Finally! Spring has sprung!

It seems like winter lasted forever, I mean, the rain, the cold, the snow, the rain again, and then more cold. Well, hopefully that is all in the rear view mirror now. We can only hope.

There are several things to like, even love about spring, but maybe one of those things that may not be high on your Spring To Do list might be your annual house spring cleaning and with this season of renewal upon us another might be getting that Mercedes-Benz spruced up for a spring drive, or concours event, however, in any case after being cooped up all winter, it is time to make them both shine.

But regarding home spring cleaning, there are a few things you may not be aware and should be careful about when you’re putting in the effort to make your home sparkle.

According to Readers Digest, there are several things we do in an effort to spruce up the place that could actually make us and our families sick.

Things like stirring up dust, fragranced cleaners and not airing out your home enough for starters. A couple other things are using too harsh cleaners, particularly in and on the toilet bowl. Wait, what? I mean, it is the toilet bowl right? Exactly; but they warn about cleaners being too abrasive. Again, it’s the toilet bowl, we want it clean, but we’ll talk about toilets later.

We all hate dust and its everywhere, but dust is a common trigger for asthma and allergy symptoms. Did you know that dust can actually be toxic? Unhealthy levels of chemicals in dust can cause everything from hormone disruptions to asthma to even cancer. Who knew?

Dusting Tip: Follow a top-down strategy. Start with the top of ceilings, ceiling fans, walls, frames, high shelving and work your way to the floors to limit redistribution of dust and other particles to freshly cleaned surfaces.

Let’s talk about using those fragranced cleaners, they smell great right? Well while they may smell like lemons and flowers, that’s due to some really nasty toxic chemicals unfortunately. Common health problems from fragranced cleaning products include migraines, asthma attacks, breathing difficulties, watery eyes, nausea and skin rashes. Strong smells from cleaners can also trigger headaches.

Using those cleaning products, watch what you choose, some may be too abrasive for your needs. Some cleaning products are caustic, meaning they have a very high or very low pH.

Continued on page 2

The Easter Bunny

The symbols of the Norse goddess Ostara were the hare and the egg, both representing fertility. The earthly symbol for the goddess Eastre, goddess of the dawn, was also the rabbit, a symbol of new life. Historians believe the legend of the Easter Bunny originated in Germany before surfacing in the New World in the seventeenth century. Children believed the Easter Bunny would leave them colored eggs if they were good, and left out their Easter bonnets and caps for the gifts.
This can lead to caustic burns to the skin, eyes, or internally if swallowed. In addition to being a poisoning risk, even cleaning with them can be harmful.

Avoid products that use the ingredients sulfuric acid and sodium hydroxide. Certain categories of cleaners tend to be more acutely hazardous, such as heavy-duty degreasers and general purpose solvents, drain cleaners, toilet bowl cleaners and oven cleaners. In general use the gentlest product that can get the job done.

When spring cleaning or otherwise, remember to always follow the golden rule of cleaning and poison prevention!

Never ever mix cleaners with chlorine bleach and those with ammonia together. Mixing bleach and ammonia can lead to the formation of chloramine vapor, which is toxic if inhaled. A very bad combo and a major no no, so MBCA OC members read those labels!

While we love our homes clean, studies have shown cleaning is linked to exposures that cause a decline in lung function therefore, reduce toxic particles and fumes by circulating the air in your house during these tasks. Keep the inside of your home well ventilated while cleaning and dusting. Open windows even doors, run the air, and use those exhaust fans.

Ever heard of cross contamination, well unfortunately your cleaning tools themselves can become germy and spread bacteria around the house and make you sick. I’d recommend if you don’t already do so having a separate kitchen surface sponge and a separate bathroom sponge. A great way to do this is to use color coded sponges. This is something that shouldn’t be difficult because we all know you aren’t using that dirty grimy brake dust filled sponge on the body of your beloved Mercedes-Benz; they are probably even color coded.

Speaking of Mercedes-Benz cleaning, here are a few cleaning tips. But first, did you know men are twice as likely as women to leave dirty diaper bags or doggie-poo bags in the car overnight?

**Start with the outside:**

1. Scrub your tires first using a tire-cleaning spray and firm brush.
2. Wash the body top to bottom with your favorite carwash product and using the two bucket method, one bucket containing clean soapy water and the other dirty rinse water.
3. Hose off the underbody.
4. Dry with a clean microfiber towel.

Now you’re ready to move on to the interior:

1. Remove clutter accumulated over the winter months: all those gas-pump receipts, Starbucks cups and Cadbury wrappers that never made their way to a trashcan.
2. Use a mild cleaning spray and microfiber cloth on the dash, console and other surfaces.
3. Vacuum the seats, floor mats, rugs and trunk.
4. Use an approved cleaner for leather upholstery.
5. Spray glass cleaner directly onto a cloth to clean windows.
6. Clean the floor mats, scrubbing rubber ones with soapy water and carpeted ones with carpet cleaner.

While you’re sweating it out and getting your home or ride spic and span, remember to take a deep breath, hold your nose and don’t forget; it’s finally spring! So spring into action.

**did you know?**

These surfaces have more germs than the average toilet seat, and you’ve likely already touched at least one of them today!

1. Your Cutting Board - 200 times more fecal bacteria than a toilet seat. Major Culprit: Raw Meat!
2. Your pet’s food bowl - If your dog licks a toilet seat he’s picking up approx. 295 bacteria per square inch, but if he licks the inside rim of his unclean dish, he just gobbled up 2,110 bacteria per square inch! Let’s face it, what dog licks just one inch?
3. Clean Laundry. That’s right your CLEAN laundry. A load of underwear will transfer at least 100 million E. coli bacteria, the culprit behind diarrhea to the washing machine which becomes a breading ground that can contaminate other clothing. Front loading washers its worse; water settles at the bottom and creates a moist environment bacteria loves. Your toilet seat on the other hand, is too dry to support a very large bacterial population. Disinfect your machine by washing a load of whites with bleach first or cleaning your washer with bleach once a month by pouring two cups of bleach into the compartment, running it empty on the hottest cycle before wiping dry. Leave the door open after to air dry it out.
4. Smartphone or tablet. 1,479 bacteria compared to 220 on an average toilet seat. A leather phone case that doubles as a wallet has 17 times more germs than an average toilet seat.
5. **Fun fact:** Bacteria love munching on dead skin cells, considering that the average person sheds about 1.5 million every hour, that turns your rugs into a fine dining experience when you add food particles, pet dander, pollen and other bits. About 200,000 bacteria live in each square inch of carpet, thats nearly 700 times more than the your toilet seat including E. coli, staphylococcus and salmonella!
6. Bathroom faucets 21 times the bacteria of your toilet with kitchen faucets 44 times the bacteria.
7. Biggest culprit, your kitchen sponge or cloth. A whopping 45 billion microbes! Toss those washcloths in the washing machine and sponges in the dishwasher weekly or heat them in the microwave for 30 seconds while damp!

**So, which surface did you touch today?**
March Events: MBCA OC Booth at the Classic Car Show
Thanks to all who came out and SPECIAL THANKS to those
who allowed us to display their vehicles for two days!

SXS (Supercars by the Sea): Thanks to AMG SoCal
Lounge and Oil Re-Q for having us at this event! Hopefully
members will come out to this Super Cool Event!

April Events You Won’t Want to Miss!

MBCA-OC & CHP Distracted Driving Event
Saturday, April 20, 2019
3100 Jefferson Street
Riverside, CA
10:00 AM

Canyon Cruise
April 28th, 2019
Departure Time: 10:30am
Destination: Santiago, Modjeska, & Trubuco Canyons. Pit Stop for Lunch & Photos. See website for details.
Due to National Updates, Club Rosters & Membership Information is not available. We apologize & will list in the next issue.

If we’ve missed your name in this issue, we apologize.

- M. Ward

**MEMBER TALK**

Member David S. welcomes Jasper & Sebastian to the family! No doggie messes in the Benz! Woof Woof

Member Albert R. receives recognition for working with Concierge on the Coast. Congratulations Albert!

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Even more than its meticulous engineering, Mercedes-Benz is defined by its continuous innovation. Since inventing the car in 1886, they’ve simply never stopped reinventing it. Carl Benz said it best: "The love of inventing never dies."
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When Your Brakes Start Talking.

Spring is here, you’ve probably finally lowered that top, opened that sunroof or lowered the windows on your Benz to take in the fresh air.

All of a sudden, you hear something squeaking, then you hear it again. You finally realize that the squeaking noise is coming from your brake pads rubbing against the metal brake motors.

Do I Need New Brakes? You may wonder, “Are my Benz brakes faulty.” No, they possibly aren’t.

This occurrence is fairly common with Mercedes-Benz and brake pads since Mercedes uses high-performance semi-metallic brakes. Brake pads rubbing against metal brake rotors, the squeaking noise is normal, especially with brake dust accumulation.

How to Stop My Brakes from Squeaking?

Get on those brakes. Step on that brake pedal. Doing so should burn and get rid of all that dirt in between your brake pads and rotors. Another way would be during your next car wash or weekend detail, give those brakes a good cleaning.

Benz Brake Squeak; Brake Pad Light is NOT On

The brakes squeaking are possibly caused by the brake pad residue, dirt, and other chemicals from your vehicle’s environment.

Not to fret, we’ll perform a multi-point inspection on your Merc during your next mobile oil change.

Benz Brakes Squeak; Brake Pad Light IS On

How long have you been braking while this light has been illuminated? You have anywhere from 500 to 1,500 miles once the light goes on before you need to take your vehicle in for a check up.

Whether your braking distance is within the OC, LA or IE, we’ve got you covered. We’ll come to you to service your Mercedes with Genuine Mercedes-Benz parts. Contact us at (855) 645–7377 to learn more.

Though it is essential to keep the overall state of your Mercedes vehicle in good condition, there is one section of your vehicle that must be maintained at all cost. This is the braking system. The braking system of your Mercedes is the most critical part of your vehicle’s safety systems. As a routine maintenance process, it is recommended to check your car braking system at least twice a year or about 8,000 miles traveled.
The egg has been a symbol of rebirth and fertility for many centuries. Long before Christianity was introduced, eggs were painted with bright colors to celebrate the sunlight of spring.

From a Christian perspective, Easter eggs are said to represent Jesus’ emergence from the tomb and resurrection.

Decorating and coloring Easter eggs was a popular custom in the middle ages, and throughout Europe different cultures have evolved their own styles and colors.

In Greece, crimson-colored Easter eggs are exchanged, whereas in Eastern Europe and Russia silver and gold decorations are common, and Austrian Easter eggs often have plant and fern designs.

One explanation for this custom is that eggs were formerly a forbidden food during the Lenten season, so people would paint and decorate them to mark the end of the period of penance and fasting, then eat them on Easter as a celebration.

Easter egg hunts and egg rolling are two popular egg-related traditions. In the U.S., the White House Easter Egg Roll, a race in which children push decorated, hard-boiled eggs across the White House lawn, is an annual event held the Monday after Easter. The first official White House egg roll occurred in 1878, when Rutherford B. Hayes was president. The event has no religious significance, although some people have considered egg rolling symbolic of the stone blocking Jesus’ tomb being rolled away, leading to his resurrection.

The first of the highly wrought Fabergé eggs was made as an Easter gift for the Empress Marie of Russia from her husband, Tsar Alexander, in 1883. It featured a small gold egg in an outside shell of platinum and enamel.

Easter eggs have been colored and decorated from earliest times. In Edward I’s household accounts for 1307 there is an entry of: “18 pence for 450 eggs to be boiled and dyed or covered with gold leaf and distributed to the Royal household.”

Later, craftsmen made artificial eggs of silver and gold, ivory or porcelain, often inlaid with jewels. The ultimate Easter egg-shaped gifts must have been the fabulous jeweled creations by Carl Fabergé made during the 19th Century for the Russian Czar and Czarina. Today, these superb creations are precious museum pieces.

In the 18th century, people could buy pasteboard or papier-mâché eggs, in which they hid small gifts. By the 19th century cardboard eggs covered with silk, lace or velvet and fastened with ribbon were fashionable.

In Europe Easter eggs are taken seriously. The old art of decorating the real egg is still very much alive. Many of them are dyed red to symbolize Christ’s blood.

Another egg-shaped candy, the jelly bean, became associated with Easter in the 1930s (although the jelly bean’s origins reportedly date all the way back to a Biblical-era concoction called a Turkish Delight). According to the National Confectioners Association, over 16 billion jelly beans are made in the U.S. each year for Easter, enough to fill a giant egg measuring 89 feet high and 60 feet wide!

Did you know? Easter is the second best selling candy holiday in America, after Halloween!
FORWARD SENSING

Announcements

Upcoming Events to PLAN ahead for! Events:
MBCA OC is kicking into high gear, these are some of startivities to look forward to!

The Nethercutt Tour - June 8 - 9:45 to 12 noon. See section website for details. RSVP 15 spaces remaining

Holiday Party is Planned for Dec 7 6pm - 10pm
Our party will be held at the Porsche Experience Center. The price for this event includes Dinner from American Bistro Menu, Beverages, Beer, Wine, Exclusive 2 hour access of the Porsche Simulator Lab, Exclusive dining on Speedster Patio, Parking $160 per person - Make Checks Payable to MBCA, Orange County.

Space is limited RSVP to ocmbca@gmail.com.

Performance. We are working on getting a Group Rate at a nearby hotel. Payments will be made by member directly to AMG & Hotel. Instructions & details on OC section website. Prepare to be thrilled!

Our Board Member & Newsletter Editor joins the world’s fastest family for a day of exhilarating fun!!!
Chocolate, chocolate, chocolate!

Many people today associate Easter with a deluge of chocolate eggs rather than the Christian commemoration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and many other religious festivals and customs. A sign maybe that religion plays a lesser part in our lives than once was or simply that the chocolate manufacturers and retailers see this as an opportunity to make further sales over the Easter period with chocolate easter eggs and gifts, which over time has become the trend.

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A combination of these and a whole host of many other factors from the way we eat to the way we live generally has determined the chocolate fest that is now Easter.

Whilst the chocolate Easter egg is a relatively new tradition the origin of the Easter egg, and many more modern day Easter symbols, such as the Easter bunny, goes back a very long way and pre-date Christianity. The historical intermingling of pagan, Christian and Jewish beliefs and practices has left its legacy in many of the things we maybe take for granted about Easter and its traditions today.

The chocolate Easter egg has developed from the simple type wrapped in paper to the beribboned variety wrapped in brightest foil and packed in a box or basket.

The first chocolate Easter eggs were made in Europe in the early 19th Century with France and Germany taking the lead in this new artistic confectionery. A type of eating chocolate had been invented a few years earlier but it could not be successfully moulded. Some early eggs were solid while the production of the first hollow chocolate eggs must have been rather painstaking as the moulds were lined with paste chocolate one at a time!

John Cadbury made his first ‘French eating Chocolate’ in 1842 but it was not until 1875 that the first Cadbury Easter Eggs were made. This may have been because he was not sufficiently impressed with continental eggs to wish to compete with them or because he was too busy with other aspects of his growing business. In fact, progress in the chocolate Easter egg market was very slow until a method was found of making the chocolate flow into the moulds.

The modern chocolate Easter egg with its smoothness, shape and flavor owes its progression to the two greatest developments in the history of chocolate - the invention of a press for separating cocoa butter from the cocoa bean by the Dutch inventor Van Houten in 1828 and the introduction of a pure cocoa by Cadbury Brothers in 1866. The Cadbury process made large quantities of cocoa butter available and this was the secret of making moulded chocolate or indeed, any fine eating chocolate.

The earliest Cadbury chocolate eggs were made of ‘dark’ chocolate with a plain smooth surface and were filled with dragee’s. The earliest ‘decorated eggs’ were plain shells enhanced by chocolate piping and marzipan flowers.

Decorative skill and variety soon followed and by 1893 there were no less than 19 different lines on the Cadbury Brothers Easter list in the UK. Richard Cadbury’s artistic skill undoubtedly played an important part in the development of the Easter range. Many of his designs were based on French, Dutch and German originals adapted to Victorian tastes. From Germany came the ‘crocodile’ finish which by breaking up the smooth surface, disguised minor imperfections; still used today by some manufacturers, this was the forerunner to the many distinctive finishes now available.

The launch in 1905 of the famous Cadbury’s Dairy Milk Chocolate made a tremendous contribution to the Easter egg market. The popularity of this new kind of chocolate vastly increased sales of Easter eggs and did much to establish them as seasonal best sellers. Today the Easter egg market is predominantly milk chocolate.

Meeting adjourned. Next Board Mtg. April 6 & May 4, 2019 @ 12noon
- Ann-Marie Alexander

Did you know? The largest Easter egg ever made was over 25 feet high and weighed over 8,000 pounds. It was built out of chocolate and marshmallow and supported by an internal steel frame.
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THE BEST EASTER SURPRISE.
HIDDEN FUNCTIONALITIES

MERC EASTER EGGS

The advanced electronic systems and software in newer Mercedes-Benz models often contain “Easter eggs”, or hidden functionalities, that can easily be accessed if you know where to look.

Some of these functionalities are simple time-savers, while others are useful to master in emergency situations. However, all of these hacks make Mercedes-Benz ownership even more rewarding. These tricks do not work on all Mercedes models and years, but they should work on most newer vehicles.

Here are some of the top hacks for Mercedes-Benz owners:

Stand near your vehicle, and continuously press down the lock button on your key fob. This will shut all of the vehicle’s windows and the sunroof.

Similarly, press the unlock button, and the car’s windows and sunroof will completely open. This is useful for all those times you forget to close that one back window. Instead of getting back in your car to secure everything, you can now shut all of your windows with a simple press of a button.

Once again, stand near your vehicle and simultaneously press both the lock and unlock button on your key fob. Keep pressing until you see the LED light flash on the fob.

Upon doing this, you will have either programmed your car to unlock all doors with a single push of the unlock button, or to unlock just one door with a single press of the button. This can easily be reverted the exact same way.

In any emergency situation, press the push-start button for approximately three seconds to turn the vehicle off. This hack isn’t exclusive to Mercedes-Benz and works for most cars with a push-start button.

Simply touch the turn signal in your Mercedes-Benz, and it will flash three times. This is handy for quick lane changes.

While reversing, your side-view mirrors can be programmed to tilt downward to help with parking. On the driver’s-side door, press button two to adjust the mirrors. While braking, move the vehicle into reverse.

Using the mirror-selection button once again, move the mirror all the way down, until you are able to see the rear wheel from your position inside the vehicle. Press the M button on the door, and you should hear a quick beeping sound.

Move the car back into drive, and the mirror should go back to its original position. That mirror will now tilt downward every time the vehicle is put into reverse, and it will resume its normal position once the vehicle is moved back into drive.

Press the re-circulate button for a few seconds, and all windows and the sunroof should close. If you press the re-circulate button again, the windows and sunroof will go back to their previous positions.

Article, Courtesy of Mercedes-Benz of Bonita Springs
DON'T DRIVE OVER THE EASTER BUNNY AND STEER CLEAR OF BAD EGGS

At a time when many of us are still trying to burn off all that high-calorie holiday joy from this past Christmas, the season of renewal, chicks, chocolate bunnies and long weekends is coming at us at high speed.

Can you believe it's going to be Easter already?

Fun times await us, and to make sure that feel good chocolate love carries on, we thought it's time to give you some eggs of wisdom for your egg-ceptional Easter weekend road trip.

And while the upcoming Easter weekend's festivities may be too brief to affect your waistline, the Easter holiday can still bring significant, life-changing consequences to traveled journeys.

Over the years, festive holiday seasons have always been lightning rods for road accidents, none of us wish for that, and we don’t want that this year.

When it's all said and done, Easter is a lot of fun for the young, as well as the young-at-heart.

While You're Driving:

- Ensure that you're well-rested, and allow extra time to arrive at your destination. California highways are forever crowded with unseasoned drivers and traffic, add to that a holiday weekend and you definitely have a mix for chaos.

- It may sound silly, but make sure your license and auto insurance are current, even if you have an app. A mere charge of “driving with invalid license” or "driving with no insurance" can lead to costly tickets or an unanticipated trip to jail.

- Don't drink, text, or smoke marijuana while driving. Driving impaired is NEVER a good idea. Holiday weekends, officers are out in full force and on the hunt for intoxicated drivers.

  Remember: even one false move may prompt them to pull you over and put you through the ringer.

- Watch out for other drivers. You might be sober, but the guy in the next car might have forfeited his best faculties to drink, stress, electronic devices, or an excess indulgence in Easter candy.

- Stay relaxed, cool, and calm, especially if you're driving away from extended-family drama. If you're angry or upset when you place that key in the ignition or press that Start/Stop button you're more likely to lose your focus and best judgment behind the wheel.

In the Event You're Pulled Over

Despite full preparation and best driving behavior, some travelers will still have the unpleasant experience of being definitively “pulled over” during the coming holiday weekend. If a police car follows behind you with an activated siren or emergency lights:

- Remember that your every move is likely being recorded by the officer's in-car video camera.

- Move safely—but quickly—to the side of the road. Doing so isn't an admission of guilt. It IS, however, a sign of alertness and cooperation.

- Still follow all traffic laws. Use appropriate turn signals, and don’t make any sudden driving moves.

- Don't start rummaging for your license and registration unless you are told to do so. Your innocent attempt to anticipate the officer’s request for these documents may be regarded as a “furtive movement”—giving officers an excuse to search your car or even assume you’re reaching for a weapon.

  Stay in the car until and unless the officer directs you to get out.

While speaking with law enforcement:

- Let the officer do the talking, and only respond when appropriate.
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SAV E THE DATE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Ho Ho Go! 364 Days of Preparation. 1 Day of Holiday Celebrating. We will let you know when its Jingle Time for the OC Holiday Party 2019.

For more info contact MBCA-OC StarExperiences at ocmbca@gmail.com

JUNE 1-2, 2019 - Huntington Beach Concours d'Elegance

Over its thirty four year history, the Huntington Beach Concours has grown to be one of the outstanding automotive events in Southern California. First staged in 1986, the Concours has its home on the picturesque lawns of Huntington Beach Central Park in Huntington Beach. Central Park lies adjacent to the Huntington Beach Public Library & Cultural Resource Center at Talbert and Goldenwest. Our field of entrants includes the best domestic, British, European and Asian, vintage to current automobiles and motorcycles.

JUNE 8, 2019 - NETHERCUTT COLLECTION TOUR

TOUR IS FREE! RSVP ASAP ONLY 8 SPACES TO GO!

Back by Member Request, we have coordinating with the Collection to allow us to bring more members this time.

Head over to our site for Tour Restrictions & Guidelines!

DO YOU KNOW ALL THE PERKS OF BEING A MEMBER OF MBCA-OC?

One of the many benefits that your OC section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America offers you is:

Exclusive Discounts - Head over to the Website for details
ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A 2019 MERCEDES-AMG GT 63 4-Door Coupe

MBCA’s 2019 Spring Raffle

Details & Dates
- Prize: 2019 Mercedes-AMG GT 63 4-door Coupe
- MSRP: $136,500
- Tickets are $50 (US) each
  Last day to purchase tickets is Wednesday, June 5, 2019

- Drawing is Thursday, June 13, 2019
- For more information and to purchase tickets, visit raffle.mbca.org, call the NBO at 800-637-2360 or check your mailbox for an official mail-in order form.

No limit to the number of tickets you can buy.
At least one phone number is required.

Ticket Purchases (including your Official Order Form and payment) MUST BE RECEIVED BY June 5, 2019.
If purchasing by credit or debit card you may call 800.637.2360
(Mon-Thu 8am - 4:30pm; Fri 8am - 4pm Mountain Time)
or fax this completed Order Form to 719.633.9283
Make your check/money order payable to: MBCA, International Stars Section
Mail to: Raffle, 1907 Lelaray Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80909

MBCA Member # __________________________
Member Name ____________________________
Address _________________________________
City, State, Zip ___________________________

Ticket Quantity ___ x $50 each = Total Due $________

Paying by (select one):
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* (MUST complete credit/debit card information on reverse side)

Image in contest promotional materials does not entirely represent actual prize being won.
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MEMBER UPDATE

Dear Valued Members,

If you’ve either moved, changed numbers, email or addresses please login or call the National Business Office to update your information to receive the latest club info.
NBO# 800.637.2360

We’re now on Facebook & Instagram, please take a moment to follow us.
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