



Sunshine STAR



MBCA | Southwest Florida Section

Issue No. 5, 2015

September / October 2015




SOUTHWEST FLORIDA SECTION

**Nobody is perfect,
But if you belong to the
Southwest Florida Section,
You're pretty close.**

Abspringen während der Fahrt ist verboten

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R&M Cordeau photo

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

Monthly Breakfast Meetings 

Ft. Myers area... Mimi's Café
2nd Saturday of most months.
Next Meetings - Sept 12, October 10

➔  ➔

Naples area... Perkins on Pine Ridge
4th Saturday of most months.
Next meetings - Sept 26, October 24

From the President



Greetings to all and welcome to our **8 new members, 38 multiple section members, and 19 renewed members** since 7-01-15. Our Section membership currently stands at **424** members (as of 9-01-15) and we have gained **54 new members so far this year**. Since 1-01-15 we have had **11 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.

By now you all should have received your September-October 2015 issue of The Star magazine. Our SWFL Section shows up throughout this issue. We get praise from MBCA President Terry Kiwala in his President's Column on page 9 for our 2014 contribution to the Lorenzo Walker Institute of Technology, on page 57 a picture of Director Ron Cordeau's 91 300SE engine compartment is featured in the StarTech article, on page 76 our MBCA Section of the Year – 2104 award write up by MBCA Awards Chairman and past SE Regional Director Scott Suits takes up about ½ of the page, on page 82 our proposal to host the MBCA National Fall Board meeting in November 2016 is covered in the minutes of the MBCA Spring Board meeting and finally in the Trading Post Section on pages 106 and 107 Director Ron Cordeau has three of his spectacular Mercedes-Benz's for sale – 1970 300SEL 6.3, 1980 240D, and 1991 560SEC. Good luck Ron.

Don't forget to sign up for our **Fifth Annual Oktoberfest German Car Show** at Punta Gorda's Oktoberfest. Contact Director Tom Starrett at 941-347-7119 to sign up for the event. This year's Car Show will feature four German Marques – Mercedes-Benz, Audi, BMW, and Porsche. Parking is limited so sign up early.

We also are planning another Oktoberfest event – Dinner at the **Black Forest Mill Restaurant** in North Naples in the Greentree Shopping Center at the corner of Immokalee and Airport-Pulling Roads. Their German food is fantastic as is their selection of beers and wine.

Seating is limited to 40. We hope to make this an annual event to celebrate the German heritage of our Mercedes-Benz automobiles as well as the German heritage of some of us. The restaurant will be open only for us on **Tuesday evening October 27th at 6:00 pm**. Call me at 239-591-8049 for reservations.

Tom Harruff, President, SWFL MBCA

SWFL OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:

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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.

No authentication is given or implied as to the validity of any expressed opinion or statement.

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 & Darlene Bilger, Christopher Miliotis, Dennis Parus, Jose Pineda, Judy & David Schall, David Wood, Pat & Mike Schmidt and Roger Show And transferred from Twin Cities Section, Richard Struthers
We're so glad you've joined us!

And **Thank You** to our 18 Renewed Members for your continuing MBCA Membership!



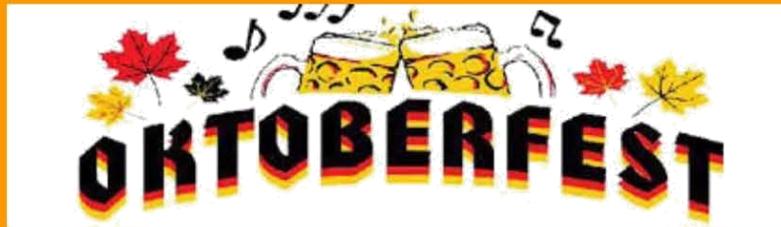
Goda vänner från hela världen

Mimi's breakfast meeting August 8, Leif and son Mikael, of the Swedish M-B Club snuck away from family vacationing in Siesta Key to join us. We're delighted that international visitors always seem to find us! Hjärtligt välkommen, hearty welcome!



Perkins Breakfast Meeting, July 25, 2015. Was it raining on our clean cars? Yes.

**It's October
It's German Cars
It's Beer & Brats
IT'S**



Join in on the FUN and show your Stuff
At our 5th Annual PUNTA GORDA OKTOBERFEST and Car Shau!!
SATURDAY OCTOBER 3'rd, 2015

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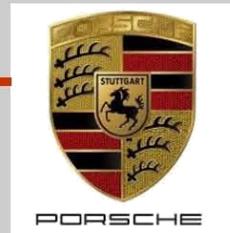
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tomstarr74@comcast.net

August 22, no rain today at Perkins. And so after the breakfast meeting we head back out to look at, analyze,

ogle and discuss, engines, cars, wheels, cars, exhausts, details, polish, cars, ...



Yes, the Club brings neighbors even closer!



Nope... no highway horseplay.



Ooo, somebody has a project!

What is it?
Ghost car?



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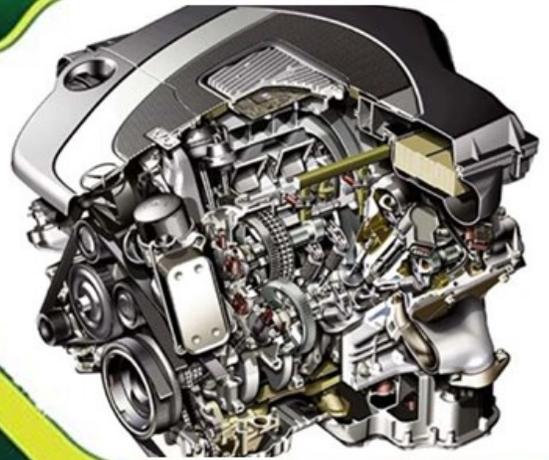
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Editorial Homily ...

Q: How long can we brag?

A: As long as we want to. (or until someone says "STOP IT already!") "Section of the Year"... caused by having fun.

Punta Gorda Oktoberfest Car Show is always fun, but as of this writing MBCA participation is lagging behind BMW! Hmm,,, somewhat embarrassing, since we started it all. Call Tom Starrett now and get your space reserved!

Have you used your **ABS** today? Or ever? What does it sound or feel like? That major safety item is something you'd find out about in a *Defensive Driving course*. We're not talking autocross, just learning about your car's handling under controlled conditions. Interested? Sound like something you'd like to do? Call Tom Harruff and let him know! Let's do it!

Say, our 'out of season' breakfast meetings at Mimi's and Perkins see full rooms of members... we're gonna need a bigger

boat come 'season'!

Honest, I was going to wean off of newsletter-cows, but thanks to Jim Klusendorf I found out about "SuperCow" of Guida's Dairy in CT. I always suspected...

Submissions are always welcome and wanted. Letters and email too, as we can all use the information. So long as it doesn't embarrass *me*.

Moooving along,

Jerry



Exciting New Models!

You saw it here first! Code name: Draaiorgel
The giveaway was the hubcaps...



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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Southwest Florida Wins Section of the Year 2014

From *MBCA.org*, Submitted by Jennifer Bailey on 07-31-2015

Awards Committee Section of the Year Award:

The National Board decided to move the Section of the Year Award critique to the first part of the year instead of late fall where it has traditionally occurred in the past. The reasons for this are that all of the judging criteria is for what the sections have accomplished in 2014 making it more timely and fresher in their minds, and also to separate this award from the Officer and Member of the Year Awards in the fall.

Five sections applied for the award this year: Central Illinois, Central Oklahoma, Kansas City, North Texas, and Southwest Florida.

The submissions were judged by five judges who make up the Awards com-

mittee that consists of Steve Dierks, Cliff Reyle, John Ryan, and Laura Simonds who stood in for Gene Jurick, and lastly myself. Gene asked to be excused as two of the sections are in his region.

Each judge assigned a percentage of 0 to 100 on each of the ten elements of the award. The elements are Membership numbers, Newsletter publication, Co-Sponsored events, Social events, and Auto-related events, Charity events, Membership promotion, Advanced event planning, Section treasury and General statement.

I proudly announce the Southwest Florida Section as the 2014 Section of the Year and the Kansas City Section as the first runner-up. Both sections have done such a great job in growing their sections

through a newsletter and social media that encourage participation to meaningful and well-publicized events. We should all applaud the Presidents, board members, and section members for all of their diligent work.

Southwest Florida has excelled in all the awards ten elements that grade a section for this award by following all of the MBCA's recommended elements of section operation. What I observed yesterday was the total memberships participation in section event planning and operation. The section has ads in the local newspapers and also relies on social media and a well laid out newsletter. All of this has contributed to steady growth that has rewarded them with the largest section in the Southeast Region.





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Silver Star Certification

Wondered what it's about?...

Most car show aficionados know that all concours are now recognizing original untouched and non-restored cars for special awards. For example, Pebble Beach, the grand-daddy of all Concours has a special classification known as the "Preservation Class" and presents awards to Pre-War and Post-War cars.



Many other Concours have followed their lead. Today the preservation class is one of the most popular classifications at major and even regional and local shows around the world.

This class is for cars, 25 years old or older

that are largely original and have been unrestored since new. It is intended for driver-quality cars that have withstood the ravages of time, climate and daily driving. It is not intended for "Trailer Queens"-for those we have a Show Class- nor is it intended for rusty and dirty barn finds that do not operate properly and have not been on the road for several years.

Here's how it works. Your eligible Mercedes-Benz must be entered in a MBCA sanctioned sectional, regional or national concours. At this writing, to be eligible the vehicle must have been produced in 1990 or earlier. It should be in good working order, driven under its' own power to the event and be largely original. Your eligible car should have an original engine and drivetrain. There can be partial refurbishments of various components, but no complete

restorations can be accepted.

This is just a snippet of the information available... interested? ...

for the full Monte visit <http://www.mbca.org/silver-star-preservation-class> or MBCA.org



What our (Second Section) members do when they're not in Florida...

The Iowa Hawkeye Section was privileged to have Dick and Carol Davis' 1980 450SL in their 2015 *Clean Car Show* held in Bettendorf, IA, and awarded them a 2nd Place ribbon. And the car also qualified for Silver Star Preservation Classification. Dick and Carol plan on bringing this beauty back with them to Ft. Myers.



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

DATE	2015 EVENTS	CONTACT
Sept 12	SWFL Section Breakfast Meeting at Mimi's Café, Ft. Myers, 8:30 AM	239-591-8049
Sept 26	SWFL Section Breakfast Meeting at Perkins, Naples, 9:00 AM	239-591-8049
Oct 3 Sat	Punta Gorda Oktoberfest & Car Show; Reserve now! Call Tom or Loretta	941-347-7119
Oct 10	SWFL Section Breakfast Meeting at Mimi's Café, Ft. Myers, 8:30 AM	239-591-8049
Oct 24	SWFL Section Breakfast Meeting at Perkins, Naples, 9:00 AM	239-591-8049
Oct 27 Tues	German Dinner at the Black Forest Restaurant. Reservations; Call Tom at	239-591-8049
Nov 14	SWFL Section Breakfast Meeting at Mimi's Café, Ft. Myers, 8:30 AM	239-591-8049
Nov 28	SWFL Section Breakfast Meeting at Perkins, Naples, 9:00 AM	239-591-8049
Dec 6 Sun	Annual SWFL Holiday Party – The Club at Olde Cypress, Naples	239-591-8049
Dec 12	SWFL Section Breakfast Meeting at Mimi's Café, Ft. Myers, 8:30 AM	239-591-8049
Dec 26	SWFL Section Breakfast Meeting at Perkins, Naples, 9:00 AM	239-591-8049

StarFest 2016

National Event Hosted by Minuteman
Wed, August 3rd - Sat, August 6th, 2016
Uncasville, Connecticut 06382
Contact: John Piekarczyk, President, Minuteman Section
(860) 315-5575, email 560sec@charter.net



Join us in New England on August 3-6, 2016 for StarFest 2016. StarFest will take place in Connecticut's "Quiet Corner" with lush Green Valleys and picturesque Hilltop Farms, it's also known as the Antique Capital of Connecticut. From the seashore near the host hotel, to the lush greenery near the host track, the two linked by a short trip on I-395. Spectacular scenery and iconic New England towns await your discovery.

<http://starfest2016.mbca.org>

Events include:

Track | Concours d' Elegance | Rallyes | Nautical Cruises | Ladies of Mercedes-Benz | Sponsor Displays | Welcome Reception | Golf | Grand Awards Banquet

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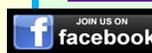
The Club and our own Section use electronic communications and we email our newsletters. So be sure to let the NBO know of any changes to your email address to ensure up to date information with both the NBO and your Section. Contact Membership Services with your updates... mbca.org or call 1-800-637-2360.

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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