

Southern Stars Section

Mercedes-Benz Club of America



November / December 2023

<http://SouthernStars.MBCA.org>

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

As of 11/15/23
(Sep-Nov)

Welcome New Members!

William Brown St Augustine, FL

Welcome to MBCA members who moved into our section!

Michael DeMelfi From Northern New Jersey
Michael Golden Greater Washington

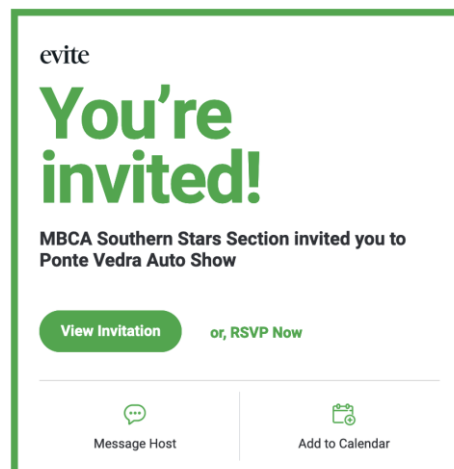
Thank you to our members who renewed their membership!

Patrick Rocca	Pinehurst, NC
Stephen Pearson	Saint Augustine, FL
Jack Schmidt	Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
J Brannon	Gainesville, FL
Townsend Hoopes	Fernandina Beach, FL
William Cirno	Jacksonville, FL
John Allen	St. Augustine, FL
Nate Aviles	Saint Johns, FL
Michael Golden	Fernandina Beach, FL
Shelly Hyler	Orange Park, FL
Jon Loftheim	Ponte Vedra, FL
Chase Jackson	Jacksonville, FL
Craig Smith	Jacksonville, FL
Margaret Briesch	St. Augustine, FL
George Cost	Jacksonville, FL
Frank Lonabaugh	Jacksonville, FL
Eddie Muratagic	Jacksonville, FL

Help us break last year's record at our annual MBCA Southern Stars Section Toy Drive on Saturday, December 9 at Caffeine & Octane.



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.



*Enter The
MBCA Raffle!*

DRAWING DATE:
Thursday, December 7th
10:30AM (EST)

Membership Not Required To Purchase Tickets

mbca.ourraffle.org

Ultimate Dream Prize!



2024 Mercedes-AMG GLE53 4Matic+ SUV or 2023 Mercedes-AMG EQE SUV

Greetings Stars!

It's not too late to enter the MBCA raffle! Please consider supporting the MBCA by buying raffle tickets for a chance to win a 2024 AMG GLE53 4matic or a 2023 AMG EQE500. For the first time ever, the raffle is open to anyone, not just club members, so tell your friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Entries must be purchased by **December 1, 2023**, at the following link: <https://mbca.ourraffle.org/> or by clicking the image above. Drawing to be held December 7, 2023, at 10:30 EST.

Our annual holiday luncheon is right around the corner. On December 16th, 2023, at 12:00 PM, we will gather at the Midtown Table to celebrate the holidays and share some good cheer. To liven things up a bit, we will be doing a white elephant gift exchange. The gift exchange is optional, and the gifts don't need to be anything elaborate or fancy; just something that will put a smile on someone's face. Couples participating in the gift exchange only need to provide one gift. We will be giving out other gifts and awards so don't miss the fun. Weather and logistics permitting, we will also have a putting competition on Midtown's very own putting green so come with your game hat on. (See page 8 for more details)

Here is some news on a national level; we have a new MBCA President and Vice President. The new national President is Drew Webb (Northern New England Star Section), elected Vice President in 2022. The new Vice President is Steve Ross (San Diego Section), who served previously as a national VP some years ago.

Last, but certainly not least, we wish to thank all our longstanding members for their loyalty and valued contributions to the club. The club would not be a success without you! See page 9 for a list of honorees.

Cordially,

Gary Keener
Southern Stars President

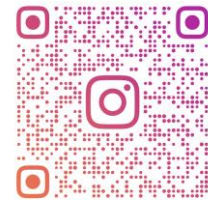
Technology News

Our social media accounts:

Instagram:

"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

Email us:

MBCA.Southern.Stars@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

December

9 – Saturday (Open to Public)

*Caffeine & Octane Jacksonville
(We are the car club of the month
and it is our annual toy drive.)*

HOST: Avenues Mall

8-11 AM (See Pages 5 & 7)

10 – Sunday (Open to Public)

RiverWalk Rev Fest

HOST: Hanania Exotics

10 AM -12 PM

16 – Saturday (All MBCA Members)

★ *Southern Stars holiday Luncheon* ★

**HOST: Mercedes-Benz Club of
America – Southern Stars
Section**

12 PM - 2 PM (See Page 8.)

February

16 – 18 Fri - Sun (Open to Public)

JAX International Auto Show

HOST: Prime Osborn

Show times vary by day

March

2nd & 3rd – Sat & Sun (Open to Public)

*Cars & Community
The Amelia Concours*

HOST: Hagerty | The Amelia

Times vary by day

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

President

Gary Keener (904) 635-9888 Gary.Keener@mbcasouthernstars.com

Vice President

TBD (Open)

Secretary

Robert Hickey (603) 568-7859 roberthickey698@yahoo.com

Treasurer

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

Membership Director

TBD (Open)

Section Directors

Chase Jackson (Ex-Officio) (770) 634-6268 CWJackson2@gmail.com

Carlos Malpartida (252) 538-1937 Carlos@blakeland.us

Jeff Rotatori (904) 261-0202 Jeff_Rotatori@yahoo.com

David Wommer (Ex-Officio) (904) 534-7319 DavidWommer@gmail.com

John Allen (215) 982-0839 johnkat51@yahoo.com

Dylan Galindez (904) 557-4583 dylangalindez@gmail.com

Ladies with Mercedes

Jean Webb (904) 375-8751 JFranW@bellsouth.net

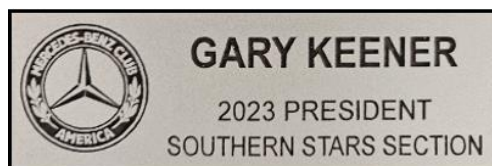
Southeast Regional Director

David Wommer (904) 534-7319 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
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- Vehicle Electronics
- In Depth Vehicle Diagnostics
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- Upgraded Exhaust Systems
- Performance Intake Systems
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- Coilover Suspension and Swaybar Upgrades
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- Performance Alignments
- Track Inspections



OUR GOALS

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- Your Families' Safety
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CONTACT US

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 Jacksonville, FL 32256



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EUR: SPEC

Section News



Mercedes-Benz Club of America *Southern Stars Section* is once again the First Coast Car Council (FCCC) featured Car Club of the Month for December. On December 9 from 8:00AM to 11:00AM, Mercedes-Benz owners will gather inside a special and reserved area called the “car corral” in the Central Lot at Caffeine & Octane! Please consider sharing your Mercedes-Benz with us.

We will be conducting our annual toy drive at this event so please consider bring a toy, or two, or three, or We will be collecting toys for the Toys for Tots organization and hope to beat all our former records so please share new unwrapped toys if you can!

For a full-size parking map click the link below (**NOTE: Special parking for December 2023**)

[December 2023 Caffeine & Octane Parking Map](#)

All Mercedes-Benz vehicles are welcome! If you wish to share a rare, historic, or exotic Mercedes-Benz as a VIP, please contact Gary Keener or David Wommer.

Section Gratitude



Thank you to our Sponsors!



Thank You to [Euro Spec](#), our longest-running, family-owned sponsor!

Thank You to [EuroFed Jax](#), our most recent trusted sponsor in also owned by a local car enthusiast.

Both shops have treated our members extremely well!

Thank You to [Hagerty](#) and our North Florida Territory Manager Vito Vacca and their continued contributions to the Automotive World.

We appreciate your support and look forward to 2024 together!

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Ladies with Mercedes

Sometimes it's assumed that the Mercedes-Benz Club of America is just a "guy's" club. Nothing could be further from the truth! We encourage all women, owners, or enthusiast, to participate in the club and value their contributions. As a case in point, when we hearken back to the roots of the brand, we find Bertha Benz. Bertha was the business partner and wife of automobile inventor Karl Benz and is credited with being the first person to drive an internal-combustion-engined automobile over a long distance, field testing the Benz Patent-Motorwagen, inventing brake lining and solving several practical issues during the journey of 105 km (65 miles). Of course, what makes this more significant, is the fact that the Benz Patent-Motorwagen is regarded as the first practical modern automobile and was the first car put into production.

Ladies with Mercedes is a group that encourages women to come together and enjoy their enthusiasm for the brand in the company of likeminded ladies. If you are interested in being part of the group, please contact Jean Webb at the information below.

Jean Webb, Ladies with Mercedes Chair jfranw@bellsouth.net (904) 375-8751

December 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*.

Click Image Above For more Details.



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

Policies underwritten by Essentia Insurance Company. Membership by Hagerty Drivers Club (HDC), a non-insurance subsidiary of The Hagerty Group, LLC. Only the HDC Program Guide contains a complete description of benefits. Purchase of insurance not required for membership in HDC. All third party makes, models, and vehicle names are property of their respective owners. Their use is meant to reflect the authenticity of the vehicle and do not imply sponsorship nor endorsement of Hagerty nor any of these products or services. Hagerty is a registered trademark of the Hagerty Group LLC, ©2023 The Hagerty Group, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

December Events



The holidays are upon us, and you should have received an Evite invitation by now. Please make plans to join us at our annual holiday luncheon. **On December 16th, 2023, at 12:00 PM**, we will gather at the Midtown Table to celebrate the holidays and share some good cheer. To liven things up a bit, we will be doing a white elephant gift exchange. The gift exchange is optional, and the gifts don't need to be anything elaborate or fancy; just something that will put a smile on someone's face. Couples participating in the gift exchange only need to provide one gift. We will be giving out other gifts and awards so don't miss the fun. Weather and logistics permitting, we will also have a putting competition on Midtown's very own putting green so come with your game hat on. If you wish to attend but did not receive the Evite, please contact Gary Keener by email at Gary.Keener@mbcasouthernstars.com or by phone at (904) 635-9888.

Midtown Table is centrally located at [5016 Gate Pkwy #6, Jacksonville, FL 32256](#), and we have had very good experiences with their venue before.

We look forward to seeing you so please don't hesitate to RSVP soon so we can give the restaurant a head count. If you have any questions, please contact me at the information above.

☆☆☆ *Honored Members* ☆☆☆

We wish to thank the following members for their longstanding participation in the Mercedes-Benz Club of America – Southern Stars Section. All members make the club a success and the following members have demonstrated exceptional loyalty to both the MBCA and the Mercedes-Benz brand. On behalf of the MBCA Southern Stars Section, thank you for your continued commitment! Gary Keener – Section President

40 or more years

Robert price	Fernandina, FL	Todd Missroon	Savannah, GA
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30 or more years

David Le Roy	Amelia Island, FL	Larry Reich	Palm Coast, FL
Barry Noll	Ormond Beach, FL	Jack Schmidt	Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
Victor Witten	Jacksonville, FL	Jean Webb	Fleming Island, FL

20 or more years

Peter Wodrich	Saint Johns, FL	Thomas Entenza	Jacksonville, FL
Robert Luke	Jacksonville, FL	Alan Roth	Fernandina Beach , FL
Danelle Kensbock	Ponte Vedra Beach, FL	Shelly Hyler	Orange Park, FL
Monroe Taranto	Ponte Vedra Beach, FL	Charles Taylor	St Simons Island, GA
Donald Morford	Jacksonville, FL	Don Scheuerle	St. Simons Island, GA
John Jurick	Tybee Island, GA	John Rimer	Jacksonville, FL
Lee Hayden	Jacksonville, FL	George Parnaby	Ponte Vedra, FL
J Brannon	Gainesville, FL	Raymond Hays	Jacksonville, FL
Dale Critz	Savannah, GA	Clark Vargas	Jacksonville, FL
G Ronald Ames	The Villages, FL	Paul Newman	Jacksonville, FL
Joseph Dahm	Savannah, GA		

10 or more years

Jon Loftheim	Ponte Vedra, FL	Gene Gorman	Saint Johns, FL
David Barrie	Fernandina Beach, FL	George Pappas	Jacksonville, FL
David Bridges	Gainesville, FL	Peter Bartlett	Kingsland, GA
Lillian Shinhoster	Savannah, GA	Lon Baugh	Fernandina Beach, FL
Keith Kildow	Jacksonville, FL	G White	Savannah, GA
Jeff Rotatori	Fernandina Beach, FL	John Brown	Savannah, GA
Mark Kolasinski	Savannah, GA	Maximilian Neumayer	Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
John Glas	Bradenton, FL	Arthur Thumwood	Richmond Hill, GA
Marie Penn	Grovetown, GA	Stanley Gold	Palm Coast, FL
Steve Jarecki	Atlantic Beach, FL	Philip Hageman	Flagler Beach, FL



**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.sm