



Tampa Bay Star

February/March 2013



With our cars in Sebring
See pages 8 & 9



Holiday Brunch
See Pages 6 & 7

Coming Events

February 23, 2013
Yuenling Brewery & Dinner
Tampa, FL

March 24, 2013
Tampa Bay Downs Brunch
Tampa, FL

April 13, 2013
Peace River Cruise
Punta Gorda, FL

May 19, 2013
Boat Tour & Dinner
Tarpon Springs, FL

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About the Newsletter

The Tampa Bay Section, Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc. publishes this bi-monthly newsletter in even-numbered months. Opinions expressed are those of the authors. Express permission is hereby granted to other Sections of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America to reprint articles contained herein, without exception. Articles of general interest are solicited for inclusion in the newsletter, and should be mailed to the Editor or e-mailed to LindaBCooper@verizon.net. Copy deadline is the first day of even numbered months.

Important Dates

NOTE: The night for the monthly business meeting is the **FIRST MONDAY** of each month (except for July & September and sometimes January when it moves up 1 week) and is open to all members. We go to a nearby restaurant for dinner after the meeting. Please join us and help us with your input.

Feb 23 Saturday Noon-3PM

Tour Yuengling Brewer
Dinner MiMi's Cafe after
Tampa, FL

Mar 4 Monday 6:30PM

Business Meeting & dinner
Crown Eurocars
6001 34th Street North
St Petersburg, FL

Mar 24 Sunday

Racing & Brunch
Tampa Bay Downs
Tampa, FL

See details in THIS issue

Apr 1 Monday 6:30PM

Business Meeting & dinner
Crown Eurocars

Apr 13 Saturday 12:30-4:30 PM

Peace River Boat Tour
Punta Gorda, FL

See details in THIS issue

May 6 Monday 6:30PM

Business Meeting & dinner
Crown Eurocars

May 19 Sunday

Shop, Eat & Tour
Tarpon Springs, FL

See details in THIS issue

Jun 3 Monday 6:30PM

Business Meeting & dinner
Crown Eurocars

Jul 1 Monday 6:30PM

Business Meeting & dinner
Crown Eurocars

Aug 5 Monday 6:30PM

Business Meeting & dinner
Crown Eurocars

Sep 9 Monday 6:30PM

Business Meeting & dinner
Crown Eurocars
6001 34th Street North
St Petersburg, FL

An Overview of the Club

Established in 1956, MBCA has more than 22,000 members in over 89 sections across the nation. These local sections organize hundreds of events each year, ranging from social gatherings to specialized technical sessions. We're a not-for-profit organization.

Join the Club

Enroll as a member of MBCA for:
One Year \$49
Two Years \$95
Three Years \$139
Call 800-637-2360

Local Activities

Your dues include membership in the section of your choice. Each section publishes a newsletter with news of its activities and its year-round calendars of events, including rallies, defensive driving courses, car shows, technical sessions, and dinner meetings. Many sections host special events. Any MBCA member may attend any section, regional, or national event.

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President's Message

The Prez Says!

We ended 2012 with a great success. More than 60 members and guests attended our Holiday Brunch at the beautiful Countryside Country Club with a view on the golf course. In addition to the fine buffet our members enjoyed the traditional Chinese auction. This year it seemed like more Mercedes models were given as prizes. They were so abundant that there was very little stealing. I am not really sure if this is good or bad. The rule is that an item can be stolen twice before it is owned by the recipient. One member decided to make her own rules. She selected the gift and immediately left the party. Not nice! Unfortunately, this action by a rude member will cause a change in the rules of the auction for next years' brunch.

In January, 35 members traveled to Sebring for a really nice weekend social. Sebring residents Jim and Jo Ann Dean arranged a terrific event for our members. 14 partiers arrived on Friday night and enjoyed wine and cheese in our suite. On Saturday Jim and Jo Ann arranged a Mercedes caravan tour of Sebring which took us along the perimeter of Sebring International Raceway. We got to view the track which was hot. Eventually we arrived at the Bob Tullius Hangar. Bob is a multiple winner of the 12 Hours of Sebring race. He is a Sebring resident and now has a large hangar where he displays his collection of vintage warbird airplanes in addition to a couple of the Triumph and Jaguar cars that he raced in. Bob gave us a very nice talk on the planes and cars. He continues to fly most of them including a 6 passenger King Air. On Sunday morning after departure Lynn and I and the Coopers were given a very nice tour by the Deans of the wonderful murals on the walls of businesses in Lake Placid. Great job Jim and Jo Ann!

There are some excellent events coming up that we hope that you will participate in beginning Feb. 23 with a tour of the Yuengling Brewery in Tampa. This Pennsylva-

nia brewer is credited with being the oldest brewery in the U.S. We will follow the tour with an early dinner at MiMi's Cafe.

On March 24 we will continue our annual tradition of a trackside social at Tampa Bay Downs. This event scores as one of the club's most popular. Watching the races is fun. The Sunday brunch is one of the best in Tampa Bay. We hope that you will attend.

Look for additional monthly socials like a river boat ride on the Peace River on April 13 and a tour and dinner in Tarpon Springs on May 19th. You will find most of our events listed in the local Star newsletter.

If you have an event that you would like the board to review for a future social please plan to attend our monthly business meeting at Crown Mercedes on the first Monday of the month. We are particularly looking for new events where we can showcase our beautiful Mercedes cars like auto museums, rallies etc.

Respectively Submitted,

Dave

Welcome New Members!

Richard Brunelle • Tampa
Mike Cain • Tampa
Jeanne Callahan Derek • Sarasota
Marc Gervait Stale • Tampa
Lynda Miller • Plant City
Wayne Pickard • Brandon
Darryl Reyes • Tampa
Hilbert Staton • Inverness
Hilbert Staton • Oldsmar
Marjorie Wack • Sarasota

Above are the new members for December and January up to the 7th of February. – Editor



Check out the club Facebook page or our Section web site at MBCA.org for color photos of our events

Tampa Bay Downs Thoroughbred Horse Racing & Brunch

Details: Thoroughbred racing is back for the winter season and we have March 24th scheduled for the Tampa Bay Section – MBCA. We have reserved a group area in the Skye Terrace Dining Room located on third floor of the clubhouse overlooking the entire track. This area combines fine dining comfort with a panoramic view of all the racing action. For this Sunday we will have a culinary buffet brunch with breakfast and lunch items and a variety of specialty desserts (Vegetarian choices are offered on the buffet). Mixed drinks are available for purchase, and within the dining room are special betting windows. Your \$27.00 registration includes the brunch & mimosa drink, a complimentary program, and a relaxed atmosphere for an afternoon of racing action. You make your own bets!

We will have our own TampaBay-MBCA sponsored race and an opportunity to present the winners trophy. Four (4) will be picked via a drawing for the Trophy presentation in the Winner's Circle (with photo!). There is a surprise by the board for everyone too!!

We will be limited to the first 40 people to sign-up (2 persons per membership) and send in their payment. Any increases from that number can only be taken on an availability basis. Our absolute deadline for cutoff is in-hand receipt of your check by March 17th. Price for the brunch and afternoon of action is \$27.00 per person. Preferred parking or valet parking at the Clubhouse is \$2.00 per car, free parking is available across the road from the Grandstand entrance.

Our group will meet at the Clubhouse entrance from 10:30-11:00AM. We will enter as a group at 11 and brunch starts at 11:30AM, Racing action is from 12:25-5:00PM (or so).

The dress code for the dining room is that **NO shorts, jeans and skorts are allowed, and gentlemen are required to wear a collared shirt**... this dress code is strongly enforced.

Directions: **From Clearwater/St. Petersburg:** Take US 19 to SR580 (Tampa Road turns into Hillsborough Ave). Go east on SR580 to Race Track Road. Make a left on Race Track Road, go through the first stop light, and proceed a short way to the Complex on the right side. **From Tampa:** Go west on Hillsborough Ave. to Race Track Road. Make a right on Race Track Road, go through the first stop light, and proceed a short way to the Complex on the right side.

Important Info

WHEN: Sunday March 24, 2013

WHERE: Tampa Bay Downs
1125 Race Track Road • Tampa, Florida
813-855-4401

COST: \$27/adult

CALL: Pat Tornblom • 727-856-5584
ptornblom@tampabay.rr.com

TIME: 10:30AM - 5:00PM (or so)

RESERVE BY: **March 17th**. (or first 40 people)

Limited to 40 registrations (2 per membership). Extra registrations per membership will be considered after the deadline if all 40 places have not been reserved

Web: <http://tampabaydowns.com/>

Tampa Bay Downs Thoroughbred Horse Racing & Brunch March 24, 2013

Name _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

Make check payable to:

Tampa Bay Section MBCA

Mail by March 17, 2013 to:

Pat Tornblom

16630 Laura Lee Dr.

Shady Hills, FL 34610-7775

1 or 2 @ \$27/adult _____ Enclosed

King Fisher Fleet Half Day Peace River Nature Cruise

Important Info

WHEN: Saturday April 13, 2013

WHERE: **King Fisher Fleet**
Fishermen's Village Marina
1200 W. Retta Esplanade
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
941.639-0969
<http://www.kingfisherfleet.com/>

COST: \$23.00/person for tour

CALL: Dave & Lynn Hutchinson
727-726-6711
dhutch@verizon.net

TIME: 12:30 PM - 4:30 boat tour

RESERVE BY: **March 27th**

Board
30 Minutes
Prior to
1 PM Sailing



Details: A 3 1/2-hour true eco tour with interpretation by naturalists from the well-known Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center. We depart from our dock near the mouth of the Peace River and travel upriver towards the center of the state. Experience the flora and fauna

of four different eco systems as we journey from the open waters of Charlotte Harbor into the scenic, winding Peace River. The banks are lined with overhanging trees, native grasses and other vegetation, and basking alligators often pose to please photographers.

From approximately January through April, nesting birds on rookery islands are a special attraction as they put on a show raising their youngsters from comical balls of fuzz to near-adult fledglings. Species of birds often seen include bald eagles, ospreys, endangered wood storks, egrets, herons and more. Cameras and binoculars are definitely in order on this trip.

We are not planning an "official" club meal for this event. You can come early or stop on the way "catch" lunch before the cruise if you. Or you can eat after - which ever fits better with how far you are coming and the time you have. Fishermen's Village (cruise departure location) is a waterfront mall and marina with a collection of 35 shops and 6 restaurants. www.fishville.com

*** PLEASE NOTE - ALL CHECKS ARE MADE PAYABLE TO: **TAMPA BAY SECTION MBCA** ***.

Directions: Take I-275 or I-75. After the I-275/I-75 junction in Parrish (east of Bradenton) go South on I-75 for 65.1 miles to exit 164 toward Punta Gorda for 0.2 mi; Turn left onto Duncan Rd for 0.9 miles. Continue onto Marion Ave for 1.9 miles. Turn right onto Shreve St for 489 ft then turn left onto W Retta Esplanade. Your destination will be on the right

King Fisher Fleet Half Day Peace River Nature Cruise

April 13, 2013

Name _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____

No. _____ @ \$23.00/person

Make check payable to:

Tampa Bay Section MBCA

Mail by March 27, 2013 to:

Dave & Lynn Hutchinson

2104 Flamingo Place

Safety Harbor, FL 34695

Holiday Brunch at the Country Club

Clearwater, FL
December 9, 2012

By Dave Hutchinson & Linda Cooper

Sixty three Tampa Bay Section members attended our annual Holiday Brunch Sunday at the Countryside Country Club. In this photo to the right I am presenting the Member of the Year Award to Len Berman. Len is one of our most active members. He attends almost every monthly meeting and he is involved in most of the club functions every month. Congratulations Len! (Photo Credit: Lynn Hutchinson). Dave

Food was great, company was awesome and we saw some members we hadn't seen in a while! After our mingling and eating, we began the gift exchange - always the most fun part of the day. Coveted model cars and blankets made their rounds and we left with memories of another great holiday celebration.

We have the Safety Harbor Spa booked December 8, 2013 for the Holiday Brunch this year. So mark you calendar.
Linda



Above: Dave presents member of the year award to Len Berman

Above right: Lynn Hutchinson who arranged all the details for this event.



Above: Carolyn Jarotz, Nancy Merada, Pat Tornblom, Mary London, Caroline Cerveney, Michael Cooper, Ed Jarotz & Jim Merada



Above: Lynn Hutchinson, Kathy & Dick Brower, Catherine & Bob Martino, and Paul & Linda Cooper

Right: Ann & Bob Beltz, Scott Suits & Betty Hendrix, Ben & Len Berman

On the cover: Lynn & Michael Gulick, Elaine & Jimmie Lee, Gail & Buzz Werner and Dan & Debbie Cabrera

Photos taken by Dave Hutchinson



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Weekend in Sebring

Sebring, FL

January 19-21, 2013

By Dave Hutchinson, Dan Cabrera & Linda Cooperr

We had another great event in Sebring on the 19-20 of January. Bob Tullius was a great host in his hangar where we enjoyed his stories of his triumphs on and off of the track. His aircraft collection is wonderful as well. As usual, the 35 club members that attended the event had a great time enjoying our social time together. Jim & Jo Ann Dean were wonderful hosts too. We hope that you will join us for our next event. Dave

Bob Tullius raced at Sebring 14 times from 1963, in a Triumph TR4, through 1986, in his Jaguar XJR-7. He and his team never took the overall win there, but they did so at plenty of other tracks, with thousands of starts and hundreds of victories. Dan

Just after lunch on Saturday the 19th we loaded up more wine, snacks and luggage than we thought our new 2004 E320 station wagon could possibly hold and Dave & Lynn Hutchinson and Paul & I headed to Sebring for the weekend. Slight showers & gusty winds followed us across the state. An air show for Saturday night was cancelled so we ate, drank and made merry in our suite at the Residence Inn.

On Sunday after breakfast, we headed to the airport where we met up with the rest of our group for our hangar tour followed by a terrific dinner at Yianni's Restaurant. After dinner some stopped to shop, some headed home and some oohed and awed at Jo Ann's hundreds orchids in their greenhouse. Then it was back to the Inn for more wine & laughs. Monday morning we jumped in the car with Jim & Jo Ann and they took us on a tour of the Lake Placid murals. Hopefully we will come up with an event that involves seeing these great pieces of art. A great big thanks to Jo Ann & Jim for planning this great weekend. Linda



Above: Jo Ann & Jim Dean

Below: Connie Dolin & Linda Cooper serve up the wine



The group above L-R: Paul Cooper, Jim & Jo Ann Dean, Dick Wolverton, Buzz Werner, Bob Martino, Greg & Pat Watson, Catherine Martino, Victoria Ross, Connie & Gary Dolin, Lynn Hutchinson in front of Chuck Utrius & Norm Ross, Roxie & Robert Lewis, Marcia & Edgard Schulz, Dan & Debbie Cabrera, Michael & Lynn Gulick, Betty Hendrix, Scott Suites, Bob & Ann Beltz and Linda Cooper

Photos of this event taken by Dave Hutchinson



As the kids say - Chillin' in the hotel suite!!

Above: Michael Gulick, Debbie Cabrera and Jim Dean

Right: Lynn Hutchinson with Chuck Utrias and his friend Jim



Above: Connie Dolin, Lynn Hutchinson, Dan Cabrera, Gary Dolin, Michael Gulick and Jim & Jo Ann Dean



Right: Bob Tullius



Above: Victoria Ross & Linda Cooper in front of a Lake Placid mural

For Sale

Any member wishing to place an ad in the newsletter for automobiles and/or related equipment for sale, may do so at no charge by sending a typed or printed copy to the Editor no later than the 10th of the odd number months.

FOR SALE - Like new custom cover Silverguard Plus Class 2; SLK class '98-'04 (W170 body style). Only used in garage \$150. Call Jim & JoAnn 863-386-0286 Sebring, FL

FOR SALE - Chris Tornblom's cars: 1984 SEC 500 - fully loaded - car runs great heated seats, new tires.\$7,500 or best offer. 2001 Jaguar S Class 4 door - car in perfect shape gold in color - \$8500 or best offer. Call Pat 727-856-5584 to see these beauties.

FOR SALE - 1984 500SL dark blue w/tan interiors, 2 tops, 160K miles, always garaged, 2 sets of wheels, \$7,500. 727-864-1622 (St. Petersburg, FL) call Bob Alexander for appt

FOR SALE - 1982 380 SEC, silver (original)/navy leather interior. Call Paul Cooper @ 727-726-6837

1985 300 TD station wagon; navy/palomino interior. New

tires, A/C & battery. Call Paul Cooper @ 727-726-6837

FOR SALE - 1997 SL 600 Mercedes, white. Never been in accident, have service records from dealer (car fax). Garage kept. Two tops, hard top panorama roof. Sports Package. New ceramic brakes. All new cylinders for top. Second owner \$14,000.00. Contact Bob Moore (MB Member) @ 727-560-6798.

If you are running late for an event, please feel free to use any of the cell phone numbers below to let us know.

Name	Cell Phone Number
Linda & Paul Cooper	727-798-6800 or 727-644-6837
Pat Tornblom	727-808-1757
Lynn & Dave Hutchinson	727-420-0424



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Boat Tour, Shopping and Dinner in Tarpon Springs

Important Info

WHEN: Sunday May 19, 2013

WHERE: **St. Nicholas Boat Lines**
693 Dodecanese Blvd. • Tarpon Springs
727-942-6425

Hellas Restaurant
785 Dodecanese Blvd. • Tarpon Springs
727-943-2400

COST: \$7.00/person for boat tour & parking

CALL: Paul & Linda Cooper • 727-726-6837
PaulJCooper@verizon.net

TIME: 1:30 PM boat tour • 4:00 Dinner

RESERVE BY: **May 15th**

Details: St. Nicholas III and VII are historic sponge diving boats in Tarpon Springs, Florida. They are located at the World Famous Tarpon Springs Sponge Docks at Dodecanese Boulevard. On August 3, 1990, they were added to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. St. Nicholas Boat Lines will take you on a half hour tour down the Anclote River as the Captain gives a lecture on the history of sponge diving. He will show the different types of sponge as he explains how they are best used. A diver in a traditional suit will demonstrate how sponge are retrieved and prepared for marketing. Parking is free with the boat ride.

After our boat tour, walk along Dodecanese Boulevard to see docked sponge boats, shops selling seas sponges and restaurants serving up authentic Greek cuisine. The early sponge industry created a need for eating places at the Docks for the boat crews. Soon, as news of this unusual industry spread, people began to come to the Docks to see the sponges. Shops opened so that the tourists could purchase sponges and other souvenirs. The tourism industry blossomed in Tarpon Springs. Some of the original shops remain at the Docks

today, owned by the same families that started them. Through the years more shops have opened, putting the number at well over 100 today.

At 4:30 we will meet at Hellas Restaurant located in the center of the world-famous Sponge Docks featuring award-winning Greek cuisine and authentic Greek pastries to top off your dining pleasure. Hellas is a favorite among local residents as well as Florida visitors. Since 1970 Hellas has been proud to be a cornerstone of the Greek community in Tarpon Springs. Family-owned and -operated Hellas gives back to their rich heritage by providing truly cultural cuisine.

*** PLEASE NOTE - ALL CHECKS ARE MADE PAYABLE TO: **TAMPA BAY SECTION MBCA** ***.

Directions: Tarpon Springs is located at the most northern end of Pinellas County - just past Palm Harbor before you get to Holiday. If you are coming from the South through St. Petersburg it is easier and less traffic if you stay on McMullen Booth Rd. (CR 611) until you are just past Lake Tarpon then turn left on Keystone Rd. CR 582. Go 4 miles to Pinellas Ave, turn right. Dodecanese Blvd will be .6 mile on the left.

From points east get to McMullen Booth Rd (CR 611) from either the Courtney Campbell or Gandy Bridge then follow the direction above.. From points North you can go South on I-75, the Suncoast Parkway or US 19 - which ever of closest to your home. On the expressways go South to the SR 54 exit & the West to US 19. Turn left on 19 for 2 miles; merge right to Alt a9 for just over 2 miles. Dodecanese Blvd will be on your right.

Boat Tour, Shopping and Dinner in Tarpon Springs

May 19, 2013

Name _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____

No. _____ @ \$7.00/person I/we will be staying for dinner Yes No

Make check payable to:

Tampa Bay Section MBCA

Mail by May15, 2013 to:

Paul & Linda Cooper

121 Woodland Court

Safety Harbor, FL 34695

As of Press Time
Less Than 10
Spaces Left at
Tampa Bay Downs
Details on page 4



Above: Bob & Catherine Martino in their 2013 SLK AMG



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