



STAR NEWS

ANNUAL MEETING—SEPTEMBER 10, 2011



NEXT EVENTS

October 29, 2011
Auto Show

December 4, 2011
Holiday Party

January 21, 2012
Redlands Riot Road Rally

**More to come.
Check our website for
more information.**



The meeting took place at the brand new Mercedes-Benz of North Miami, located at 1200 N.W. 167th Street.

At the meeting we reviewed the activities in the past year, received committee reports, elected new officers and directors and updated our plans for the coming season. We look forward to the upcoming events.

We were also given a guided tour of the new facility, and we were introduced to the

NEW MERCEDES-BENZ CLS-CLASS CLS550



More on Page 4

South Florida Section's Own Website.

Have you had a chance to take a look at our website? You'll find the latest information about club activities and links to some useful and interesting sites as well. You can even download this newsletter directly from the website. Go to **www.mbc.org/southflorida**

Moving?

Send address changes to:
 MBCA
 1907 Lelaray Street
 Colorado Springs, CO 80909
 Or call 1-800-637-2360. You may also update your information at www.mbc.org.

MERCEDES-BENZ ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE
Call
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Advertising

in your club newsletter will bring your message to discerning automotive enthusiasts, Mercedes-Benz owners like yourself. The annual advertising rates are as follows:

Full Page	\$600
¾ Page	\$400
½ Page	\$325
¼ Page	\$175
Business Card	\$100

Questions about your car?

Expert assistance may be just a mouse click away. Go to **www.mbc.org/southflorida** and click on forums. You can search the posts for situations similar to yours, or you can post your own questions and comments.

TRIP ROUTING SERVICE

Mercedes-Benz offers a free trip routing service for MB owners regardless of the age of the vehicle.

You must provide your complete VIN number.

Call
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MBCA Membership Application

Please print clearly

Full Name _____

Associate member (spouse or dependent) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Business phone _____

E-mail address _____

Occupation _____

Mercedes-Benz cars now owned (model and year): _____

(List additional cars elsewhere)

Interest: (please check)

driving events car shows social events

car care technical *The Star*

Please enroll me as a member of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America for the following term (check one):

U.S. and possessions:

1 year (\$45) 2 years (\$87) 3 years (\$127)

Make check payable to MBCA; Visa, Mastercard, Discover or American Express also accepted.

All other countries (including Canada), U.S. funds:

1 year (\$55) 2 years (\$107) 3 years (\$157)

Overseas and Canadians: use international money orders in U.S. funds, Visa, Mastercard, Discover or American Express.

Applicant's signature _____
South Florida

Applicant's section preference (see listing) _____

Sponsor's signature and member number (not required) _____

Do you wish to donate to the MBCA Education Foundation?
 Membership dues include six issues of *The Star* magazine yearly.

Visa Mastercard

Discover American Express Expir. Date _____

Account number _____

Or use our toll-free number: **800/637-2360**

Or go to: **www.mbc.org/southflorida** and click JOIN

MBCA, 1907 Lelaray St., Colorado Springs, CO 80909
 719/633-6427, 8 AM to 5 PM (Mountain Time)
www.mbc.org



Mercedes-Benz Club of America

The South Florida Section Invites you to:



South Florida International Auto Show
Miami Beach Convention Center
Saturday, October 29, 2011

We will meet at 11:30 for lunch (at your own expense, moderately priced) at

Cantinetta Ristorante

607 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach—After lunch we will walk to the Convention Center. Park at the public garage on 17th Street, just a short walk from the restaurant on Lincoln Road and the Auto Show at the Convention Center.

Discounted admission to the show for the first 40 tickets (\$8.00); additional tickets: \$10.00 each
Complete the information below and send your check payable to MBCA South Florida Section. And mailed to :

Ed Zuckerman
200 N.E. 14th Avenue, Suite 13
Fort Lauderdale, FL, 33301

Name _____

Guest Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Additional tickets at \$10.00 each _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____

Email Address _____

For additional information please contact Ed Zuckerman at 954-522-7551 or e-mail @ ezuckerman2@gmail.com

**Mercedes Benz Club of
America/
South Florida**

South Florida Section
3020 NE, 32nd Ave. #1402
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!

October	Oktoberfest	Jaco Pastoris Park , Oakland Park
October 29 th	South Florida International Show	Miami Beach Convention Center
December 4 th	Annual Holiday Party	La Palma Ristorante – Coral Gables
January 21 st	Redlands Riot Road Rally	Cauley Square – Homestead
April	Third Annual Classic Car Show	Oakland Park
May	Day at the Races	Calder Race Course

A summary of the minutes at Annual Meeting on September 10, 2011

1. Vache reported on the various yearly (2011) activities.
2. Ken Robinson gave a brief and impressive Memorial to Ted Papas whose efforts were so important particularly in “jump-starting” the Club with about 3 people at the Annual Meeting.
3. Treasurer’s Report indicated a favorable financial position. Ken reported described that our financial condition is excellent due to the largest membership to date.
4. Tunde Robinson reported about the membership contributions from the Puerto Rico Club and the other Latin American members.
5. The upcoming events were discussed and all are looking forward to these.
6. Voting Results: The full slate proposed of Directors for 2 years was voted and approved.
7. New Directors for one year terms included Ed Zuckerman, Mike Chrusch and Saleem Alinur all voted for one year positions.
8. Recap of Officers:
 President: Vache Karakachian
 Treasurer: Ken Robinson
 Secretary: Richard Eldridge

MERCEDES-BENZ CLS-CLASS CLS550

MSRP: \$71,300

Fuel economy: 16 city / 24 hwy

Base engine: 4.7L 402 hp V8

Maximum seating: 4 passengers

The 2012 Mercedes-Benz CLS-Class receives the first major redesign since the 4-door coupe entered the market for the 2006 model year. Two version are offered, both powered by new biturbo, direct-injection V8 engines. The CLS550 is powered by a biturbo 4.6-liter V8 engine that produces 402 horsepower and 443 lb-ft of orque. The CLS63 AMG is powered by a biturbo 5.5-liter V8 engine rated at 518 horsepower and 516 lb-ft of torque.

The CLS550 is also available with 4Matic all-wheel drive.



Welcome to 2011 fall season!

On behalf of the officers and directors of the South Florida Section of the Mercedes club of America, we sincerely thank you for your participation in our Annual Meeting on September 10, 2011.

Your participation and enthusiastic involvement is key in the success of our club. Hopefully, you found the event to be worth your time and effort.

As our chapter continues to develop, our goal is to enhance the camaraderie and fellowship among the club members and enjoy together our passion for the automotive industry; specifically for the Mercedes Benz Brand.

I want to take this opportunity to welcome our new board Directors: Ed Zuckerman, Saleem Alinur, Michael Chrusch and Maria J. Rodriguez to our newsletter team, I am sure that together we will achieve great success!

Also I want to thank Gabriel Gomez for his excellent job with this newsletter, I am delighted of the work he has done with our past editions. We are always looking on ways to improve, please feel free to send your comments or suggestions to make out newsletter a great success!

I hope to see you all at the South Florida International Auto Show at the Miami Beach convention Center, from October 28th to November 6th; we are coordinating to assist as a group on October 29th and enjoy lunch together at the Cantinetta Restaurant at 607 Lincoln Rd. Hope to see you there!

Vache Karakachian

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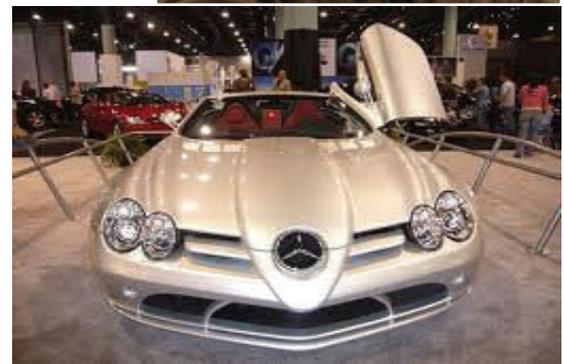
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MBCA, Regional Director

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President's Greetings



International Auto Show - Miami Beach Convention

Welcome to Our New Members

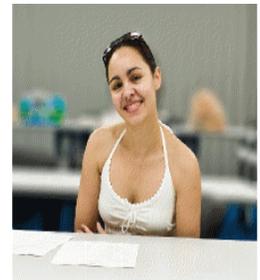
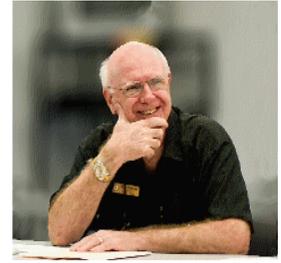
Tariq Alinur	Zollaluz Moore
Gregory Babsky	William Pitt
April Brooks	Shakllur Rehman
Walmir Denuzzo	Danielle Robinson
Frank Fernandez	Bruno Rodriguez
Cemal Koluk	Rosa Simmons
Phillip Leite	Scott Thomas
Jose Lisboa	

The MBCA Forum
Is Your Source for Answers

<i>Technical Help</i>	<i>Detailing Tips</i>
<i>Mercedes News</i>	<i>Diesels, Old and New</i>
<i>General Discussions</i>	<i>Club Issues</i>
<i>Star Letters</i>	<i>Specific Models</i>
<i>Alternative Fuels</i>	<i>Much More</i>

VISIT WWW.MBCA.ORG AND CLICK ON "FORUMS"

2011 ANNUAL MEETING—SEPTEMBER 10, 2011



NEXT MEETING: BOARD OF DIRECTORS — OCTOBER 11, 2011 at Bimini BoatYard Bar & Grill

South Florida Mercedes-Benz Dealers

Mercedes-Benz of Coconut Creek

4250 N. State Road 7
 Coconut Creek, FL 33073
<http://www.mercedescococonutcreek.com>
 Phone: 866-306-6947
 Phone: 954-590-3100

Mercedes-Benz of Coral Gables

300 Almeria Avenue
 Coral Gables, FL 33134
<http://www.ussery.mercedesdealer.com>
 Phone: 786-245-6832
 Phone: 305-445-8593

Mercedes-Benz of Cutler Bay

10701 SW 211th Street
 Cutler Bay, FL 33189
<http://www.cutlerbay.mercedesdealer.com>
 Phone: 786-231-6561
 Phone: 305-251-0345

Mercedes-Benz of Fort Lauderdale

2411 South Federal Highway
 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316
<http://www.fort-lauderdale.mercedesdealer.com>
 Phone: 954- 462-4381

Mercedes-Benz of Miami

1200 N. W. 167th Street
 Miami, FL 33169
<http://www.miami.mercedesdealer.com>
 Phone: 888-203-2847
 Phone: 305- 919-8000

Mercedes-Benz of Pembroke Pines

14199 Pines Blvd.
 Pembroke Pines, FL 33027
<http://www.pembroke.mercedesdealer.com>
 Phone: 877-454-3903
 Phone: 954- 517-8600

Mercedes-Benz of Pompano

350 West Copans Road
 Pompano Beach, FL 33064
<http://www.pompano.mercedesdealer.com>
 Phone: 877-203-1215
 Phone: 954- 943-5000

Conclusion: "RUDY, DAPHNE AND HIS CISITALIA" by Gordon Derman

So many romantic stories about cars end in tragedy. Rudy waited for a perfect Sunday afternoon. He drove his "Cissy" out towards the highway. Within less than a mile, an elderly driver crossed into an intersection just as Rudy was motoring by. I think she was driving a heavy Detroit example of luxury.

The big car literally rolled over Rudy's little racer. The aluminum panels were totally squashed. The wire "knock-off" wheels were distorted. Thankfully, Rudy had no major injuries apart from the psychological stress of 20 years of work obliterated in less than a few seconds. The elderly driver didn't know what she'd hit since looking out over her hood, the little car was not in her field of view.

The other day I noticed a Cisitalia red racer completely restored on the internet with an asking price of \$400,000. The car's entire history was documented and it certainly wasn't Rudy's.

I heard of two separations preparatory to divorce at the old PCSCC. In both cases, the cars played a role. I wonder if an antagonist at a divorce hearing ever named a car as a co-respondent or whatever you'd call it. It was reported to me that Daphne told Rudy she wouldn't play "second fiddle" to another project, and she'd met a guy who drove a "regular" black Chevy 4 door sedan. She wanted the house and her convertible and wished him and his "crazy car friends" the best of luck. My boss kept transferring me and I lost track of so many friends. I'd heard that Rudy's Cissy ended up in a junk yard and was ultimately scrapped. If you Google "Cisitalia" you'll find a few devoted owners and you'll be able to see some really slick little buggies. I wonder if somewhere, somehow there's a similar "toy" sitting on a bench. If there is, I hope and pray that it will end up somewhere adding to someone's dreams.

Here a Car...There a Car... Everywhere a Car/Car, By Gordon Derman (Loyal Mercedes owner)

Author's note: I promise, my next article will be less amusing, and more aggravating when I extol the adventures of dealing with a dealer. I will provide no names, but the experiences (both American and Foreign) will be true. GRD

Since the early sixties I have owned close to 30 automobiles. My loyalties to various makes were directly tied to the reliability of the machine and, of course, the car Dealer. Hence, I'm a loyal owner. This little tale is about another car, my first. Back then, if you were a younger buyer, you rarely went to a dealer unless it was one of those places with less than a dozen cars and a little shed that barely housed the owner/salesman's desk and his clutter. You bought and sold cars to friends and acquaintances and they were always "used". You couldn't afford a new car and so there were always the "Mechanic's Specials" and the "Drive it off for \$200.00" specials. What fun to climb under a car on a piece of cardboard, see where the drip was coming from and "get 'er runnin' "again.

At 16 with my new license, my first car cost \$100.00 (lawn mowing money). What a great magnificent machine! A 1934 Dodge complete with a rear mounted spare, a crank for cold weather or when the battery was "tired", velour upholstery, and a strange add-on called "Free Wheeling". I never did learn what that meant. I did learn that sometimes in downtown Boston in the middle of Saturday afternoon traffic, a horrendous sound akin to shifting without the clutch emitted from beneath the car. There was this lever on the side of the "tranny" and we'd take a wooden pointed stick, wedge it behind the lever, take out our trusty mallet and whack it back into "forward" which was of course, towards the front of the car. Then, we'd jump back in, and drive off.

The car garnered a reputation and since there were only 3 cars in the entire high school owned by students it was a popular member of the "Class of '51". Soon it was named "The Dermobile". We went to the local "Art Leather" factory, and salvaged red vinyl from the trash pile. We then re-upholstered the interior in red. The kids in "shop class" fabricated fender skirts out of sheet metal, tastefully screwed onto the fenders. We then interrupted the exhaust route with a "Y" connector and ran 2 flexible exhaust hoses out to either side of the rear spare. A couple of chrome exhaust extensions and judicious "reaming" of the muffler baffles and we had music to our ears. The addition of several (a total of ten) used horns from "Goldie's Junk Yard" mounted mostly on the front fenders provided additional music to our ears.

How sinful when we attached a "love knob" or wheel spinner to the great huge steering wheel. Rumor was that the love knob was illegal and we carefully crafted excuses for the day we might get stopped by the "cops". There were no real hub caps, perhaps because the spoked wheels were made of wood! We took bets that we'd go to Daytona Beach and drive on the sand. Our classmates knew we were adventurous, so the word was "I've got 50 cents that says the Dermobile won't make it to Florida". We then pilfered cans of tuna, peanut butter, candy bars and crackers from our parents "pantries" for our food supply. A can here, a can there and when "Race Week" came to Daytona we planned to arrive well-fed.

We chipped in (3 of us) for the gas, borrowing money and left after school on a Friday afternoon with a big ceremony in front of the High School. Everyone cheered and of course no one thought we'd make it! We drove in shifts and made it to Daytona long enough to take pictures to prove we were there, and then headed home. The Dermobile made it. We got absolutely no sleep, but what a triumphant return! Most of us kids at dear old Braintree High School couldn't afford to go to Boston which was 12 miles North (!) let alone drive on the sand at Daytona!

Sometimes in the winter when she * couldn't start, we'd stuff a piece of cloth into the carburetor throat to "prime 'er" - and then crank - she usually started on the 3rd crank. Then a mad dash to remove the rag, push the throttle lever back in (she had both a choke AND a throttle lever) and then off we'd go. The heater didn't work, neither did the radio, but with all those horns and the "souped up" exhaust we had plenty of sound. We weren't too proud to have everybody (girls and guys alike) "chip in" for gas. The custom was to "save your dimes for the Dermobile" and lovely young ladies would never hesitate to chip in 30 or 40 cents.

Someone would always say "Did you get her into the back seat?" and I would say "I'll never tell". The truth was that the word got around that back seats were not for "nice" girls and no one ever got into the rear seat! Plus, the front seat signified a certain status and the girls always rolled down the window and put their arm outside so everyone could see. Of course if she'd chipped in over say, 50 cents she was entitled to say: "Can we go by Mary's house and blow the horns?" Gas on sale was 4 and sometimes 5 gallons for a dollar. The gas gauge of course, never saw the upper regions, always perilously close the "E", but that made it even more exciting!

I taught for a while in a High School in the Keys and the parking lot was filled with late model cars. All owned by the students. They'll never experience the joy of wedging a stick into the side of the transmission, and certainly they'll never have 10 horns to toot. A mechanic told me that often Mercedes owners bring cars in for service, and many of them really don't know how to open the hood.

So now when I go to a dealer and sip my gourmet (free) coffee, and admire the waiting room and the posh boutique items, I catch up on my cell calls, and when I hear "Mr. Derman, your car is ready" I don't immediately realize that they aren't going to roll out "The Dermobile". I almost forgot that I had to sell her when I went into the army. I got 75 dollars "as is" and never saw her again. Last summer on a honeymoon trip we were in some southern state and a 1933 Plymouth totally restored and quite slick was on display. It was very similar to the Dodge of that era, but when I looked inside she looked so small. How could so many memories fit in such a small car?

We always call cars we love "she". If someone calls their car "he" or "it" they just don't understand and certainly don't love the thing.

A New and Very Exciting Breaking Development by Ed Zuckerman

On October 17th, a meeting took place at the Mercedes Benz of Ft. Lauderdale dealership, located just north of the Ft. Lauderdale airport on Federal Highway/IS 1. The persons attending this meeting were Tony Giordano, the General Manager, Michael Sims, Parts Manager, Todd Banks, Service Manager, and I, Club Director of the Mercedes-Benz Club of South Florida.

In the meeting we discussed benefits and satisfaction of Mercedes-Benz owners. I have successfully concluded an unparalleled arrangement with this dealership. It was a very positive meeting, resulting in a win-win for all. The dealership is eagerly looking forward to cooperating with our club members, and everyone was looking forward to our newly formed alliance.

At the conclusion of this meeting, Tony Giordano and his very capable department managers agreed to an exclusive and deeply discounted arrangement for all active and future club members. To further perpetuate good relations with the Mercedes-Benz Club of America of South Florida, Mr. Giordano proposed an ongoing campaign to foster good relations, increase customer awareness of the outstanding services that the dealership has to offer, and work to assist in increasing our club membership count.

The following has been extended and agreed to for all club members:

A substantial discount program at the parts counter

A substantial discount on labor charge services

A technical service advisor for all club members

This new and unprecedented program will be a benefit to all club members. We have now leveraged our membership count... where it truly does count. We owe our allegiance and patronage to this South Florida dealership that uniquely understands our affection for our fabled driving machines.

Genuine OEM parts certified mechanical repairs and prescribed maintenance under the roof of this outstanding dealership ... Mercedes Benz of Ft. Lauderdale ... will surely keep our beloved autos in the best performance shape possible. The service department, under the guidance of Todd Banks is capable of all mechanical and electrical service, maintaining factory performance levels and honoring all warranted repairs when necessary.

This innovative program is extended to all of our Mercedes-Benz autos both new and vintage. The dealership employs mechanics, known as technicians, that are professionally trained on all current series as well as mechanics with experience to maintain and repair our precious older vehicles that still turn heads with the envy of all.

We are now in the position of substantially lessening the expense of keeping our vehicles on the American road by maintaining our pride of ownership under the most capable authorized hands in South Florida. Most of all we will have the comfort of knowing that we are making use of "the best of the best" and no longer have to pray that our local "fix it" people are going to do it right the first time. Let us all get behind the spectacular money savings program.

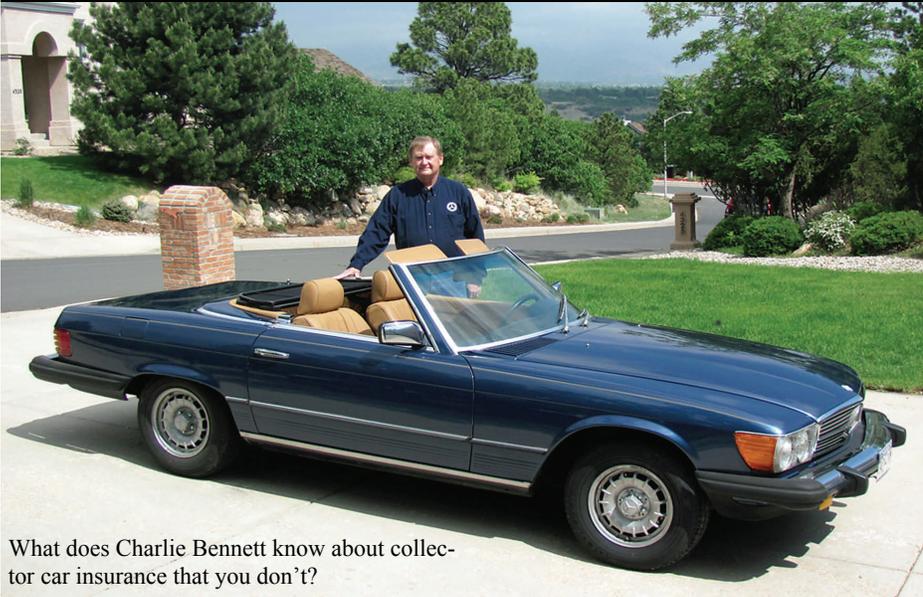
When making reservations with the dealership, please identify yourself as a Southern District club member. You will be asked to present your Mercedes-Benz membership card at the dealership. All repairs and parts will have the same dealership warranties extended to all Mercedes-Benz drivers. All applicable taxation will be appropriately charged. The dealership's customer service levels of excellence will be maintained by everyone and all employees will show their appreciation for your ongoing loyalty.

Sales, under the leadership of Jack Fitzgerald will honor your **\$1,000 club discount upon the purchase or lease of a new automobile**. This extraordinary benefit is extended to all members in good standing after one year of club membership. This benefit is ours to enjoy and is given to us by U.S. Mercedes-Benz. The dealership does not suffer in any way with this participation and is eagerly looking forward to your purchase or lease. The use of this benefit is just another reason to maintain club membership.

Join us at our many events. Experience the opportunity of meeting Mercedes-Benz owners and sharing good stories, and breaking bread. Having good times is perhaps the most enjoyable part of the membership. A day at the races, car shows, events, meetings, dinners, luncheons, technical seminars for the experienced and not so experienced. All good fun and enlightenment is what the club is all about.

Make every effort to enjoy the club and the camaraderie that surrounds us. It is something that must be experienced in order to understand the satisfaction of membership in the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Southern District Club. Our club officers and directors are ecstatic in bringing this new club benefit to its loyal members.

Any questions or concerns feel free to call me, Ed Zuckerman, 954-566-7551.



What does Charlie Bennett know about collector car insurance that you don't?

MBCA Announces New Collector Car Insurance Program Underwritten by Chubb Group

By Gary Anderson

What do Steve Dierks, MBCA vice president, and Charlie Bennett, president of the Pikes Peak section and organizer of StarTrails 2011, have in common that you should know about?

They are among the first clients of the new Mercedes-Benz Club of America Collector Car Insurance Program recently created for the club and underwritten by the Chubb Group of Insurance Companies.

You may already be familiar with collector car insurance, so we'll just go over the details of this program quickly to show you that it meets the criteria that are critical when insuring a collector car. Follow along here and see if your current insurance does as well.

First, the MBCA Collector Car Insurance Program covers cars that are over 30 years old, not used as daily drivers and owned by MBCA members who already have their primary cars covered by a regular automobile insurance program.

Second, the program provides what is known in the industry as "agreed value" coverage. In other words, when your policy is written, you agree in advance with the insurance company on the value of your car. Then, if the car is totaled or stolen, the company writes you a check for the full amount of the agreed value. No post-loss appraisal

is required, and there won't be any arguments as to the actual value of the car, which would be the case with a standard automobile policy that just agrees to pay "current market value."

Keep in mind that even if your current insurance policy is written on your "stated value" of the car that policy only says that the company will pay up to the stated value – you're still going to have to establish the actual value at the time of the loss – and if your car is gone, that can be very tough.

Third, even though the insured collector car isn't your daily driver, you can still drive your Chubb-insured car for hobby and recreational purposes, with no limits on distance driven. That includes not only driving to parades and shows, but also to the mechanic for service, to the ice cream parlor with the family on a Sunday afternoon, or even to work on a nice day to give it some exercise. Because there's no mileage limitation, if you live in Maine and are attending Legends of the Autobahn in California or the Amelia Island show, your car will be covered for the entire trip, whether you're behind the wheel or the car is on a trailer. A lot of other collector car insurance companies won't provide coverage for a cross-country trip.

Member Benefits

In addition, if that 540K or 180D is in the shop (or your garage) for a complete frame-up restoration, the car and all the parts for the restoration will be covered as well, even though the car is off the road. Did you know that there are more collector car losses caused by a garage collapse due to fire, flood or earthquake than there are losses from theft or on-road accidents?

One of the nice things about the new insurance program is that it was developed specifically for members of our club, so the insurers not only can help you establish a good agreed-value for your car, but they're familiar with some of the exceptional situations that other companies might not be able to help you with. For example, if you've just finished building a "wide-body" AMG, fabricating your own body panels, they can work with you to write an appropriate-value policy.

Of course, the question you should always ask of the company underwriting your policy is how long they've been in this business, keeping in mind that most companies that sell collector car insurance actually aren't insurance companies, but rather agents for the real insurance company. That's the nice thing about this program. Chubb has not only been writing collector car policies for over 40 years, but it knows its way around collectibles in general. In fact, you may already have your art collection, jewelry or other precious possessions insured with a Chubb policy, since that's their specialty.

The good thing about all this, of course, is that a collector car policy under the MBCA program is actually considerably cheaper than what you pay for your regular car, or may even be paying for less generous coverage on your collector car. Charlie says that his new MBCA Collector Car Insurance policy was more than 30 percent less than what he was paying with another company.

Having read this far, are you still sure that your classic has the coverage it really should have? If not, answers are just a phone call away at (866) 227-9648, or visit chubbcollectorcar.com.

ADVERTISE HERE

Mercedes Club of America, South Florida Section

Price is for Four Editions in the Newsletter

of the MBCA South Florida Section

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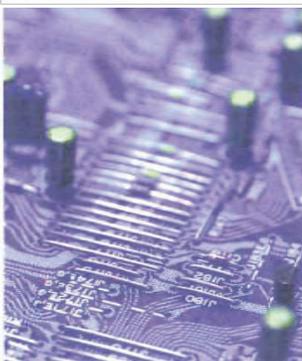
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- Auto Accident Injuries
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