



STAR NEWS

SOUTH FLORIDA SECTION NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2014

Collier Collection Tour on March 29, 2014 Southeast Region Event – Naples, Florida Submitted by Moises Levy

We started the day by meeting at the Publix off I-75 West before Alligator alley. We had a total of 6 cars and caravanned together to the Collier museum. As we waited for the museum to open, we had the opportunity to meet members from the Naples and the Tampa sections. In attendance from South Florida Section included Maria, Victor and Christopher Rodriguez, Bill Harter, Genesis Mendoza, Moises Levy (myself), Elias Fleites, Martha Campos, William Hegemann, Matthew Bell, George Levien and guests, Richard Eldridge, Dean Mielke and Elena Rodriguez.



Once inside, our guide, Kent, proceeded with the tour through the museum, telling us the history of the museum. Also, about the Collier family and provided explanations, descriptions and the history of all of the vehicles in the museum. We had the opportunity to see cars from so many different brands and time periods, however there was a great emphasis on pre and post war cars. The collection included some of the rarest and most beautiful Mercedes ever made, as well as a one of a kind Porsche collection, with many professionally raced Porsches on display.

After leaving the Collier museum, we drove to Jack's River Bar for lunch. We had the whole place reserved for the club members, and the service was exceptional. Scott Truitt, Southeast Region Director, and artist, presented every member with a souvenir, that he painted and created, of the Mercedes-Benz race car in the Collier Collection, picture on page 9.

Read more on page 3, and see photos on pages 3, & 9-11



*The Second Annual
Concours De Eleganz*

Free Admission
• Vintage Mercedes • Gourmet Food Trucks

Saturday, April 26, 2014
10:00 am - 3:00 pm



For more information
or to register your Mercedes
for the Concours visit
<http://southflorida.mbca.org>

Upcoming Events

April 26, 2014— 2nd Concours De Eleganz— @ T.Y.Park— see page 2 & website for registration form

May 17, 2014—3rd MB Members BBQ-TBA

August 23, 2014—Go-Kart Racing— TBA

September 13, 2014 —Annual meeting @ Mercedes-Benz of Ft.Lauderdale

October 2014— Seminole Hard Rock Casino—TBA



Mercedes-Benz Club of South Florida Hosts

The Second Annual Concours De Eleganz

All lovers of fine Mercedes-Benz automobiles are invited to a spectacular car show and food truck festival featuring the finest in vintage and contemporary Mercedes-Benz automobiles and a collection of gourmet Food Trucks

- Open to Mercedes-Benz cars of all ages -

Saturday, April 26, 2014 from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

T.Y. Park (Topeekeegee Yugnee Park) - 3300 N. Park Road, Hollywood, Florida

RSVP required by April 19, 2014

General Information

All cars are eligible for magnificent trophies. Judging is strictly by people's choice ... everyone gets to vote as all admirers of Mercedes-Benz cars are by nature connoisseurs and fine judges.

Judging will start at 11:00 am – Please have your cars on the grass no later than 10:00 am

- CLASS I - Vintage - Sports Cars and Coupes - Pre 1988: 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes
- CLASS II - Vintage Convertibles – Pre 1988: 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes
- CLASS III - Vintage Sedans – Pre 1988: 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes
- CLASS IV - Contemporary Sports Cars and Coupes – 1988 – Present: 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes
- CLASS V - Contemporary Convertibles – 1988 – Present: 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes
- CLASS VI - Contemporary Sedans – 1988 – Present: 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes
- AMG and others – 2013 and older: 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes
- Preservation Award to be awarded to the most original unrestored Mercedes-Benz arriving under its own power and showing obvious affection by its owner
- Highest Mileage Mercedes-Benz
- The One I wish I could take home
- Gentlemen's Choice
- Ladies Choice
- The Best of Show



Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Car: _____ Model: _____ Year: _____ Phone: _____

Phone 2: _____ E-mail: _____

Participation in Concours per car \$25 - Qty: _____ Total: _____ By Check (Payable to Mercedes-Benz Club of America South Florida)

Additional forms and last minute information will be available on the Mercedes-Benz Club of America South Florida website at: <http://southflorida.mbca.org>

Driving directions: From North or South on I-95, exit at Sheridan Street West. Go west to the first light, turn right, go approximately 1/2 mile and turn right into T.Y. Park. Sunday admission to the park is \$1.50 per person.

Release: The undersigned, on behalf of himself and all those participants and guests for whom registration has been purchased above, does hereby release the organization of this event and the Mercedes Benz Club of America South Florida from any and all liability arising from the entire event.

Important: Signature: _____

Please RSVP. Complete and mail this form to: Jay Weitzel, Mercedes-Benz Club of America South Florida, 14368 SW 142 Avenue, Miami, FL 33186. For more information please call (954) 234-0064 or email: jay777w@yahoo.com.

Name tags and vehicle identification placards will be issued at the Concours site.



Greetings from the President, Maria J. Rodriguez

Good wishes to all! I would like to welcome all of our new members, since we last published the newsletter on December 2013.

I speak for all the Board members when I say that we have you in mind when the brainstorming of an event is taking place.

When you signed up, what were your expectations when joining the Club? Besides getting the Star magazine, and the discounts, did you visualize yourself with other Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts? Did you want to meet and develop new friendships? Do you want to make those expectations come to life? It is up to you to make them real. I would like to encourage you to join us in our activities. We have many wonderful members, with many wonderful stories to share.

The Board of Directors meets once a month at different restaurant locations and welcome members, as guests, to participate in the brainstorming of the different events. These events are at least once a month and if you really want to be an active member of the club, and make a difference, you have the opportunity to do it.

We just had 2 wonderful events, one on January 18, 2014, where we were nourished at Mercedes-Benz of Cutler Bay. The members gathered outside the dealership and caravanned and rally through the streets of Homestead, and visited many historical locations. See pages 4 & 6-8, for details and photos.

The second event was on March 29, 2014, it was a Southeast Region event, a shared event with members from Southwest and Tampa Bay sections in Naples, Florida. Again, the members caravanned and met at the Collier Collection for a tour, followed with lunch, continued with a Tech Session at the Mercedes-Benz of Naples, and ended with a wonderful dinner, and raffles. See pages 1,3, & 9-11, for details and photos.

As always, we are looking for members that will assist in the club's events. If you are interested, please call me at 305-776-8345 or email me at lady mari21@hotmail.com.

Welcome to our New Members!

Since our last publication in Dec. 2013

- Luis Alfonso
- Vincent Apice
- Nicholas Brattain
- Paul Chisholm
- Gilianne Francois
- Herminio Gonzalez
- Kaming Lo
- Juan Luna-Rodriguez
- Thomas McDonald

- Genesis Mendoza
- Juan Mestayer
- David Oconnell
- Paul Pinsky
- George Ranskin
- Felipe Reyes
- Oscar Roque
- John Shawde

Cont. from Page 1Collier Collection Tour
Southeast Region Event – Naples, Florida, on 3/29/14

Submitted by Moises Levy

We had the pleasure of meeting and speaking to Terry Kiwala, the new MBCA National President, and Josie Lesler, the Director at Large. Terry is planning on attending our 2nd Annual Concours De Eleganz, on April 26, 2014, in Hollywood, Florida.

At the Mercedes-Benz dealership we were warmly received by Mike Cozza, Director of Fixed Operations, and he gave us a description of the dealership. Afterwards, Mike introduced Joe Pitt, Service Manager who introduced his team, the Shop Foremen, Chip Saunders, and David Russell, and the Team Leader Techs, Marco Zwanenburg, David Lopez, and Victor Mallo. Members were asked if they wanted to volunteer their Mercedes-Benzenes for the tech session. The tech session began with Marco connecting the computer to the club's member's car and showing everyone how it works. Marco also showed us what he service codes meant, and how it detects when something is wrong with the car. After receiving detailed explanations of the results seen with the equipment used to monitor the cars, everyone shared their own issues and concerns. The session concluded by Marco and Chip showing us how the suspension works on some Mercedes-Benz vehicles, and even made an SL dance! We spent a good two hours at the dealership and then members went to check in to their respective hotels, and to change for dinner.

The 3 sections: Southwest, Tampa Bay and South Florida gathered at Stonewood Grill & Tavern for dinner. A section of the restaurant was reserved just for us, and the service was exceptional. Appetizers and dinner were provided as the members socialized, and talked about their cars and the events they do in their sections. In every table there were event favorites created by Anne Harruff. Anne also created baskets, one was raffled, and Genesis Mendoza was the lucky winner, and another presented to Maria, for all of her efforts. We had food, drinks and then a raffle.

Many thanks to the coordinators of this event Maria Rodriguez, Tom and Anne Harruff, Doug Truitt, and everyone else that made it possible for this wonderful event to take place. All were very instrumental in the coordination, and following up with the members, the museum, restaurants, and gift for the raffles.

Terry Kiwala, and Scott Suits, presented Tom Harruff, President of the Southwest section, with the Officer of the Year award, and Jerry Kinderman, Editor of Sunshine Star, Southwest Section's newsletter, with the National Printed Newsletter award. They were complimented for being a winning team, with emphasis on TEAM.

Lastly, I would like to add that, as always, the highlight of the day's events are the people, which we have an opportunity to meet and share our love and passion for Mercedes-Benz vehicles. These events are to socialize no matter what type of event it is, it can be car related or just doing any type of activity together. Also, we celebrate all of the accomplishments, and world leading innovations, that Mercedes-Benz has contributed to motoring worldwide.

WOW! What a Saturday! We did so much in just one day! THANKS to all who made such a great event, and day possible! Hope to see you at our next event, the 2nd Annual Concours De Eleganz, on April 26, 2014, in Hollywood, Florida.

See photos on pages 9—11 —————>And don't forget
"More Than a Car Club, We're a Community".

Website: <http://southflorida.mbca.org>

Redlands Rally

Submitted by Henry G. Ovares

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On Saturday, January 18, 2014, I awoke to a clear chilly morning on a Saturday in January, anxiously waiting for my friend Monique to arrive at my house. On the schedule, that day was the Redlands Riot Rally, a treasure hunt of sorts, but not of priceless objects, but of information. As I gazed into the map that I had downloaded from the internet I saw about 9 stops and the first stop that was to be Cutler Bay Mercedes.

I looked into my garage where my faithful 99 SL 500 was resting and due to the weather, had not moved in 10 days. Could my battery handle all those starts in all those 9 stops?

The first stop was Cauley Square, which I had driven by, but never stopped. It was quite picturesque with numerous Almond Trees that created a tunnel effect around the small paved street. We stood in line and registered and got our instructions and questions. That's when I just became the driver and Monique the question seeker.

Some of these questions were quite hard and required a lot of patience and persistence, which luckily for me, my co-pilot had in droves.

Cauley Square consisted of numerous eclectic small shops consisting of Bakeries and including one of the biggest bird shops I had ever seen, with numerous Macaws and small Finches. From here we zig-zagged our way into the Redlands area, stopping at Phil's Berry Farm with the best natural strawberry milkshake in the Redlands.

I then asked Monique, how were the questions going and she proudly responded that she had answered all of them, up to this point. One of the hardest questions was what was the name of the family that founded the Redlands Hotel in 1926? I saw one of the participants on her tablet in the Google website trying to figure that one out and guarding her information very anxiously.

.Finally, we arrived at the last checkpoint; Schnebly Redland Winery the most impressive stop in the Rally. We quickly found a table among the water streams and sumptuous landscaped grounds with small opulent buildings with thatched roofs and ordered different Beers and Guava Wine.

My favorite beer was the wheat-ale which tasted marvelous. Five different teams had incredibly answered all questions right (we missed four) and then they started asking questions to the teams until there was only one winner left.

We then met and sat down with some club members and consumed some of the best tropical wines and beer, as we watched the sun going down, sending different vibrant colors over the Everglades sky at sunset. All in all, a perfect ending to a perfect day and most of all, my battery was still good.

** Special thanks to Maria Rodriguez, and her crew for organizing a wonderful event. I will definitely be back next year.

See pages 6, 7 and 8 for photos



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

Breakfast (at 8 am) Mercedes-Benz of Cutler Bay



Lining-Up caravan at Mercedes-Benz of Cutler Bay to travel the roads of Cutler Bay, FL to Homestead, FL.





Phil's Berry Farm



Burr's Berry Farm

Knaus Berry Farm

Fruit and Spice Park



R.F. Orchids... all teamed up with Monique..looking for answers to then go to lunch...



Lunch - White Lion Café



Florida Pioneer Museum

Robert Is Here



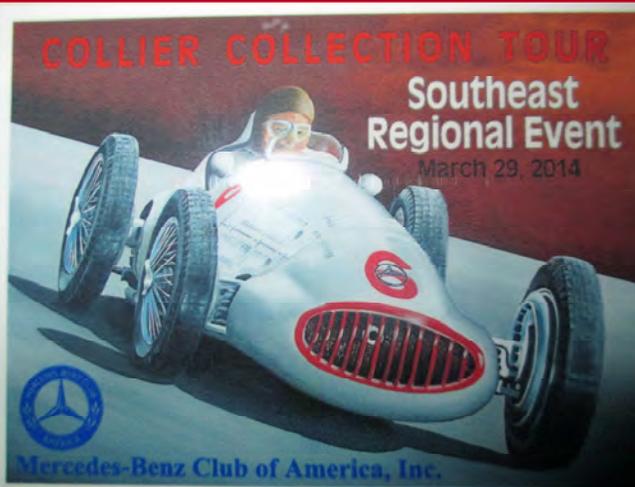
Schnebly Redland's Winery



Southeast Region Event - Collier Collection Tour—March 29, 2014—Naples, FL

Scott Suits' creation—Keepsake of event for each participant

Anne Harruff's creation—Event favorites



- Event consisted of:**
1. Caravan/Convoy to Naples, FL
 2. Collier Collection tour
 3. Lunch
 4. Tech Session @ MB of Naples
 5. 5. Dinner / Awards / Raffles
- Organized by Tom Harruff (Pres. S.W. Section) and Maria J. Rodriguez (Pres. S.FL. Section); Supported by Scott Suits (Reg. Dir.) and Anne Harruff (Member of S.W. Section)**

Caravan/Convoy to Naples, FL



Arrived at Collier Collection for tour



Continue...Collier Collection Tour .. Also see website for more photos



Lunch at Jack's River Bar



Tech Session at Mercedes-Benz of Naples, FL



<-Dinner and Raffle at Stonewood Grill and Tavern



Many more photos on website: <http://www.southflorida.mbca.org>

MBCA South Florida Section would like to thank the following Mercedes-Benz dealerships for their on-going support to our club, and making our events possible:

Mercedes-Benz of Coconut Creek

Mercedes-Benz of Coral Gables

Mercedes-Benz of Cutler Bay

Mercedes-Benz of Ft. Lauderdale

Mercedes-Benz of Naples

Mercedes-Benz of Pompano

We look forward to continue working together, seek the other dealerships for this type of support, and enhance these relationships.

**Mercedes-Benz Club of America
appreciates all you do for the Club**

The MB dealerships' information will appear in our next Star magazine.

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 lady mari21@hotmail.com.

To advertise in Star News

Email Maria J. Rodriguez at lady mari21@hotmail.com to set it up.

The annual advertising rates are as follows:

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

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4 for \$135.00

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c/o Maria J. Rodriguez, President
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Miami, FL 33186