

Southern Stars Section

Mercedes-Benz Club of America



January / February 2023

<http://SouthernStars.MBCA.org>

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of 1/15/23
(November-January)

Total Membership (231)

*Welcome to all the new,
transferred, and renewing members!*

New Members (9)

Frank Lonabaugh	Jacksonville, FL
Deborah Clark	Sea Island, GA
Eddie Muratagic	Jacksonville, FL
Chris Chadburn	Old Town, FL
Dwayne Harmon	Jacksonville, FL
Beate Kirch	Pooler, GA
Jason White	Jacksonville, FL
David Wells	Jacksonville, FL
Jeff Morgan	Jacksonville, FL

Section Transfers (2)

Alan & Ann Foster	Rockledge, FL
Nate Aviles	St Johns, FL

Renewed Memberships (10)

Larry Reich	Palm Coast, FL
Mark Kolasinski	Savannah, GA
Barry Noll	Ormond Beach, FL
Aleksandr Skriptsov	Jacksonville, FL
Robert Caravello	Orange Park, FL
Grant Wilson	Jacksonville, FL
Lewis Bednarczuk	Jacksonville, FL
Michael Dunst	St. Augustine, FL
Carl Naso	Saint Augustine, FL
Thomas Entenza	Jacksonville, FL

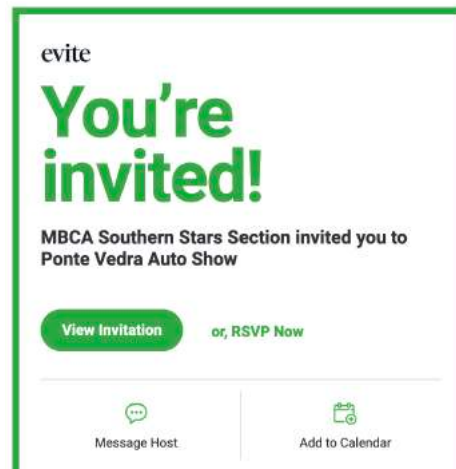
You never know what you will see

At a Caffeine and Octane!



Thank you to everyone that shared their vehicles and brought an enormous number of toys for Wolfson Children's Hospital!

We utilize **Evite** to share event announcements. Evite is a free app from Google Play or the Apple Store. If you create a free Evite account with the same email address on file with MBCA, you'll see our invitations in your app and in your email. Please add "evite@mailva.evite.com" and "info@mailva.evite.com" to your "safe senders" if needed.





Happy New Year!

Our December Caffeine and Octane Jax toy drive was a great success. Thank you to all who gave smiles and joy to children, the greatest gifts! Deremer Studios, the official photographer, featured our toy collection area photo, captured by contributing photographer Marcelo Murillo as their gallery thumbnail for the event. Mercedes-Benz was also the only marque that had the primary gallery image more than once in 2022! Great job everyone, we can't say thank you enough!

We would like to thank our returning sponsor **Euro Spec** (page 4) for another great year of Member satisfaction. Let's welcome our newest sponsors, **EuroFed Jacksonville** (page 6). We also would like to welcome our new Northeast Florida Territory Manager for **Hagerty**, Vito Vacca (page 7), who is also one of our sponsors!

As I begin my second one-year term as President, it reminds me how fast time goes when we are having fun. I became VP in late 2019 for 2020, then again for 2021. I began my first one-year term as President in 2022, and second term in 2023. In about a year, I am coming up on half a decade of club leadership. There is a lot of experience between all of us, let's share our passion as a team! Our Secretary position remains open, it's a great way to get involved!

We will soon welcome in 2023 with an oceanfront breakfast at The Omni Amelia Island Resort. In February, in addition to the monthly Caffeine and Octane Jacksonville gathering at The Avenues Mall, we have an indoor display at Jacksonville International Auto Show, and a Drive & Dine to Ford's Garage in St. Augustine, from the Julington Creek area of Jacksonville! March brings us The Amelia, and their Cars & Community including RADwood, Cars & Caffeine, and more, see page 5. We look forward to seeing you this year!

Cordially,

David Wommer
2022-2023 Southern Stars President

Technology News

Our social media accounts:

Instagram:
"Southern_Stars_MBCA"

https://www.instagram.com/Southern_Stars_MBCA



Facebook Public Page:

"MBCA.SouthernStars"

<https://www.facebook.com/MBCA.SouthernStars>



Facebook Private Group:

"MBCA.SouthernStars"

<https://www.Facebook.com/groups/MBCA.SouthernStars/>

Southern Stars MBCA Portal:

<http://SouthernStars.MBCA.org>

Link Tree:

<https://linktr.ee/MBCA.Southern.Stars>

MBCA Website:

www.MCBA.org

Email us:

MBCA.Southern.Stars@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

February

11 – Saturday 8 – 11 am

Caffeine & Octane Jax (Pg. 7)

16-19 – Thursday-Saturday

Jacksonville Auto Show

<https://TheJaxAutoShow.com/>

25 – Saturday 9:45 am – 12 pm

“Drive & Dine” Julington Creek to **Ford’s Garage** in St. Augustine!

**An Evite will be sent with more details to members.*

March

2-5 The Amelia

4 – Saturday 9 am – 1 pm

“Cars & Community” includes:

RADwood - 150 vehicles of the '80s and '90s.

Concours d’Lemons - 50 oddball and unexceptional cars.

“Cars & Caffeine” - 350 curated vehicles from across the country.

Youth Zone - Free automotive activities designed just for kids.

5 – Sunday: **Concours d’Elegance**

April

8 - **Caffeine & Octane Jax (Pg. 7)**

22 – Cars & Coffee

Open to the Public

HOST: Art ‘n Motion, St. Aug.

May

13 – **Caffeine & Octane Jax (Pg. 7)**

20 – **Deremer Studios**

Photoshoot

**An Evite will be sent with more details to members.*

2023 Southern Stars Officers & Directors

All the officers & directors welcome calls and emails from the membership.

Please reach out to us if you have any concerns or suggestions.

This is your club, and we are here to serve you!

President

David Wommer
(904) 534-7319
DavidWommer@Gmail.com

Vice President

Gary Keener
(904) 635-9888
Gary.S.Keener@ProtonMail.com

Treasurer

Jackie Keener
(904) 349-4621
Jackie.M.Keener@gmail.com

Section Directors

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Carlos Malpartida
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Carlos@blakeland.us

Ladies with Mercedes

Jenn Webb
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Southeast Regional Director

Hank Webb
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HankWebb58@bellsouth.net

Membership Director

Gary Keener
(904) 635-9888

Ex-Officio

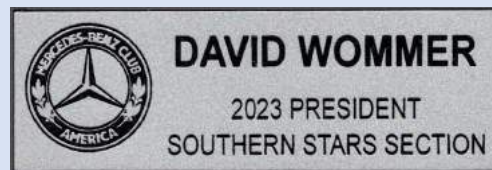
Chase Jackson
CWJackson2@Gmail.com

MBCA.Southern.Stars.Membership@gmail.com

MBCA “Refer a Friend” Program

Have you shared the benefits of MBCA? Rebates and discounts are just the beginning. For each new member who utilizes your membership number and/or name when they sign up, you will receive an additional month of membership.

Do you have an official MBCA name badge?



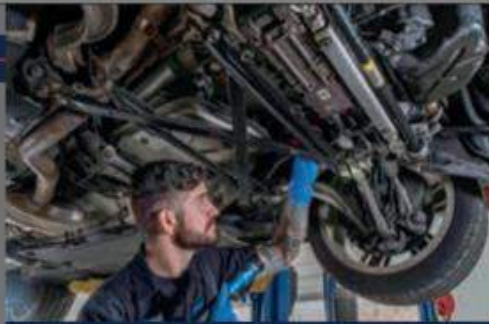
Name badges help us all put a face to a name when we are together! We generally recommend a 2-line silver version for most members!

To order a name badge: <https://www.mbca.org/name-badge>



WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

- Family Owned and Operated
- Serving Jacksonville for over 25 Years
- Highly Trained Technicians
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- Active in the Community
- Environmentally Conscientious
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- Suspension and Brakes
- Tires and Alignment
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- Air Conditioning
- Vehicle Electronics
- In Depth Vehicle Diagnostics
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- Upgraded Exhaust Systems
- Performance Intake Systems
- Forced Induction and Turbo Upgrades
- Coilover Suspension and Swaybar Upgrades
- Big Brake Kits
- Performance Alignments
- Track Inspections



OUR GOALS

- 100% Customer Satisfaction
- Provide Highest Quality Repair
- Your Families' Safety
- 12 Month / 12,000 Miles
- OEM Parts



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THE AMELIA

CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

In June 2021, Hagerty announced its acquisition of the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance.

The next "The Amelia" Concours d'Elegance is March 2-6, 2023. The registration period for "Cars & Caffeine", RADwood, and Concours d'Lemons under the "Cars & Community" group of events on Saturday morning and the main event on Sunday are open at the time of publication!

<https://www.AmeliaConcours.com>

<https://www.AmeliaConcours.com/event/enter-vehicle>

<https://www.RADwood.com/>

We can't wait to return this year and meet fellow enthusiasts! If your Mercedes-Benz has been approved for *Cars & Caffeine*, *RADwood*, or *Concours d'Lemons* as part of the *Cars & Community* group of events on Saturday morning, let us know! DavidWommer@gmail.com / (904) 534-7319



Thanks to our support throughout the last couple of years, *The Brumos Collection* has extended us a promo code! The next time you purchase tickets online, use the promo code **MBCA** for **\$5.00 off** all ticket tiers and for each additional ticket you purchase after the first. What a deal!

2022 Award Recipients & 2023 Leadership Positions



At our holiday luncheon, Regional Director Hank Webb presented David Wommer the regional Officer of the Year award. Our Member of the Year for 2022 was our Treasurer Jackie Keener. Officer positions carried over from 2022. Thank you to those who volunteered and continue to share your passion and expertise!

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Ladies with Mercedes

Happy 2023! As we look forward to an exciting year, thank you for your suggestions to be included in the 2023 Ladies with Mercedes (LWM) Calendar of Events (COE). There are several regular activities, plus a women's conference. The *Caffeine and Octane Jacksonville* is held at The Avenues Mall the second Saturday of every month. It is always fun to attend and to shop at the mall afterwards!

Consider attending the Formula 1 Race (May 5-7), at the Hard Rock Complex in Miami. Don't forget to follow the celebration of the International Women's Day, a holiday to recognize women globally. The holiday is celebrated annually on March 8 as a focal point in the women's rights movement and was established on February 28, 1909. The main programs will take place in Europe, during the week of March 8th, and on August 11-12. Prominent women from around the world, will be invited. Our LWM COE is open for suggestions, if you have ideas you would like to be included, please send me an e-mail at jfranw@bellsouth.net. Many thanks!

Please take care, and Happy Valentine's Day!  Jean Webb, Ladies with Mercedes Chair (904) 375-8751

Upcoming Events



Caffeine & Octane Jacksonville @ The Avenues Mall

10300 Southside Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32256 8:00 am to 11:00 am.

Caffeine & Octane Jacksonville is held on the Second Saturday of every month. We typically stage up next to the Exotics Lot, in front of the "Furniture Source" anchor store.

Aim for Gate #3 if you can remain in the *Central Lot* with us from 8-11 am.



Inaugural 2023 "Drive & Dine" to Ford's Garage in St. Augustine

We will meet in the Julington Creek area and proceed to drive the scenic route to St. Augustine.

We will dine at Ford's Garage, 550 Outlet Mall Blvd, St. Augustine, FL. Ford's Garage is a 1920s service station-themed gourmet burger bar serving up the finest varieties of Black Angus Beef, Turkey, and Chicken as well as lighter fare. Details will be mailed to Southern Stars Members via an Evite.



Cruising, not streaming

INSURANCE DRIVERS CLUB CAR CULTURE MARKETPLACE

HAGERTY Let's Drive Together

Local contact: Vito Vacca
+1-904-914-1212 | vacca@hagerty.com

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December Events

On Saturday December 10, we were the First Coast Car Council's (FCCC) Featured Car Club of the Month at Caffeine and Octane Jacksonville, and we were in the reserved parking corral in the Central Lot. We also challenged Mercedes-Benz drivers to beat our 2021 toy collection! Everyone *understood the assignment*, ha. You all brought dozens of toys for the kids at Wolfson Children's Hospital! "Thank You" to all our generous friends for bringing smiles to the kids. We featured a 2005 Mercedes-Benz SLR McLaren, staged so that both professional and amateur photographers had a 360° view. Thank you very much Lew for sharing the SLR Lew! Photos shared by David Wommer.



On December 11, our holiday luncheon was at Eagle Harbor Golf Club. The regional Officer of the Year award was presented to David Wommer by Regional Director Hank Webb. Hank also announced our Member of the Year, Jackie Keener. Thank you for the photos Gary Keener!



See more photos of our events on our social media, listed on page 2, or via MBCA.org "Event Reports"!

January Events

On Saturday, January 14, many of us braved the chilly and windy weather to reconnect for the first time in 2023 at Caffeine and Octane Jacksonville. It was great to reconnect with everyone after the holidays.

Did you catch the 2001 Mercedes-Benz SL 500 Formula 1 Edition? Only 20 cars were constructed to celebrate the return of F1 to the U.S. The F1 SL 500s also had silver lacquer interior trim, racing aluminum foot pedals, machined dash trim, and leather-trimmed floor mats. AMG enhancements included 18" mono blocks and performance tires, Bi-xenon headlights, front and rear cross-drilled and ventilated brake rotors, and painted brake calipers. The front grill was a vibrant polished stainless steel, as were the exhaust tips.

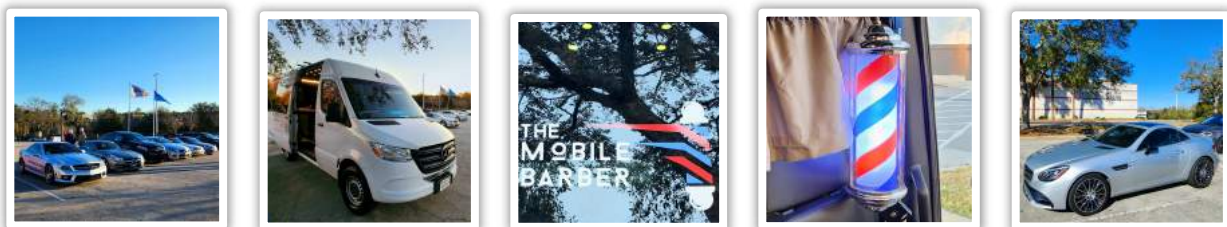
Only 4 remain in the United States after 7 were brought over initially. Three were sent back to Germany after the Formula 1 introduction. MB execs and the F1 drivers had these cars available to them at the race. Perhaps Micheal Schumacher even drove this as his to and from car for a few days? You are looking at the rarest SL 500 ... it is rarer than a Lamborghini Sian!



We also saw a designo Graphite Grey Magno AMG GT R Black Series, as well as an SLC 43!



We also had a sweet Mercedes-Benz Sprinter show up, that has been configured as a mobile barber shop! Check it out! <https://officialmobilebarber.com/> Photos shared by David Wommer.



See more photos of our events on our social media, listed on page 2, or via MBCA.org "Event Reports"!



**Mercedes-Benz Club of America
Southern Stars Section**

https://www.instagram.com/Southern_Stars_MBCA

<https://www.facebook.com/MBCA.SouthernStars>



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Simply scan the QR code with your smartphone or tablet!



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More Than a Car Club. We're a Community.SM