



Sunshine STAR



MBCA | Southwest Florida Section

Issue No.1, 2016

January / February 2016



At the Revs Institute

A little different,
Have no fear,
Handles the same
As any New Year.
May yours be Happy!



On the track, F1

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**"More Than a Car Club.
We're a Community!"**

Monthly Breakfast Meetings 

Ft. Myers area... Mimi's Café
2nd Saturday of most months.
Next Meetings - Jan 9, Feb 13

➔  ➔

Naples area... Perkins on Pine Ridge
4th Saturday of most months.
Next meetings - Jan 23 , Feb 27

From the President



Greetings to all and welcome to our **15 new members, 39 multiple section members, and 30 renewed members** since 11-01-15. Our Section membership currently stands at **429 members** (as of 12-31-15) up 8.6% for the year to date and we have gained **83 new members so far this year**. Since 1-01-15 we have had **17 members transfer in to SWFL** from other MBCA Sections. We welcome these new and transferred members to SWFL and look forward to seeing each of you at a future Section event. Please keep up the good work recruiting new members and **renew your individual effort to bring in at least one new member this year!** If you are happy with your Section, your Section's activities, and the benefits of MBCA membership, you will be our best spokesman for recruiting new Club members. We are still looking for members interested in volunteering to become Directors of SWFL to help us in the management of your Section.

2015 was the second year in a row that your Section won a MBCA National award. First our Newsletter won as the Electronically Distributed Newsletter of the Year and then we were selected as MBCA Section of the Year. The latter award was presented to our VP Glen Sholl at the MBCA Fall Board meeting this past November.

Congratulation to each of you and especially to our Leadership Team which includes your officers: Tom Harruff, President; Glen Sholl, VP; Joel Taub, Treasurer; and Anne Harruff, Secretary as well as our Directors Ron Cordeau, John Meyer, Tom Starrett, Chet Young, Jerry Kinderman, Newsletter Editor/Director; Peter Blackford, Webmaster/Director; Mario Puente Facebook Page Editor/Director; and Anita Kinderman Membership Chair. Without the support of this Team and your support we would not be able to have the successes that we have had in the past years.

Now that a new year is upon us it is time for each of us to renew our efforts to continue our growth not only in membership but in providing the activities that you want from the Team. Please commit yourself to actively participate in at least one Section sponsored event in 2016 and more if possible. This is your Section and we want to provide you the activities that you desire. Onward and upward in 2016!

This fall we will again host the MBCA Fall Board Meeting here in Naples as we did in 2007. It will be a great opportunity for each of you to participate and to meet the National Leaders of your club. Save the Date: Nov 10-12, 2016.

Happy motoring!

Tom Harruff, President, SWFL MBCA

SWFL OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:

President: Tom Harruff
239-591-8049 tharruff1813@comcast.net

Vice President: Glen Sholl
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239-549-0435 taub.joel@gmail.com

Section Directors: The Officers named above, and

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941-347-7119 tomstarr74@comcast.net

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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 should 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 239-591-8049,
or our National Business Office at 1-800-637-2360 M-F 8am-5pm MT. Or visit www.mbc.org**



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES, AND SECTION TRANSFERS TO THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA SECTION, MBCA!

Since the last newsletter, Jay Cagata, Jonathan Casimini, Suzanne Choisser & Ingeborg Finn, Paul Delaney, Thomas Hogenkamp, Joseph & Sheri Lavecchia, Seth Markowitz, Amir & Sandra Pambechy, Phillip & Diana Peterson, Cheryl Pohl, Andrew Rahl, John Schneider, Morris Smith & Nanci Ozment, and Sam Zlotnik

We're so glad you've joined us!

And **Thank You** to our **30 Renewed Members** for your continuing MBCA Membership!



Southwest Florida Section, Mercedes Benz Club of America

Ladies of Mercedes Event

Saturday, February 6, 2016, 2:30 PM

Final day to register is Saturday, January 30, 2016

Don't wait until the last minute, seating is limited!

Please contact Anne Harruff at 239-591-8049

or by email to anneharruff@comcast.net to express your interest in attending this event. \$56.70 per person, includes tax and gratuity.



Southwest Florida Section Ladies of Mercedes Event

Save the Date!

Artis—Naples

The Baker Museum

Reserve by
February 23!

Yves Saint Laurent + Halston Fashioning the '70s

Saturday March 5, 2016

Tour at 10:30 AM, Buffet Lunch at Noon in the Lion's Room

• In order to reserve the Lion's Room for lunch we need a minimum of 20 participants. Please contact Anne Harruff, 239-591-8049, as soon as possible with your interest in attending this Ladies of Mercedes event. Reservations must be received by February 23, 2016

Cost per person is \$10 for the tour, \$24 for the luncheon, \$34 total.

German Pick-Me-Up

As part of celebrating our 50 years of wedded bliss, we decided to visit the country of our heritage, Germany. And what could be better than taking delivery of a brand new Mercedes Benz in Germany as part of that celebration? So on October 12, 2015 we picked up our 2016 CLA 250 at the Mercedes Benz delivery center in Sindelfingen which is located just outside Stuttgart. Mercedes does it right with their European Delivery Program.

Here's how the European Delivery Program works. Mercedes offers a straight 7% discount off of MSRP plus the purchaser does not have to pay the destination fee (~\$900). We purchased our car through Mercedes Benz of Naples but opted to take initial delivery in Germany. The Naples dealership handled most of the paperwork to ensure everything went smoothly with the car delivery in Germany.

If the purchasers fly into Stuttgart, Mercedes provides taxi vouchers to get them from the airport to a five-star hotel of their choice in Stuttgart where they stay for one night on Mercedes. We had just finished a guided tour of Germany and arrived in Stuttgart on our own, so we didn't use the taxi vouchers. We chose to stay in the AM Schlossgarten hotel and we were put up in a junior suite on the top floor. Breakfast was included in the hotel stay and German breakfasts are awesome to say the least; and the breakfast in a five-star hotel is beyond description.

Taxi coupons got us to the delivery center after breakfast where the paperwork was finalized and where we took delivery of the car. Note our Southwest Florida Section shirts that



we wore for our delivery. Our Mercedes Benz Club of America membership cards got us a 10% discount on items purchased in the gift shop. And a one year minimum membership will get you an additional \$500 discount on your car purchase.

A technician explained all of the features of the new car to us before we were on our way. Unfortunately we were restricted to a top speed of 150 km/hr (~95 mph) on the Autobahn during the 1500 mile break in period. But we never missed a chance to drive that speed just to keep up with traffic!



Judy getting new car instructions

We did not take advantage of any of the optional tours offered by Mercedes because we were headed for Garmisch in the Bavarian Alps for a few days on our own. But before we left the delivery center, lunch was included as were a two-hour tour of the Sindelfingen factory and tickets to the Mercedes Benz museum which is at a different location in Stuttgart. Mercedes provides bumper-to-bumper insurance and licensing for 15 days and purchasers can extend if desired.

During our time in Germany, the autumn leaves were at their peak color in mid-October reminding us of our former lives up north in snow country. We drove north from Bavaria



Our suite in Schloss Gaussig near Dresden

and stayed in a castle that was owned by Dave's ancestors from 1800 until 1945 when the Russians used it for their East German regional headquarters. Now a small hotel, it is very popular for weddings and receptions.

We chose to drop off the car at Hamburg, one of several drop-off cities in Europe, for shipment to the states. We then caught the Queen Mary II to return to New York City. It can take up to 11 weeks for the car to arrive at the selling dealership; but you can do online tracking of its progress across the Atlantic into Brunswick, GA, through Customs, the Vehicle Preparation Center where Mercedes repairs any damage that might have happened during shipping, and finally trucking to the selling dealer for your US delivery, again as a new car.

If you are considering purchasing a new MB, the EDP provides an incredible experience. Feel free to contact us should you have any questions about getting your car through the EDP.

Judy and David Schall
Punta Gorda, Florida
941.639.6190

SWFL MBCA Holiday Party



December 6, 2015 The Club at Olde Cypress, Naples, Florida
 Harp and Violin provided delightful background ambiance as 97 SWFL section members furnished the joy and camaraderie. It was an evening to remember!



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Editorial Exhaust ...

The New Year is here, let's have good one. Stock market be damned!

If you read this rag from front to back you've already read about the Shall's European delivery experience on pg. 4. Well-written and informative, if you've not yet read it, you're in for a treat. Thank you David and Judy, for a great article!

Super Mario has provided another profound short-story on pg. 10. As always, a

surprising and thought-provoking read. Thanks Mario!

How about the selection of beautiful local cars for sale in our 'classifieds'! So many cars, so little time.

Breakfast/Meeting time at *Perkins* in Naples has been pushed back 15 minutes to 9:15 am, so we don't put so much pressure on our AACA friends who meet there at 8:00 every Saturday.

And now comes the Southern "Season",

where suddenly we have a full calendar of fun events. Not that we were slackers the rest of the year. Maybe it's the cool, crisp winter air that moves us!

Newsletter submissions are always welcome and wanted. Letters, email, whatever, as we can all use the information. So long as it doesn't embarrass *me*.

- On the cover: two cars I'll never drive.

Moovoooving along,

Jerry



I tell you, here is a very happy man!



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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We're a Community.sm**

StarFest 2016

National Event Hosted by Minuteman
Wed, August 3rd - Sat, August 6th, 2016
Uncasville, Connecticut 06382

Contact: John Piekarczyk, President, Minuteman Section
(860) 315-5575, email 560sec@charter.net



Mercedes-Benz Club of America

Join us in New England on August 3-6, 2016 for StarFest 2016. StarFest will take place in Connecticut's "Quiet Corner" with lush Green Valleys and picturesque Hilltop Farms, it's also known as the Antique Capital of Connecticut. From the seashore near the host hotel, to the lush greenery near the host track, the two linked by a short trip on I-395. Spectacular scenery and iconic New England towns await your discovery.

<http://starfest2016.mbca.org>

Events include:

Track | Concours d' Elegance | Rallyes | Nautical Cruises | Ladies of Mercedes-Benz | Sponsor Displays | Welcome Reception | Golf | Grand Awards Banquet



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December 12, SWFL members gather 'round after the last Mimi's breakfast meeting of 2015, all agreeing that Joe Lavechia's 2009 SL63 is no yule log!



November 28, despite being stuffed with Thanksgiving dinner, SWFL members wouldn't miss breakfast and a meeting at Perkins in Naples, or the photo-ops afterward in the parking lot



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50 Shades of Silver

I may never be a good business man, as my reasoning to look for an old car goes like this:

First I have to look at the body lines, touch them; see thru layers of dust and deferred maintenance until I picture her on the day she rolled out of the assembly line.

That's when she starts talking to you; when she can show you what she has been thru and her promise to reward you if you save her from imminent demise.

You open the hood, look at her closely and understand that her sweet whispering voice means well, and you believe her just enough to take her with you, knowing that she cannot guarantee you anything despite her best intentions.

Then you take her to your place and start feeding life back into her. It is slow, not easy, nor cheap, and many long nights, hot days, sore back and busted knuckles lay ahead of you.

As your time together piles up, you start falling in love a little at a time. And then that day arrives when you take her out...you drive her and show her off. As you cruise down the road, with her fine purr synchronized to your own heartbeat, her calming voice whispers a sweet "Thank you"... she can't remember the last time she looked this good.

Your love affair then continues to grow until one day you realize it is time for you to let go. The butterflies in your stomach are hard to deal with as you see her drive away; you want to look the other way but you can't stop trying

to get one last glimpse...and then you hear her say "Thank you" before she goes out of sight.



As you turn away, slowly dragging your feet towards your garage door, you reach in your pockets, count the couple dollars that you MAY have left, and, straightening your sore back, you realize you can't wait to fall in love again.

Mario A. Puente, P.E.

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Classified: For Sale



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1992 Mercedes-Benz 500 SL

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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 automatically expire after 60 days unless timely renewed.



Upcoming Events

Southwest Florida Section, Mercedes-Benz Club of America

DATE	2016	CONTACT
Jan 9	SWFL Section Breakfast Meeting at Mimi's Café, Ft. Myers, 8:30 AM	239-591-8049
Jan 10	S. Florida Section Concours d'Elegance www.michaelchrusch@yahoo.com	
Jan 23	SWFL Section Breakfast Meeting at Perkins, Naples, 9:15 AM	239-591-8049
Feb 6	Ladies of Mercedes Tea, Ritz-Carlton Naples	239-591-8049
Feb 13	SWFL Section Breakfast Meeting at Mimi's Café, Ft. Myers, 8:30 AM	239-591-8049
Feb 13	Cars on Fifth, Ferrari Club of Naples. www.carsonfifth.com	
Feb 19-21	Boca Raton Concours d'Elegance www.bocaratonconcours.com	
Feb 20	Pelican Preserve Car Show	239-561-8167
Feb 27	SWFL Section Breakfast Meeting at Perkins, Naples, 9:15 AM	239-591-8049
Mar 5	Ladies of Mercedes Tour and Lunch, Baker Museum, Artis-Naples	239-591-8049
Mar 11-13	Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance www.ameliaconcours.org	
Mar 12	SWFL Section Breakfast Meeting at Mimi's Café, Ft. Myers, 8:30 AM	239-591-8049
Mar 19	2016 AACA Winter National Meet in Naples www.naplesmarcoaca.org	
Mar 26	SWFL Section Breakfast Meeting at Perkins, Naples, 9:15 AM	239-591-8049

MBCA Announces 2016 Stuttgart, Germany Tours June 20th and Sept. 19th

MBCA's Stuttgart Germany Tour presents the rich heritage of Mercedes-Benz in its home region.

Travelers will enjoy guided tours of the Carl Benz Museum in Ladenburg; the Daimler Workshop in Bad Cannstatt; AMG facilities in Affalterbach; the Mercedes-Benz Museum and Brand Center in Unterturkheim; the Technical Museum in Sinsheim; the Bad Cannstatt Engine Assembly Plant; the Classic Center in Fellbach and the Sindelfingen assembly plant that covers more ground than the entire principality of Monaco.



Space is limited! Reserve now to guarantee your slot.

For more information please contact Jim O'Sullivan at 843.671.2079 or osullivanj55@gmail.com

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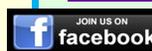
The Club and our own Section use electronic communications and we email our newsletters. So be sure to let the NBO know of any changes to your email address to ensure up to date information with both the NBO and your Section. Contact Membership Services with your updates... mbca.org or call 1-800-637-2360.

Southwest Florida Section MBCA On The Web!

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

and...

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