

# Southern Stars Section

## Mercedes-Benz Club of America



March / April 2023

<http://SouthernStars.MBCA.org>

### Welcome New Members!

As of 3/15/23  
(January-March)

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

Chris Chadburn	Old Town, FL
Dwayne Harmon	Jacksonville, FL
Michael Chalut	St Augustine, FL
Robert Hynes	St Augustine, FL
John Ragsdale	Jacksonville, FL
Frank Sabato	St Augustine, FL
Brian Weise	Jacksonville, FL
Mark Nelson	Orange Park, FL

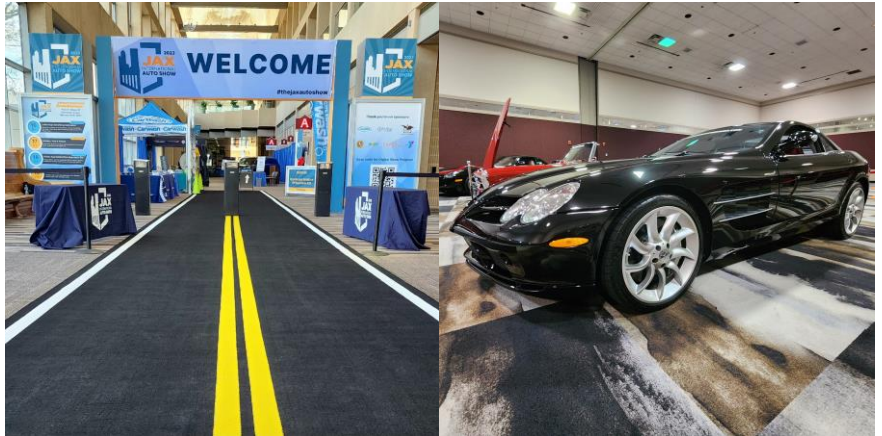
### Welcome to MBCA members who moved into our section!

Steven Pincus	Connecticut/Westchester
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### Thank you to our members who renewed their membership!

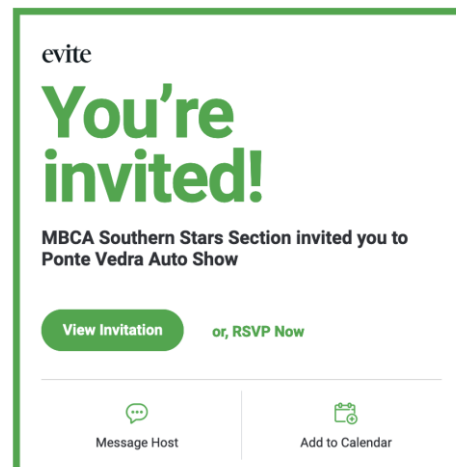
Tim Donaldson	Lonaconing, MD
Alan Foster	Rockledge, FL
Carlos Malpartida	Alachua, FL
Lon Baugh	Fernandina Beach, FL
Victor Witten	Jacksonville, FL
Kevin Weiss	St Simons Island, GA
Richard Perose	Fernandina Beach, FL
Lee Hayden	Jacksonville, FL
Bradford Preston	East Greenwich, RI
Chris Everard	Savannah, GA
Corinthians McRae	Jacksonville, FL

### You never know what you will see at the Jacksonville International Auto Show!



A "Mechatronik" 230 SL, an SLR, a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary SL 500, an SL 63, a E550 Cabriolet and an SLS were on display!

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](mailto:evite@mailva.evite.com)" and "[info@mailva.evite.com](mailto:info@mailva.evite.com)" to your "safe senders" if needed.





## Spring Has Sprung!

Spring always brings changes and so it is with the Southern Stars Section this year. You may have already heard through our social media channels or by some other means, but it's official, there have been some changes at the regional and sectional levels of our club.

Longtime club member (30+ Years) and former Southeast Regional Director Hank Webb has decided to retire from that position and has passed the proverbial torch to David Wommer who has been serving as our Section President. With David moving into his new position, I have assumed the role of Section President. Personally, and on behalf of the club, I would like to thank Hank for his many faithful years of membership and for serving us as the Southeast Regional Director. I would also like to congratulate David on his new position and having worked alongside him as Vice President for some time now, I feel confident he will do a stellar job in that role.

Though Hank and David are still part of our section and David will continue to help us with our social media channels, these changes necessitate the need to fill various leadership roles. Among the roles we will need to fill are **Section Vice president, Secretary, Membership Director, Section Board Members**. If you, or anyone you know, have an interest in club leadership please email me at [Gary.Keener@mbcasouthernstars.com](mailto:Gary.Keener@mbcasouthernstars.com) I will be sending a separate email to section members that describes each of the various roles so be on the lookout for that.

Be on the lookout for our upcoming events! On Saturday, April 8, we will resume our participation in the monthly Caffeine & Octane, and we already know of some special vehicles that will be in attendance. On Saturday, April 22, we will have our third annual Cars & Coffee at Art 'n Motion in St. Augustine, FL. On May 20, we will have our second annual club photo shoot with Deremer Studios at the incredibly scenic Fort Clinch State Park on Amelia Island. Scan or click the QR code below for site examples:

Cordially,

**Gary Keener**  
Southern Stars President

**Club Zoom Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 12**  
**7:00 PM to 7:40 PM**



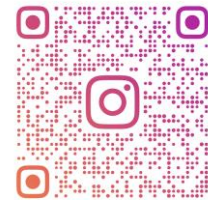
## Technology News

Our social media accounts:

**Instagram:**

**“Southern\_Stars\_MBCA”**

[https://www.instagram.com/Southern\\_Stars\\_MBCA](https://www.instagram.com/Southern_Stars_MBCA)



**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](http://www.MCBA.org)

**Email us:**

**MBCA.Southern.Stars@gmail.com**

## Upcoming Events

### April

#### 8 – Saturday

Caffeine & Octane Jacksonville  
**HOST: Avenues Mall**  
8-11 am (See Page 7.)

#### 12 – Wednesday

**Southern Stars Club Meeting**  
**HOST: ZOOM Via Evite**  
7-8 PM

*An Evite with meeting details and Zoom link will be sent in separate email.*

#### 22 – Cars & Coffee

**HOST: Art 'n Motion**  
St. Augustine  
9-11 am (See page 7.)

### May

#### 13 – Saturday

Caffeine & Octane Jacksonville

#### 20 – Deremer Studios Photoshoot

Fernandina Beach, FL

*An Evite invitation will be emailed with more details to members a few weeks prior.*

### June

#### 8 – Saturday

Caffeine & Octane Jacksonville  
**HOST: Avenues Mall**  
8-11 am (See Page 7.)

### July

#### 8 – Saturday

Caffeine & Octane Jacksonville

#### 22 – Saturday

Museum Tour  
**Host: The Brumos Collection**  
9-11 am

**Ticket must be pre-purchased online. No tickets are sold onsite.**  
Buy your ticket(s) early!

**TheBrumosCollection.com**

Use Promo Code **MBCA** for \$5 off!

## 2023 Southern Stars Officers & Directors

All the officers and 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

Gary Keener  
(904) 635-9888

[Gary.Keener@mbcasouthernstars.com](mailto:Gary.Keener@mbcasouthernstars.com)

### Treasurer

Jackie Keener  
(904) 349-4621

[Jackie.M.Keener@gmail.com](mailto:Jackie.M.Keener@gmail.com)

### Vice President

TBD (VIA Special Election)

### Secretary

TBD (VIA Special Election)

### Membership Director

TBD (VIA Special Election)

### Section Directors

Chase Jackson (Ex-Officio)  
(770) 634-6268  
[CWJackson2@gmail.com](mailto:CWJackson2@gmail.com)

Carlos Malpartida  
(252) 538-1937  
[Carlos@blakeland.us](mailto:Carlos@blakeland.us)

Jeff Rotatori

(904) 261-0202

[Jeff\\_Rotatori@yahoo.com](mailto:Jeff_Rotatori@yahoo.com)

David Wommer (Ex-Officio)

(904) 534-7319

[DavidWommer@gmail.com](mailto:DavidWommer@gmail.com)

### Ladies with Mercedes

Jean Webb  
(904) 375-8751

[JFranW@bellsouth.net](mailto:JFranW@bellsouth.net)

### Southeast Regional Director

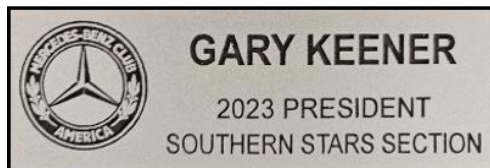
David Wommer  
(904) 534-7319

[DavidWommer@gmail.com](mailto:DavidWommer@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! Just have them put your name and or member number on their "referred by" area of the membership application.

## Do you have an official MBCA name badge?



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

To order a name badge, log into your MBCA member account and click on the following link: <https://mbca.org/product/7265315>



### WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

- Family Owned and Operated
- Serving Jacksonville for over 25 Years
- Highly Trained Technicians
- Friendly and Helpful Service Advisors
- Active in the Community
- Environmentally Conscientious
- Engine and Transmission Repair
- Suspension and Brakes
- Tires and Alignment
- Factory Recommended Services
- Air Conditioning
- Vehicle Electronics
- In Depth Vehicle Diagnostics
- Wash and Detail Services



### PERFORMANCE

- Performance ECU Training
- 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



### CONTACT US

904-448-9886  
[www.eurospecjax.com](http://www.eurospecjax.com)  
 @eurospecjax

8737 Phillips Hwy  
 Jacksonville, FL 32256



Certified Bosch  
 Automotive  
 Service Center

# EUR: SPEC

No rainy day can keep the Mercedes away!  
*Caffeine & Octane – February 2023*



## **St. Augustine Event in April**

**Cars & Coffee  
hosted by Art 'n Motion**

On April, 22 we are hosting a Cars & Coffee at Art 'n Motion in St. Augustine. The Cars & Coffee is available to anyone who wishes to share their Mercedes-Benz! We will tour the facilities, and view some of the vehicles on display. Scott Legrassi Racing also works out of the building, maintaining their race cars, and we typically see some on display.

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

## **Fernandina Beach Event in May**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Southern Stars  
Club Photo Shoot**

Exclusive Southern Stars Section  
Photoshoot with Nate Deremer

On May 20, at Fort Clinch State Park on Amelia Island, we will have a photo shoot with the esteemed Nate Deremer of Deremer Photography Studios. Nate is the primary photographer of Caffeine and Octane Jacksonville, as well as many Concours events! Scan or Click the QR code below to see some of his work at this specific location.



We have arranged a group rate of just \$55 for Club members and \$65 for non-Club members. Scan or Click QR code for details.



# EUROFED

Jacksonville's European Specialists



(904) 683-2085

[EurofedJax.com](http://EurofedJax.com)

8309 Atlantic Blvd. Jacksonville, FL 32211

  @EUROFEDJAX



## *Ladies with Mercedes*

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and interest in Ladies with Mercedes (LWM). To the new lady members, we welcome all of you and invite you to join our activities! LwM is open to all women in the section, and no formal application is necessary. Special recognition is extended to all the Ladies who shared their short stories featured in 2022 newsletters. This year, we look forward to receiving more short stories! Let me know if you have questions or would like a guide with ideas and suggestions for writing your short story to share with the membership.

Now, we must decide if we should continue featuring various events and activities of interest for LwM.

Our previous years activities included cruising to classical and jazz music events, museum visits, auto-education talk, mini tour golf, and October and December luncheons. If you have suggestions for the 2023 events calendar, please send them to me at the email below.

**Jean Webb, Ladies with Mercedes Chair** [jfranw@bellsouth.net](mailto:jfranw@bellsouth.net) (904) 375-8751

## Upcoming Events



### Caffeine & Octane Jacksonville @ The Avenues Mall

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

Held on the Second Saturday monthly, we 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*.



### Mercedes-Benz Cars & Coffee @ Art 'N Motion

Saturday, April 22, 9:00 am to 11:00 am  
283 San Marco Avenue, St. Augustine, FL

Art 'n Motion is on the north end of the nation's oldest city of St. Augustine, FL. The site is the former home of the Yarborough Cadillac dealership. We'll gather at the white one-story building, to the right of the new brick building.



# Cruising, not streaming

INSURANCE DRIVERS CLUB CAR CULTURE MARKETPLACE

**HAGERTY** Let's Drive Together

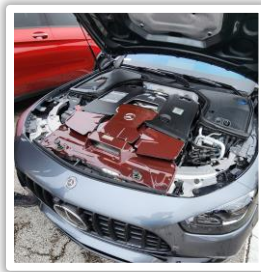
Local contact: Vito Vacca  
+1-904-914-1212 | [vvacca@hagerty.com](mailto:vvacca@hagerty.com)

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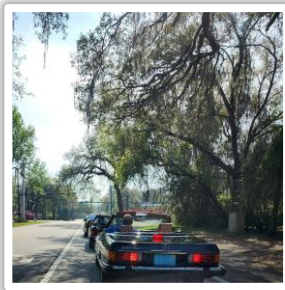
## January Events

On the second Saturday of January, we were at Caffeine and Octane Jacksonville! Despite the threat of some rain, we still had a hearty turnout including a sweet GLC 300 Coupe, and couple of E 63s!

Photos shared by David Wommer.



On February 25, Section President Gary Keener took point and guided us down State Road 13 along the St Johns River. The drive took us through beautiful oak canopies and alongside some picturesque views of the river. We ended the drive at Ford's Garage in St. Augustine where we enjoyed a diverse menu, some interesting architecture, and car themed décor everywhere you looked! Thank you to everyone who joined us, it was a great success! It was one of our largest Drive-N-Dine gatherings to date!



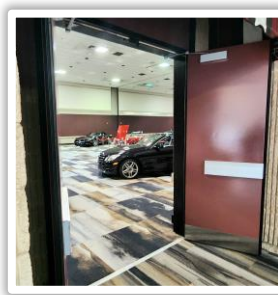
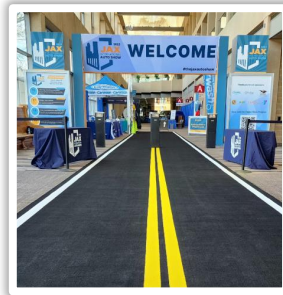
See more photos of our events on our social media, listed on page 2, or via [MBCA.org](http://MBCA.org) "Event Reports"!



# February Events

We were fortunate to be able to have a Mercedes-Benz Club of America display inside the 2023 Jacksonville International Auto Show. We had our own room, and the event was a huge success! We shared 6 cars and were across the main hall from the Classic Car Museum of St. Augustine who also shared 6 amazing vehicles in the Grand Lobby! The event was held Feb 16-19. Cars were loaded in a couple of days prior, and the owners retrieved them the day after the event! Thank you very much to everyone who shared a car (or two!). If you are interested in sharing your vehicle next year, email [Gary.Keener@mbcasouthernstars.com](mailto:Gary.Keener@mbcasouthernstars.com) and [DavidWommer@gmail.com](mailto:DavidWommer@gmail.com)!

We want to share all types of Mercedes-Benz vehicles!



Photos shared by David Wommer.

See more photos of our events on our social media, listed on page 2, or via [MBCA.org](http://MBCA.org) "Event



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

[https://www.Instagram.com/Southern Stars MBCA](https://www.Instagram.com/Southern_Stars_MBCA)

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



**Would you like to join the Mercedes-Benz Club of America?**

**Simply scan or click the QR code with your smartphone or tablet!**



**Mercedes-Benz Club of America**  
More Than a Car Club. We're a Community.<sup>sm</sup>