



STAR VIEWS

MARCH 2018

6TH ANNUAL CONCOURS d' ELEGANCE

Submitted by Mike Chrusch, President, MBCA South Florida Section

The 6th Annual Concours d'Elegance was held on Sunday, January 7, 2018 at Mercedes Benz Pompano in Pompano Beach, Florida. The weather was beautiful (a little on the cooler side, which was nice) and so were the Mercedes on display. This year's Concours boasted the most AMG models ever as well as several new classics, which were first time entrants. The purpose of the Concours is to bring together Mercedes enthusiasts - to bring together Mercedes family members. The Club encourages all years and models of Mercedes to register for the Concours. Some like to share stories and/or practical tips while others just like to enjoy a day outside in the beautiful weather alongside amazing Mercedes. We are grateful for all who come to our Concours.

This year marked our third 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 and more. We had the honor of Peter and Josie Lesler from Mercedes Benz Club of America Corporate join us this year at the Concours. Peter judged many of the cars.

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. We had a record number of t-shirt and hat sales and many attendees signed up on the spot to become members of the club! In addition to the guests who planned to be at the Concours, on-lookers from the dealership walked over to see the cars on display.

Since this year the Concours was held at a Mercedes Benz dealership a lot of the

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12TH ANNUAL BOCA RATON CONCOURS d' ELEGANCE

Submitted by Mike Chrusch, President, MBCA South Florida Section



The Concours kicked off on Friday night (February 23, 2018) with the duPont Registry™ Live Hangar Party. The Live Hanger 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. I would like to personally thank Josie Lesler for our tickets this year to attend.

On Saturday night (February 24, 2018), some officers and members of the Mercedes Benz Club of America South Florida along with some members of Mercedes Benz Club of America Corporate had a wonderful dinner in Boca Raton at Nick's New Haven Style Pizzeria & Bar. We all had a great time being together celebrating our friendships and memberships of the Mercedes Benz Club of America. It's a familiar feeling, but a good one, as I stepped onto the grounds of the Boca Raton Resort & Club on February 25, 2018 for the annual Concours d'Elegance. This year was

the 12th annual Concours d'Elegance. I arrived early along with everyone else to help set up the Mercedes Benz Club of America's tent and shuttle supplies back and forth from my car to the 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! A special-thanks as well to Victor (VP of the Mercedes Benz Club of America South Florida) and Maria Rodriguez for all of their help with the event. We could not have had a more successful event without them.

On Sunday, February 25th, 2018, 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. If you have not attended before, plan to attend next year and definitely come by and visit the Mercedes Benz Club of America's tent.

I would like to send a special thanks to Gene, Mike, and Terry for their continued national support of our Club and our events!



From left to right: Terry Kiwala (Past National President); Gene Jurick (National President); Mike Regennitter (Executive Director); Mike Chrusch (President, MBCA South Florida); Maria Rodriguez (Past President MBCA South Florida); and Victor Rodriguez (Vice-President MBCA South Florida).

MERCEDES BENZ OF CORAL GABLES AMG EVENT

Submitted by Mike Chrusch, President, MBCA South Florida Section



Mercedes-Benz of Coral Gables had a special AMG event at their dealership on March 21, 2018 and the members of the Mercedes Benz Club of America South Florida were invited to attend. I attended along with Victor Rodriguez, Vice President of the Mercedes Benz Club of America South Florida, and several other members of the Club. As part of the spring sales season, a special event was held at Mercedes-Benz of Coral Gables to highlight the top of the line in automotive excellence - the AMG series from Mercedes-Benz.

Special guest Tony Kanaan, a one-time winner of the Indianapolis 500 and the IndyCar series, was in attendance to help show off several models including the Green AMG GTR (priced at \$200,000) and the SLS GT3 Race car (a one-time \$500,000 vehicle, but no longer being produced).

In addition to Mr. Kanaan, more than 250 people were in attendance including local AMG enthusiasts, members of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, and executives John Sands and Kari Lang from Mercedes-

Benz USA.

“While AMG is the highline version of Mercedes-Benz and only a fraction of our business, it’s fun to show off the absolute best of what our brand has to offer,” said Juan Gonzalez, AMG Brand sales manager. “The race cars were the highlight of the night, but we have several other AMG models ranging from sedans to SUVs that are suitable for just about anyone. You wouldn’t have to wear a helmet to get behind the wheel, but you certainly can since every AMG sold/leased vehicle includes an AMG Driving Academy day at a racetrack with professionals showing you what these cars can do.”

The AMG Performance Event was a huge success. Mercedes-Benz of Coral Gables once again hosted an absolute stunning event. For more information on the AMG series from Mercedes Benz, please call (855) 419-2217.

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bystanders were already Mercedes enthusiasts because they were at the dealership to look at new Mercedes. It was fun to include everyone and even have the sales people attend the festivities.

The winners of the 6th Annual Concours d’Elegance were:

AMG –

- 1st place: Matt Bell – 2017 C63s AMG
- 2nd place: Bill Harter – 2017 S63 AMG Convertible
- 3rd place: Miguel Hernandez – 2017 C43 AMG - Convertible

Vintage Coupe\Convertible

- 1st place: Erik Barth – 1987 300 SL
- 2nd place: Raul Bosque – 1989 560 SEC
- 3rd place: Raul Bosque – 1988 560 SL

Vintage Coupe

- 1st place - Elias Fleitas

Vintage Sedans

- 1st place: Michael Petrakis – 1972 280 SE
- 2nd place: Saul Rosa – 1972 280 SEL
- 3rd place: Stuart Edinoff – 1982 300 SD

Contemporary Convertibles

- 1st place: Martin Segel – 1997 SL 500
- 2nd place: Len Barbato – 2013 SL 550
- 3rd place: Gary Burwick – 2013 SL 550

Contemporary Sedans

- 1st place: David Parker – 2016 C 300
- 2nd place: Josh Bader – 2014 CLA 250
- 3rd place: Mike Chrusch – 2013 E350

Vintage Coupe of the Show:

- Ricardo Gauqueta – 1963 230 SL

Best of Show:

- Erick Barth – 1987 300 SL

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 7th Annual Concours d’Elegance. Until then, enjoy the brand we all love so much. Be safe and have fun driving.



R. Lee Brushingham
 Financial Services Professional*
 FL #WV102900



New York Life Insurance Company
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c/o Michael Chrusch, Editor
 14368 SW 142 Ave
 Miami, FL 33186



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