



# Sunshine STAR



MBCA | Southwest Florida Section

Issue No. 5, 2017

Sept / Oct 2017



<i>In This Issue:</i>	Page
President's Column + Contacts	2
New & Renewing Members, and a whole bunch of Hot Notices!	3
SL Fulcrum by Mal	5
Minutes and GASC Dinner report	6
Editorial Horn + Michael's Heads-up	8
Where Legends Meet, Mario in Cal	9
Classified	11
Calendar	12

A group of 20 joined Hartmut, Igor and John of RENNtech for an engaging review of performance enhancements to Mercedes Benz. Hartmut provided access to some rare cars.... Many thanks to the RENNtech team for their hospitality. We will see you soon for tuning.

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

**Breakfast Meetings, 9 AM**

**Ft. Myers area... Mimi's Café 41@Daniels**  
2nd Saturday every month.  
Next Meetings - Sept 9, Oct 14

➔  ➔

**Naples area... Perkins on Pine Ridge**  
4th Saturday every month.  
Next meetings - Sept 23, Oct 28

## President's Perspective

**O**ur recent visit to RENNtech proved to be a very informative and fun 2 hour trip. We were greeted by the service manager John, several of their employees and the owner, Hartmut Feyhl. They impressed us with their first class facility, knowledge and experience of Mercedes-Benz high performance tuning. We thank Glen Sholl for organizing this impressive trip.



Member and Director Mario Puente, had the unique experience of showing his rare AMG coupe at the Legends of the Autobahn on August 18th just prior to the Pebble Beach Concours. Congratulations to him for a 1st place award in his class! It was worth the effort to trailer his car round trip. More details are in this edition.

We ended the month with a dinner/dance at the German American Club hosted by Dave and Judy Schall. Great food, lively music and dancing! A good time was had by all, in spite of the rainy weather.

Upcoming events that may be of interest..... On Sunday September 17th, we will have a lunch Buffet at the Golden Leaf in Naples, followed by an afternoon movie. The 7th Annual Oktoberfest in Punta Gorda is Saturday October 7th sponsored by Tom Starrett. And Monday October 16th is our 3rd annual Oktoberfest Dinner at the Black Forest in Naples. This is a private dinner for our group and is limited to 40 people. Thanks to Tom Harruff for arranging this special evening. Saturday the 21st is the 18th annual Lake Mirror Classic Auto festival held in Lakeland Florida. Over 750 vehicles will be on display! Peter Blackford will provide more information for us. In November, we will have a Road Rally (hopefully on paved roads), with our host Jack Meyer supplying time, place, rules and route.

December 3rd, Sunday is our annual Holiday Dinner at the Olde Cypress Country Club. Tom and Anne Harruff always work hard on this popular event that everyone enjoys. Looking forward to it!

As you may have heard, our award-winning editor of the Sunshine STAR Jerry Kinderman, will be retiring after 4 years of preparing this newsletter. And Anita will also be retiring as the Membership Chair. What a wonderful job they have performed for our club. They will be missed! This leaves opportunities for our current members to consider filling in as Newsletter Editor and Membership Chair! Please consider!!

Regards,

**Ron Cordeau**

President, MBCA SWFL Section

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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

Anita Kinderman, Membership Chair SWFL

As of this writing our SOUTHWEST FLORIDA SECTION has 430 Members

★**New Members and Associates** since the last newsletter; Rosemarie and Dee Aranza, Steven Beutler, Kim Cadrain, Abby Conrad, Gary Cranston, Robert and Judy Donnan, Vic Hansen, John Hill, Audrey Lukasiak, Donna Marchetti, Gary Mazeffa, Charles and Susan Murray, Garth Rezek and Kerri Kuester, Ronald and Linda Rezek, Kevin Schuman, John Swift, and Wayne Williams

**We are happy you've joined us!**

★And **Thank You** to our **32 Renewed Members** for your continuing MBCA Membership!  
...now let's have some M-B fun!

Let's enjoy a Sunday Buffett together, and then a Movie.

**Sunday September 17th, 11:00 AM, GOLDEN LEAF RESTAURANT,**  
3615 Tamiami Tr. N., Naples 34103, Park Shore Plaza

We will meet at the Buffet for this highly rated Chinese Restaurant, and afterward we'll go to a Movie.  
Check your emails for details to follow. Contact Chet Young (321) 446-0472

**Next Event Almost Here!**



**BEER, BRATS, MUSIC, & MERCEDES BENZI!**

**Saturday, October 7th, 2017, 4 PM to 9 PM**

Join the Southwest Florida Mercedes Benz Club as we participate in our **7th annual Punta Gorda Oktoberfest Celebration and German Car Show!**

It's a fun and relaxing way to show off your beloved Mercedes and enjoy the Germanic festivities! Bring yourselves, bring a friend, bring your car. Show your SWFL MBCA colors and make our club proud! Watch for the flyer in your email!

Herald Square, right in Downtown Punta Gorda

\***RSVP** to Tom Starrett no later than Monday October 2nd; (941)347-7119, (941) 286-2760 (cell), [tomstarr74@comcast.net](mailto:tomstarr74@comcast.net)



**Monday, October 16, 6 PM**

Join your fellow SWFL Section members for our

**3rd Annual Oktoberfest Dinner at the Black Forest Restaurant**

Located in North Naples Greentree Shopping Center at Immokalee and Airport-Pulling Roads, their German food is outstanding as is their selection of beer and wine.

Seating is limited to 40, price per person is \$26

Reservations: call Tom Harruff, 239-591-8049

*Ein Prosit der Gemütlichkeit!*



**You've been enjoying** your time with fellow members of the Southwest Florida Section Mercedes Benz Club of America, now you are looking for an opportunity to serve... to help out with the things that make this such a great club.

Well by golly, opportunity knocks! The Southwest Florida Section has two leadership positions coming available January 1, 2018:

★ **Editor, Sunshine Star newsletter.** Jerry is retiring after four years of creative mayhem.

★ **Membership Chair, SWFL Section.** Anita is also retiring after three years of tracking our membership.

These are fun positions! And it's obvious you like people since you belong to the SWFL Section, so either position will put you right in the middle.

**Call** President Ron Cordeau and express your interest and ideas. Or call Jerry or Anita and ask any questions you might have about the opportunity. Don't wait, the sooner you apply, the more assistance you'll be able to get, and then YOUR name gets put into the club directory! Wow!



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Mercedes-Benz of Naples



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## SL Fulcrum

**What follows** is a reconstructed article that *The Star* was

kind enough to print in 2012. Given the two 190SL's that **Mike Cozza's** folks are rehabbing at M-B Naples, it was suggested it might be appropriate to take a look at SL history as to long time MBCA Member; me.

On or about 1960 the Studebaker Dealer in Hagerstown Maryland had a 220S they wanted to sell, and we had a Lincoln that was making strange noises... we came to an amicable deal. This would be about the time that Studebaker and Mercedes were parting ways, and best guess is the dealer was happy to see the 4 door beauty leave.



The Mercedes served us well for a number of years. The unfortunate part of the yarn is that there were no mechanics in the center of Pennsylvania (Greencastle Pa to Harrisburg Pa to Corning, NY) that would look at the car for maintenance or repair, and my knowledge of the internal workings of an automobile at that time was non-existent.

Example: Coming home to Greencastle from Corning (NY) with my boss one night the generator stopped working. Lights began to fail. I pulled into Williamsport (PA) after dark and stopped at a lighted Garage. Gassed up the car and asked the mechanic on duty if he could take a look at the problem. He walked around the car, couple of times, and then asked in a classic dialect... "This is one of

them-there foreign cars is it not?"

Hard to fake that one. Mechanic thought it best to decline the opportunity. There was a Potato Growers convention in Williamsport that night, but we did find a hotel to put us up. (This would have been about 1963 well before the motel availability that exists today.) In the morning there was enough juice to get us started, and keep the car firing, to home the following day.

That being said, the car handled excellently and when it left us we had an appreciation for the handling, and quality, of Mercedes automobiles.

Fast Forward about 10 years and change the location to Pittsburgh and our son (Paul) was of an age where "next" year he would of an age to be licensed to drive, and "obviously" needed a car to do so. How "we" came upon the newspaper ad selling a 190SL, in need of TLC, I do not recall, but can guess. He was told we could consider buying it if he would agree to do any repairs. Shortsighted father.

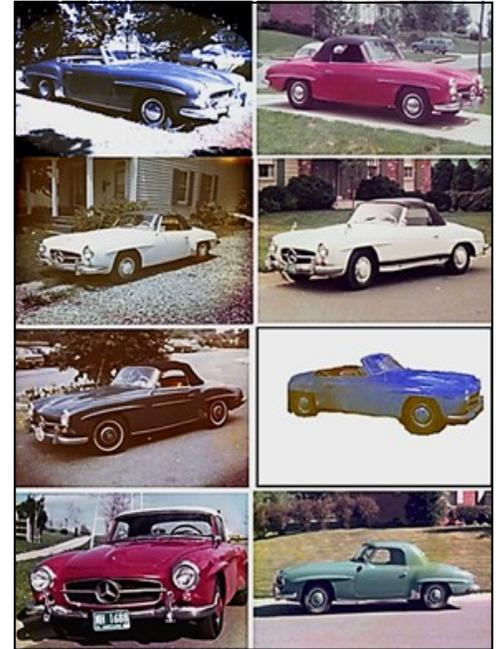
The 190SL (henceforth we called all of them SL's) was purchased for the lordly sum of \$125 and nursed home, we may have towed it, I do not remember.. The previous owner's name was Roger, so "Roger" that SL became through its various stages of cleaning, bonding, brake change out and a multitude of odds and ends the rust rotten car required.

This was the beginning of a 5 or 6 year SL and other MB father/son (son/father?) partnership buying, rehabbing, and selling old cars. It ended only when Paul matured into Mustang buy/sell/etc and bought himself a Camaro with his hard gotten gains. But I am ahead of the stats and info of interest to the car guy readers of this magazine.

For years when I boasted on this story it would end with an admission that I did not remember how many SL's we had redone, was it 6 or 8 ??? Actually the pictures accompanying are proof positive that it was at least NINE (9), and the Bills of Sale and Registrations allow for a total of 12 that passed through our hands. This would be about right as we had 2 or 3 hulks we bought for parts.

He recently ponied up the pictures and information that are part of this yarn as proof positive.

If you have a real need for history, I can send you the last 5 of the 13 Vins we have a record of.



Above are the aged pictures of the 9.

I really should apologize to those of you who deal in restoration and meticulous rehabilitation, but won't. The time spent with my Son was well spent. It remains a bond between us to this day: ie, teaching a N Y City bred parent what makes a car run, and a young man the positive results of effort. The 190 SL's acting as a fulcrum, being an excellent machine (if a little rust prone).

- Mal Newbourne

## SWFL SECTION INVADES MERCEDES-BENZ OF NAPLES

**Saturday, July 22nd** Per Ron's plans, right after our breakfast meeting a number of our Section members descended on MB-Naples for some scheduled service clinics. The dealership has been providing these free summer clinics and we are happy to take advantage. Knowledgeable service personnel can answer your questions, and point out potential mechanical concerns. And some of us really enjoy looking at bottoms. of our cars, as Mal and Glen took advantage.



Monica and Anita took a side opportunity to hover around a visibly loud, custom AMG G63. The ladies were undecided, but your editor lusted after it.

A big Thank You to all the staff and management of Mercedes-Benz of Naples! We always feel welcome and had a great time. And the hot lunch buffet was excellent!



## MBCA SWFL Breakfast Meeting Minutes

Monica Cordeau, Secretary

### 7/22/2017 Perkins, Naples

The Breakfast Meeting at Perkins in Naples on Saturday, July 22, 2017 had another good turnout for midsummer.

The membership now stands at 427 Main members with 170 Associate members for a total of 597! New member Ron Rezek introduced himself and told a funny story about buying his '01 Black SL600. He jokingly said his wife would get a ticket within 30 days, when in reality he got a ticket within 30 minutes.

Curtis Alden from the Naples dealership filled us in on the latest and greatest in the MB world. The SMART car will only be available as electric in 2018.

Current President Ron Cordeau presented Tom Harruff with a "Past President" pin in appreciation for all Tom did for the section during his term.

Upcoming events discussed include a trip to RENNtech in Stuart, FL on 7/29. A Tour and Luncheon of Shangri La Springs in Bonita Springs has been scheduled for Saturday, 01/20/18. StarFest will be in Birmingham, AL from 5/15 - 5/22/18. It's not too soon to start thinking about this. We are looking for a volunteer to take point on this. They are expecting a crowd of about 600 people!

At the conclusion of the meeting many of us headed to the Naples MB for a free inspection of our vehicles. They check for anything of concern and feed you while you wait. Thanks to Mike Cozza, Curtis Alden, and everyone at the dealership for inviting us to take advantage of this free service.

### 8/12/17 Mimi's Ft. Myers

Ron started the meeting telling about our trip to RENNtech in Stuart, FL.

David Schall talked about the German American Club Dinner/Dance in Cape Coral on 8/25. We are requested to wear Section shirts and name badges. It is cash only! Dave will arrange parking for our cars. Judy will be at the front door to help with registration.

New member Max Furbringer introduced himself. He lives in The Forest in Fort Myers and drives a new GLS.

Mario spoke about his plan to attend the Legends of the Autobahn in CA. He is taking his very rare (1 of 2) 2 dr 560 SEC for the AMG 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This car has an exclusive Pearl White finish with Royal Blue interior. His ride to the meeting today was a 1970 6.3 SEL. He's got some beauties! There was a lot of drooling in the parking lot.

Tom Starrett mentioned Oktoberfest in Punta Gorda on Sat, Oct 7, from 4 PM 'til ????. He also informed us of a Viking Ocean Cruise trip to Barcelona for the Monaco Gran Prix in May 2018.

Chet Young gave us a run down of upcoming events and possible future event ideas: Sunday Buffet/movie in Sept; Black Forest Restaurant in Naples on Monday 10/16, \$27pp; Holiday Party at Olde Cypress first Sunday in December; Broadway Palm New Year's Eve production of Chicago.

### 8/26/17 Perkins, Naples

Curtis from MB Naples started us off by filling us in on what is up and coming with the MB marque, nitrogen vs regular air in tires, warranties on new vs certified pre-owned vehicles and another deal-

er service clinic coming up in Sept.

Looking for a Smart Car? The Naples dealership was awarded 1 of maybe 2 Smart car franchises in the state.

Membership stands at 432 right now, with 8 new members joining in the last month.

Chet spoke about future events, the next coming up for Sun Sept 17 is lunch at the Golden Leaf restaurant in Naples followed by a movie TBD. Oct 7 is Oktoberfest in Punta Gorda, Oct 16 dinner at the Black Forest Restaurant, a rally for November is being planned by Jack Meyer. Our Holiday Party on Dec 3 will close out our year.

Peter Blackford mentioned that the Lake Mirror Classic is Oct 21, 2017. Registration is now open for showing your car. He will be the point person for information on this event.

Jack Meyer spoke a little about our very own Mario Puente and his trip to Legends of the Autobahn, taking home a 1<sup>st</sup> place prize for his rare white AMG Wide body 560 SEC. Oh, and got the car builder's autograph on the dash.

Mario from Mario Bros Detailing spoke of dyeing interiors and pitfalls to watch out for.

Glen Scholl talked about the trip we took out to RENNtech. He asked for feedback from others who attended this event.

After volunteering their services for more than 3 years, Anita and Jerry Kinderman are giving up their roles as Membership Chair and Newsletter Editor. Although we feel Anita and Jerry are irreplaceable, we really need a couple more members to step into these very important roles.

**16 of us made it to the German American Social Club** for Dinner/Dancing on Aug 25<sup>th</sup>. Heavy rains and flooded roads kept a few people home (what a wet weekend we had!), but the ones that made it enjoyed good food, great company, and lively music. Many really experienced dancers filled the floor with every song! Afraid of looking like klutzes next to these pros, Ron and I

stayed off the dance floor. Not so for Marion & Kirk Jervis, they fit right in as they moved to the music. Mercedes Puente had both daddy and grandpa dancing with her. Many thanks to **David and Judy Schall** for making all the arrangements for this very entertaining evening!

Monica Cordeau

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Contact Information:  
**Mario Puente (Owner)**  
239.204.7434

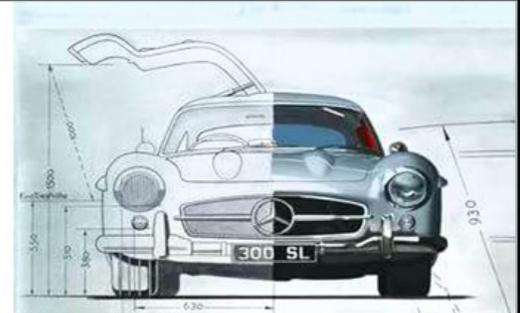
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(Actual vehicle)





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## Editorial Horn...

Summertime, and the livin' is easy, and our summer is 11.33 months long.

*Tamiami Tint Masters* in Estero has signed on as an advertiser and supporter of our Section. Expert home, auto and commercial window tinting, with a lifetime warranty on auto installations. If you're planning on keeping your new car interior new, this is something to seriously consider. Especially if you're gonna keep it for a lifetime. Check them out.

## Going, going...

I never would have believed that I'd be the Editor of a newsletter for such a distinguished marque and the terrific owners thereof. And to receive national recognition for that? Even more far-fetched!

But it's true, and now, after four fun years of designing, editing, and cow-plunking, it's only fair that I let another member have some fun!

## So why not you?

Yes, you! Don't start with the "Oh no, I couldn't possibly..." bull... c'mon, it's one issue every 2 months, just six issues a year. Once you're rolling it actually takes minimal time (unless you're trying to hide cows all over), and you get to put YOUR OWN ideas, comments, designs out for everyone's enjoyment and your ego. Disclaimer: I have no arts training, no computer training, barely any brains, yet I do it!



If you want, I'll help you get rolling. I create this in MS Publisher, which I taught to myself. It's really easy, especially if you're familiar with Word, and works better than Word, in my opinion. And if you want to continue with this same design, I'll provide the .pub file of this newsletter as your template. You might decide to do it completely different, like totally online?

*The November-December 2017 issue will*

be my last production, so a volunteer will be needed to continue "The News" of the great SWFL MBCA Section by December. Step up now. Let Ron or me know that you're willing to help out your Section by being the very respected Editor!

MBCA National has requirements for a newsletter, so it isn't a question of not having one.

I am serious (for once), **your Section needs an Editor**. There are members in our Section who would be outstanding at this... all you have to do is make a call. C'mon! Cows are optional of course.

Happy Fall! I mean, not that you should actually 'fall', I was referring to the season you know.

Moooving along!

Jerry

Really, what is so loveable about cows?...



*"...Mercedes power is definitely better than Ferrari power, so it worked well this weekend..."*

- Lewis Hamilton, winner Italian GP at Monza 9/3/17, on the podium, offers a little retort to the booing mooring Italian/Ferrari sore losers.



## 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.

**More Than a Car Club.  
We're a Community.<sup>sm</sup>**

Member **Michael Mariotti** alerts us that MBCA **StarFest©2018** is now live, check it out at [www.mbca.org/schedule-starfest-2018](http://www.mbca.org/schedule-starfest-2018). There is a group planning on going for the Talladega Superspeedway and Barber Motorsports Park events, and there is something for everyone. If you intend to go, best get your hotel reservations taken care of as soon as possible, like NOW.

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## WHERE THE LEGENDS MEET

**2017 marks the 50th Anniversary of AMG,** Mercedes-Benz's in-house high performance tuning division. Some of you may know that virtually anyone (with deep pockets, that is) can walk up a local Mercedes-Benz dealership and purchase a new Mercedes-AMG off the showroom floor.

But this wasn't always the case. There was a time prior to the 1990s' when AMG was an independent, Mercedes-Only tuning company. Their well heeled customers would purchase a new Mercedes-Benz and they had to ship the car to an authorized AMG facility if they "needed" to have the fastest, wildest Mercedes in the country club.

This small piece of AMG history became very real for us when my father and I were fortunate enough to purchase a 1988 560SEC AMG "Widebody" (nicknamed as such due to its wider front and rear fenders, when com-



pared to a regular, non AMG SEC) with only 17,500 miles on the clock. As I found out weeks after I purchased the car, it is one of only two white Widebody SEC's ever built by AMG of Canada.

After reaching out to the founder of the Canadian AMG franchise the accomplished racecar driver, Mr. Eddy Lai, he also confirmed that my car was the actual display model that AMG used at the 1988 Toronto International Auto Show!

With this in mind, we set out to display the car at the 2017 Legends of the Autobahn show that took place in August at the Nicklaus Club in Monterey, California. The yearly

event, organized by the BMW Club of America, Audi Club of North America and the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, gathers some of the best examples of these German Autobahn stormers. Knowing this would be a special year due to the AMG Anniversary cele-



brations, I invited Eddy Lai to join us in California and reunite with the car he built almost 30 years ago. To our surprise and joy, he kindly accepted the invitation.

Sure enough, in the early morning of August 18th of 2017, Eddy Lai drove our SEC Widebody onto the center field of the Nicklaus Club. With his beautiful wife Alice documenting the moment with her camera, Eddy made everyone stop what they were doing as he drove his majestic creation into the show. Little did we know that the car would win the First in Class trophy by the end of the day.

All in all, the massive effort to ship our car from Fort Myers to the pacific Coast of California and back was well worth it. We witnessed an important milestone in AMG's history and were blessed enough to facilitate the Meeting of two Legends.

(More about our participation at the 2017 Legends of the Autobahn coming up in the November-December edition of *The STAR Magazine*).

- Mario Puente

Photos: Toronto Int'l Auto Show; Eddy Lai-Flying Tiger Development.

Mario's Legend on the Lawn; Mercedes-Benz Museum Media team, Stuttgart.

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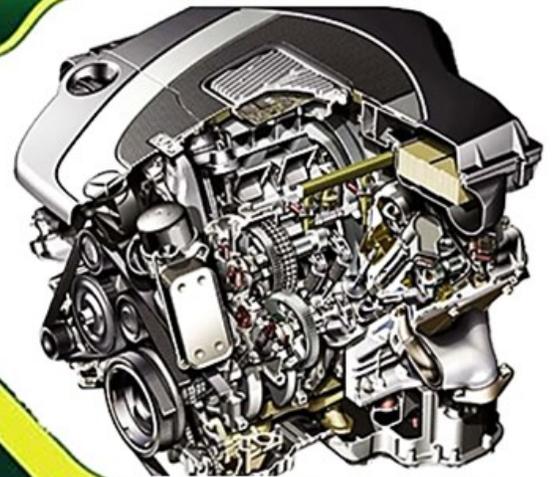
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## Upcoming Events 2017

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

Sept 9, Saturday	9:00 AM, Breakfast Meeting, Mimi's, Ft. Myers <i>cancelled due to unpredictable Hurricane Irma</i>
Sept 17, Sunday	11:00 AM Sunday Buffett, Golden Leaf Restaurant, Naples, followed by an afternoon movie, to be determined: contact Chet Young (321) 446-0472
Sept 23, Saturday	9:00 AM, Breakfast Meeting, Perkins, Naples
Oct 7, Saturday	4:00 PM, Oktoberfest Punta Gorda, Annual Car Show. Tom Starrett: tomstarr74@comcast.net
Oct 14, Saturday	9:00 AM, Breakfast Meeting, Mimi's, Ft. Myers
Oct 16, Monday	SWFL Oktoberfest Dinner, Black Forest Restaurant, Naples. Tom Harruff (239) 591-8049
Oct 21, Saturday	Lakeland Auto Show/Lake Mirror Concours. Peter Blackford: priuspete@gmailcom
Oct 28, Saturday	9:00 AM, Breakfast Meeting, Perkins, Naples
Dec 3, Sunday	6:00 PM, SWFL Holiday Party, Olde Cypress, Naples. Watch for the flyer



President Ron Cordeau presents Tom Harruff with a "Past President" MBCA pin at the July 22nd Breakfast meeting in Naples. Again we acknowledge the time, effort and love Tom shares with the club!



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#### **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](http://mbca.org) or call 1-800-637-2360.

#### *Southwest Florida Section MBCA On The Web!*

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

*and...*

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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](http://www.mbca.org)