



The Benz-ine

the official Central Florida section club newsletter - v2019e4 - April *Quarterly*

Gearing up for 2019

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Mercedes-Benz Classic Center



MBCA Central Florida Holiday Party 2018

The Presidential Address

President **Bob Hartmann**

Spring has sprung, or so they say. Welcome to our first edition of Benz-ine for 2019. Unlike our monthly newsletter update, Benz-ine is designed to provide enhanced content for those events that our club has enjoyed over the past three months. It not only highlights past events, that gives you an insight as to major upcoming club events over the next three months.

Leading off this edition is a recap of our first car show, which was held at the beautiful Lakeside Inn in Mount Dora. Benno and Peggy, along with the rest of the team, did a tremendous job in both the creation and execution of this event. Thanks go out to all of those who displayed their cars and those who simply joined in the festivities. I know that demand for a similar event in the future is high, and we hope to be able to accommodate those desires soon. Also, thanks to Mercedes-Benz of Orlando-Maitland for showing off the current state of automotive safety with the new A220, a true technological tour deforce.

Highlighting one of our upcoming events, we will be having another driving tour on June 8. That event, coordinated by our member Jay Hixson, will have us navigate the Ormond Loop, ending up at the Rockefeller home and then lunch and possible beach excursion. Check out the full listing of our upcoming events, available here and our website www.centralflorida.mbca.org.

Travel safely and we look forward to seeing you in the near future.

Upcoming Events

- 1. Mon, April 1
6:00p, Dinner at 7pm
Ace Cafe Mercedes-Benz Night
- 2. Sat, April 13, 10am
Owner's Clinic
MB of Orlando (Maitland)
- 3. Wed, April 17, 6pm
European Car Social
MBar Orlando
- 4. Wed, April 24, 6pm
Business Meeting
MBar Orlando
- 5. Mon, May 6, 6pm
6:00p, Dinner at 7pm
Ace Cafe Mercedes-Benz Night
- 6. Sat, May 11, 10am
Owner's Clinic
MB of Orlando (Maitland)
- 7. Sat, May 18, 10am
Sanford Zoo Outting
- 8. Thurs, May 23, 6pm
Business Meeting
MBar Orlando
- 9. Mon, June 3, 6pm
6:00p, Dinner at 7pm
Ace Cafe Mercedes-Benz Night
- 10. Sat, June 8, 10am
Ormond Loop Rally

Submit your photos and articles:

mbcacfs@gmail.com



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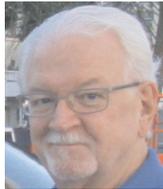
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Pierre and Elaine quizzing Section members on some Mercedes-Benz trivia at the December 2018 Holiday Party

Did You Miss It?

If you missed an event, check out our online photo albums... just click on the links below!



- [Mt Dora Show March](#)
- [Sebring 12hr March](#)
- [Amelia Concours March](#)
- [Ace Cafe March](#)
- [Owners Seminar February](#)
- [Ace Cafe February](#)
- [Rolex 24hr January](#)
- [Ace Cafe January](#)
- [Holiday Party December '18](#)

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.
- Pierre Hedary and Company: \$5.00 off per hour (pre-1995 models only). [p3]
- Backhaus Bakery/Deli: 10% off [p11]
- Solomon's Autobody - 10% off [pg8]
- Advice from Club members. Many times your fellow club members have dealt with the same issues as you on your car. Reach out to them for recommendations.

Section Leadership

We're constantly looking for good help, yet an intricate knowledge of the brand isn't essential! Basic decency, responsiveness, participation at our events, and a teamwork attitude are the most helpful qualifications.

Photography, Historian, and Social Media are currently open chairs. Meanwhile, some existing Officers and Chairs are looking to pass the torch on to committed club members. Write the club officers for more information on opportunities.

A Shoutout to Steve R.

If you have been to any of our events recently, you've probably seen Steve Rosenwasser. He and his C63S have recently been a warm welcome and super helpful at Mt Dora, Ace Cafe, and our 2018 Holiday Event, just to name a few.



Always positive and helpful, it is a joy to have such a like-minded car-enthusiast around. A Mechanical Engineer with a neat history of converting petrol cars to electric in his time at UCF in the 90's, his knowledge doesn't stop there. In case you missed it, he gave a brief history of Mercedes-Benz and racing, especially involvement with F1, at our recent Club Meeting at MBar on March 21. Though not yet an official club officer or chair, Steve is exemplary of what a Director-At-Large does for an MBCA Section. Say 'hi' to Steve next time you see him and thank him for all he does for our section.

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The Benz-ine

Volume 2019 -4th Edition

April

About the Club

The MBCA was established in 1956, and currently has approximately 25,000 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 the Newsletter

The Mercedes-Benz Club of America—Central Florida Section is changing the publishing format for 2019! Short monthly newsletters will be distributed to keep you informed of events and such. Quarterly Gazettes in this format will also be sent out, and line spacing is less in this quarterly edition, which means more content for you. 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.

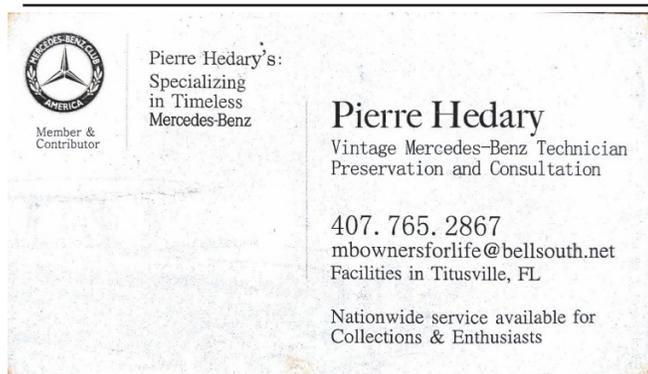
Handy Links

Section Website: centralflorida.mbca.org
Section Mailbox: mbcacfs@gmail.com
Section Facebook: [mbca.cfs](https://www.facebook.com/mbca.cfs)
Section Newsletters: [full listing](#)

At our section business meetings, we discuss club events, ideas, newsletter content, finances, national business, and of course, these cars we drive. All are welcomed to attend!

[03-21-19 Major's Motors, Orlando](#)

Meeting Minutes



 Pierre Hedary's:
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About our Section

The MBCA is a nationwide club, with our local Central Florida Section, Inc. spanning as far north as Palatka, as far west as the Villages and Lakeland, as far south as Sebring, East to the Atlantic Ocean 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!

12 Hours of Sebring - March '19 Jon Douglas

After arriving 11:00pm Friday night, I was able to catch the last few laps of the World Endurance Championship (WEC) race and watched the awards ceremony on a giant mobile screen from turn 3. The overnight campsite was roughly 100 yards from turn 2 and I slept well in a tent, after having toured the WEC pits and catching up with my family who had arrived a few hours earlier.

Light rain started before sunrise and continued until about 11:15 am, which is after the race had started. Race officials finally released the green flag at about 11:20, but the cars continued to run with rain tires till about 12:30 or so. High speed racing ensued, but fortunately overcast skies meant everything stayed at around 75-80F; This was much better than last year, which seemed to be between 85-90F and dusty. But, with the overcast skies eventually came more rain as evening fell. This didn't stop the fierce competition though, as the finish was the race's closest ever; only a 1.030 second difference between 1st and 2nd place. AMG #33 came out 5th, but from time-to-time was in first for 38 of 320 laps. AMG #71 came out 11th. Both ran GT3's and had the signature disciplined growl as they expertly rounded each bumpy corner; 'Respect the bumps' indeed!

Did you attend? Please write the club mailbox and let us know how it went for you. If we can gather enough interest, we may even make this a section event in the future.

For event photos, click on photo (right)



Full race website here, including full standings and results: [race results link](#)

All photos credit of Section Leadership except where otherwise noted.

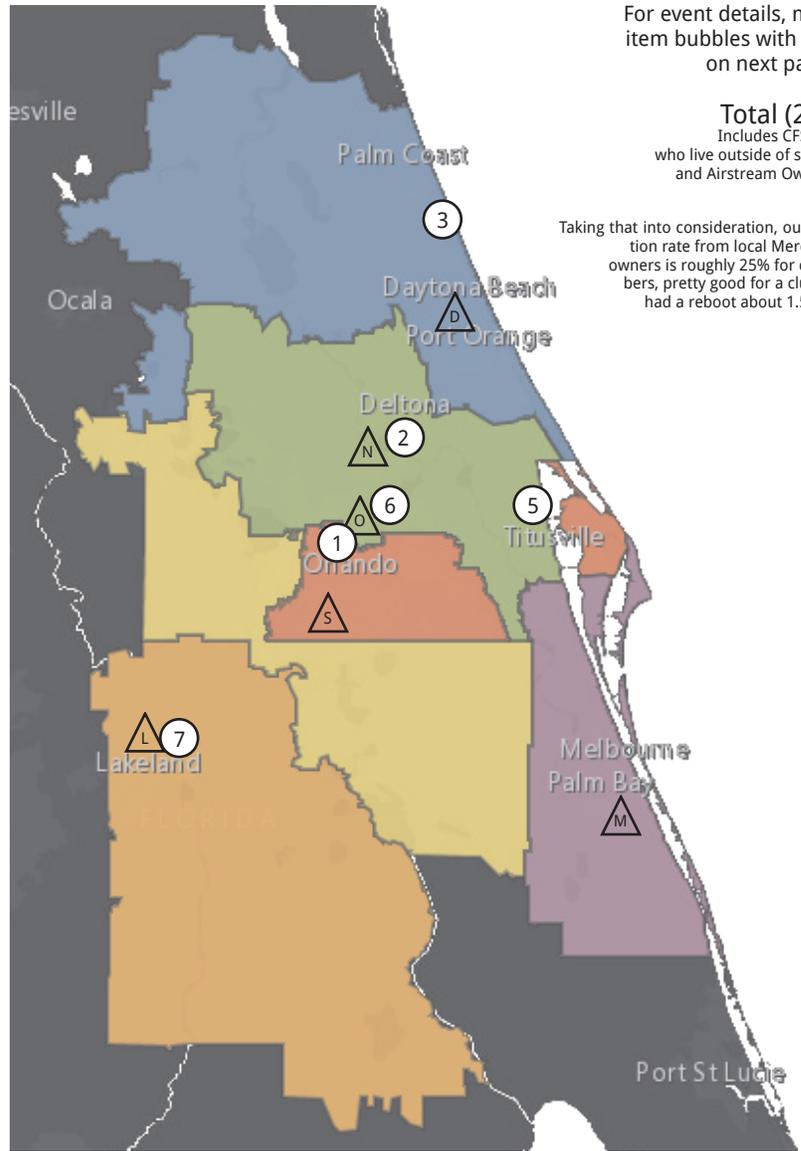




Event Summary and Membership Map

LEGEND

- NORTH (36) -2
DAYTONA, VILLAGES, PALATKA
- D MB OF DAYTONA
1188 N Tomoka Farms Rd
Daytona Beach, FL 32124
- NORTH CENTRAL (63) -3
SANFORD, EUSTIS, MAITLAND
- N MB OF NORTH ORLANDO
1100 Rinehart Rd
Sanford, FL 32771
- O MB OF ORLANDO
810 N Orlando Ave
Maitland, FL 32751
- CENTRAL (34) -1
ORLANDO, DISNEY, MERRITT ISLAND
- S MB OF SOUTH ORLANDO
4301 Millenia Blvd
Orlando, FL 32839
- WEST/KISSIMMEE (25) +2
KISSIMMEE, CLERMONT, LEESBURG
- SOUTHEAST (33) +3
MELBOURNE, PALM BAY, COCOA
- M MB OF MELBOURNE
509 E Nasa Blvd
Melbourne, FL 32901
- SOUTHWEST (20) +3
LAKELAND, DAVENPORT, SEBRING
- L FIELDS MOTORCARS
4141 N Florida Ave
Lakeland, FL 33805



For event details, match the item bubbles with numbers on next page (pg5).

Total (229) +0
Includes CFS members who live outside of section (8%) and Airstream Owners (44%)

Taking that into consideration, our participation rate from local Mercedes-Benz owners is roughly 25% for club members, pretty good for a club that just had a reboot about 1.5 years ago!

New Members 03-01-19 to 03-30-19

Join us in welcoming our new members. Look for future editions to include new members' models. Remember to keep your MBCA profile updated!

Orlando-Metro

David M, John H, Beth S

Ormond Beach John R (E300 '11)

Leesburg, Tavares, Villages

Allen S (S450 '18), Robb L,

Dean W (380SL '84), Gregory P

Melbourne Michael B (Interstate '19)

Membership Renew

Keep an eye out for emails from National Business office if your membership is about to expire. For those that are wondering if renewal is a good thing, you are a part of a section that is vital and alive, with more HP building daily. We are glad to have you as a section member, and very grateful that you would choose to renew and that we can see you at one of our many events very soon!

Got something Mercedes you want to sell? Some parts or tools?

Personal Ads for members are free!

Write the club mailbox for more info.

For Sale Advertising Rates

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



The Benz-ine

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2019 Ucoming Events

Events **Peggy Bohl**

1. April 17 - M Motors Meetup - Social gathering with many other central Florida European car clubs at the fabulous M Motors, 2000 N. Orlando Avenue, Orlando. Be prepared to view the most exotic collection of vintage cars and memorabilia any where! 6:00 – 9:00 PM Complimentary parking for all guests. Individuals will be responsible for their own bar tab. finger food avail. – just camaraderie and fun!

2. May 18 - Sanford Zoo Outing - Bring a picnic lunch for after a guided tour of the botanical garden and view a myriad of species in the zoo. After lunch, return to the grounds, the zip line and other family amenities which will ensure a memorable day for all who attend. \$15.00 per person, make your check payable to MBCA and mail to Larry Barnes 2708 Phillips Park Ct. Winter Park, FL 32789.

3. June 8 - Ormond Loop Rally -Visit to the Winter Home of John D Rockefeller in Ormond Beach for a guided tour. Additional details for the day will be added later.

4. July 8 - To be Announced

5. August 3 - Tech Session @ Pierre Hedary's with lunch in Titusville. Pierre Hedary, specializing in classic Mercedes, will share his genius and technical knowledge about a fabulous collection of vintage cars. A delicious lunch will be available to those who wish to attend. Pierre Hedary's is located at 424 S Deleon Avenue in Titusville. Time, and Restaurant to be announced at a later date.

6. October - Oktoberfests stay tuned for events!

7. October 19 - Mid-Florida Auto Show and Concours Lakeland, Great Classics right here in our Section!

November - Club choice, submit your ideas now to Peggy Bohl @ 407-951-5062 or Peggy.Bohl@gmail.com. Also we have the **Hilton Head Concours** in South Carolina.

8. December 8 - Annual Holiday Party

2020 Events to be announced

Mt Dora Mercedes-Benz Car Show **Jon Douglas**

We had a great time in Mt Dora as many Classic and Late-Model cars arrived in the morning and enjoyed fellow club member's company. This was our largest turnout for a club event, by far! Many folks strolling through Mt. Dora also stopped by to check out the awesome cars. Hank Webb, Regional Director stopped by, and we had a very nice awards ceremony. Lake-side Inn was a classy place, and congrats to Dennis Puening with his 300SEL 6.3 monster-machine for taking the 'Vintage Dream' award. There were other award-winning cars including People's Choice and Best-in-Show, for those who won, you know who you are. More pictures are available on our google photos album.



Benno and Peggy discussing Mt Dora details with the section - March '19

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www.MajorsBar.com

Interested in receiving a printed copy of the newsletter?

Write the club mailbox: mbcacfs@gmail.com!





Daytona Historic Races President Bob Hartmann

From a car enthusiast's perspective, November was a very busy month indeed. One of the highlights for this author was attending the Historic Sports Car races held at the famous Daytona International Speedway. This event highlights numerous race cars of various classes and vintages competing on the famed Daytona Speedway in a series of 45 minute races spread over 24 hours.

Prior to the start of these races on Saturday, the Amelia Island Concourse Group sponsors a Cars & Coffee event, the highlight of which is driving one's own vehicle around this famed race track. Having the opportunity to view the track surroundings while navigating the trioval and its infield road course is quite a treat. Within the group were a wide variety of cars, including Mercedes-Benz, Porsche, Alfa Romeo, Jaguar and many other storied marques.

Check it out for yourself at www.HSRRace.com and mark your calendar for next year's event to be held once in the beginning of November, and stay tuned here for details on the Cars & Coffee segment.

Ace Cafe, March ' 19 Vice Pres & Newsletter Jon Douglas

The second month at Ace Cafe met us with wonderful weather and lots of new faces and over 30 cars attending. Mercedes-Benz of South Orlando supported the Section again with some great new models they have available and some excellent door prizes. Prize winners were as follows:

- Mohammed N. 1st Prize MBSO - Level 'A' Service
- Jose V. - 2nd Prize MBSO - Wheel Alignment
- George V - 3rd Prize MBSO - \$100 parts
- Tania D. - \$100 Gift Card - FS Tuning
- Guy C. - \$50 G.C. - FS Tuning
- Tatiana R - \$25 G.C. - Ace Cafe
- Larry S - \$25 \$25 G.C. - Ace Cafe



Also, if you were not aware, Enterprise rental cars showed up representing their Exotic Collection that allows you to rent late-model Mercedes-Benz for business or pleasure.

Come say high and enjoy all sorts of classic and late-models; talk shop, tell tall tales, or just enjoy time with others; we've got a open parking spot for you!



Bob Hartmann

Hilton Head Concors d' Elegance, Nov' 18

This past November once again found car enthusiasts from all over the country convening at the annual Hilton Head Motoring Festival in South Carolina. Featuring a wide assortment of both historic, as well as, contemporary vehicles, the Hilton Head Motoring Festival continues to grow and impress. Saturday's Cars & Coffee event opened up with cooler, cloud free skies, encouraging large numbers of spectators to attend and discuss all things automotive with those owners.

Serving as our MBCA host for Saturday's festivities was Bruce Wood, who's hospitality was greatly appreciated. In attendance from the various Mercedes-Benz club sections were the following members: Rick & Patti Siefert, MBCA Central Regional Director from Chesterfield, MO; Steve Redwine, MBCA President Triangle Section from Raleigh, NC; Doug Geganto, MBCA Eastern Regional Director from Gainesville, GA; Dr. Jim Roberts, MBCA National Secretary from Birmingham, AL; Bob & Peggy Hartmann, MBCA President Central Florida from Oviedo, FL.

For Saturday's Cars & Coffee participants, winners representing the Mercedes-Benz Club of America and receiving the "Crescent Award" were David Stitzer's 1958 190SL Roadster and Tommy Couch's 1970 280SL Roadster.

Sunday's threat of severe weather didn't occur until much later in the afternoon, providing a wet conclusion to an otherwise spectacular weekend. Receiving the coveted "Best Road & Track" award was Jeff Files of Durham, NC and his 1955 300SL Gullwing, which was also awarded "Best in Class" for Sports Cars-International. Finally, JW Marriott of Bethesda, MD won the "Palmetto Award" for the Honored Marque - Life Along the Orient Express-Classic Era 1926-1934 with his 1934 Mercedes-Benz 500K.

For a full listing of Car Club awards, please visit hhiconcours.com/2018-car-club-showcase-awards

For the Concors Awards, please visit hhiconcours.com/2018-concours-delegance-awards



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Holiday Party - Mission Inn - Dec '19

The Central Florida Mercedes-Benz Club holiday party was held on December 9 at the beautiful Mission Inn Resort & Club in Howey-In-The-Hills. The Inn provided a separate parking area and even though the weather was windy and rainy, some beautiful cars were on display. In typical bipolar Florida weather, the sun was shining brightly by the time we left and headed home.

Although a rainy and windy day caused some cancellations, 27 enthusiastic people were in attendance. The buffet at Mission Inn is always expansive, and club participants enjoyed a wonderful assortment of cold and hot food including appetizers, salads, vegetables, assorted sea food and meat dishes, a carving station, cook to order eggs and breakfast items, and a desert selection to satisfy any taste. Of course, drinks were also available and we kept the bartender busy.

Our president Bob Hartmann conducted a raffle of some very nice gifts that were donated from area Mercedes-Benz dealerships and other businesses. A 'Section Member of the Year' award was also presented.

Peggy Bohl, Bob Rolle & Jay Hixson



In keeping with last years entertainment, Our technical expert Pierre Hedary and Elaine Spiller designed a quiz contest with questions about Mercedes-Benz history, manufacture, performance, and products. These questions severely tested club member knowledge about our namesake marque. Attendees were divided into multiple teams. There was a time limit applied as the teams discussed each question and then wrote down their answers. In the end, two teams tied for the most correct answers. The final winning "Deifel Team" was able to answer the tie-breaker question as to which models of Mercedes-Benz Bob Hartmann had previously owned. The other teams claimed bribery, but calm was soon restored.

The Mercedes-Benz of America, Central Florida Section holiday party was a great success. Much camaraderie, laughter and friendship were evident.

FS Tuning

Advertising

Duane Jackson

FS Tuning European Autowerks, in Orlando on Commonwealth Avenue, specializes in making your Mercedes-Benz into the performance vehicle of your dreams. They combine performance solutions and intimate knowledge of your Mercedes - from front to rear - to give you the ride that will make you smile! In addition, FS Tuning, offers daily maintenance, including Service A and Service B for all Mercedes-Benz models from 1997 to date. Service for older Mercedes-Benz models is also available. Normally, regular services at FS Tuning will be 50% lower than most local dealers. FS can change your synthetic oil starting at only \$85 or regular oil change from \$50.

FS Tuning is an authorized Weistec FS Tuning is located at 615 Commonwealth Ave. near the Executive Airport. Call the guys at 407-730-3092 to schedule your tuning. Also, how about a custom built exhaust system - muffler, resonator and custom pipes - FS atfstuningea@gmail.com. tuning can do it!



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MECUM Car Auction Treasurer & Hospitality Larry Barnes

If you have a passion for automobiles and if you have never been to a Collector Car Auction, then look no further. The world's largest one is located right here in Florida each year and right in our backyard for many of us. It is the MECUM Collector Car Auction. This year it was held January 3-13 at the Osceola Heritage Park in Kissimmee, FL. I drove just under an hour to attend this auction and what an amazing event it was.

To put this auction into perspective with other upcoming MECUM auctions around the country, the one to be held at Indy in Indianapolis, IN in May is expected to have 2,000 vehicles. The ones to be held in Las Vegas, Phoenix, Houston, Dallas, Chicago and Harrisburg, PA for example are all expected to have 1,000 vehicles. The one in Kissimmee that was just completed had 3,500 vehicles, so you can see the magnitude of this mammoth automotive spectacle. Whether your taste is for Rolls-Royce's, Duesenberg's, Packard's, Ferrari's, Corvettes, Muscle Cars, Street Rods, Mercedes-Benz etc., they had it there. Also featured were twenty-six private collections from individuals which were outstanding to say the least just waiting for your winning bid(s).

I was particularly impressed with the fact that most of the cars were either inside a building or under a large tent. Very few of them were out in the open under the elements which made it extremely nice for viewing regardless of the weather.

If one would ever get tired of looking at cars, there was also a nice selection of "Road Art" and automobilia collections to drool over that were up for auction. These collections ranged from tabletop coin vending machines to vintage shop equipment



MECUM playbill - photo: Larry Barnes

to double-sided porcelain neon signs. There was an unlimited number of items to outfit your garage and/or mancave.

After all the walking I did, I eventually needed something to eat and drink. Talk about selection, I have never seen so many food vendors at a food court than they had there. No matter what you were hungry for, chances are they had something to satisfy your food cravings.

In summary, attending this world class auction was worth every penny of the \$30 I spent for admission. It proved to be a very enjoyable and extremely educational day. Do yourself a favor and attend this one next year. You will not be disappointed.

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Editorial - Thoughts on Technology

Secretary & Membership **Tom Quinn**



Tom Q calling like a boss... Dishing out the goods at our March Ace Cafe night

Our Tech is Good. But not yet good enough!

I love technology. And while I have never been the guy who has to have the very latest version of cell phone, TV, computer or tablet, I have always been the guy who gets the newest version of all things-tech right AFTER the craze has partially subsided. They haven't quite cleaned up from the mess of the initial crowd, and I'm in line to buy.

I am completely bought into technology that makes our lives better, whether that means saving time shopping (yes, an Amazon junkie am I), employing a home security system that requires no wires or expensive install or saving money by adding internet based thermostats that monitor and control temperatures based on where I am at the moment. I am a user of technology and I love it all.

My Mercedes is no stranger to the significant advancements that we, as drivers, enjoy each and every day. Lane-Keeping will actually move the vehicle to the center and away from the side marker line, the cruise control will keep my vehicles at a constant and safe distance (that I specify), my seatbelt will pretension if the car senses imminent danger... and I could go on and on and on. Technology is everywhere, and advancing at a fevered pace in our pockets as well as the cars we drive.

But then again... there's that pesky update. You know the one. Everything was fine until they "improved" it. I am living through one of those weird cycles right now, where the one thing my iPhone doesn't seem to want to do smoothly is, well, the phone!

So I ask you... How often do you need to reboot your gizmos to make them work again? My phone? Once or twice a week. My laptop? Once every couple of weeks. You know what I mean, swipe as you might, nothing happens. That little spinning circle that says "sorry, I'm busy" that never really stops being busy (or sorry for that matter)! Hey, it's just our electronics right! It's minor and just a part of life! Right?

Not when it comes to driving. Not when it comes to a secondary intelligence taking my wheel and making decisions. While I look forward to a time when accidents become as extinct as the dinosaurs, I'm just not convinced that the current level of tech is ready for the job.

Yes, our tech is good. And I appreciate all it can do for us on a daily basis. But someone has to figure out how to make our tools work without a reboot, function without being hacked and controlled from afar or being hijacked, or ransomed - before I will hit the "auto drive" button on a future Benz near me. There's no time for a reboot at 75 mph.

We, as Americans, sent a man to the moon with less computing power than today's iPhone. That's just amazing if you think about it. Now, to be clear, I truly believe we will figure it out, and once more, technology will benefit us all by eliminating drunk driving, carelessness, distractedness and injury. Those are all things to look forward to. But in the meantime, more public confidence is needed in the tech we use every day, before most people will trust it with their lives.

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The Benz-ine

Volume 2019 -4th Edition

April

Solomons Auto Body & Repair

Advertising Duane Jackson

Solomons Auto Body in Winter Garden is the place to go for repairs and specializes in both body repair and mechanical repairs to all years of Mercedes-Benz. If you need your Benz painted, glass replaced, motor or transmission replaced (with warranty), nearly anything you might need done to your Mercedes-Benz; Ali at Solomons Auto Body in Winter Garden can make it happen. Solomons also does detailing work to make your Mercedes-Benz look showroom new! Solomons is conveniently located at 14451 W. Colonial Dr. in Winter Garden. Call or come by. Solomons phone number is 407-656-4223 - ask for Ali and your 10% discount just for being a MBCA member.



SOLOMONS AUTO BODY

Body and Mechanical
Repairs

14451 W. Colonial Dr.

Winter Garden 34787

407-656-4223

Ask for Ali

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2019 Amelia Island - Concours d'Elegance

Director-at-Large/Rally Master Jay Hixson

Although the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance is older and more famous, the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance is considered a close second and many people, including Auto Classics consider the Amelia Island event better. It is also listed by Road and Track as one of the top ten "must see" events for car guys. My wife Karen and I have been fortunate enough to attend the last twelve. We have seen the length grow from basically two days to four days. It is now a series of great car events. Originally only the R & M Sotheby's auction on Saturday has now grown to five auctions from Thursday through Saturday. Five years ago Cars and Coffee on Saturday morning was added. The premier Sunday Concours hosts some of the best classic cars in the world. Why has this become the favorite car event of so many global show-goers? Because unlike the extremely high brow and expensive Monterey Car week, it is reasonably priced, relaxed, informal and comfortable.

The 2019 event was held March, 14-17. Unlike the last two years, the weather was beautiful all five days we were on the island. There were many beautiful MB cars at the numerous auctions. We saw Pierre Hedary and Elaine at the Goodings auction on Friday where we all admired a sensational 1970 SEL 6.3. At the R&M auction on Saturday, an incredible 1970 280 SL had me drooling. Saturday morning, Cars and Coffee had a Mercedes-Benz section that was full of non-judged but still noteworthy cars including (I believe) a 1939 540K!

The Sunday Concours d'Elegance was again first rate. Crowded yes, but the cars are spread out enough that you don't feel overwhelmed. Of course there many and varied world class cars, but as always Mercedes-Benz was well represented with two 300 SLs and several prewar classics. What a great day and great week. Most important for MBCA Central Florida Section members, Amelia Island is in our back yard, located on the furthest north-east coast of Florida. You must put this on your bucket list. You can not fail to enjoy it.





The Grand Finale... Recent Member Photos



Wall of tires, is there much cooler? Sebring, March '19



George with his Rally-conquering CL55 AMG - March @ Ace



Brian's a proud owner of a SL500 - March '19 Ace Cafe



Lining up for door prizes - March '19 @ Ace Cafe



Quite the crew, oh if the walls could speak! Ace Cafe March



Michael Coffman at the Mercedes-Benz museum, Germany



Mercedes-Benz Mechanical Art @ Amelia - March '19



#DigginBenz - Hilton Head '18



Horsepower Ranch, Geneva - Dec '18



W124 taxi? better than any Uber... sign me up!



Mid-Florida Auto Show in Lakeland - Oct '18



W124 Windshield on a Friday night under a tree, after work? you betcha! thx Eric



Seve with his recent MB purchase - Jan '19 @ Ace

Have some pictures or articles you would like to share? Send them to: mhcafcfs@gmail.com
visit centralflorida.mbca.org for more info

Stay tuned for more great articles, event reviews and photos from our Section...

