



Sunshine STAR



MBCA | Southwest Florida Section

Issue No. 2, 2017

March / April 2017



January 28, 2017, Breakfast/Meeting at Perkins, Naples. A chilly morning.



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And our Breakfast and Meeting Feb. 11th at Mercedes-Benz of Bonita Springs was shared with Michael Mariotti's handsome 1975 450SEL. We love our cars so much we break bread with them. Not IN them, of course.

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

9 AM Monthly Breakfast Meetings

Ft. Myers area...
 2nd Saturday every month.
 Our Next Meetings . . .
Mimi's Café Mar 11, Apr 8

↪  ↩

Naples area... Perkins on Pine Ridge
 4th Saturday of every month.
Next meetings - Mar 25, Apr 22

President's Perspective



The first two months on the job were quite hectic and yet very exciting from my viewpoint! We continued several traditional events (besides the two breakfast meetings each month), starting with the Lorenzo Walker Technical College (LWTC) FLY IN/CRUISE IN. Monica has been very helpful as a Secretary of the club, as well as a confidant and proofreader! She has written a brief summary of the FLY IN/CRUISE IN appearing in this newsletter. As MBCA members we all have one thing in common, a love for our automobiles, and we feel it is important to pay it forward and perhaps help the next generation of automobile mechanics - just one of several technical education programs offered by LWTC to achieve their dreams.

The Naples' prestigious annual car show "Cars on 5th Ave", was held on Saturday February 11 on a beautiful sunny day with around 400 very expensive automobiles. Our group of nine Mercedes-Benz were in full display near the Naples dealership spot, and were clean and shiny! We felt a lot of pride when we spoke to spectators, and answered their questions - while handing them an MBCA application!

That same morning was the club's breakfast held at Mercedes-Benz Bonita Springs. Around 50 members enjoyed the food and hospitality of the dealership, and got a chance to tour the facility. We presented management with a beautiful plaque from our section highlighting their two page article that appeared in the Jan/Feb issue of the STAR Magazine, page 94. Their display, along with several STAR Magazines will give our club exposure to Mercedes-Benz customers.

February 18th was the annual "Ladies Of Mercedes" Tea held at the Ritz Carlton in Naples. While hostess Monica and the Ladies enjoyed the cozy and fancy social affair being served in the Lobby, the guys retired to the pool lounge. We had a table of nine, and decided a late lunch was in order. We joked at the high prices, then Peter Lesler broke the ice and ordered the first of several \$20 hamburgers! Yes, they were good, and we enjoyed the company and scenery by the poolside. That same afternoon was the Car and Art show at Pelican Preserve. Our member and resident Dr. Frank Altieri set up an MBCA display table with information on our local club and applications.

Safe travels to all,

Ron Cordeau

President, MBCA SWFL Section

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Chet Young

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 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 239-322-8817,
or our National Business Office at 1-800-637-2360 M-F 8am-5pm MT. Or visit www.mbca.org**



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

Since the last newsletter; Joseph & Linda Aluise, Lonnie Arnett, Sammy S Bajraktarevic, Rusty Batcher, Gilles Brunelle, Karen Cagle, Steve Camacho, Sunita Chandra, Billy & Peggy Conyer, Stephen Demino, Arno Farber, Henrietta June & Maura Kelley, Carol Mannino, James & M Mars, James & Carol Ann Martin, Ronald & Karen Mihalek, Brett Oley & Melissa Skiles, Joe Pavone, Jack Rooney, John Sanford, Onkar Sharan, John Siegfried, and Gene Simco

We're so glad you've joined us!

And **Thank You** to our **14 Renewed Members** for your continuing MBCA Membership!



Join your fellow members of the **SWFLMBCA**

as we once again enjoy a rollicking good time with dinner and a show!

THREE TIME TONY AWARD WINNING MUSICAL **ANYTHING GOES**, FEATURING MUSIC BY COLE PORTER

At the **BROADWAY PALM DINNER THEATER**

Friday, March 24th, 2017, Dinner at 5:00pm Show starts at 7:30pm

\$59.00 per person includes sit down dinner, show, and all taxes & gratuities.

Call Loretta Starrett to reserve your space: 941-347-7119 **R.S.V.P. no later than 03/17/2017**

SWFL MBCA 4th Annual End of the Season Picnic

Sunday, April 2, 2017, Lakes Regional Park Ft. Myers FL 33908

WHAT: *Famous Dave's Legendary Pit Bar-B-Que.* The cost of the meal is subsidized by the Southwest Florida Section, so the price per person, including soft drinks, hasn't changed... it is **still just \$12 each.**

WHEN: Sunday, April 2, 2017. Lunch 1:00 PM—4:00 PM, but we have the pavilion *all day.*

RSVP and payment by **March 27, 2017**, to Joel and Sylvia Taub. Questions? 239-549-0435, taub.joel@gmail.com

☞ Separate flyer for reservations is attached to emails from Ron Cordeau, SWFL President

Mercedes-Benz Club of America Southwest Florida Section

13TH ANNUAL CAR SHOW

for Mercedes-Benz Automobiles



Mercedes-Benz of Fort Myers 15461 S. Tamiami Trail, Fort Myers, FL.

Everyone is welcome! Free Admission to the show!

Saturday, April 15, 2017 - 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

All registration fees shall be donated to the charity of your choice; Salvation Army or American Red Cross For more info: Ron Cordeau, 239-322-8817, Email: roncor@hotmail.com
Pre-registration, **no later than April 10**, is \$10 per car shown, day of the show will be \$20 per.
The flyer sent to you via email from Ron Cordeau has registration coupon.



Lorenzo Walker Technical College Annual Fly-In, Cruise-In Event



The Fly In, Cruise In Event to support **Lorenzo Walker Technical College (LWTC)** was held on Saturday, February 4, 2017 on the tarmac of the Naples Airport. For a \$20 entry fee you got a free pancake breakfast and a spot to show off whatever you ‘cruised in’ with. And, a chance to get up close to a wide variety of aircraft - from a small helicopter to huge WWII military monsters.

Ron and I displayed our '87 560SL. A few of our fellow MBCA SWFL members also attended. Our VP, Glenn Scholl, was there with his (very clean!) '00 E320. Ray Boulay's '99 SL550 AMG. Peter and Sandy Blackford's beautiful Lotus Elan, and Gary Eidson 'cruised in' with a '57 Morris Minor. Peter Lesler stopped by to chat as he was checking out the cars. I ran into fellow Lady of Mercedes Marion Jervis and chatted with her,

while Kirk Jervis was working the event. Kirk is a faculty member of LWTC and teaches drafting.

MBCA SWFL fully supports Lorenzo Walker Technical College, one of Naples's hidden gems. They are part of the Collier County School System, and offer several programs aimed at a 1 yr. career path with no huge debt to bear when they graduate. Last December our club presented a \$2000 scholarship check to Yolanda Flores, The Administrative Director of LWTC.

Check out their website www.lwtc.edu for details on these programs and what services they provide.

It was a great day to come out and show our support of the LWTC mission.

Monica Cordeau



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Mercedes-Benz of Naples



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Ladies of Mercedes 6th Annual

Tea at the Ritz

On Saturday, February 18th MBCA SWFL hosted the “Ladies of Mercedes 6th Annual Tea at the Ritz”. A group of 16 of our Ladies of Mercedes spent the afternoon sipping tea and enjoying a variety of delicious tea sandwiches and delectable sweets in the Ritz-Carlton Lobby Lounge, while Ron and several of the gentlemen had lunch at the Poolside Café.



This year the event included a tribute to our past Secretary, Anne Harruff, who was recognized for all of her efforts in getting the “Ladies of Mercedes” established in SWFL. Anne was declared our own original

Lady of Mercedes. Her pioneer spirit was likened to that of Bertha Benz, who was the first female automotive pioneer, unafraid to blaze a new trail (literally) and prove the worth of her husband’s invention by making the first road trip. Josie Lesler, MBCA National Enthusiast Committee Chairperson, informed us that across the country many sections of MBCA are following Anne’s lead and incorporating more events geared to the female club members. It looks like Anne’s idea of the Ladies of Mercedes is taking off nationwide!

Marion Jervis was the winner of an exquisite Antique Tea Cup and Carol-Lynne Smilski, was the lucky winner of a Tea Themed Gift basket which was custom made for the occasion by Anne Harruff. Thanks to everyone who attended for making it a lovely event. And Anne, thanks for everything you do!

Monica Cordeau

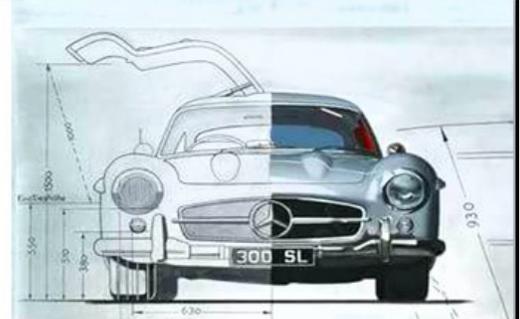


John Peterson, Peter Lesler, Tom H, Joel T, Kirk J, Tom S, Jack M, John Wargaand Ron taking the pics. Having a good meal by the poolside. Challenged to see how good a \$20 hamburger is! Living large for a short visit at the Ritz.

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Editorial Leak...

“Ron runs a good meeting”... (overheard many times at breakfast meetings.)

This issue is loaded with submissions from members, both in written word and by photos. That sure helps keep this newsletter full! Thanks to Ron and Monica for articles, and Jack Meyer, Michael Mariotti, and Ron and Monica for photography.

This time of the year is busy with so many fun activities to keep you and your

Mercedes-Benz movin' and groovin'. We've got everything from breakfast meetings to lunch picnics to dinner theater. And car shows are mixed in as a more formal way of looking at and discussing each other's rides. What fun!

Now you probably know I'm hoping to hear from someone who would like to apply their own touch to our SWFL newsletter. I will supply as much help as needed or not. I use MS Publisher 10, and it is so much fun it should be illegal!

Seriously folks, I know several members who could do a fantastic job, but I don't want to get pushy and obnoxious. Maybe they KNOW WHO THEY ARE. And if so, they'd better step up before I have to visit them some dark and stormy night...

Moooving along!

Jerry



Smile! They'll wonder what you're up to..



Past President Tom Harruff presents a plaque memorializing the write-up in the Jan/Feb 2017 MBCA STAR magazine at the Breakfast/Meeting 2/11/17, held at MB of Bonita Springs

About the Mercedes-Benz Club of America

The Mercedes-Benz Club of America (MBCA) is the largest Mercedes-Benz enthusiast organization in the world. As a non-profit 501(c)(7) organization, the Club proudly serves close to 30,000 Members who belong to one of 85 MBCA Sections throughout North America. MBCA's mission is to provide Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts with unique access to casual and competitive car shows, cash savings on new Mercedes-Benz vehicles, 24/7 online technical advice, parts and accessory discounts at participating Mercedes-Benz Dealerships, performance driving events, safe driver training, plus world-class membership conventions not available elsewhere. A subscription to the Club's 100+ page magazine, *The Star*, is delivered to Members every other month and is included with annual membership dues of \$55/ U.S.; \$65/Canada & International.

MBCA's national business office is headquartered in Colorado. For more information about membership and member benefits, please visit www.mbca.org or call 800.637.2360 weekdays 8am-4:30pm Mtn Time.

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

Are you aware that our club a wealth of information for you? Please note that we can provide you with contacts at the MBCA National office, as well as Regional and Local contacts. These emails and phone numbers allow you to contact those individuals who can help you with a variety of topics.

We have information for you to obtain MBCA name tags in a variety of colors. (Then, we don't have to say "Hello....how are you?" - but rather "Hello John and Mary...nice to see you again!") We have collared golf shirts you can purchase locally displaying our club section's logo, and one for the Ladies of Mercedes as well in a variety of colors.

We have subscription forms for the magazine "Classic Mercedes" highlighting the older classics, and published in England in

their eloquent and artful language. A truly enjoyable magazine you will look forward to receiving.

Our Resource List highlights businesses and companies that address the needs of our automobiles: from service, exterior and interior parts and accessories, to forums, articles, buying guides, how-to's, web sites and more. This list has been compiled from our members and their positive experience with companies that have helped us in the past. It is constantly evolving, as we are adding or deleting information for your assistance. We believe you will be pleasantly surprised how thorough and informative this list is!

Please contact me anytime for forms and information.

Ron Cordeau roncor@hotmail.com
cell: 239-322-8817



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UPCOMING EVENTS, ETC.

by Ron Cordeau

Aside from our regular twice monthly breakfasts located to the north in Ft. Myers on March 11th (hosted by Joel Taub) and Naples in the south on March 25th, we have some fun filled events coming up, and look forward to seeing you. Remember, we are more than just members – we are friends!

In early March we look forward to a 350 mile road trip up to Amelia Island on the 9th to the 12th. One of our Directors Peter Blackford, has assembled a wonderful and comprehensive trip from Thursday to Monday. It includes stops, tours, accommodations, lunches dinners and more. We certainly appreciate his effort. Some of us were fortunate to be selected, and will be honored to display our Mercedes-Benz automobiles on the lawn for Saturday's Cars and Coffee event. We are invited to a lunch afterwards at the Horizons restaurant sponsored by Hank Webb of the MBCA Southern Stars section. And on Sunday - the best automobiles in the country will be on the same lawn for the public's enjoyment of The Concours D'Elegance.

Friday evening March 24th in Ft. Myers we will attend the Broadway Palm's winning musical "Anything Goes" featuring music by Cole Porter. Sponsors Tom and Loretta Starrett have arranged a lovely dinner show for our enjoyment. We urge you to attend, and

look forward to a great evening. Details with RSVP's will be sent in a subsequent email.

On Sunday afternoon April 2nd, we will celebrate our 4th Annual End of Season Picnic hosted by Sylvia and Joel Taub at Lakes Park in Ft. Myers. We'll wish our snowbirds and second-section members a safe trip North with hugs, handshakes and massive quantities of good food. Flyers with RSVP's and reminders of this event will be emailed. And, the cost of the meal is partly subsidized by the Southwest Florida section – so your costs are minimal.

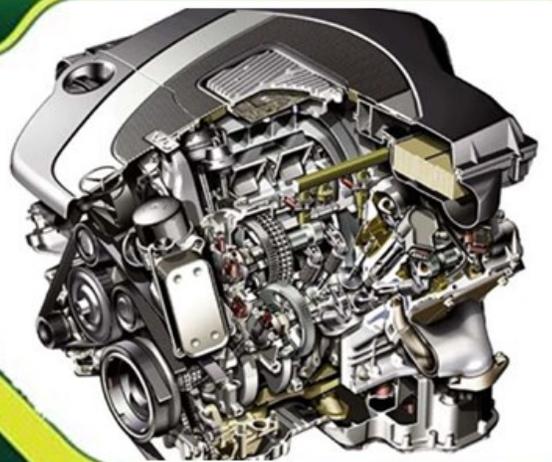
What will you be doing on that beautiful April Sunday in south west Florida? There are no football or baseball games.... the Masters golf tournament doesn't start until the 6th... and sleeping, TV and lounging is overrated! My suggestion is to make a commitment: go out, drive your beautiful Mercedes-Benz to a lovely park and meet with fellow club members in a private pavilion. The cars become secondary, as we enjoy each other's company, meet new and old friends in a relaxed setting, and have more than a bite to eat! Last year over 60 attended this event. But with advance notice, why not double that amount? We look forward to seeing you there.



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Still Free to good home... Free? Yes Free

Or to a bad home...take it! I just can't bear to throw anything M-B away! M-B touchup kit (barely used), car was sold (not mine). 1693 Travertinbeige mica. (2 bottles) Yes, still free! (Or if that just plain sounds suspicious to you, try giving Peter \$199.44 in small, unmarked bills (USD). Contact Peter - priuspete@gmail.com

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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 renewed.



Upcoming Events 2017 Southwest Florida Section, Mercedes-Benz Club of America

Mar 4, Saturday	AACA Car Show, Naples Depot www.naplesmarcoaaca.org
Mar 10 — 12	Amelia Island Concours; Group road trip to Amelia Is. with Peter Blackford
Mar 11, Saturday	9:00 AM, Breakfast Meeting, Mimi's, Ft. Myers
Mar 24, Friday	Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre event; Tom and Loretta Starrett,
Mar 25, Saturday	9:00 AM, Breakfast Meeting, Perkins, Naples
April 2, Sunday	4th Annual <i>End of the Season Picnic</i> Lakes Park, Ft Myers
April 8, Saturday	9:00 AM, Breakfast Meeting, Mimi's, Ft. Myers
April 15, Saturday	SWFL MBCA 13th Annual MB Car Show, Mercedes-Benz of Ft. Myers
April 22, Saturday	9:00 AM, Breakfast Meeting, Perkins, Naples



Section member, supporter and friend, Curtiss Alden received a small token of the Section's appreciation for all he does for us. Thanks to Mercedes-Benz of Naples for many years of support. You are loved!

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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...

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

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