



Around the Benz

the official Central Florida section club newsletter

Volume 2018 - 4th Edition
July-August



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visit centralflorida.mbca.org for more info

Good times, Good friends, Good Benz



Some of our Section in Titusville @ Pierre Hedary's for a tech session, June 2

The Presidential Address

Hello again fellow Mercedes Benz enthusiasts! It's summer, temperatures are heating up, which means many of us will be traveling to the beach or our favorite vacation destinations, many of us by car.

In this installment of Around the Benz, we'll review travels by some of our fellow members. First, our section visited Titusville for a tech session at Pierre Hedary's (pg6). Ed Ho, our illustrious photographer, details his whirlwind travels across this great country of ours in his favorite GLA Mercedes (pg14).

Is everything new better than its predecessor? Larry Barnes examines the differences between his former S class Mercedes and the most recent S550 (pg12). Finally, we take a look at a way to help protect our cars through technology (pg8), specifically clear bras. ...[more on page 2]

What was it about the Mercedes-Benz Question of the Month
marque that enticed you into purchasing this brand over competitive brands?

Lets hear from you! write us : mhcacfs@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

31

Wed, July 4
Independence Day!

1. Sat, July 14 - Club Dinner
6:00p - Reservations needed
Hollerbach's Willow Tree Café
205 E 1st St, Sanford, FL 32771

2. Mon, July 16 - Meetup
6:00p, Dinner at 7pm
Ace Cafe Orlando
100 W. Livingston St
Orlando, FL 32801

3. Mon, July 23 - Club Meeting
General Business and Planning
6:00p, Where: TBD

4. Mon, August 20 - Meetup
6:00p, Dinner at 7pm
Ace Cafe Orlando

Mon, Sept 3
Labor Day!

5. Sat, Sept 15 - Speedway Tour
10:30am tour, 12 noon lunch
Daytona International Spdwy
1801 W Int'l Speedway Blvd
Daytona Beach, FL 32114



The Presidential Address (cont)

[continued from page 1] On the social front, I hope that you will have a chance to join us for our next social dinner happening at the Willow Tree Café in downtown Sanford. Theo Hollerbach and wife Linda have created a fun and entertaining dining experience, which daughter Christina now ably manages. It's no coincidence that the Willow Tree has been a downtown Sanford icon for the last 15 years and is ranked as one of the top German restaurants in the country.

Can't make it to the Willow Tree? Then join us on the third Monday of each month at the Ace Café in downtown Orlando where you'll have an opportunity to mix and mingle with fellow MB owners, as well as the fine people of the Central Florida Porsche club. Either way, summer is a time to relax and enjoy, so do so safely. I'm looking forward to meeting up with you down the road. Enjoy!

Announcement: Section Survey 2018

The thing I like least about surveys is the lack of any real evidence that neither the five minutes or feedback I gave made any difference at all. The upcoming short survey for the Central Florida section, however, is different!



While your leadership team does it's best to choose how we communicate and which events we sponsor, having your input is simply invaluable. So take two minutes, and help us understand what you as a member would like to see from the CF Section! **I promise, your time and thoughts will NOT be wasted!**

In a few days, I will email a convenient button-style link so you can easily take this short survey. Thank you in advance, and watch our newsletter for what YOU, our members, have to say!

Member Benefits

There are additional and sometimes unknown benefits to being an MBCA member in the Central Florida Section, above those that everyone receives with National Membership:

-Mission Inn Resort, Howey in the Hills: purchase two nights and get a consecutive 3rd night for free.

-Area Mercedes-Benz Dealers: \$500 off the purchase of any new Mercedes-Benz.

-Pierre Hedary and Company: \$5.00 off per hour (pre-1995 models only).

-Backhaus Bakery and Deli : 10% off for club members.

-Interested in including your business here? Contact Larry Barnes!

'The Prez' **Bob Hartmann**



Bob standing victoriously at our monthly monday invasion at Ace Cafe Orlando.

Secretary **Tom Quinn**

Hospitality/Advertising **Larry Barnes**

Section Leadership

Officers

President

Bob Hartmann
Hartmann.r@att.net
407-913-6134

Vice-President

[empty]

Secretary

Tom Quinn
tquinn1934@gmail.com
248-494-1066

Treasurer

Elaine Spiller
elainemspiller@gmail.com
904-874-1091

Chairs

Activities

Bob Rolle
rolle.bob@gmail.com
617-755-2678

Hospitality-Advertising

Larry Barnes
lrbarnes550@gmail.com
913-484-6961

Photography

Edward Ho
edho6600@gmail.com
973-723-1303

Newsletter

Pierre Hedary
mbownersforlife@bellsouth.net
407-765-2867

Web/Publishing

Jon Douglas
jpd8752@gmail.com
407-717-0098

Southeast Regional Director

Dan Cabrera
cabrerad1313@hotmail.com
813-759-0776

Membership - Open

Directors-at-Large

Peggy Bohl (events)
peggy.bohl@gmail.com
407-951-5062

Benno Deifel
jhbenterprises@yahoo.com
352-281-7167

Hardcopies of this edition printed by: Thomas Printworks, Winter Park, FL



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About the Club

The MBCA was established in 1956, and currently has approximately 30,000 members across the nation. There are over 84 local Sections organizing hundreds of local and National Events each year. You can enroll as a member of MBCA by calling 1-800-637-2360, or by using the National Website at www.mbca.org. Cost is: One year = \$55.00 | Two years = \$107.00 | Three years = \$157.00 You may select your Section, or be assigned the closest local Section by your zip code to be closest to Events and activities in your area. More information can be found on the MBCA website: mbca.org/membership.

About our Section

The MBCA is a nationwide club, with our local Central Florida section spanning as far north as Palatka, as far west as the Villages and Lakeland, as far south as Sebring and just north of Sebastian Inlet on the coast up to Palm Coast, and includes Orlando Metro, Daytona, Melbourne and Avon Park. Our calendar continues to fill more and more with social, technical, and driving events. Come join us and celebrate the car brand with an unparalleled history, second-to-none engineering, undiscovered performance and first-class safety record. Classic or late-model, Diesel or petrol, Saloon or Gelandewagen, high mileage daily or road rocket, we look forward to them all. See you soon!

About the Newsletter

The Mercedes-Benz Club of America—Central Florida Section, Inc. publishes this newsletter every two months starting in January — March — May — July — September — and November. Special editions may be published from time to time to address events or interest items of special significance. Opinions expressed are those of the Authors and Editors. Express permission is hereby granted to other Sections of the MBCA to reprint articles contained herein, without exception. Articles of general interest are solicited for inclusion and should be e-mailed to the newsletter editor Pierre Hedary at mownersforlife@bellsouth.net. Submissions will be considered preceding the month of publication.



Web News

Recently our MBCA website has been updated with fresh contacts, some photos, and the like. Stop by for a visit: centralflorida.mbca.org. Our Google+ page has updates as well, some news posted from Mercedes, Daimler, and some other gems. The Google calendar continues to be updated, so link it to your calendar so you can always stay up to date with our events. Look soon for online event registration, paypal payments, and drumroll please... Facebook.

Ace Cafe and FlaCarShows.com

Jon Douglas

Web/Publishing

The Porsche Club and Ace Cafe's hospitality have been really paying off! Recently we had the pleasure of meeting Tara Bush, event coordinator for Ace Cafe, who placed our club night along with Porsche on the [official Ace Cafe calendar](#), and on her site: FlaCarShows.com. See the 'About the Section' for the updated description of our club, which now shows on that site.

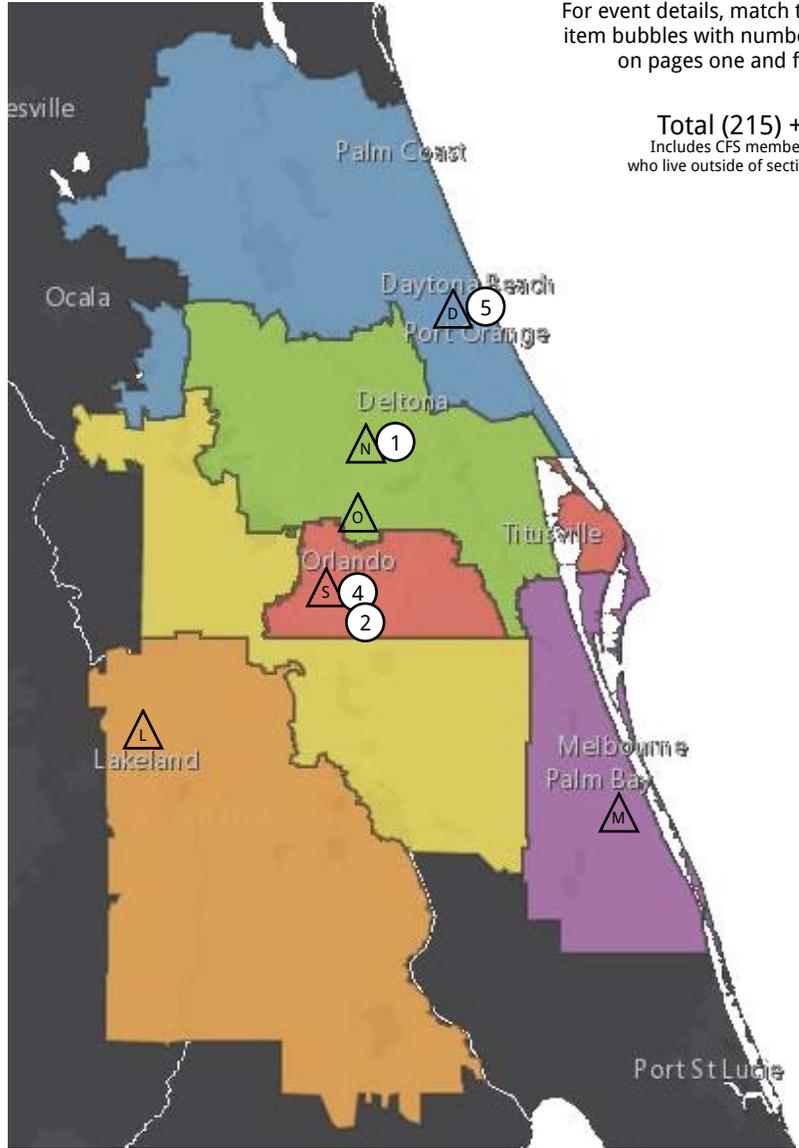




Event Summary and Membership Map

LEGEND

- NORTH (38) +2
DAYTONA, VILLAGES, PALATKA
- MB OF DAYTONA
1188 N Tomoka Farms Rd
Daytona Beach, FL 32124
- NORTH CENTRAL (66) +4
SANFORD, EUSTIS, MAITLAND
- MB OF NORTH ORLANDO
1100 Rinehart Rd
Sanford, FL 32771
- MB OF ORLANDO
810 N Orlando Ave
Maitland, FL 32751
- CENTRAL (32) +3
ORLANDO, DISNEY, MERRITT ISLAND
- MB OF SOUTH ORLANDO
4301 Millenia Blvd
Orlando, FL 32839
- WEST/KISSIMMEE (20) -1
KISSIMMEE, CLERMONT, LEESBURG
- SOUTHEAST (26) -1
MELBOURNE, PALM BAY, COCOA
- MB OF MELBOURNE
509 E Nasa Blvd
Melbourne, FL 32901
- SOUTHWEST (14) +1
LAKELAND, DAVENPORT, SEBRING
- FIELDS MOTORCARS
4141 N Florida Ave
Lakeland, FL 33805



For event details, match the item bubbles with numbers on pages one and five

Total (215) +0
Includes CFS members who live outside of section

**CONGRATULATIONS
2018 SPRING RAFFLE
WINNER!**

**Will
Toussaint**

Central Georgia Section

For Sale

2005 SLK with 37k miles, Recently repaired AC and roof mechanism, \$15k OBO. Write the club mailbox for more details.

Have something you want to sell? Contact Larry Barnes at lbarnes550@gmail.com.

Personal Ads for members are free!

Advertising Rates

Size	Per Issue	Yearly (6 Issues)
Full Page	\$120	\$675
Half Page	\$65	\$375
Quarter Page	\$50	\$275
Business Card	\$25	\$150

Interested in receiving a printed copy of the newsletter?

Write the club mailbox: mbcacfs@gmail.com!



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Upcoming Events 31

1. Hollerbach's Willow Tree Cafe

WHAT: In 2017 Hollerbach's received the Orlando Weekly's Best German Restaurant. This restaurant offers a vast array of beers and such hefty choices as the Schlachthaus Platte with its veal sausage, pork meatloaf and smoked pork loin. On the weekends it is common to have German music to sing to.

WHEN: Saturday, July 14

WHERE: 205 E First st, Sanford, FL 32771

TIME: 6 pm, food available for purchase

PLEASE NOTE -- The restaurant has agreed to reserve seating for 20 persons so that the first twenty who sign up will be included in the reservation. Please send a check for 10 dollars for each reserved seat as this is to shore up the actual attendance and cover with the restaurant. If more than 20 persons express a desire to attend we can contact the restaurant and/or those extras can gain seating at the restaurant if there is additional room. Please send your check made out to Mercedes Benz club of Central Florida to:

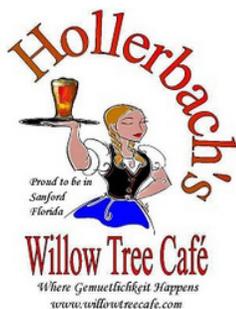
Peggy Bohl

2333 Summerfield Rd

Winter Park, FL 32792.

For more details, contact: Bob Rolle

c: 617-755-2678 e: rolle.bob@gmail.com



5. Daytona Speedway All Access Tour

The Daytona International Speedway is the home of the Daytona 500, the most prestigious race in NASCAR. In addition to NASCAR, the track also hosts races of Motorcross, AMA Superbike, IMSA, and many others.

When: Saturday, September 15th

Where : 1801 West International Speedway Blvd, Daytona Beach, FL 32114

Time: 10:30 AM- group tour lasting 90 minutes

Cost: \$25 per person

lunch: 12 Noon at Charlie Horse Restaurant "Home of All You Can Eat Snow Crab" 810 S Atlantic Avenue. Ormond Beach, Fl

Voted "Readers Choice Award" 11years in a row by the Daytona Beach News Journal.

Please note --A reservation is required to protect the date and time and in July an Event Notice will be sent out requiring an initial deposit.

For more details, contact: Peggy Bohl

c: 407-951-5062 e: peggy.bohl@gmail.com



Coming up: Oktoberfest at MB Orlando, Lakeland Car Show, Villages Polo, and a spectacular Holiday Party at Mission Inn.





Event Summary: Tech Session @ Pierre Hedary & Co.

Jon Douglas

On a sunny June 2, about 20 MBCA club members showed up at Pierre Hedary's Garage in Titusville, FL for a technical and informational session on caring for classic Mercedes. Many beautiful cars arrived, among which were a 280SL, 280E, 300SD, 300CD, 380SL, S550, SLK230, and a host of classics that Pierre was working on. An Argentinian 230 from Miami arrived at lunch time for service. Members enjoyed lunch at Dixie Crossroads in a private room, where the food was good, and conversation was all things Mercedes-Benz. The morning session included topics about Maintenance, Documentation and the benefits and drawbacks of owning a classic, and the afternoon session included information on Pre-Purchase Inspections.

Some topics covered were the benefits and downsides of owning a classic. There are personal, psychological and environmental benefits; and the downsides include finding qualified service, quality parts and dealing with the known issues on these cars such as air conditioning, electrical and rust.

We then went over the types of documentation available: Introduction to Service manual, the pocket-sized Technical Data Manual, shop manuals, technical articles, and even the validity of YouTube vlogs. Factory part substitutions were covered, and which were good and not-so-good offerings. This was all summarized by Pierre: "If you own an older Mercedes-Benz, you need to learn how to work on your own car, make friends that know the car, and learn where to get good parts."



Maintenance activities was the next topic. When these cars were manufactured, lubricants were not as sophisticated as ones we have today. Service intervals, as published in manufacturer documentation, is much shorter than what is common today; a well informed strategy on balancing the originally published specifications, and the strength of the better lubricants today, will ensure a great and healthy classic for a long time to come. Items to check and service regularly include engine oil, brake fluid and pads, wheel bearings, transmission oil, coolant and thermostat, valve adjustments (see this newsletter, technical article entitled '0560.20A Valve Adjustment Addendum'), chassis lube points, power steering, ignition points and spark plugs, fuel hoses and air conditioning coolant. Where filters for the above items were applicable, they were bought up, not excluding the importance of fuel filters.

We all headed out for lunch while Pierre met with the customer that arrived from Miami with his 230, and after having moved the cars he had in for service back into the garage, he later joined the rest of us where we enjoyed a private room at Dixie Crossroads just down the street.

visit centralflorida.mbca.org for more info



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Jon Douglas

Event Summary: Tech Session (continued)

The afternoon session was on Pre-Purchase inspection and was conducted in the customer/office area of his shop. About a dozen of us discussed the fine points of the process of vetting a used car that we run across from friends, ads and the internet. Things to look for and inspect are oil, rust, originality, coolant, a/c, gauges, electrical components such as windows, and odometer tampering. There is time to do, and not to do, an inspection, and who is qualified to do so and on which cars.

Overall it was a great day with lots of information in a garage that only serviced classic Mercedes Benz. We got to see and catch up with local club members, and even some from outside our section (thanks for driving all that way!).



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in Timeless
Mercedes-Benz

Member &
Contributor

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history, will be
preserved for
posterity.





Event Summary: Ace Cafe June Peggy Bohl

In March of this year, we were invited by President Lyn Perez of the Porsche Club of Orlando to join with them on the third Monday of the month to show our Mercedes Benz with their Porsches in the parking lot of the fabulous Ace Café in Orlando. We did, but I must admit that we were a bit embarrassed by the overwhelming number of Porsche cars in relation to our Mercedes at that first event!

In subsequent months with the promotion of Florida Car Shows and Tara Bush, our numbers increased. We are pleased to announce, that with the support of our



members and prospective new members who heard about the event, we were able to match the number of Porsches on June 18th!!!

The Ace Café has scheduled this monthly event. All members and other Mercedes Benz owners who attended have enjoyed the camaraderie, appreciated each other's cars and have cordially engaged in partaking in the Ace Café's bountiful menu.

Mark your calendar for Monday July 15th. We meet in the parking lot, 100 West Livingston Street, Orlando at 6:00 PM. We assure you that you will experience a memorable evening!

Clear Bra Paint Protection

Are you like me, constantly worried about debris of all types making the front end of your beautiful Mercedes look like a pitted minefield? If so, there's an option for you that will help preserve that new car look. No, I'm not talking about those terrible black vinyl things we bought back in the '80's that had to be attached to the front wheel wells and left discoloration on your hood if left on after a rain (I know, it happened to me!). No, I'm talking about an Invisible Car Bra, which can help protect your car,



Can't hardly see the line, can you?!

truck or SUV from rocks and debris, bug acids, and weathering. Approved for use by automotive OEMs, these durable films are flexible, conformable, and are a semi-permanent device.

While not inexpensive, the amount of potential damage that Clear Bras eliminate in keeping your car looking fresh is well worth the price. Having now installed the last two Clear Bras on my AMG SL55's nose and mirrors (they're usually good for about 5 years down here with the hotter Florida temperatures), I can highly recommend them and the Invisible Car Bra company that installed them.

Invisible Car Bras is a 3M Certified Florida based Company serving Central Florida since 2002 and specializing in normal Mercedes Benz offerings as well as exotic cars. The company principal, Dave Duncan, has the experience and credentials required to install, customize and maintain all aspects of Paint Protection Films. Based in Winter Park, just east of 1-4 and Fairbanks, they serve the greater Orlando area including Orange, Seminole, Osceola, Lake, Brevard and Volusia counties. It's an investment well worth the price!

Give Dave at Invisible Car Bras a call @ 407-275-0558 or visit invisiblecarbras.com for photo galleries and more.



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Mercedes-Benz of Orlando offers first-rate service and original equipment manufacturer (OEM) parts for all your service and maintenance needs. Some of the services they provide include:

- Tire rotations
- Transmission repair
- Brake replacement
- Wheel alignment
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SUV to Sports Car? Just Turn the Knob...

Years ago, when shopping for a new car, we had to make THE DECISION. You know the one I'm talking about! That one! The one we all made whether we wanted to or not. The one that would define our driving experience for years, and sometimes, unfortunately, us as well. Sporty or functional! Fun or practical. Love or just good friends!



That bright red two seater called to us with its sleek lines, perfect seats, performance handling, killer stereo and arrest me acceleration – and it dared us to walk away.

It somehow knew we wanted it, and created an image that combined us, the car, trendy new sunglasses and a vacation hat, all while blistering down one of those amazing roads where mountain meets ocean - engine roaring, top down, passing Porches. All of this could be had, as soon as the ink dried on the paperwork!

But then, there were these two little bundles of joy that needed car seats, and room for a seemingly endless array of kid-gear. Older ones needed even more space to haul bags of sporting equipment and plenty of friends, shuttling from game to game, weekend over weekend. Oh, and did I mention the dog? And groceries to feed the masses? Enough said.

Secretary Tom Quinn

A few years ago, when it came time to choose a new ride, one had to choose between these two worlds. But with the advent of electronic everything, and fast computers, we don't have to make THE choice anymore. Not with Mercedes anyway! I'm speaking of Dynamic Select. A feature that transforms my GLE Coupe from SUV to Sports Car with the simple twist of a knob.

Choosing sport based modes changes the steering feel, with less assist added for a more connected-to-the-road feel. The suspension lowers, firming the ride, reducing body roll and adding confidence in corners. The engine idle speed increases, providing faster starts and the computer controlled transmission holds gears longer, pushing the engine higher into the torque and power curves, adding acceleration and speed. All because I turned a knob.

And as if the available preset modes were not enough, Mercedes allows us to configure most of these controls to an individual user setting - to personalize the driving experience by choosing the level of feel and response you desire.



Does it work? Yes!

It works VERY well. The transformation from mode to mode is substantial, the feel and personality of each mode being significantly different than any other. And by combining the use



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SUV to Sports Car? (continued) Tom Quinn

of the paddle shifters, especially with the more sporty modes, one can have it all! Sports car feel at take off through acceleration, followed by a more comfortable engine position at speed, all while staying in your mode of choice. In many models there's even a "slippery" mode that configures your vehicle to be as surefooted as possible on snow and ice. Combined with all wheel drive, this is a must for those of us with connections closer to the North Pole (read Detroit). To access these configurations, and transform your car or SUV, just turn the knob.

Mercedes doesn't limit this feature to it's SUV's. Oh no! If you opted for something lower to the ground, say, with twin-turbo V8 growl, there are even more modes to check out. Including ones designed for the track that have been designed to extract every last pony from the engine, adding race born steering feel, handling and the most blissful of engine notes. Just turn the knob.

In the past, one had to choose between two very different driving experiences - an almost certain compromise of their driving desires or practical needs. Today, even the SUV's can be made to drive like sports cars. So load up the kids, the dog and the groceries, and take everyone and everything where they need to be. And then, find the back road, twist the Dynamic select to Sport Plus, place your hands near the paddle shifters and grin all the way home!

Welcome New Owners!

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Larry Barnes and I am the Chairperson for the Hospitality Committee of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America—Central Florida Section, Inc. This section is a member-oriented group of Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts who strive to host a wide variety of events such as technical sessions, dinner events, future scenic driving and rally events and other social gatherings in and around greater Orlando and surrounding areas.



Catch Larry and his S550 White Stallion
...If you can!

We are dedicated to enhancing the enjoyment and ownership experience of Mercedes-Benz automobiles. One of our many goals is to help you, whether you are a new Mercedes-Benz owner or a current club member, by providing you resources to enrich your Mercedes-Benz ownership and to keep you connected with other enthusiasts to help ensure that your Mercedes-Benz experience will be a rewarding one.

This section is extremely fortunate to have a great relationship with the dealerships within our section. Most have sponsored at least one or more events during the year. In return, we strive to support them because this valued relationship is a benefit to both sides. These dealership events give you a chance to learn about the new models, new technology, proper care and maintenance of your prized possession(s), meet some of the people at the dealership who care about you and your car and much more.

The next time we announce a dealership event, I would like to encourage you to come out and experience the warmth and camaraderie that is offered within our group of Mercedes-Benz owners and enthusiasts. I look forward to meeting all of you soon.



Mercedes-Benz

Hector Perez
Sales & Leasing Professional

Mercedes-Benz of South Orlando	Phone: 407-367-2700
4301 Millenia Boulevard	Fax: 407-367-2762
Orlando, Florida 32839	Cell: 407-687-7050
E-mail: hperez@mbso.com	

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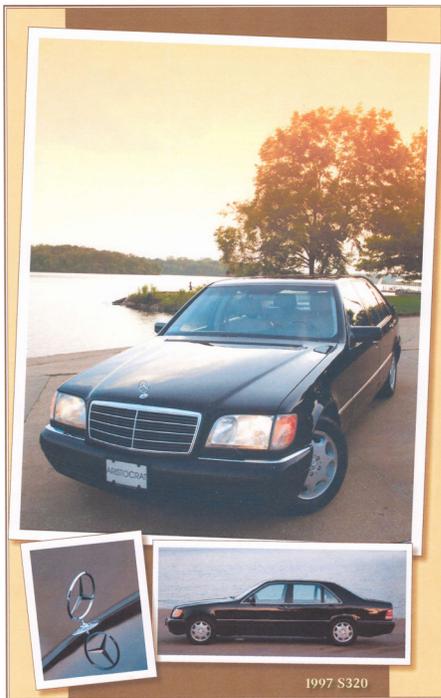




Larry's Top Shelf Picks: S320 & S550

Hospitality/Advertising **Larry Barnes**

As most people know, Mercedes-Benz has a history of making history. Since the first car, Mercedes-Benz has set the standard for what all cars might someday become. There's only one reason the holder of the first patent for an automobile remains first in innovation. Carl Benz said it best: "The love of inventing never dies." The Mercedes-Benz S-Class has always carried forth the promise of the original automobile and the motto of its inventor Gottlieb Daimler: "The best or nothing."



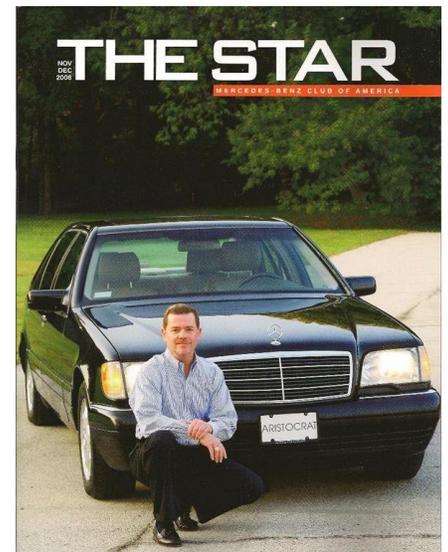
This brings us to Larry Barnes and his 1997 S320 with the odometer now showing just over 630,000 miles. Larry and his car were featured on the cover of the National Mercedes-Benz magazine,

"The Star" in the November-December 2008 issue. Another article was published in the March-April 2013 issue when it hit 600,000 miles. Larry's black, long-wheelbase W140 model still shimmers as it did when it rolled out of Aristocrat Motors more than 20 years ago and he has the concours awards to prove it. He has four first-place awards and two second-place awards from the Kansas City Section Mercedes Club very competitive annual concours and with 630,000 miles, it's obviously not a garage queen. When Larry is not driving his S320, he can be found keeping the appearance standards up to the mechanical standards.

Larry retired at the end of 2015 as a District Sales Manager for the Fender® Musical Instruments Corporation after 36 years. He depended on the car daily as he traveled his five-state territory of Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa and most of Illinois. He averaged approximately 42,000 miles each year. When he lived in the Kansas City area, Aristocrat Motors did all the service work on the factory-recommended schedule. Larry has kept every single service record since he purchased the car and said that the car has gone through 84 oil changes (Castrol 10W-40), 44 Michelin MXV4 tires and 8 windshields (darn those rocks). The only significant maintenance issues have been when he had the transmission replaced at around 300,000 miles and did a preventative replacement of a head gasket. He's pleased to report that the crosshatch of the cylinder hones of the engine was still clearly visible when the head was removed which indicated very little if any internal wear. The Castrol 10W-40 oil, old dinosaur juice as he calls it, and Larry's impeccable attention to detail when it came to scheduling recommended routine maintenance "on time" continued to pay off for him.

Continue reading the remainder of [this portion of the article online](#). Continue to the next page for an analysis of this car and his new S550.

Editor's Note: This is an article six months in the making. After some refining, reworking, talking, and all that, all over again, we finally present this gem. It takes some dedication to make a car run one million kilometers (a gasoline engine at that!), so coming from that perspective, we see how Larry's new S550 compares to his former '97 S320. -jd



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Larry Barnes

Larry's Top Shelf Picks (continued)

In summary, my 1997 S320 is commonly known as the most overengineered Mercedes-Benz ever built. I really like the elegant, square bold looks of the vehicle with its timeless design and rock-solid build. It is certainly a majestic highway cruiser and not a sports car which is precisely why I purchased it. The trunk is large, and as they say, I could raise a family of five in the back seat. There are times when I feel like driving this one because she has her own unique, tank like feel, she simply loves the highway, is extremely quiet and holds the road like an autobahn purebred.



On the other hand, the S550 is a completely different animal. The styling of this curvaceous white sedan is sharp, graceful and mature with a high degree of opulence. The trunk is much smaller than my S320, but it is still sufficient. The upgraded option of the AMG Sport Package really adds to the sportiness of this beast as compared to my S320. The upgraded interior package in the S550 along with all the electronic features rivals that of a Bentley Flying Spur as compared to the rather simple but elegant interior of the S320. Therefore, when I feel like being cosseted, I drive the S550 because it is not only fun and safe to drive but is super-fast and pampers me in the extremely sumptuous interior. Oh, and did I mention that the cabin always smells good due to the built-in fragrance system which adds a new definition of luxury in the interior?

"The 2016 Mercedes-Benz S-Class is one of the finest and one of the most luxurious vehicles in the world. It's composed handling, incredibly smooth ride, world-class opulent interior and impressive powerful twin-turbo V-8 engine is what I expect in a vehicle and this model fit all of my criteria. I have always admired the Mercedes-Benz S-Class and as a result, this is my third one." -Larry

Category	1997 S320	New S550 'White Stallion'
Handling & Suspension	Land yacht / bank vault feel. Very smooth ride in part due to the LWB (Long Wheelbase) of 123.6 inches, Double wishbone front suspension.	Exceptionally serene and tranquil ride quality with a long 124.6-inch wheelbase. Very solid and composed at any speed with AIRMATIC® Air Suspension and the 4MATIC® All Wheel Drive.
Comfort & Amenities	Double-paned soundproofed glass on all doors, 12-way powered seats, with 3 setting memory functions and lumbar support. Speed-Sensitive Power Recirculating Ball Steering, Power-assisted closing for doors and trunk lid, Electrically-operated automatic-dimming inside rear-view mirror.	Exquisite seating comfort with exclusive Nappa Leather Interior, Cabin fragrance system, Dual 12.3-inch infotainment screens, Heated /air conditioned / massaging front and rear seats, Soft-close doors and trunk lid, Rear passenger illuminated vanity mirrors, PARKTRONIC with Active Parking Assist just to name a few.
Performance & Power	3.2 Liter in-line Six DOHC 24 Valve, 228 Horsepower, 232 lb-ft Torque, 0-60 in 8.4 sec. 5 Speed Transmission	4.7 Liter V8 Biturbo, 449 Horsepower DOHC 32 Valve, 516 lb-ft Torque, 0-60 in 4.9 sec. 7-Speed Transmission
Fuel Economy	15 City / 22 Highway / 18 Combined, huge 26.4-gallon fuel tank	16 City / 26 Highway / 19 Combined, 21.1-gallon fuel tank
Personality	Majestic appearance and feel combined with maximum comfort through generous dimensions and double glazing on the windows for optimized acoustic insulation.	A Superlative Mercedes-Benz in keeping with the marques flagship status. The ride quality is unruffled, the hand-crafted cabin is serene, and the engine performs effortlessly.
Safety & Security	Headlight cleaning wipers, Dual front airbags, Dual front side impact airbags, ASR / Acceleration Slip Regulation	All-LED exterior and interior lighting (over 300 LED's, no bulbs), Forward collision warning with automatic braking, Driver-drowsiness monitor, Active Blind Spot Assist, Active Lane Keeping Assist, Surround view camera

IMPORTANT PERSONAL NOTE: Consider the cost of every limb on your body, put a price on it and decide if it is better to pay the price in fuel, in a car that crushes to the point of being unrecognizable, or be safe and travel in sheer luxury and opulence of an S-Class.





Ed Ho's Transcontinental Grand Tour

Photography Ed Ho

I have embarked on an epic transcontinental trip with my wife this past month and I share with you my delightful experiences of this road trip.

On May 13, 2018 I started my road trip to Denver, via Nashville; with a side trip to Garden of the Gods in Shawnee National Forest; then on to St. Louis... and yes I got tickets to go up to the Arch; its symbolism was explained to me, that it was erected as a gate to the vast Western territories, for those who ventured to the Great Plains which was then unknown.

Between St. Louis and Denver, I ventured on unpaved roads in Quinter KS, with a side trip to Castle Rock and Monument Rock, before climbing almost 5,250 feet above sea level to Denver. I savored flavorful BBQ feast at Sugarfire Smoke House prepared in the true St. Louis tradition. I traversed the Ohio River at Cave-in-Rock from Kentucky into Illinois in a barge; for whatever reason the bridge was not open and free river crossings were provided.



In Denver I took a seven hour plus train trip to Grand Junction, departing from the renovated Art Deco Grand Union Station. The Amtrak's California Zephyr is the America's most scenic train ride: from Chicago to Emeryville (San Francisco) through splendid Colorado Gore, Moffat tunnel among 36 other tunnels thru Rockies along the raging



Colorado River... thru Fraser-Winter Park, Granby, the iconic sky resort of Glenwood Springs finally reaching Grand Junction. The imposing Grand Mesa dominated the skyline.

Within Colorado, the driving experience to Bachelor's Gulch in Avon at more than 8,000 feet above sea level was indeed a most remarkable experience. The rarified thin mountain air make heads spin.. equally amusing is to get high through pot which is legally available everywhere in this corner of the country.

On the way back home, I extended my road trip by visiting the Eisenhower presidential museum in Abilene; then on to the Northeast, to attend the 2018 Nascar's Monster series racing at Lake Pond Raceway in Pocono. My final leg back to Florida was by the way of embarking on the Amtrak's AutoTrain in Lorton, VA.

Lastly, but not the least I am deeply appreciative to Alyssa Steiner, Technical Advisor of Mercedes Benz of Denver, who went out of her way to offer me the warmest welcome. Even though my GLA did not needed any service when I visited her dealership, nevertheless she was forthcoming in offering any needed assistance, she truly made me feel at home. It is comforting to know that Mercedes dealerships do care about owners regardless where they purchased their cars from. Continue reading the remainder of [this article online](#).

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Around the Benz

Volume 2018 -4th Edition

July-August

Tech: Adjust Valves on your old Diesel

Jon Douglas, Jaimeson Jeffery, Eric Williams

0560.20A - Valve Adjustment Addendum

Model/Year: 300SD with engine 617.95 (or later)

MB Maintenance job # 0560.20

1. Remove Valve Cover and all obstructing components including the items listed in table 4. It can be helpful to take reference pictures after each step in the process so you can more easily retrace during reinstall. It is also good practice to place clean rags/covers over any open passages to prevent foreign objects from entering. Refer to Table 4 for removal procedures, namely: [1]. breather hose, [2]. Air filter housing (if necessary, procedure currently under development), [3]. Vacuum supply to valve cover hub, [4]. four linkages to throttle hub, [5]. Engine Stop switch linkage, [6]. Vacuum hub, [7]. Valve cover nuts and gasket (MB 617 016 01 80)
2. During the valve adjustment process it will be necessary to manually rotate the engine in order to change the camshaft position in relation to the intake and exhaust valves for each cylinder. To manually rotate the engine, turn the 22mm bolt on the power steering pump with a long handled spanner wrench, turn clockwise only. Turning the power steering pump pulley bolt will in turn rotate the crankshaft and camshaft via the power steering pump belt. In order for the belt to have enough tension, and thus friction, you must place pressure on the belt around the power steering pump pulley with your hand at 7 o'clock position. Turn the steering pump bolt to turn the engine until any cam lobe (light grey in illustration) is facing 1 o'clock when viewed from the front of the car looking back toward the engine. There is an oil supply channel at roughly the 1 o'clock position that can serve as a position reference.
3. Test the valve clearance by slipping the oiled feeler gauge between the cam lobe that is currently at the 1 o'clock position and the valve tappet (7) using the clearances in the Table 2. If clearance adjustment is needed, move to step 4. If no change in clearance is required, rotate the engine by hand in order to get another cam lobe at the 1 o'clock position and check clearance.

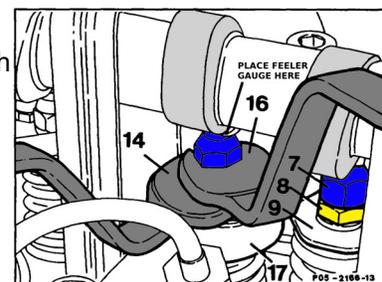
4. Hold the bottom tappet locking nut (8), located on top of the valve spring plate, in place using one 14mm spanner wrench (14) (open ended spanner wrench head needs to be thin enough as to only engage with the locking nut). Loosen the top tappet adjustment nut by rotating it counter clockwise with another 14mm spanner wrench (16) while holding the lock nut in place with first spanner. (This could also be done in opposite fashion by holding the tappet adjustment nut in place and rotating the locking nut counter clockwise). The tappet adjustment and locking nuts use right handed threading, turning the adjustment nut counter clockwise raises the tappet closer to the cam lobe. Turning it clockwise lowers the tappet away from the cam lobe. Once the correct clearance is obtained as determined by using the feeler gauges and by rotating the tappet adjusting nut up or down, lock the tappet adjustment nut by rotating the locking nut (8) counter clockwise upward into the adjustment nut (7).

-Specially bent spanner wrenches are required for the valve adjustment procedure due to clearance issues with camshaft bearings and injectors. For procedure on bending spanner wrenches, see [procedure currently under development].

5. Once all valves are adjusted, recheck clearance between cam lobes and valve spring tappets on all valves and that the locknut is sufficiently tight.
6. Installation is reverse of removal. Gaskets will leak if mating surfaces are dirty, be sure to clean all sealing surfaces thoroughly. Remember to remove any temporary rags over open passages.
7. Start car, and let warm to normal operating temperature, take it for a spin, and enjoy your tighter 300SD!

TLDR Summary:

- Remove valve cover
- adjust valves with 14mm wrenches and feeler gauges
- put back together.



For further specifications and diagrams for this procedure, continue with [this article online](#).





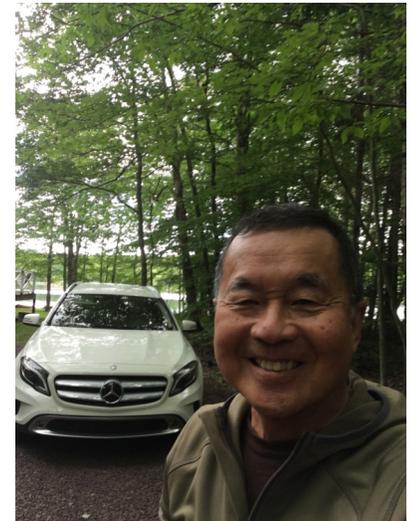
The Grand Finale... Recent Member Photos



Amtrak AutoTrain = Efficient
Sanford, FL (Orlando) to Lorton, VA (Washington, DC)



Crossing the Ohio River at Cave in Rock from Kentucky into Illinois en route to the Garden of the Gods. Car on Boat? If the boat floats!



Ed relaxing at a log cabin in Lake Pocono



MBSO: Engine rebuild master Mo and his '87 300D 'Nemo'
Purchased for \$300, runs on used engine oil with gasoline.



Ace Cafe: Craig Dalessandro of FixDent



Ace Cafe: Jared Reseholtz with his S63



Orhan (Tech), Akram (Owner, both of Eurocharged Orlando)
with Bob Hartmann



Q: Is that... a classic Mercedes Diesel?
A: Why yes, yes it is.



Ace Cafe: Steve Rosenwasser and his C63S



High Mileage Award: Get some!



Ace Cafe: Tony Long and Beverly, his E350 TurboDiesel



Ace Cafe: Dan Schumann, his son and C63S

Coming up next issue: Pierre' s service stories from the road, Keith Morgans' Illustrious car collection, Event reviews, and so much more!!!

