



Sunshine STAR



Issue No. 1, 2020

MBCA | Southwest Florida Section

January/February



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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 - March 14th, April 11

➔ ➔

Naples area... Perkins on Pine Ridge Rd.
 4th Saturday every month.
 Next meetings - February 22nd; March 28th

President's Perspective

I had a profound revelation the other day. The realization of which made me stop and see things in a new light. Monica, my beautiful wife, has been working tirelessly on a quilting project and plans on displaying her work (9 quilts) at an upcoming show at the Ft Myers Civic Center. She had previously converted one of our bedrooms into a sewing and craft room, and has temporarily taken over another bedroom for her large sized quilts. I'll give you a guess as to where I will be when the time comes..Yep, at a quilting show the attractions of which I know nothing about (not to mention, very little interest in!) While there is a judging competition of the submitted quilts, Monica claims not to care if she wins a ribbon or trophy. It's all about the experience to her. She finds that the most important aspect is her participation. (quite the opposite of "car guys" who try to win trophies at all their car shows!)

Monica has admitted to me that she is really not that interested in cars and car events, finding them more boring than stimulating. Here I have been, collecting a fleet of Mercedes classics, tinkering constantly with them, showing them off at events and shows with every chance I get, and my beautiful wife has gone along with my passion, more as a spectator than a willing participant. Having finally realized this, when I attend the quilting show with Monica, I will attempt to put on a good face, act like I'm interested, and offer her loads of encouragement. It's the least I can do after all these years of her supportive involvement in Mercedes club shows and events! To be truthful, I'm still trying to wrap my head around the fact that, while she's enjoyed some of the venues (hotels, shopping, dining) she never gave a whit about the driving, car conversations, or anything else "car guys" love!

I flash-backed to some of the car related events we have frequented together over the years. Driving to the Concours in Cincinnati at a Star Tech several years ago. Or, when we drove our oldest classic to an exclusive show in Savannah. I thought about a special show in Chicago, or Cars on 5th in Naples. Our annual show at the dealership in Fort Myers, or heck, even some of the tech sessions and service clinics we've attended. Every time when, there I was talking with someone about paint, or performance, or detailing, she couldn't have been more disinterested! Yes, Monica enjoys being a member of our club, meeting and getting to know other members and the new relationships that come from them, but a car nut she is not and she will not, (nor should I expect her to) join me in that world.

SO, here's to you Monica! Thank you for all of these years of your undying support and putting up with my quirky hobby. Thank you for going along with me to endless events, meetings, and shows. Only now do I have even a small inkling of what and how you must have felt! To put it as succinctly as I know how, THANK YOU for being my devoted wife! I am blessed to have you.

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.



EDITOR'S NOTE:

Six Award Ribbons Out Of Nine Entries!

WELL DONE MONICA!!

**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**



Mercedes Benz Club of America, Southwest Florida Section

SWFL Ladies of Mercedes Event



Return to Shangri-La Springs!

27750 Old 41 Road Bonita Springs, Florida

Street parking is available on Kentucky Street.

239-949-0749

Saturday, January 11, 2020 11:00 AM

Shangri-La Springs is a Bonita Springs landmark dating back to 1921. On January 11th, 26 MBCA SWFL members and guests came together to tour this naturally beautiful setting and enjoy an organic luncheon in their on-site restaurant, Harvest + Wisdom. Our tour guide, Janet, walked us through the grounds explaining the history of the ownership, mineral spring, buildings and the huge trees that fill the site. They are close to opening a few of the newly renovated hotel rooms in the main building. Due to the age and historic value of the property they have faced many challenges along the way. The owners insist on only the best, so even the mattresses, as well as all the linens in the rooms will be made of organic cotton. Shangri-La Springs hosts several events each year and several people were busy setting up for a wedding that was to take place later that afternoon. We were able to get a glimpse of how beautifully the natural setting could be enhanced by lovely flower arrangements and fine linens. You can only imagine how beautiful this would be after dark, with small white lights shining all around.

The on-site organic garden is the source of the produce used in the restaurant. After the tour we enjoyed an organic lunch that was pre-ordered so each person could pick the entrée of their choice. Everyone seemed to enjoy their lunch immensely. I don't think anyone was disappointed. Thank you to Anne Harruff and her granddaughter, Marguerite, for providing little Saks Fifth Avenue surprise gifts for our guests! Everyone in attendance got to take home a little goodie bag.

I'd like to thank Robert & Linda Smith, members of the Tampa Section, who made the trip down from Sarasota to join us. It was a pleasure to meet them! They saw the event posted in our online Newsletter (yay! People do read it!) and contacted me to ask if they could be included. We always welcome members of other sections to join our events! So glad they could take part.

Monica Cordeau



Financial Report

It is my pleasure to provide the 2019 Treasurer's Report for the Southwest Florida Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America (MBCA). I am pleased to report that the Section had a cash balance of \$12,065.85 as of December 31, 2019.

The Section's income comes from two sources. Rebates of member dues from the MBCA Nation Business Office (NBO) are provided to each Section to help defray local section operating costs. In addition, our Section has enjoyed generous support from local businesses advertising in the Section's newsletter. Also, we continue to have significantly reduced printing and postage costs by distributing our award winning newsletter primarily by email.

We continue to utilize some of the Section's available cash to underwrite the cost of a number of events for members during our busy winter season. We partially subsidized two major section events, the annual Holiday Party and the annual Farewell Picnic. We provided gift baskets for several section events, including the annual Mercedes-Benz of Fort Myers car show, and the Holiday Party. We also purchased several MBCA items for drawings at the Holiday Party, as well as supplies and drinks for the Farewell Picnic.

In addition, the Section was pleased to be able to provide support to the larger community. We made a substantial donation to Comfort Cases, which provides a suitcase, clothing and personal items to children placed into foster homes. The Section also made donations to The American Red Cross and The Salvation Army.

We look forward to continuing to help defray the costs of Section events so that more members will want to participate in those events. Hopefully, new members will be attracted to our reasonably-priced events, where they can discover the MBCA community.

Please continue to suggest new events, knowing that your Section directors are available to assist, and that financial support may be available. We seek to grow and discover new ways to be a special-interest, caring and responsible community. Also, please continue to patronize our local advertisers and let them know you are from our MBCA Section so they will continue to support us.

Respectfully submitted, Joel Taub

Membership Report

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AS OF 1/18/2020

Active Members: 373

New Members Since Last Newsletter: 8

Jerry O'Brien
Ed Conrad
Randal Perry
Bob Stallard
David Metzler
Robert Pisa
Arlene and Barry Showalter
Richard Schulze

Lost Members Since Last Newsletter: 21 (5 Interstate one year members)

Renewed since last Newsletter: 75



MERCEDES AMG DEBUTS A NEW 2700 HP CIGARETTE BOAT AND MATCHING G63!

Mercedes-AMG and Cigarette Racing are [teaming up for the twelfth time](#), and this year they're premiering the 59' Tirranna AMG Edition at the Miami International Boat Show. To match the boat, there's a one-off [Mercedes-AMG G63 Cigarette Edition](#). The Tirranna AMG Edition packs plenty of power from six supercharged 4.6-liter V8 Mercury Racing 450R outboard engines. Each one makes 450 horsepower (336 kilowatts) for a total of 2,700 hp (2,013 kW). This setup lets the boat reach up to 80 miles per hour (129 kilometers per hour) across the water. A gyro stabilizer reduces roll by 80 percent to help keep balanced in choppy water. For easier low-speed maneuverability when docking, there are thrusters at the bow and stern.

2019 Annual MBCA SWFL HOLIDAY PARTY

The event of the year!

On Sunday, December 1, 2019, SWFL MBCA hosted its Annual Holiday Party in Talis Park at the Vyne House. Valet Parking was provided for our guests so they could leave their car at the entrance and get right to the festivities.

Cocktail Hour in the lovely Courtyard at 6 PM was followed by Dinner at 7 PM in the main dining room. Lovely table decorations were provided by Anne Harruff, as well as the Gourmet Gift Basket which was won by Betsy and Paul Koller.

The Mercedes Benz dealerships in Fort Myers, Bonita Springs, and Naples provided an assortment of gifts for our members. Glen Sholl introduced us to Shaun Warner, Business Development Manager at Mercedes Benz of Naples, who filled us in on the improvements at the facility as a result of the recent construction project that has been taking place. It sounds like a state-of-the-art makeover.

Club member Jonathan Casimini collected unwrapped toys for the children who were spending the holidays confined to the Golisano Children's Hospital. Our club section partnered with the local Porsche club to take place in this extraordinary event. We hope to continue to make it an annual tradition.

We welcomed a few new members, Ed & Linda Conrad, John & Julie Horns, and Randall & Barbara Perry, who were first time attendees to our Holiday Party.

Finally, a shout out to Curtis Alden our dear friend from Mercedes Naples, for being selected **MEMBER OF THE YEAR!**

Overall, the service, food, and amenities were all excellent! Everyone seemed to greatly enjoy this event, so we are planning to use the same venue for the next one. We have already reserved the date of 12/6/2020. Mark your calendars now!

Monica Cordeau

Monica Cordeau



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22,
2020 6:00 AM**

**MBCA SWFL Section trip to
RENNtech!**

We will be leaving as a group from
the **Cracker Barrel** on I-75 exit **141**
at **6:00 AM**

Trip will take ~3 hours, and the
meeting will begin at **RENNtech @**
9:00 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
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<https://renntechmercedes.com>
(visit their website to check out all
that they do!)



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 and Ron Cordeau 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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The Amelia Island Concour d' Elegance is now well established as the premier event of this sort in the eastern part of North America.

Mercedes Bens was the first, and continues as he most prominent sponsor with an awesome pavilion on the show field and by hosting a star-studded gala at the Ritz Carlton on Saturday evening. If you have an invitation to the gala, this will also serve as you pass for entry into the pavilion. If not, you're out of luck as attendance is limited and places are filled very early in the season.

MBCA members **CAN** gather for club sponsored dinners both Friday and Saturday evenings, **AND**, participate in the always popular Cars and Coffee on the show grounds Saturday morning. Entry cars are limited, and space here too, is taken early, but you are free to roam the grounds and enjoy the examples of fine automobiles on display.

The MBCA will have a tent in the area of the Mercedes pavilion, and you are encouraged to stop by for a visit. SWFL's very own Josie Lesler (Enthusiast committee chair person) will be manning said tent, and has expressed a desire for club volunteers to help with set-up and recruitment of new potential members.

National Director at Large, Jim Roberts will be hosting traditional dinners both Friday and Saturday evenings on behalf of his local Alabama/N.W. Florida section. The Friday dinner will be a stupendous buffet at the Jacksonville Airport Doubletree Hotel, and the Saturday evening event will be at the traditional Crab Trap restaurant in nearby Fernandina Beach. As mentioned, the Friday dinner is a buffet (fees to be collected at the door) and the Saturday dinner at the Crab Trap will be sit-down with selections made from their extensive menu. You **MUST** inform Jim in advance if you intend to attend either or both events (jertoosaver@bellsouth.net)

FOR SWFL MBCA MEMBERS

Once again under the leadership of Peter Blackford, we plan to depart on Thursday March 5th from the Cracker Barrel @ I-75 Exit 141 at 9:00am. En route, we have arranged to visit a Private multi-marque collection that afternoon so we will "lunch stop" in Lakeland prior to the tour.

Thursday Evening; Hotel and dinner will be in Gainesville (Doubletree Hotel @ a contracted rate of \$124.00. Use group code MBCA). You may make your reservation with the hotel directly at 352-240-0337. Melissa is our main contact. Note that the above stay **INCLUDES** the Doubletree Breakfast.

Friday Morning; We will depart from the hotel and make our way to the Doubletree by Hilton at JAX for a two night stay (Friday and Saturday). Some may wish to take an optional tour of Amelia that afternoon, or, attend one of the many automobile auctions that will be taking place over the weekend.

Friday Evening; We are planning a group dinner (along with National MBCA participation see above) right at the hotel so no driving will be necessary. A great time should be had all as we expect many other MBCA members from other sections to be attending the dinner and staying at the hotel.

Saturday Morning; Join us for the always fun Cars and Coffee on the main show field. (free admission) This is the perfect time to collect you tickets for the Sunday show event at "will call" in the Ritz Carlton. Our member Josie Lesler has asked for some help in managing the MBCA membership tent on the field that day. What a great way to meet current and potential members!

Saturday Evening; Plan on attending a group dinner at the Crab Trap Restaurant in Fernandina Beach.

Sunday Morning; We will check out of the hotel and, since we won't be going back there on our way to our next stop after the main event. No caravan is planned for our departure from town, but maps to our next destination will be provided when we gather on Thursday.

Sunday Afternoon; We will drive southward off of the island by a gentler route, including a short ferryboat ride before arriving at our "usual" stop in St. Augustine the Hampton Inn and Suites St. Augustine/Vilano Beach. Group Name: MBCA of Southwest Florida. Optional dinner that evening.

Monday Morning; Those of you that wish can spend some time exploring historic St. Augustine. The rest of us will begin our trek back to the Ft. Myers/Naples area.

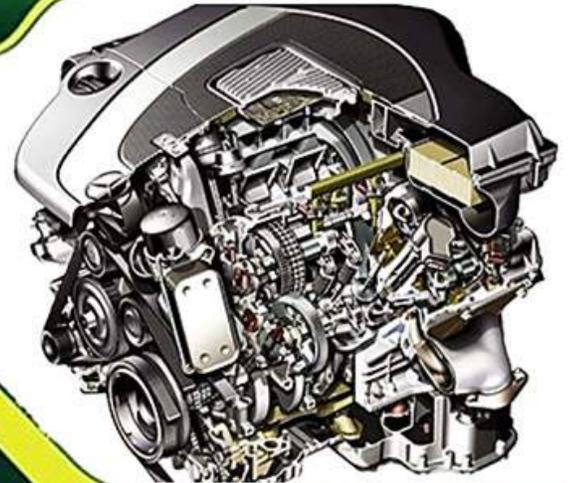
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Editorial...

Here I am, my usually loquacious self, with not a whit of an idea as to what to write about for this issue. There are lots of possibilities, but nothing jumps out in my mind. What to pontificate about? (yes, Loretta often accuses me of pontificating!)

If I am to be completely honest with myself, and with you, my fellow club members, I can't help but feel this is a symptom of a distressing problem. I've gotten stale. And alas, I feel so has our club. Oh sure we have write-ups, pictures, anecdotes of stuff that has been going on with our members. A lot right here in this issue. But there seems to be a "sameness" to all of it. Like every month I put this newsletter together it's the same tiring format, with the same ads, with similar content to the last issue.

For a while now, I have contemplated "shaking up" the newsletter with a different, more vibrant format. Unfortunately, there are some logistical hurdles that need to be overcome (my publishing program is *old*, being one!) and the usual things like time restraints rear their head. I had actually spent several days on this issue trying to utilize a new format, only to realize it was too monumental a task, so I reverted to the tried and true format you see here. But it's not just the newsletter that I think has become stale. I can't shake the feeling that we all have. The club has. Our vision has. The automotive industry in general has. Oh sure, there are new and different (I hesitate to use the word exciting) things happening in the automotive world like the influx of EV products. But even in that, my opinion is that it is more a political innovation

than a passionate one. Where is the passion? Our meetings, our events, our club's future, and yes, our newsletter and me your editor, seem to have lost a step (and not just because I just had a total knee installed!). Maybe it's just age. It's certainly a factor and has been discussed at the club and even the national level for some time. Maybe we're all just conditioned to not wanting to effect too much change in our club or our lives. I find it difficult anymore to think creatively and conjure up new and original ideas (that's if I ever was able to do that. Never a real strength of mine)

SO, this is a plea to you all. There must be *someone* of you out there among our members that can help put some "juice" back in our club. Make suggestions! Volunteer! Tell us what we need to do to "spice things up".

I, for one, will welcome it.

Tom S



Your Deduction for "your baby" is perfectly fine, Except it says here that your baby is a Mercedes!



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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Porsche Parade Delivers Gifts to Golisano Children's Hospital

Dear All Members,

For those member that donated a toy my wife Natalia & I can't thank you enough for the support for this great cause. I can tell you first hand every toy I handed out was met with great joy and enthusiasm. Our friends from the local Everglades Region Porsche club started this parade about 3 years ago with 65 cars and this year we had 130 cars participate and every Porsche chapter in the state participate at their local hospitals! I am hoping all of our efforts will continue in the years to come and we can expand to other Mercedes club chapters throughout the state and beyond.

To the parade participants thank you for braving the rain and showing your immense support for the precious patients at Golisano Children's Hospital of SWFL. From the moment the first cars pulled in, we felt the rumble of horsepower and knew it was going to be an incredible day filled with holiday cheer and smiles! Who knew Santa would trade in his sleigh for a ride in a fire truck bucket?

Through the generosity of The Bruning Foundation, an anonymous couple, and many others, the hospital received over \$100,000 dollars for the benefit of our patients through the Little Red Wagon Fund!

These donations will be used in transformative ways to continue driving programmatic growth and keep children close to home as they receive the world-class care they need and deserve. To date, the Little Red Wagon Fund has allowed us to launch a number of life-changing pediatric programs, including in-patient dialysis, deep wound and burn services and a specialty urology program, as well as the installation of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in local schools.

A special thanks to:

Doug & Jackie M.
Dave S.
Randall P.
Ken K.
Bernie & Marion L.
Joel T.
Larry H.

Darrell D.
Tom S.
Mike M.
Mario P.
Frank A.
Raymond B.
Craig H.

and any other Members I may have missed that participated or donated a toy.

We are also especially grateful to Ron & Monica Cordeau (President) Southwest Florida Section, John and Valerie Petracco (President), Everglades Region Porsche Club, Porsche Club of America

Respectfully

Jonathan & Natalia Casimini





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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.

STARS AMONG STARS





Upcoming Events 2020

Southwest Florida Section, Mercedes-Benz Club of America

February 22	Breakfast Meeting NAPLES; Perkins, Pine Ridge Rd. 9:00am
February 22	Car Tour to RENNTECH (see page 6)
February 29th	Hagerty Cars & Caffeine @ 2020 Sebring SpeedTour
March 1	B.I.G. Car Show Jaycee Park Cape Coral
March 5th-8th	Amelia Island Concours (see page 8)
March 14th	Breakfast Meeting Fort Myers; Perkins, Corner of US 41 and Six Mile Cypress 9:00am
March 28th	Naples-Marco AACA Depot Car Show
March 28	Breakfast Meeting Naples: Perkins on Pine Ridge Rd 9:00am
April 5th	Annual Farewell Picnic Lakes Park Ft. Myers 1:00 - 4:00 pm
April 18 (tentative)	Annual Car Show @ Mercedes Benz of Fort Myers



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-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