STAR NEWS

SOUTH FLORIDA SECTION NEWSLETTER JUNE 2014

2nd Concours De Eleganz—April 26, 2014

Submitted by Jay Weitzel, Chairman

The MBCA's South Florida Section held its 2nd Annual Concours De Eleganz at T.Y. Park in Hollywood, FL on Saturday, April 26. Building on the momentum of our inaugural event held last year, this event raised the bar. With 48 local Mercedes Benz members bringing their beautifully detailed works of art to the event to proudly display and compete for first, second and third place in seven different classes. And to compete for our major award categories voted on People's Choice style by participants and guests of the show. Ballots were distributed to everyone in attendance, including a number of Mercedes-Benz owners who attended, but decided not to display their cars on the field. Major awards included Preservation, Gentleman's Choice, Ladies Choice, Highest Mileage, The One I Wish I Could Take Home, and of course, Best of Show.

In attendance was the current President of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Mr. Terry Kiwala, who helped our section's club President, Maria Rodriguez, hand out the awards for our show's finale. (see page 2 for list of the winners).

Aside from the car display, the guys and girls from the Food Truck Invasion brought us seven different monster menus to choose from....tacos, burgers, and killer barbeque made right in their trucks. Their ice cream and snow cone trucks helped keep the crowds cool throughout a typically warm Florida day. Raffles were held every 30 minutes for a fabulous selection of Mercedes-Benz regalia and merchandise. And, along with the success of the 2nd Concours, our Club President , and with assistance from our volunteers who activated many new members throughout the day.

Sponsors of our event included our Broward County Mercedes-Benz dealerships:
Mercedes-Benz of Fort Lauderdale,
Mercedes-Benz of Pompano, and
Mercedes-Benz of Coconut Creek.

We graciously thank them for their generous donations and for their help in advertising to "get the word out in advance" for our show. We certainly want to thank everyone who attended, including an incredible volunteer staff of the South Florida section's Directors and members at large, which put this fantastic event together.

Again, we wish to thank Mr. Terry Kiwala, our National President, for making the event that much more special.

More … & photos of event on pages 2, 6, 7 & 8

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2nd Annual Concours De Eleganz Winners

The major award winners:

Preservation Award -
Gregory Babsky for his 1957 300 SL

Gentleman's Choice -
Dirk deGroen for his incredible 1958 219

Ladies Choice -
Michael Chrusch for his 2009 S63 AMG

Highest Mileage -
Melinda Hare for her 1995 E320 Wagon
with over 277,000 miles

The One I Wish I Could Take Home -
Gregory Babsky for his 1959 220SE

Best of Show —
Gregory Babsky for his absolutely stunning 1957 300 SL

In the other categories the winners were:

Class I – Vintage Sports Cars & Coupes -
1st place – Ronald Dupuy;
2nd place – Andy Bisson

Class II– Vintage Convertibles -
1st place – Gregory Babsky;
2nd place – Gregory Babsky;
3rd place – Javier Lopez-Casado

Class III– Vintage Sedans -
1st place – Elias Fleites;
2nd place –Scott Katsaras;
3rd place – Christopher Hare

Class IV– Contemporary Sports Cars -
1st place – Christopher Rodriguez

Class V– Contemporary Convertibles -
1st place – Leonard Barbato;
2nd place – Henry Ovares;
3rd place – William Hegemann

Class VI– Contemporary Sedans -
1st place – Kaming Lo;
2nd place – Jorge Ramirez;
3rd place – Melinda Hare

AMG & Other– 2013 & Older -
1st place – William “Bill” Harter;
2nd place – Manny Vidal;
3rd place – Michael Chrusch

Hoping to see you at next year’s
3rd Annual Concours De Eleganz!

See more photos on pages 6, 7 & 8

Preservation Award
Gregory Babsky for his 1957 300 SL

Gentleman's Choice
Dirk deGroen for his incredible 1958 219

Ladies Choice
Michael Chrusch for his 2009 S63 AMG

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Melinda Hare for her 1995 E320 Wagon with over 277,000 miles

The One I Wish I Could Take Home
Gregory Babsky for his 1959 220SE

Best of Show
Gregory Babsky for his absolutely stunning 1957 300 SL

Greetings from the President,
Maria J. Rodriguez

SUMMERTIME is here! Remember to stay hydrated and protected from the rays of the sun!

I would like to welcome all of our new members and hoping to meet and see you at the events and Board meetings. This is your Club, become an active member!

It has been a little over three years since I became the Editor of our newsletter, Star News, and I would now like to turn it over to someone else. After thoroughly searching for someone, I found the Editor-to-be.
His name is Moises Levy, an active member of our club. He not only has been participating in all of our events but also has been attending our Board meetings. Moises has demonstrated his dedication to the Club and also the love for Mercedes-Benzes. He also wrote the report in our last March 2014 newsletter, for the Collection Tour in Naples event.

Moises will begin with the September 2014 Star News issue. It has been a lot of fun, and a pleasure in publishing the newsletter for your enjoyment. I thank you for your support and your stories.

Beginning in the Fall great events are already lined up. The Board members, and guests at the meetings, have discussed several events that hopefully you will be able to participate.
See all the upcoming events and Board meetings on Pages 10 and 11 in this newsletter. Some of these events are set and some are tentative because we want to hear from you.

The best way to know what is going on in the Club is to come to our Board meetings as a guest. Your ideas and participation will be greatly received.

We had our 2nd Annual Concours De Eleganz on April, 26, 2014, the event was very successful. I want to thank everyone involved (photo on page 7, top right, in this newsletter) .
The Chairman, Jay Weitzel, the Committee members: Michael Chrusch, Victor Rodriguez, and Maria Rodriguez;

Volunteers (members): Terry Kiwala, National MBCA President, Elias Fleites, Henry Ovares, Kaming Lo, William & Sirkka Hegemann, William "Bill" Harter, Moises Levy, Richard Eldridge, and Ricardo Guaqueta;

Volunteers (non-members): Jennifer Bruscato, Randy Martin, Martha De Campos. Monique D., Christina Perez, Monica Padron, Miriam Ramirez, Ratih Simmons, Tamara Klauss and Fatma.

Participants: ALL that registered and participated, without you the event would not have been so successful.

A raffle for a FREE one-year membership took place, and the winner was Ms. Wendy Reilly! Compliments of South Florida Section.

Lists of the upcoming and tentative events are listed on pages 10 and 11 of this newsletter. The success of these events depend on the members participations.
So get involved and voice your suggestions and/or opinions at the Annual and Board meetings, and come to all of the events.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable summer and tons of fun. Remember to use plenty of sun protection, and again, drink a lot of water!
If you have any questions, need information, do not hesitate to contact me either by telephone 305-776-8345 or e-mail ladymari21@hotmail.com.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our many upcoming events, and your presence at our meetings...

Regards.

Welcome to our New Members!

Since our last publication in March 2014

Robert Atanasov	Don Johnson	Juan Saldarriaga
Mursala Bacchus	Javier Lopez Casado	Ana Maria Scampini
Christopher Contant-Galitello	Kevin Nelson	Maximiliano Valdes
Christopher Gray	Robert Olden	Manuel Vidal

MBCA South Florida Section Club Shirts!! Place your order today!

Only $39.00 each 2 for $70.00 3 for $105.00 4 for $135.00
Price includes tax, plus shipping and handling .
Email ladymari21@hotmail.com to place your order.

Website: http://southflorida.mbca.org

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Coconut Creek
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10701 S.W. 211 Street
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VISIT

ONE OF THESE

DEALERSHIPS

TODAY!

About Our Newsletter

Star News is published four times a year:
March; June; September; December.
Opinions, and stories are articulated by the author and editor for the sole purpose of informing and reading enjoyment of the members.

If you have any stories or articles relating to your Mercedes-Benz, or of general interest, e-mail them to the Editor, Maria J. Rodriguez, at ladymari21@hotmail.com.

To advertise in Star News

Email Maria J. Rodriguez at ladymari21@hotmail.com to set it up. The annual advertising rates are as follows:

Full Page	$600	½ Page	$325
¾ Page	$400	Business Card	$100

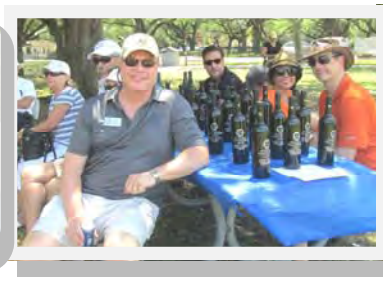
Mercedes-Benz

Be Driven.

Proud to support MBCA South Florida Section.

Mercedes-Benz of Coral Gables
300 Almeria Avenue
On the corner of Salzedo and Almeria, 3 blocks south of Miracle Mile
305-445-8593 www.mbcoralgables.com

Mercedes-Benz of Cutler Bay
10701 SW 211th Street
Where the Turnpike meets 211th Street, adjacent to Southland Mall
305-251-0345 www.mbcutlerbay.com



Jay Weitzel, Chair of 2nd Concours,
Terry Kiwala, National Pres. of MBCA,
Maria J. Rodriguez, Pres. of So. Fla. Sec.

Class I – Vintage Sports Cars & Coupes -
1st place – Ronald Dupuy; 2nd place – Andy Bisson

Class II– Vintage Convertibles -
1st place – Gregory Babsky; 2nd place – Gregory Babsky; 3rd place – Javier Lopez-Casado

Class III– Vintage Sedans -
1st place – Elias Fleites; 2nd place –Scott Katsaras; 3rd place – Christopher Hare

Class IV– Contemporary Sports Cars-
1st place – Christopher Rodriguez

To the Board Members, Members, & Other Volunteers: THANK YOU!!!

Class V– Contemporary Convertibles -
1st place – Leonard Barbato; 2nd place – Henry Ovares; 3rd place – William Hegemann

Class VI– Contemporary Sedans -
1st place – Kaming Lo; 2nd place – Jorge Ramirez; 3rd place – Melinda Hare

AMG & Other– 2013 & Older -
1st place – William “Bill” Harter; 2nd place – Manny Vidal; 3rd place – Michael Chrusch

IT IS NOT ONLY ABOUT CARS…….IT IS ALSO ABOUT THE PEOPLE, THE MEMBERS and THE VOLUNTEERS!

2nd Annual Concours De Eleganz: OUR SPONSORS

Mercedes-Benz of Coconut Creek
Mercedes-Benz of Ft. Lauderdale
Mercedes-Benz of Pompano Beach

On behalf of the South Florida Section Mercedes-Benz Club of America, I would sincerely like to thank our sponsors:
Mr. Michael Devan, GM Mercedes-Benz of Coconut Creek;
Mr. Benny Gates, GM Mercedes-Benz of Ft. Lauderdale; &
Mr. Jack Fitzgerald, GM Mercedes-Benz of Pompano Beach,
for the sponsorship they provided for our 2nd Annual Concours De Eleganz on, Sunday, April 26, 2014.

Thanks to their generous sponsorship, we were able to provide our members with a wonderful event, and great unique awards.

This event would not have been such a success without the generous support they provided us. We deeply appreciate the willingness with which they continue to support our efforts to make this the best Mercedes-Benz Club.

We sincerely hope that this association will be maintained and they will continue to support us in our future endeavors.

Mercedes-Benz of Ft. Lauderdale, Mr. Benny Gates, GM, will be hosting our **ANNUAL MEETING on Saturday, September 13, 2014 from 11 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Again, Mr. Gates, thank you for your support!

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SAVE THE DATES

for ALL of the events and meetings on Page 10 & 11

See you all there!!!!!

Mercedes-Benz of Coconut Creek
4250 North State Road 7,
Coconut Creek, FL 33073
(954) 590-3091

Mercedes-Benz of Ft. Lauderdale
2411 S. Federal Highway
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316
(954) 949-0623

Mercedes-Benz of Pompano Beach
350 West Copans Road
Pompano Beach, FL 33064
(954) 644-4832

One Hot Mercedes-Benz

Submitted by Dean R. Mielke

In the past, I have bought several vehicles from the U.S. Marshalls Auction at a great price. Among the vehicles I purchased have been Cadillacs, Mercedes-Benzs, Jeeps, Ford Thunderbirds and others. Not so long ago, I purchased a beautiful S500 Mercedes-Benz. This car was a pearl silver grey, 4 door sedan, with light tan leather interior. The car was spotless and ran perfectly. However, the car had a set of after-market wheels, which the previous owner liked, but I wanted to sell and put the original Mercedes-Benz wheels back on the car.

I proudly drove the car home and parked it in front of our residence. The wheels appealed to a thief who came by that same night and tried to steal the car. In the morning, mailman asked about my new car and what had happened to the driver's side door. Imagine my surprise when I went to check and found the thieves had pried the door handle from the door and it was hanging from the lock's electrical wire. Not a great start for my new Mercedes-Benz. I called the police and filed a police report. I then called my State Farm agent who said all damage was covered. That was the good news.

Next, the car went to the body shop. The body shop got the VIN's number and ordered the paint for the car. However, when the paint came in it did not match the vehicle. Not good. Not good at all.

Searching the car, they found a second VIN number underneath the car seat. As they say, "this gets better". We did a computer search on both VIN numbers and found out the vehicle had been stolen in New York and the VIN from a wreck had been used instead. I had a stolen car sold to me by the U.S. Government!

The Auctioneer and the U.W. Marshall came right over, checked the vehicle and confirmed it was indeed stolen. My Hot Mercedes-Benz turned out to be a HOT car! The U.S. Marshall explained how to get my money back, which of course took longer that I liked, but they did give it back to me. As they say, "let the buyer beware".

The U.S. Marshall sold the same Mercedes-Benz at the next auction with the caveat "this car has no VIN, you have to go to the Department of Motor Vehicles to get a sticker for the door post. The vehicle sold this time for 40% less. Someone got a great deal as long as they never try to sell it to a dealer, who will not touch a vehicle without an original VIN. However, the owner can legally sell it to an individual, who will too get a great deal and a new title.

Yes, I still buy cars at the U.S. Marshall's Auction. I am presently driving a Porch Cayenne S model which is a great beautiful car that I got at a great price..

Upcoming and Tentative Events

August 23, 2014 - Brunch, Bowling, Pool—@ 19th Hole – Hallandale, Beach

September 13, 2014 –
Board & Annual Meeting at Mercedes-Benz of Ft. Lauderdale

October 2014 – 2 separate events:

1. 10/4—3rd Annual Members BBQ
2. 10/18—Racing Go-Karts

November 2014 – 3 separate events:

1. 11/8 -Miami Beach Intn'l Auto Show
   http://www.sfliautoshow.com/
2. 11/16— Fund raising -Homeless Kids (standupforkids.org)
3. 11/30—Car Wash & Toys for Tots (toysfortots.org)

December 13, 2014 – Holiday Party – 1 day cruise (onedaybahamascruise.com)

January 2015 – Homestead Redland Road Rally

February 21, 2015 – 3rd Annual Concours De Eleganz

March 7, 2015 – Fund Raising for ???

April 18 or 19, 2015 – TBD – ???

May 16 or 17, 2015 – TBD – ???

About Mercedes-Benz Club of America

The Mercedes-Benz Club of America is the largest group of Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts in the world. It currently operate 86 local Sections, or chapters, to serve its Members. Sections are led by a group of volunteer Officers including a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Alongside Officers are a team of Directors, largely responsible for local event planning and execution; newsletter writing and distribution; development and upkeep of Section websites; co-marketing with community business partners, and more. As a Mercedes-Benz Club of America volunteer, participation possibilities are endless.

Section Newsletters are distributed online or through the mail quarterly to inform Members about upcoming events and activities and to welcome new Members to the Club. Most Sections also hold monthly meetings and offer hands-on driving and technical events. Social activities of all styles are hosted throughout the year, from barbecues and brewery tours to defensive driving classes, and car care clinics. Each Section makes it a point to design and host events that suit the needs and tastes of every Member. Since 1956, the gathering of the world's finest cars and their owners have spawned the world's best friendships.

As a Member, your Section is also your liaison with local dealers and independent shops. When possible, the Section will assist you with obtaining discounts off parts and service.
Come learn what the Mercedes-Benz Club of America mean by:

"More Than a Car. We're a Community."

Message to Existing, and New Members

You are part of a Club that represents the beauty, the exclusiveness, the extraordinary, and the fine admiration of the vehicle you own and drive.

Your membership have its privileges:

1. You are a member of the largest social car club in the world,
2. You are an essential part of the South Florida section,
3. You can be part of organizing technical sessions, and other events
4. You can socialize with others with the same taste in vehicles
5. You receive The Star magazine 6 times a year (bi-monthly), a full color and award winning Club magazine. Available to members on the Clubs website: www.mbca.org
6. You receive the Star News newsletter quarterly (March, June, September and December)

Upcoming Board meetings

(Once a month)

At 7:30 p.m., Locations TBA (to be announced)

August 13, 2014 –
Preparations/Pre-Voting for Annual Meeting

September 13, 2014– Annual Meeting–
MB of Ft. Lauderdale- 11:00 am -2:00 pm

October 8, 2014

November 5, 2014

December 3, 2014

January 7, 2015

February 7, 2015–
3rdConcours details - 10:00 am–
At T.Y. Park

February 18, 2015–
Last meeting before the 3rdConcours De Eleganz

February 21, 2015– At the park-before event-
3rd Annual Concours De Eleganz

March 11, 2015

April 15, 2015

May 13, 2015

GET INVOLVED!
BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER IN YOUR CLUB

2014 MBCA National Election

The following MBCA Members have been certified as candidates in the MBCA 2014 election:

Directors at Large
(4 to be elected):

Frank Cozza
Bill Denton
William Hopper
Josephine Lesler
Cliff Reyle

Regional Directors
(Even Numbered Regions - 6 to be elected):
Listed alphabetically by Region:

James Roberts (12) Eastern Region
John Briggs (8) Great Lakes Region
Joe Grattan (2) Mid-Atlantic Region
Gene Jurick (4) South Central Region
Pierre Hedary (10) Southeast Region
Scott Suits (10) Southeast Region
Steve Ross (6) Southwest Region

2014 Election Committee:
John Ryan, RD & National Election Chair
Terry Kiwala, National President and DAL
James O'Sullivan, Past National President
Charles Bennett, RD
Paul Bailey, Active Member
Ernie Fancy, RD
Geni Wallen, NBO Liaison

NOTE: Election material and a ballot will be mailed to all Active MBCA Members on or about September 1, 2014.

Your participation in our election process is important.

Completed ballots must be received by Wednesday, October 15, 2014 to be counted.

Best Wishes to all Candidates!

John Ryan
2014 Election Committee Chair

c/o Maria J. Rodriguez, President
14368 S.W. 142 Avenue
Miami, FL 33186