



STAR VIEWS

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The 5th Annual concours D'Elegance pages 1

The 11th Annual Boca Raton Concours page 2

The 5th Annual concours D'Elegance continues page 3

26th Annual Cavallino Classic Page 4

Redland Riot Road Rally in Homestead Page 5

The 58th Presidential Inauguration and Mercedes Benz Page 6

Never too Young to be a Mercedes-Benz and Automotive Aficionado Page 7

5TH ANNUAL CONCOURS D' ELEGANCE

Submitted by Mike Chrusch, President, MBCA South Florida Section

The 5th Annual Concours D'Elegance was held on Sunday, January 8, 2017 at TY Park in Hollywood, Florida. The weather was beautiful and so were the Mercedes on display. This year's Concours boasted a beautiful new AMG model as well as several new classics, which were first time entrants.

The purpose of the Concours is to bring together Mercedes enthusiasts. The Club encourages all years and models to join the Concours. The goal is to bring together Mercedes family members. Some like to share stories and/or practical tips while others just like to enjoy a day outside in the beautiful weather and sample the food from the food trucks.

This year marked our second judged Concours. The judging system was based on 100 points. The more points you kept out of 100, the better your position. Cars were judged on outside as well as on inside appearance.

Besides the wonderful Mercedes on display there was a great buzz of

communication around the show's attendees and registrants. It was busy, but everyone had a good time. In addition to the guests who planned to be at the Concours, on-lookers from the park walked over to see the cars on display. In addition to the Concours and food trucks, we had raffles; door prizes; and a variety of Mercedes items on sale.

Food Truck Invasion gourmet food trucks did not disappoint the crowd this year. There were more than 10 food trucks this year once again serving up culinary delights. Like in previous years, the food was delicious.

The winners of the 5th Annual Concours D'Elegance were:

AMG –

1st place: Bill Harter – 2017 S63 AMG Convertible

Vintage Sport Cars & Coupes

1st place: Bill Calore – 1972 250 C

2nd place: Saad – 1972 250 SE

3rd place: Elias Fleites – 1973 280 C

continues on page 3



THE 11TH ANNUAL BOCA RATON CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE FEBRUARY 12, 2017

Submitted by Michael Chrusch, President, MBCA South Florida Section

Once again, I stepped onto the grounds of the Boca Raton Resort & Club on February 12 for the annual Concours D'Elegance. This year was the 11th annual Concours D'Elegance. I arrived early to help set up the Mercedes Benz Club of America's tent. I had a great day working with Josie Lesler (Head of MBCA Ladies of Mercedes program) and her husband Peter Lesler (MBCA National Concours Chair). A special thanks to Josie Lesler for coordinating everything and ensuring MBCA could set up its tent. I know it was a lot of work!

The Concours kicked off on Friday night (February 10, 2017) with the duPont Registry™ Live Hangar Party. The Live Hangar party was a spectacular hangar party held at Atlantic Aviation at the Boca Raton Airport, with a display of exotic cars, custom motorcycles, extravagant boats, private jets, vintage aircraft, and luxury motorcoaches. Guests enjoyed gourmet food, fine wines and cocktails presented by over 20 of South Florida's finest restaurants. The evening featured live entertainment and the opportunity to mingle with people from the entertainment, business, and auto racing industries from around the world.

On Saturday night (February 11, 2017), there was the Gala Dinner & Show held at the Boca Raton Resort & Club. My favorite part was getting a chance to see the two new 2017 AMG GTs outside the Show's front entrance.

The evening's festivities included the presentation of the Annual Automotive Lifetime Achievement Award and guests had the opportunity to attend a live auction and bid on one-of-a-kind trips, jewelry, and more.

On Sunday, February 12th, 2017, some of the finest collector cars and motorcycles from around the country gathered on the show field. A variety of manufacturers were exhibited, including vintage, antique, and classic. Guests had the opportunity to enjoy an assortment of gourmet food, fine wines, and cocktails from 30 of South Florida's finest restaurants in the Concours d'Gourmet Café Pavilions.

I had a great day. Attending the Concours always brings back memories of hanging out at the Hotel Club & Resort as a kid. The Boca Raton Concours d'Elegance is the fastest growing Concours in the nation and the world's largest for charity.



THE 5TH ANNUAL CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

Submitted by Mike Chrusch, President, MBCA South Florida Section



Vintage Convertibles

- 1st place: Steve Greco – 1986 560 SL
- 2nd place: Raul Bosque – 1988 560 SL
- 3rd place: Lisa Sampson – 1987 560 SL

Vintage Sedans

- 1st place: Guy Lewis – 1972 600 SWB Limousine
- 2nd place: Saul Rosa – 1972 280 SEL
- 3rd place: George Ramiz – 1989 300 SE

Contemporary Convertibles

- 1st place: Joe Campos – 2008 550 SL
- 2nd place: Mike Federico – 2008 CLK 320

Contemporary Sedans

- 1st place: Saul Rosa – 2014 E350
- 2nd place: Kaming (“Ming”) Lo – 2014 CLA 250
- 3rd place: Mike Chrusch – 2013 E350

SUV Wagons

- 1st place: Gary Bauer – 1998 E320
- 2nd place: Max Sadwicki – 1982 G Wagon

Best of Show:

Bill Calore – 1972 250 C

On behalf of the officers and board members of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, South Florida section, I want to thank everyone who attended and for the hard work and dedication of our incredible volunteer staff. We hope to see you at our next Concours, the 6th Annual Concours D'Elegance. Until then, enjoy the brand we all love so much. Be safe and have fun driving.



26TH ANNUAL CAVALLINO CLASSIC

Submitted by Mike Chrusch, President, MBCA South Florida Section

The Cavallino Classic is known as a Ferrari show, but that doesn't mean you won't see other cars at the annual event.

The Cavallino Classic 2017 was held January 25-29 at the Breakers Resort Hotel in Palm Beach, Florida. Celebrating its 26th anniversary, the five-day gathering for Ferrari owners and enthusiasts saw participants and their 400 exotic and classic cars attending from the United States and Europe.

Rolls-Royces, Bentleys, Mercedes-Benz, and other high-end vehicles were on display among the hundreds of classic and modern cars at the five-day show.

Highlights include classic car races at the Palm Beach

International Speedway on Thursday and Friday, classic car competitions, more than 140 Ferraris on display Saturday at The Breakers, and all kinds of beautiful cars on display Sunday at Mar-a-Lago.

The first event of the extravaganza was the Cavallino Classic Competition, a two-day track meet at Palm Beach International Raceway. A select field of competition Ferraris, Maseratis, Alfa Romeos, and Bugattis tackled the two-mile race track.

The high point of the Cavallino Classic was the Concorso d'Eleganza on the front lawn of the Breakers Resort Hotel, on Saturday, January 28, 2017 and the Sunday brunch at Mar a Lago on January 29, 2017.



REDLAND RIOT ROAD RALLY IN HOMESTEAD

Submitted by Maria J. and Victor Rodriguez, VP, MBCA South Florida Section



It began at 8:00 am, on Saturday, January 21, 2017, at the Mercedes-Benz of Coral Gables dealership where two tables had a great arrangement of food layed out for our members. In attendance were myself, and Victor Rodriguez, Bill Harter, Mr. and Mrs. Don Theriault, Ken and Tunde Robinson Joe Campos, Mrs. And Mrs. Raul Bosque, Elias Fleites, and Martha Campos. This array included assorted bagels and breads, Danish, fruits, cream cheese, yogurt, eggs, other spreads, coffee, and juice for our members to get ready to go on the Redland Riot in Homestead. In addition to the breakfast the members were also provided with a care package bag, which had a water, snack, and sunscreen, amongst other things. Once breakfast was done, and we thanked Robert Corso, and Katie Coffey for their wonderful reception we went outside to get in our cars.

The rally began at Cauley Square, where some of the members registered in the 'scavenger hunt', hunting for the answers of the questions provided. Before leaving Cauley Square, the members visited a few of the shops at the Cauley Square Historic Village, the Aviary, Blu Moon Studio of Art, Cabin Gallery, O'Sew Crafty, and others, in search of answers to the questions. Afterwards, everyone gathered at The Tea Room, to have coffee, tea, champagne and/or beer before getting back in the cars to continue the rally.

The 1st stop was made at Burr's Berry Farm, and the Mercedes-Benz cars were parked, lined up and displayed across the street. It was a beautiful sight. The Burr's Berry Farm is where the home of outstanding homemade

jellies and jams, from mulberry and guava, to seedless strawberry jam. There was also a selection of fresh tomatoes, green beans, and other seasonal specialties at the stand. As the members visited the garden on the west side, others enjoyed the fresh strawberries and milkshakes in the shade.

While the members continued in the rally, the minutes and hours passed. Later, at the R.F. Orchids stopped, everyone again parked lined up with the beautiful Mercedes-Benz automobiles. We were refreshed by a homemade juice offered to us. After, the answers were found, and everyone perused the beautiful orchid plants, lunch was next.

As we approached the restaurant parking, again, everyone lined up the cars on display, creating our own car show. Some members, Dean Mielke, and Elena Rodriguez, were already there waiting for us as we came in to the White Lion Café in Homestead. A 'little hole in the wall' restaurant with a friendly staff, great food, and wonderful ambience. A wonderful well-spent time with new, and existing members. Discussion from the rally, to other events, and other topics were conversed.

After a relaxing lunch, and a full stomach we got in our cars and departed the restaurant. Some of the members continued to Curbside Market Florida Pioneer Museum, Robert is Here, and finishing the rally at Schonely Redland's Winery (see pictures).

Overall, in was a great gathering of members, spending, and sharing a wonderful time.

THE 58TH PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION AND MERCEDES BENZ

Submitted by Mike Chrusch, President, MBCA South Florida Section



Before attending the 58th Presidential Inauguration, I decided to visit a local Mercedes dealership in Virginia. Although the outside looked a little more like a factory or a Mercedes Benz plant, it was a beautiful dealership inside. Very modern. But of course, the most beautiful part about the dealership were the Mercedes inside and outside. I was surprised at the big selection and how nicely kept the cars looked outside. I had fun walking around the showroom and looking at the boutique. I spent 15 minutes walking around and then figured I better get back on the subway before it started to get too busy the day before the inauguration.

NEVER TOO YOUNG TO BE A MERCEDES-BENZ AND AUTOMOTIVE AFICIONADO

Submitted by Christopher Rodriguez

Growing up I have been exposed to many cars that my father has owned or our mechanic has worked on or our friends that sell cars have had in their warehouses. At the age of four years old, I was putting a screw driver and red rag in my back pocket, ready to get under a car to change oil or just to tighten a screw. Everyone thought it was just a temporary thing, but it was not. I admit that I am a young car enthusiast, and my goal, for the future, is to work on my own car, create my own vehicle, for either Mercedes-Benz, BMW, Honda, Toyota or any other that will utilize my talents. I graduated from a 2 year Automotive college program at Robert Morgan Educational Center, in June 2016. Previously I went to the Robert Morgan High School in the Automotive program. The reason I chose this school for High School and post High School is because it is a magnet school, and anyone that wants to work on cars comes here to get certified. Imagine my excitement when I was accepted, to both, and I was actually looking forward to going to school! I graduated receiving my Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certification, certifying me in the automotive repair and service industry.

In addition to entering these programs here, to pursue a career in the automotive service industry, I have been assisting our mechanic, also my mentor and friend, since I was four years old, to gain experience. The more I work with cars the more I learn, and the more I want to know more about them.

The summer before my Senior year I did an internship, as an automotive technician apprentice at Mercedes-Benz of Coral Gables, through the Automotive Youth Educational Systems (AYES). I was fascinated with the different types of Mercedes-Benz cars. My supervisor Jason was the best. He taught me many things and showed me how to use a computer scanner on the cars, amongst other things. This scanner shows the performance of a car, and this is worth more than how they actually look on the outside. There were many types of Mercedes-Benz cars and even though the body of the car can be changed many times, the color, the trimmings, the rims, and it will look nice, but if under that hood you do not have what it takes to make the car perform, then the car is not worth much.

Amongst all the cars that my father has owned my favorite is and has been the 1992 300 CE, which my father says was mine when I turned 15 years old. One condition he



gave me was that I needed to do good in school, and take care of it. My Dad and I share the same taste in vintage cars, but I also love new cars. The cars now-a-days are not made like they used to in the past. He gave me a choice of the white 1992 300 CE and a black 1987 560 SEC, and I was mesmerized when I saw the 300 CE. I was fascinated by just looking at it, and every time I get in to drive it, I seem to be in another state of mind. Between my Dad and I, we gave it a little TLC here and there, we had the radio replaced, and we put new white rims, HP design, and 19 inch tires. Now she is more than a beauty, white, with chrome trimming, gray leather interior. I love the way she looks, rides, and how people turn to look when I am cruising down the street (they are also probably wondering what is that teenager doing in that classic Mercedes-Benz). I love cars, trucks, motorcycles, and of all the cars that my Dad had or currently has, there was something unique about this one.

As long as there are cars on the road, the need of a mechanical technician will be necessary. Also, even as interest increases for this type of career, there are still not enough good and qualified automotive technicians in this field. So yes, you can call me a fanatic, an enthusiast or even an admirer of good performance cars, but I will also have all of my credentials and certifications at the same time, and enjoying what I love to do. I am Christopher Rodriguez and I am an automotive aficionado.

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