



Sunshine STAR



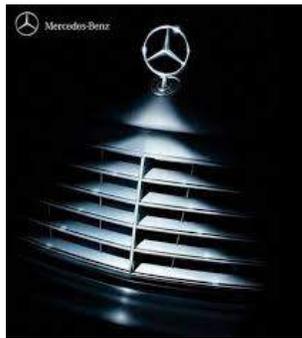
MBCA | Southwest Florida Section

Issue No. 6, 2018

November/December 2018



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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 - December 8th, January 12th



Naples area... Perkins on Pine Ridge
4th Saturday every month.
Next meetings - December 22, January 26th.

President's Perspective



Greetings to you all! This is our last newsletter in 2018! It was a successful year of fun events covering many areas of interest. Early in the year we had a car show at the Naples Airport for the annual Fly-In/Cruise in featuring both cars and airplanes. The Cars On 5th exclusive show in February had ten Mercedes-Benz cars in the field where thousands lined the streets to see the exotic cars on display. Don't miss next year's show for the opportunity to view these very expensive cars. In March our annual caravan to Amelia Island was initiated by host Peter Blackford, who led us on a complete event with museum tours, room accommodations, and dinners. We had a wonderful time from beginning to end. This year once again, he will outline our trip in detail.

The car show at Mercedes-Benz of Ft. Myers was in April, and many turned out to display and see our range of cars on display. In May, we had a few of our members traveled up to Alabama to see and participate in StarFest 2018. Some even got to take their cars on the track at high speeds! Glen Sholl is our liaison for the event and will have details on this year's technical shows from MBCA. We are considering a return to Renntech again and will keep you informed.

Ocktoberfest at the Black Forest restaurant in Naples was another great evening that we will continue to enjoy. And a dinner/theater show at Broadway Palm proved that we should offer this again as an opportunity to see a live show.

We concluded with our Holiday Party with our guests at a new location – Talis Park. It was a gala event that was enjoyed by all. Glen Scholl was responsible for securing the new location, and we will continue there next year. We even had a few cars on display in the front section with beautiful Mercedes-Benz autos to greet our members as they entered the club.

Our section 2018 Section Member-of-the Year, Tom Starrett was unable to attend, but is recovering and will be back and kicking in no time. We appreciate his efforts on the newsletter issues throughout the year.

Next year will be equal or better, thanks to our volunteers. We would like to have more road rallies and similar events so, if you have ideas or would like to help us create one, please contact us.

Ron Cordeau

Happy Holidays

MBCA Southeast Regional Director:

Daniel Cabrera dcabrera2@tampabay.rr.com

SWFL OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:

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

Vice President: Glen Sholl
239-272-1328 gsholl@comcast.net

Secretary: Monica Cordeau
239-322-9813 Monica.Cordeau@gmail.com

Treasurer: Joel Taub
239-549-0435 taub.joel@gmail.com

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

Newsletter Design/Editor: Tom Starrett
941-347-7119 tomstarr74@comcast.net

Webmaster: Tom Starrett
941-347-7119 tomstarr74@comcast.net

Facebook Ace: Mario Puente
239-204-7434 mpuente-benz@hotmail.com

Section Directors: The Officers named above, and

John (Jack) Meyer
239-450-1998 johnmeyersr@hotmail.com

Peter Blackford
239-592-9814 priuspete@gmail.com

Anne Harruff, Past Secretary

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.

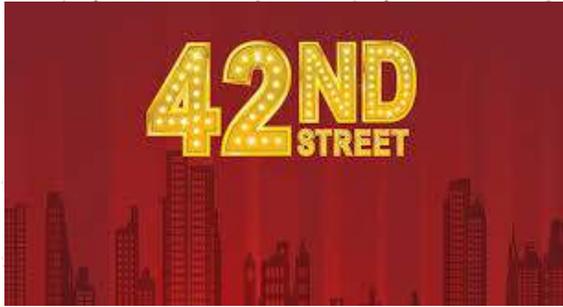
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**Questions? Call your Section Officer at 239-322-8817,
or our National Business Office at 1-800-637-2360 M-F 8am-5pm MT. Or visit www.mbca.org**

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Since last reported our section has 21 new members and 47 renewing members. Our total membership now totals 408. We would like to welcome our newest members into the club, and look forward to meeting all of you at any or all of our upcoming events!

James Barbato, Peter Campione, Robert Eddy, Carla Elman, Bruce Foster, Robert Foubert, Steven Gable, James Gardener, Peter Gignac, Jeffery Heitmann, Craig Herzer, Mark Hess, Randal Latona, Jim Martin, Larry McCartt, Steve Moore, Randy Morris, David Stauffer, Thorbjorn Storm, Stan Whitcomb, Mark Wooley



On the 2nd of November just over 20 members gathered at the BROADWAY PALM Dinner Theater to watch a stirring rendition of the Broadway Smash Hit, 42nd STREET. A great dinner, and a great time was had by everyone that attended!! This annual club event never fails to please, and we encourage you all to participate the next time it comes around!!



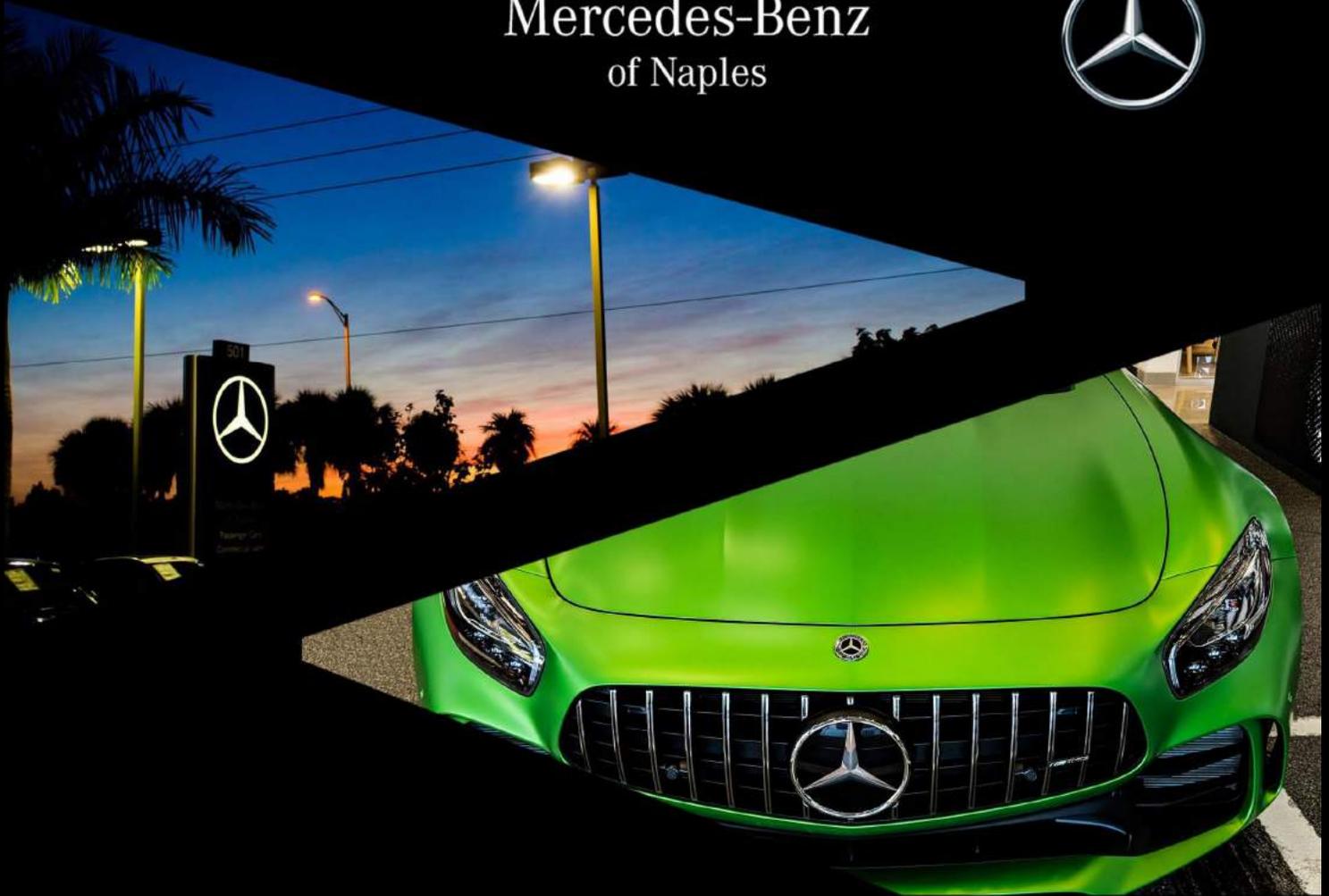


ABANDONED VEHICLES Of The Everglades

After the MBCA Naples breakfast meeting On Saturday, October 27th, a small group of our members drove down to the Museum of the Everglades in Everglades City to see the photographic exhibit ‘Abandoned Cars of the Everglades’ by Matt Stock. The exhibit included about 10 exquisite pieces that must be seen to be appreciated. These were not just photos of rusty old cars. These were unique pieces of art. A meet and greet with the photographer was scheduled from 1-3 PM, so after taking a look around the museum we went to an eclectic little place called Camellia Street Grill for lunch. After lunch some of us returned to the museum to meet the photographer, Matt Stock. Matt explained how this project came to be. While working as a wildlife photographer in the Everglades he was asked if he ever came upon any abandoned vehicles. He hadn’t so he decided to do a little research and see what he could find. Not only did he find vehicles, he photographed them in a way that only a true artist could. Matt was happy to share the story behind each of the pieces. He described how he and a group of volunteers go into the Everglades at night and illuminate these vehicles with a variety of light sources from flashlights, headlights, and whatever he needs to get just the right effect. He’s encountered snakes, bears, and the sound of gunshots. While working he is covered from head to toe, except for his eyes (to see his lens) and the ends of his fingers (to feel the buttons of the camera) to protect him from mosquitoes. The beauty of his work was amplified by his passion to create it. You can see some of his work on his website www.mattstockphoto.com.
Monica Cordeau



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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



JOHN MEYER

John (Jack) Meyer may be one of the most ubiquitous members of our club. Seemingly always available with a friendly smile, or positive words of encouragement, Jack epitomizes everything that makes our club great, and fosters the sense of camaraderie that makes membership so enjoyable. A longtime Mercedes enthusiast (since 1967 when stationed with the Air Force at Rhein-Main AFB in Germany) his first MB had to wait a few years due obligations to the aforementioned Air Force (and family)! Practicality trumps desirability every time!! His very first Mercedes was a 1994 E500 (Euro edition) which, believe it or not, is still in his garage!



To say that motor oil runs in Jack's blood would be an understatement (he's owned over 30 cars in his lifetime, ranging from a 1927 Chandler 4-door, to a '67 Volkswagen bus, to a '73 Chevy Nova, to a '96 Buick-Park Avenue, to his present day daily driver, a 2011 Mercedes S63). But it's not just Jack that has a love of cars, his beautiful wife of 59 years, Silda, has an equal passion for fine automobiles, especially Mercedes Benzes! In fact, back when she and Jack purchased that '67 Volkswagen Bus, she almost had him talked into buying a 1967 560SL! (but then that practicality thing reared it's ugly head!) Silda finally got her wish when Jack retired, trading in her plush Buick Park Avenue Ultra for a 2001 S500.

Jack's Air Force and private business career has taken him from Cleveland OH to Germany, to Puerto Rico to here in Florida. In that time he and Silda have raised 4 children and now have 7 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren living in Florida, North Carolina, and New Jersey.

Jack has been a member of our section since the late 1990's. Back then, there were only about 30-40 members, and meetings attracted maybe 4 or 5 folks! Obviously, since then our club has experienced amazing growth and winter meetings attract nearly 30—40 people. In my humble opinion, it is because of people like Jack & Silda that our club has flourished. Their magnanimous and effervescent personalities have been a beacon of friendliness and inclusion that makes them, and our club, so very special!

Thank you Jack & Silda, we all love and appreciate you!!



Anyone for
Breakfast?



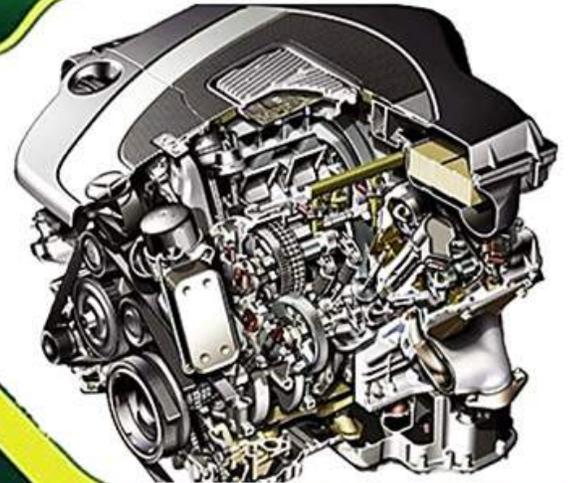
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Christmas

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Editorial...

By the time that you read this,

Thanksgiving will be in the rear-view mirror, our annual Holiday party will be in the books, and we will all be setting our sights on the upcoming Christmas and New Year holidays.

As the Andy Williams song says, it is indeed the most "Wonderful Time Of The Year". A time for revelry. A time for giving and sharing. A time for family, and a time for reflection. Yet, as 2018 passes into 2019, it is also a time for rejuvenation. A time to re-energize ourselves. A time to rejoice at our good fortune for being here on God's earth (and for our good fortune to proudly own a Mercedes!)

I urge us all to take this time to focus on those in need. Those less fortunate than perhaps we are. Whatever their story, these folks are no less human than you or I. They have the

same wants and dreams as we do, the same thirst for love and happiness, and the same devotion to family as so many of us have.

There are multiple charities that proliferate at this time of year. Multiple ways to reach out and lend a helping hand to those in need. Yet, your "helping hand" need not be through a charity at all. A simple gesture at the mall. A small gesture to someone burdened with the weight of life. A spirit-lifting smile and words of encouragement can do wonders for those less fortunate than us. Last year, Loretta and I spent an afternoon at the local Walmart observing all manner of folks buying clothes, and gifts, and toys for kids and families. Occasionally we would just walk up and give them a \$50.00 bill to help them in their effort. The expressions of disbelief and then gratitude were so astounding it gave us both a feeling of comfort and self-worth. It was a feeling that is nearly indescribable. So much so that we plan on doing it again this year. And what did it really cost us? A couple of dinners out?

Many of us are probably veterans of years in

the corporate and business world. Bankers, executives, business owners. We often throw around terms like R.O.I., return on investment. I can tell you, there is no better return on investment than the satisfaction garnered by helping someone in need. As I said at the beginning of this column, Christmas is the season of sharing and giving. It is the essence of the holiday. This year, won't you join us in acting on that spirit? Its **your** turn to experience life's greatest reward. Just get out there and do it. You won't be sorry!

Tom S



About the Mercedes-Benz Club of America

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

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

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

CLASSIFIEDS CONTINUED

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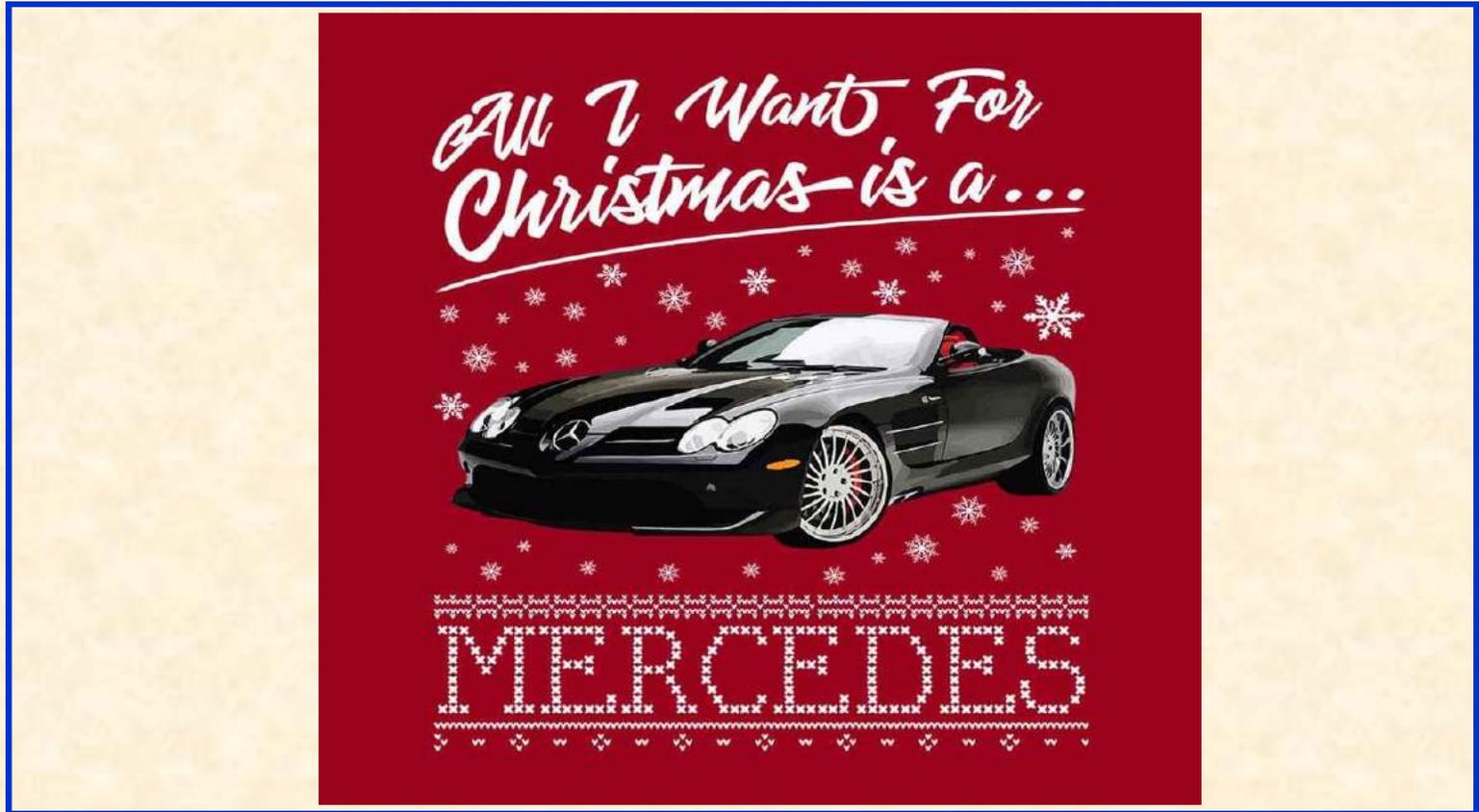
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Upcoming Events 2018

Southwest Florida Section, Mercedes-Benz Club of America

December 8th	Breakfast Meeting; Perkins Ft Myers; 6 mile Cypress & US 41 9:00am
December 22nd	Breakfast Meeting; Perkins Naples; Pine Ridge Rd Just west of 75 9:00am
January 12th	Breakfast Meeting; Perkins Ft. Myers, 6 Mile Cypress & US 41 9:00am
January 26th	Breakfast Meeting; Perkins Naples, Pine Ridge Rd west of 75 9:00am
February 9th	Cars On 5th Naples
February 16th	Pelican Preserve Car Show
March 7-10	Amelia Island Caravan, Cars & Coffee, and Concours



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>



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March 2019

MBCA: 2019 Amelia Island mini-tour by Peter Blackford

Return to Amelia

On the extended weekend of March 7-11 we will once again be touring up to the Amelia Island Concours. The drive will begin early Thursday morning at our "usual" stepping off place - Cracker Barrel located at Exit 141 on I-75.

From there we will proceed north to (TBD) where we will enjoy lunch at (also TBD). [This year's side-tour will remain a mystery, for a short time....] This will be followed by a short drive to our evening stop, at a nearby hotel to be designated. [but none of the foregoing is as time-critical as what follows]

Friday morning we will proceed on our own (there is typically an "early group" and a "later group", depending on which auctions participants may wish to preview) arriving at **in Jacksonville:**

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where you need to make a reservation (no rooms blocked this year, so first-come and all that) - and breakfast is provided each day.

Friday evening we will have a group dinner, to be arranged....

Saturday will dawn clear and possibly chilly (bring some warmer-than-SWFL clothing - or plan a late-night trip to WalMart), when we will join our chosen few on the lawn at the Ritz for "Cars & Coffee". **[NOTE: if you want to be on the lawn, we need your car info & a picture NOW! – ONLY a few will be accepted.]** Spectator admission is free on Saturday, and if you are accepted as a participant you'll also get free parking on the lawn.

There will also be a silent auction inside the hotel, as well as some interesting seminars & panel discussions. **TICKETS** for those are required - as well as for the Sunday main event - and do sell out! See www.ameliaconcours.org for details (just the 'basic' Sunday ticket is all that's required, but other options are available). Saturday is also a good opportunity to pick up your pre-purchased Sunday tickets at will-call, to avoid the crush the day of the event. In the evening there will likely be an MBCA multi-Section dinner in Old Fernandina Beach (historic seaport).

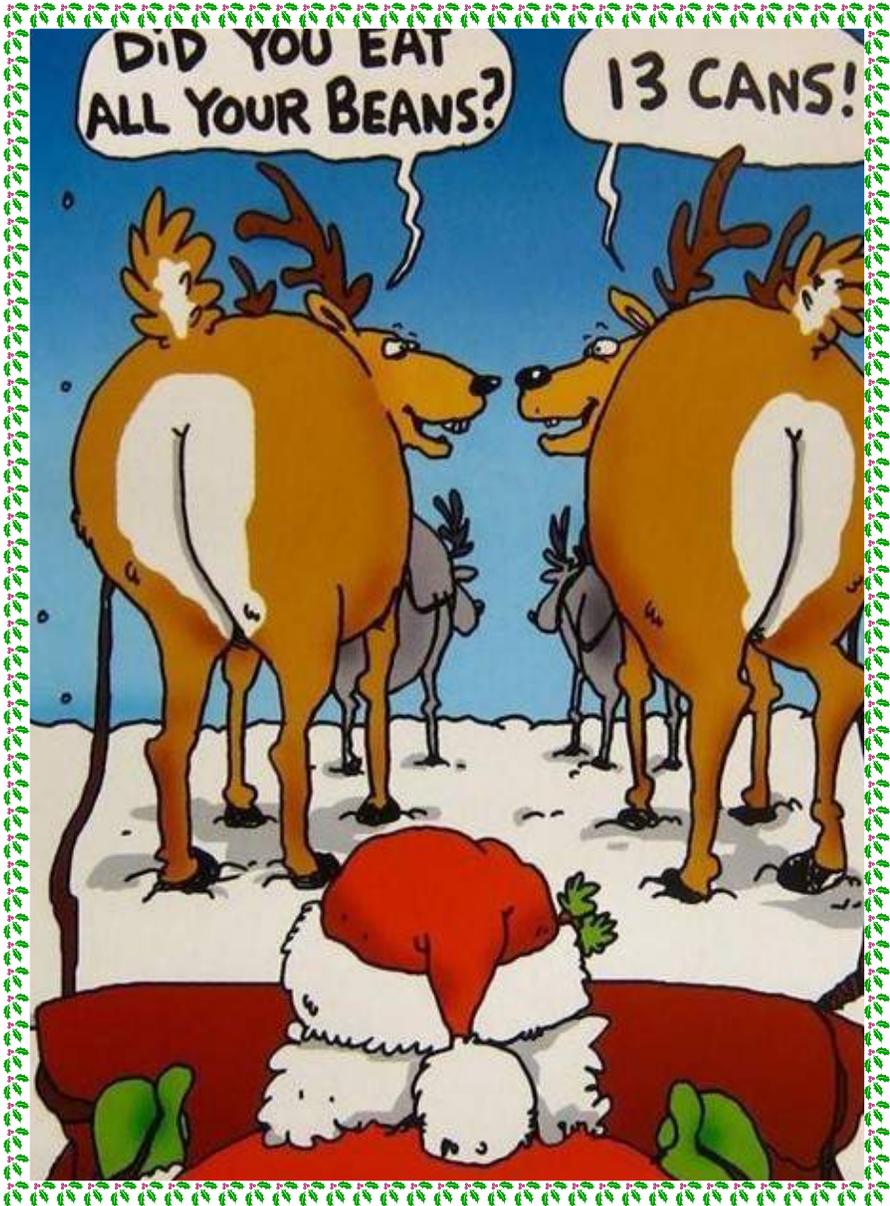
Sunday morning will find us enjoying an entirely different gathering of the most elegant cars from all over the world on the lawn (OK, golf course) of the Ritz. Do stay for the judges introduction in mid-afternoon, and find seating next to the MBNA tent where chairs & bleachers will be provided. After the show, we will (having checked out of the hotel in the morning) be sneaking southward off the Island via a less-traveled road, along the coast (including a short ferry ride - maps provided) to our final hotel - **Hampton Inn & Suites on Vilano Beach** (St. Augustine) **[again, make your reservations ASAP, and plan an extra day there if you want to enjoy St. Augustine].** and night of the **10th** (more, if you wish) at

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This will find us closer to home, where we can enjoy dinner close to the hotel.

For more info and details contact me at: priuspete@gmail.com

parting shot



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