



Sunshine STAR



Issue No. 4, 2019

MBCA | Southwest Florida Section

July/August 2019

Keeping Cool In The Hot Summer



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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 - September 14th, October 12



Naples area... Perkins on Pine Ridge Rd.
 4th Saturday every month.
 Next meetings - August 24th, September 28th

President's Perspective



The rainy season reared its force and might in SW Florida last week, and we were trapped at home. With the extreme humidity it seemed we were living in a *Bio-Dome*! But, as all things in life, time passes...changes occur and evolve. It gave some time to reflect and realize that being president of this section is not a permanent title. And as such, I am *grateful* to have had the opportunity be honored as your section president.

Gratitude is a powerful thought and feeling – its expression replaces negative thoughts than often occupy our minds. My gratitude of the club and Mercedes-Benz is vast. Looking back, I am thankful for joining the Chicago club section some 21 years ago. We attended events, won some car awards and met some enthusiasts who reinforce the love of 'all things Mercedes'. Moving to SW Florida in 2008, we transferred to the club section here - allowing us to participate in shows, car events and social activities with members who have become great friends.

I am grateful for owning (on a temporary basis) some fine examples of Classic Mercedes from the 70's 80's and 90's – and that they were recognized with many cherished trophies and awards in local and regional shows. Grateful for the accumulation of model cars, books and knowledge of historical data, parts and technical info. Grateful to have a custom home garage setup with wall photos, artwork, carpeted floors, A/C, storage and tools. Maintaining cars mechanically and cosmetically is an ongoing learning process that can take up huge chunks of time.

I have learned much about detailing: products, supplies and methods used to clean cars- down to the most finite pieces of misplaced dirt, grime and smudges. Perhaps this appealed to my obsessive character, and being a perfectionist! Some of these cleaning and detail methods will be summarized and presented with hand-outs and a technical presentation at Mercedes-Benz of Bonita Springs on Saturday August 24th. One of our presenters, Paul Viens, is the owner of a local top quality detail company. He enjoyed coming to my garage on past occasions and I was pleased to realize that I know *almost* as much as he does on the topic!

Yes, it is quite a chore to keep up with multiple cars, and I may be looking to letting some of them go. Just as I don't intend to be the club's president much into the future. I envision someone from the younger generation...with their knowledge of social media and enthusiasm for technical events coming to the surface. Open to thoughts, ideas and suggestions!...

As Always;

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.

**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

As of 8/10/19 we have a total of 389 members.
8 new members have signed up, and 25 have renewed their previous memberships

The following have joined our ranks as new members:

Stu Banks
Hugh Fisher
George Kohler
Heinz Knie
Jody Petrie
Roderick Price
Torben Svendsen
Cliff Treiber

WELCOME TO OUR CLUB!!

FIRST MERCEDES IN MY LIFE

By TOM STARRETT



You might call me a “late bloomer” as far as Mercedes Benz cars are concerned. In fact my first introduction to the Mercedes Marque wasn’t even my own car! It was the venerable W126 1986 560 SEL that belonged to my Brother In Law! I long admired this car every time I saw it, and quite often had the occasion to ride in it as we went to various places together. I owned a 1985 Audi 5000 at the time and, even though it was a fine car in its own right, I always coveted brother Ed’s Mercedes. Fast forward 20 or so years and it was my very same brother in law that started talking one day of buying a CLK convertible. Having put the MB out of my mind for so many years, his mention of a Mercedes Convertible got me thinking yet again about owning a Mercedes. I looked at the newer CLKs but my search also exposed me to some of the older Cabriolet models. I soon fell in love with the look and the history of the 124 series E320 Cabriolet. My search didn’t take long as I found one on the East Coast of Florida and made a sight unseen deposit on it. Several days later Loretta and I drove over to look at and pick up the car and it has been a love affair ever since! Since then we have owned a 1997 E320, a 2014 E350, and now a 2015 S550 in addition to my beautiful little “black beauty”





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The Ladies Of Mercedes!

Editor's Note:

Every few issues we will be including this new feature called "The Ladies of Mercedes". As much as we, the "guys" of our club, feel connected to our cars and our club, it is becoming self evident that our Lady Members are just as important to our success, and play a vital role in our daily club operations. This feature will highlight a few of those instrumental ladies, and give them their just recognition for their hard work and contributions to our organization!



ANNE HARRUFF

Meet Anne Harruff

The beginning of our love affair with Mercedes Benz began in 1985, when Tom and I were fortunate enough to be assigned to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, for a 3 month executive tour from The Air Force Logistics Command, Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

We visited the Torpedo Garage and Herr Klink, where we bought a spot in the production line for a 1985 300D Turbo Mercedes-Benz. We picked the colors of Thistle Green Metallic, with a dark green M-B Tex interior. The beautiful car arrived in Baltimore, in April of 1985 and we drove it for 25 years.

Seven Mercedes-Benz later, I am driving a 2010 C 300, named Silver Streak. I love this car.

As the Secretary and Event Chair of the South West Florida Section, Mercedes-Benz Club of America, for the last 8 years, my goal was to get our Ladies involved with social and charitable activities while the Gentlemen are involved with their cars.

Events that our Ladies have enjoyed include several Royal Teas at the Ritz-Carlton, Naples Beach and docent led tours of the Baker/Artis Museum, recently featuring Yves Saint Laurent, and Halston designs – Fashions of the Seventies with a buffet luncheon following the tour. Our Ladies also enjoyed their tour of The Naples Botanical Garden with a catered luncheon, following the tour. One of our ladies received a prize for the best hat design worn to the event. We have enjoyed several Broadway Palm Dinner Theater experiences, as well as a lovely brunch cruise around Sanibel Harbor. One of our more memorable events was at Audrey's Tea Room and her Vintage Clothing and Jewelry re-sale shop.

In October, we enjoyed Oktober Fest dinners at The Black Forrest Restaurant, Naples celebrating the German heritage of our beloved Mercedes-Benz automobiles.

One of our recent events was a tour of Palm Cottage, a historic home in Naples, followed by tea at Brambles Tea Room and then a walking and shopping tour of Naples famed 5th Avenue entertainment and shopping district.

Our Ladies of Mercedes are reviewing several charities for our future contributions which we feel will reflect our concern and support for women and families. The Ladies of the Southwest Florida Section are enjoying our interaction with each other and becoming great friends.

We are not just a car club, we are a family. I enjoy spending time with my Mercedes-Benz sisters.



MBCA SWFL Section
and Mercedes Benz of Bonita Springs
Will host *Cars & Coffee*
Along with a *Detail Clinic*
in conjunction with our 2nd monthly section meeting!

Saturday, August 24th, 2019

9:00 - 9:30 AM Meeting

9:30 - 10:30 AM Detailing Demo

Detailing Procedures and Products
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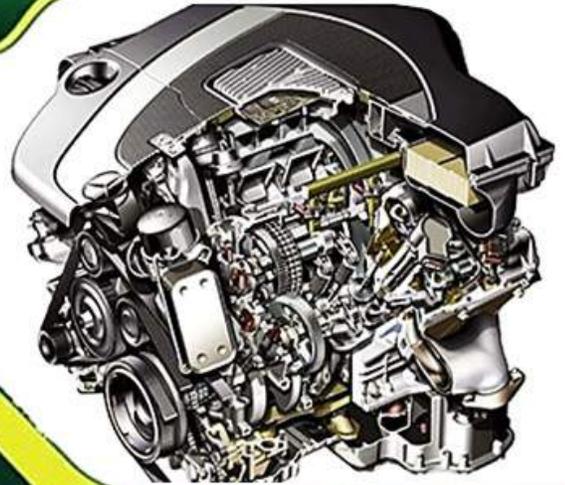


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Editorial...

Ahh, here we are, the “Dog Days” of summer (where did that expression come from anyway?) Here in the (wet) paradise we call Florida it is still steamy hot and the state has certainly NOT lived up to it’s nickname. It seems as if we haven’t seen much sunshine in nearly a month! The lakes are full, the grass is green (and LONG), the storms are prevalent, but going for a drive in our MB is still a pleasure! And what a pleasure it is! The quiet solitude, the refined smoothness of ride, the understated elegance and subtle power of their drive-train. Such is a drive in any Mercedes!

Taking our cue from that, the section’s board has held a couple of meetings recently to discuss the direction our club

wants to go, and what we can do to “spice things up” once the bulk of our members return from their summer hiatus.

Almost unanimously, everyone agrees that more fun and informative “driving events” should be considered. Various locations and themes were discussed and, to facilitate the process, Chet Young has volunteered to act as Activities Chairman. It will be Chet’s job NOT to create and or implement activities per se, but to orchestrate everyone’s ideas into a cohesive format that could be then put into action. Please read that again. “to orchestrate EVERYONE’S ideas” We keep saying it, it is a point of emphasis, and yet I feel compelled to say it yet again. It is YOUR club and your input and participation is not only welcome, but vitally important. Speak up! If you have an

idea or suggestion, express it! Contact Chet (or any other of us on the board) and we will give your idea due consideration with the idea of adding it to our upcoming agenda of events.

While we have nearly 400 members in our section, I only seem to see the same 100 or so at our events and meetings. Where are the rest of you? Our club is quite special, award winning, and full of fantastic folks and Mercedes enthusiasts! I know that since I started active membership back in 2007 I have made some lifetime friendships and thoroughly enjoy spending time with other members at our monthly meetings and other events. Don’t miss out! Participate!

Maybe you can be the “Driving” force that propels our club to even greater heights!

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.mbc.org or call 800.637.2360 weekdays 8am-4:30pm Mtn Time.

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NAPLES MEETING



FORT MYERS MEETING July 13

Mercedes Benz Club of America, Southwest Florida Section



SOUTHWEST FLORIDA SECTION

Ladies of Mercedes Event



Save the Date!
Return to Shangri-La Springs!
Saturday, January 11, 2020

Please join us at 11 AM for a docent lead Historic Walking Tour of Shangri-La Springs, then enjoy a delicious luncheon from the on-site organic restaurant, Harvest & Wisdom. There was a great response to this event last time. Seating is extremely limited. Look for more details to come soon!



Upcoming Events 2019

Southwest Florida Section, Mercedes-Benz Club of America

August 24	Breakfast Meeting NAPLES; At Mercedes Benz of Bonita Springs 9:00am
August 24	Hands on Session on Detailing in conjunction with the Naples Breakfast Meeting
September 14	Breakfast Meeting Fort Myers; Perkins, Corner of US 41 and Six Mile Cypress 9:00am
September 28	Breakfast Meeting NAPLES; Perkins, Pine Ridge Rd. West of 75 9:00am
TBD	Road Trip and lunch to Muscle Car City Punta Gorda



[Mercedes-Benz X-Class Pickup Dead Already: Report](#) The [Mercedes X-Class](#) pickup truck was introduced as a luxurious option for those looking for a comfortable daily driver paired with the capability of a truck bed. There was just one problem—Mercedes doesn't sell it in America, sales in Europe are bad, and now the Merc truck is probably already dead. RIP. (sad really)

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...

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