



Sunshine STAR



Issue No. 3, 2015

MBCA | Southwest Florida Section

May / June 2015



Car Crazy's Barry Meguiar chats with his friend Paul at Amelia Island Concours. Paul said he'd get everyone some car care samples.

*"Our first trip to Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance was a fantastic experience. We had never seen so many exquisite and exotic cars in one place. There was so much to see and do around the Ritz Carlton. Great venue. Peter [Blackford] did a super and thoughtful job in organizing our members. We met many new friends as well."
Carol and Glen Morrow*



Ron and Monica in the Cars and Coffee SL group

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

Abspringen während der Fahrt ist verboten

Monthly Breakfast Meetings 

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

➔  ➔

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

From the President

Greetings to all and welcome to our 17 new members, 3 new associate members, 40 dual section members, and 25 renewed members since 2-27-15. Our Section membership currently stands at **418** members (as of 5-01-15) and we have gained 38 new members so far this year. Since 1-01-15 we have had 10 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.

Congratulations to all of our 27 Section members who displayed or participated in our 11th Annual Car Show at Mercedes-Benz of Fort Myers. Seven trophies were awarded with Al Rubin being selected for the People's Choice award, the Fort Myers Dealer's award and the Best Looking Silver Car award. Way to go Al. What a great display of Mercedes-Benz automobiles. Even the dealership employees were impressed..

By the time you receive this newsletter we will have had our 2nd Annual Farewell Picnic to say farewell to our winter residents as they prepare to return to the north. It was at Lakes Park in Fort Myers, attended by over 50 members and the food from Famous Dave's satisfied everyone's appetite. Our thanks to Joel and Sylvia Taub for again taking on the planning of this great event.

We hope that you have enjoyed our past season in SWFL as we have enjoyed participating with all of you at our events. The Breakfast Meetings and other events have been well attended and the feedback has been positive.

Summer and rainy season are rapidly approaching plus Anne and I have some summer time family commitments up North. We will be slowing down our event schedule with both Breakfast meetings still on the schedule but for two or three months our third weekend will be open for anyone who wants to plan an event. Contact VP Glen Sholl about event planning.

We hope to see you at our upcoming Breakfast meetings at Mimi's in Fort Myers each 2nd Saturday of the month and at Perkins on Pine Ridge in Naples each 4th Saturday of the month.

Tom Harruff, President, SWFL MBCA

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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 first 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 239-591-8049,
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, AND SECTION TRANSFERS TO THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA SECTION, MBCA!

Since the last newsletter; William Etzweiler, F Lee Garrison, John Guze, David Kempa, Rainer Lehmann, Michael and Lynn Mariotti, Richard McCarthy, James Mehrer, Michael Miller, Donald and Denise Mitchell, Michael Sischo, Uli Stich, David Vander Kam, Michele and Donald Weeden, Darryl Young, and David Zebny
And our Section Transfers; David Squires, C. De Salvo, Dr. Holger Schilske, and F. Lee Garrison

We're so glad you've joined us!

And **Thank You** to our **24 Renewed Members** for your continuing MBCA Membership!

Cruising The Southwest Florida Waters *Tom Harruff story and photos*

Sunday March 22, 2015 Thanks to typically seamless organizational skills of Section members Tom and Loretta Starrett, twenty members and associates of the SWFL Section embarked on a fantastic two hour brunch cruise through Sanibel Harbor, the Gulf of Mexico, and San Carlos Bay. We experienced a relaxing voyage aboard the 100 foot luxury yacht, *Sanibel Harbour Princess*, while enjoying delicious cuisine and magnificent views of Florida's southwest Gulf coast.



Our almost-private dining area in the upstairs salon provided panoramic views of the whole trip while the food was to die for. Most started their brunch with Bloody Mary's or Mimosa and finished with Cheese cake or chocolate cake and coffee.

Four attendees were Canadian multiple Section members of the SWFL Section. As we left the Yacht all wanted to add this as a continuing event for our SWFL Section.

If you missed this year, look forward to attending next year so that we can fill the upper cabin of the *Princess*.



On the way to Amelia Island

Several members followed Peter Blackford's well-orchestrated backroads route.

Mid-point destination was the **Grand Oaks Resorts and Carriage Museum** in Weirsdale, FL, for lunch, a docent-guided museum tour and carriage ride.



After that very interesting and fun interlude, some stayed the night in Ocala, others continued on to Amelia Island.





I was very surprised to win a first place trophy with all the beautiful, expensive exotic cars on display at the **Naples-Marco Island Region AACA Antique Car Show at the Depot** held on a beautiful, warm sunny day on March 21st.

There were only 10 Categories for judging. My class was "Production 1964 to 1970". After I didn't hear my name mentioned for 3rd or 2nd place, I kind of gave up. Then at the announcement, wow what excitement!



The car is a 1970 Mercedes-Benz 300 SEL 6.3, w109 chassis with 45K miles that I have owned for the past three years. All the hard work cleaning the car, and attention to detail were certainly worth it! *Ron Cordeau story and photos*

Detailing Clinic; A Clean Car Is A Happy Car!

A comprehensive clinic on the fine points of paint, trim, and the preservation and shine thereof kept the attention of a lively group of SWFL Section members on Saturday, April 4, 2015. Our host for the event was Mario Passos of **Mario Brothers Detailing**, in his dedicated shop at 4760 Enterprise Ave, Naples Florida.

Mario and his team specialize in bringing a show finish to your auto, boat, motorcycle, RV or your plane, should you happen to have one. I believe his shop could hold an RV, but a plane would stretch it. With a selection of professional tools, applicators, products and knowledge at hand they're ready for any type of detail, interior or exterior.



Just learning of the many different types of 'microfiber' rags took

many by surprise. Some are soft as lamb's wool, with lesser quality being near steel wool, all with their own purpose. It's so important to know how it'll affect the appearance of your paint; those with dark or black surfaces know the familiar 'spider web' effect of using the wrong products.

Audience participation was abundant with questions ranging from types of clay bar to the use of de-ionized water (good). It was apparent that our members wanted to know the best (and quick) ways of the fine art of preserving the appearance of their prized Mercedes, whatever the year or model.

Mario Brothers Detailing, a member of the International Detailing Association, also offers the only local authorized application of "Ceramic Pro" paint protection, and his demonstration on his own car was impressive. Depending on the level, you could avoid the polish and wax procedure for years to come. Tempting?



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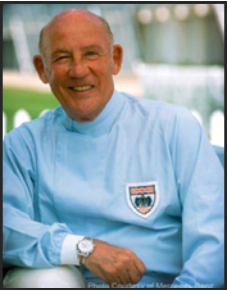
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AMELIA ISLAND 2015 CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE MEETS SWFL SECTION MBCA

It started with **Cars and Coffee** on the green... The SLs gathered at the M-B pavilion...



Sir Stirling Moss
welcomes the
SWFL Section MBCA





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Well, there are Concours at Amelia Island, Pebble Beach, etc., all very nice, but then, there is the *Southwest Florida Section's 11th Annual Car Show Funcours* Held in cooperation with Mercedes-Benz of Ft. Myers, April 18, 2015



Who has more fun?



Who names their car "Jezebel"?



Mal says his SL sleeps 2.



Of course your pet is welcome, and we love to see interest from younger folks.

Pete Lesler conducted a clinic on Preservation Class.



Editorial Blather ...

In your sweaty hands is the May/June issue that covers our busiest time; where we've done so much as a Section there just isn't room enough for all the photos, stories, reports, cows, and stuff. So, I cram in as much as I can, then scatter more around in the summer issues.

Anita's and my first trip to Amelia Con-cours was...simply overwhelming.

Running around trying to see it ALL, and still missed seeing things. What a blast!

Of course some would say our SWFL *Funcoars* has it beat. And this year's record participation, vehicles from gas and diesel daily drivers to the SLS, SLR, and SLS Black Series, and a Mercedes Sprinter RV, well, there was something to satisfy everyone.

And add a great lunch selection provided by Mercedes-Benz of Ft. Myers... well I

didn't see anyone going hungry, for food or eye candy! Thank you, M-B Ft Myers!

Hey, did you know: MBCA dues are set to increase very shortly, save 6 bucks (or more) and renew *now*.

Be a SWFL Volunteer! Help share in the fun of running this Section. Tom will welcome your enthusiasm!

Moooving along,

Jerry



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 (\$49/U.S.; \$59/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**

The excited crowd at Amelia Island poured in just as the mowing crew finished, leaving nothing behind..



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The back row before Breakfast at Perkins, March 28



Mario, whose great photos are pirated on a regular basis for use in the Sunshine Star, here collecting pics for our Facebook site. His photo commentary is always noteworthy.



“More Than a Car Club. We’re a Community!”



33 Members enjoyed great food, beautiful cars and "Mercedes talk" during our monthly breakfast meeting at **Mimi's Café** in Fort Myers.

A refreshing surprise for all was the presence of Loretta Starrett.

WELCOME BACK LORETTA!!

Bill Etzweiler (here in red shorts) brought his new SL400 Bi-Turbo. What a ride!!

Story and photo Mario Puente



Questions? Call your Section Officer at 239-591-8049

Classified: For Sale




1980 Mercedes-Benz 450SLC
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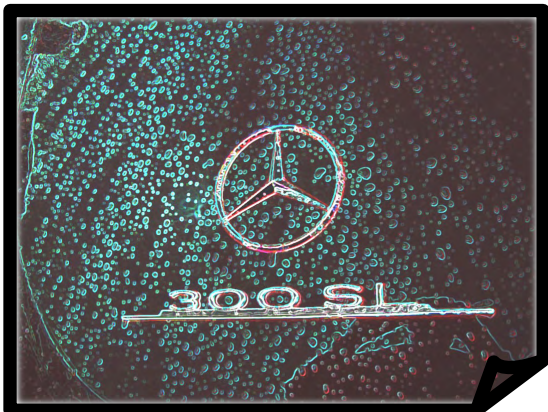


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Upcoming Events of Interest to Our Members Southwest Florida Section, Mercedes-Benz Club of America

DATE	2015 EVENTS	CONTACT
May 3	SWFL Section 2nd Annual Farewell Picnic, Lakes Park, Ft. Myers	239-549-0435
May 9	SWFL Section Breakfast Meeting at Mimi's Café, Ft. Myers, 8:30 AM	239-591-8049
May 23	SWFL Section Breakfast Meeting at Perkins, Naples, 9:00 AM	239-591-8049
June 12-14	StarTech 2015, Cincinnati OH, startech2015.mbca.org	
June 13	SWFL Section Breakfast Meeting at Mimi's Café, Ft. Myers, 8:30 AM	239-591-8049
June 27	SWFL Section Breakfast Meeting at Perkins, Naples, 9:00 AM	239-591-8049
July 11	SWFL Section Breakfast Meeting at Mimi's Café, Ft. Myers, 8:30 AM	239-591-8049
July 25	SWFL Section Breakfast Meeting at Perkins, Naples, 9:00 AM	239-591-8049
August 8	SWFL Section Breakfast Meeting at Mimi's Café, Ft. Myers, 8:30 AM	239-591-8049
August 27	SWFL Section Breakfast Meeting at Perkins, Naples, 9:00 AM	239-591-8049



2015 Election

MBCA will conduct its national election next year to select three Directors at Large and six Regional Directors. The Directors at Large whose terms expire in 2015 are: **Terry Kiwala, Laura Simonds, and Jim Luikens**. Regional Directors in the six odd-numbered Regions will also be elected next year. Affected regions include: **Northeast Region (1), Mid-West (3), Rocky Mountain (5), Northwest (7), Central (9) and Western (11)**.

Active members interested in running for office are encouraged to go online for information and petition forms: 1) Go to www.mbca.org; 2) click the 'Login' button at the top right corner of the home page and follow log-in instructions; 3) click 'Our Community' then 'Resources.' The printable petition forms are under the 'Election' section.

Important Information: This year is the first year for online voting which will streamline the voting process. Please call, 800-637-2360 or [email](mailto:mbca@mbca.org) the MBCA NBO with your email address today.

If you need assistance, please call the NBO at 800.637.2360, 8am-4:30pm MST (M-T) 8am-4pm MST (F). The deadline for submitting valid petitions is close of business Friday, May 15, 2015. **!**

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 Debbie Gonzales with your updates...

Debbie@mbca.org or call 1-800-637-2360.

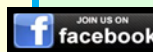
Southwest Florida Section MBCA On The Web!

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

and...

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