but as of now, they are both the pioneers of their own areas. Formula 1 is constantly pushing the limits of what you can achieve with a small, hybrid engine while Formula E is showcasing batteries that you could find in your car in a few years. So, let the debate continue. They both have their place and value.

years.

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CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT!
239-774-9290

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

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



Mercedes-Benz
of Fort Myers

"THE BEST OR NOTHING"



\$500 OFF

PURCHASE ANY NEW MERCEDES-BENZ
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Limited Lifetime Warranty on Batteries, Brakes & Wipers

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- ⌚ Warranty is non-transferrable and tied to original policy holder
- ⌚ Pay one time for Lifetime covered parts and never worry again!

Mercedes-Benz
The best or nothing.

Please contact your local authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer for more information





Upcoming Events 2020

Southwest Florida Section, Mercedes-Benz Club of America



DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS, AND GOVERNMENT EDICT, ALL
ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY.

STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES!

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.

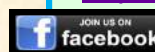
Southwest Florida Section MBCA On The Web!

<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)

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



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

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

My Self-Isolation Quarantine Diary

Day 1 – I Can Do This!! Got enough food and wine to last a month!

Day 2 – Opening my 8th bottle of Wine. I fear wine supplies might not last!

Day 3 – Strawberries: Some have 210 seeds, some have 235 seeds. Who Knew??

Day 4 – 8:00 pm. Removed my Day Pajamas and put on my Night Pajamas.

Day 5 – Today, I tried to make Hand Sanitizer. It came out as Jell-O Shots!!

Day 6 – I get to take the Garbage out. I'm So excited, I can't decide what to wear.

Day 7 – Laughing way too much at my own jokes!!

Day 8 – Went to a new restaurant called "The Kitchen". You have to gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have No clue how this place is still in business.

Day 9 – I put liquor bottles in every room. Tonight, I'm getting all dressed up and going Bar hopping.

Day 10 – Struck up a conversation with a Spider today. Seems nice. He's a Web Designer.

Day 11 – Isolation is hard. I swear my fridge just said, "What the hell do you want now?"

Day 12 – I realized why dogs get so excited about something moving outside, going for walks or car rides. I think I just barked at a squirrel.

Day 13 – If you keep a glass of wine in each hand, you can't accidentally touch your face.

Day 14 – Watched the birds fight over a worm. The Cardinals lead the Blue Jays 3-1.

Day 15 – Anybody else feel like they've cooked dinner about 395 times this month?

