



Tampa Bay Star

June/July 2012



At the Weeki Wachee
See pages 8 & 9



Read About Tampa Bay
Downs on pages 5 & 6

Coming Events

June 24, 2012
Sarasota Classic Car Museum
Sarasota, FL

July 22, 2012
Tampa Bay History Center
Tampa, FL

August 19, 2012
Clearwater Marine Aquarium
& Dinner
Clearwater, FL

September 16, 2012
Local Rally
Tampa Bay Area

September 28 - Oct 3, 2012
StarFest 2012
Phoenix, AZ

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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.

Jun 24 Sunday 2PM-6PM
Sarasota Classic Car Museum
Sarasota, FL
Dinner at Barnacle Bills
Sarasota, FL
See details in THIS issue

Jul 9 Monday 6:30PM
Business Meeting & dinner
Crown Eurocars

Jul 22 Sunday 2PM-6PM
Tampa Bay History Center
Tampa, FL
Dinner at Columbia Cafe
Tampa, FL
See details in THIS issue

Aug 6 Monday 6:30PM
Business Meeting & dinner
Crown Eurocars

Aug 19 Sunday Noon-?PM
Clearwater Marine Aquarium
Clearwater, FL
Dinner at
Heilmans's Beachcomber
Clearwater Beach, FL
See details in THIS issue

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

Sep 10 Monday 6:30PM
Business Meeting & dinner
Crown Eurocars

Sep 16 Sunday
Local Road Rally
See details in NEXT issue

Oct 1 Monday 6:30PM
Business Meeting & dinner
Crown Eurocars

Oct 14 Sunday
Member Appreciation Brunch
Safety Harbor Spa
Safety Harbor, FL
See details in NEXT issue

Nov 17 Saturday
Wine Tasting/Car Show/Dinner
Plant City, FL
See details in NEXT issue

Dec 9 Sunday
Holiday Brunch
Countryside Country Club

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!

Unfortunately, once again I am sad to report the passing of a very special member. Bonnie Wolverton passed away recently after a long illness. Bonnie had been a long-time member of the club as well as having once served as our Vice President. Our condolences go out to Dick and Bonnie's family.

Lynn & I and Paul & Linda Cooper were traveling together in India during the April event at Tampa Bay Downs. The turnout for the event at the track was excellent and we hope that everyone had a good time. We heard that there was some grumbling about the particular room that the track had us dining in. Please understand that it was not our plan to be in what the track calls The Club Room, but in the Sky Terrace Room at the top where the big buffet is held. We took a poll at the May meeting and it was apparent that everyone likes this event and would like to continue the tradition of doing a once a year event there. Lynn has already voiced our feelings regarding this year's room with the management of the track. She assured us that next year all will be as we fondly remember the event.

The May event at Weeki Wachee was another big hit being attended by almost 30 people. We have always heard about their beautiful mermaids, but this was our first visit. I was most impressed by the mermaid who dived down 117 feet, then intentionally dropped her air hose and ascended after holding her breath for more than 2 ½ minutes. Now, those are some lungs! Our group also got a nice wildlife cruise on Weeki Wachee's boat. Some of us got to see eagles and other aquatic wildlife.

Our June 24 event will be at the Cars Museum in Sarasota with dinner following at Barnacle Bills. Lynn and I visited this attraction many years ago. We enjoyed it then and are certainly looking forward to the return trip.

On July 22 the club will be visiting the Tampa History Museum in the Channelside area of Tampa. Several of our members have been to the Museum and have said that it is excellent and they look forward to returning. Dinner (on your own) follows at the Columbia Café on the museum property.

On September 16th the club will be doing a road rally spearheaded by our Regional Director and former President Scott Suits. Scott will be assisted by new member

and Crown Mercedes employee Matt Rodriguez. We are confident that many of our members will participate.

We will be doing a Membership Appreciation Brunch on October 14th at the Safety Harbor Spa. Several of us have been to the Spa's wonderful brunch recently. We know that you are going to enjoy the feast that is served there on Sunday.

Please send in your checks for these events as soon as possible since all of our socials have been really well attended. We don't want anyone to be left out. See you at the next event.

Dave

Welcome New Members!

Ruzhdi Aliev • St. Petersburg
Dave Cell • Sarasota
Robert Ferry • Clearwater
Linda Garnatz • Temple Terrace
Gregory Gentile • Sarasota
Ray Hammond • Ocala
John Harreys • Vero
Stephen Hartt • Tampa
Marshall Houck • Land O Lakes
Alden Jameson • Safety Harbor
Karl Leibensperger • Brooksville
Bill Schmus • Lakewood Ranch
Dorothy Schrage • St Petersburg
John W Thomas • Tampa

Last issue I put a little blurb here about a new member that sponsored a new member and suggested every member try that. Well!! Some of you must have listened - look at all our new members for the rest of April and all of May. I also noticed that 2 of our new members welcomed above were at our day at Weeki Wachee in May when they just joined in April. See pages 8 & 9 to find out who they are. – Editor

Sarasota Classic Car Museum & Dinner at Barnacle Bill's

Details: From their web site: The Sarasota Classic Car Museum is recognized as the second oldest continuously operating antique car museum in the Nation! As you stroll through the museum, travel back in time and into the future of man's greatest invention, the automobile! Antique, exotic, European and one-of-a-kind classics are featured in our rotating exhibits throughout the museum, seven days a week.

Here you will view Circus Magnate, John and Mable Ringling's collection of Rolls Royce autos, John Lennon's 1965 Mercedes Benz, and Paul McCartney's beloved Mini Cooper. Classic and muscle cars are on display side by side, including Don Garlits, dragster number two! The museum features immaculately restored vintage automobiles spanning over a one-hundred year history of man's automotive genius!

Check out their site for more car descriptions and the history of the museum. We will have our own docent to guide us on our 2 hour tour that will begin promptly at 2 PM. After the tour we will head to Barnacle Bill's for dinner. If you only have time for the museum or just want to join us for dinner, please let Ben know so we have accurate counts for both locations. *** PLEASE NOTE - ALL CHECKS ARE MADE PAYABLE TO: **TAMPA BAY SECTION MBCA ***.**



Important Info

WHEN: Sunday June 24, 2012

WHERE: Sarasota Classic Car Museum
5500 N. Tamiami Trail (US 41)
across from the Ringling Museum
941-355-6228
Barnacle Bill's • 5050 N. Tamiami Trail

COST: \$6.50/person for museum

CALL: Ben Berman • 941-355-2469
bib1946@aol.com

TIME: 2:00 PM museum • 4:15PM (or so) dinner

RESERVE BY: June 15th

Web: <http://www.sarasotacarmuseum.org>

Directions: Located directly across from the Ringling Museum of Art on the northeast corner of US 41/Tamiami Trail and University Parkway. Below are various directions.

General Directions from other parts of Florida: Take I-75 to exit 213 (University Parkway). Head west for about 7 miles. You will pass a traffic light at Airport Circle. The next light is at US 41 / North Tamiami Trail. Across the street is the Ringling Museum of Art. Turn right onto US 41 and you will see the museum. Take the first right into the parking lot.

Directions from Sarasota: Head north on Tamiami Trail. The museum is located on the right at 5500 N Tamiami after the intersection with University Parkway.

Directions from Bradenton: Head south on Tamiami Trail. The museum is located on the left at 5500 N Tamiami Trail, shortly after the light at General Spatz Boulevard (Shell station) and before the light at University Parkway

Sarasota Classic Car Museum & Barnacle Bill's June 24, 2012

Name _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____

No. _____ @ \$6.50/person

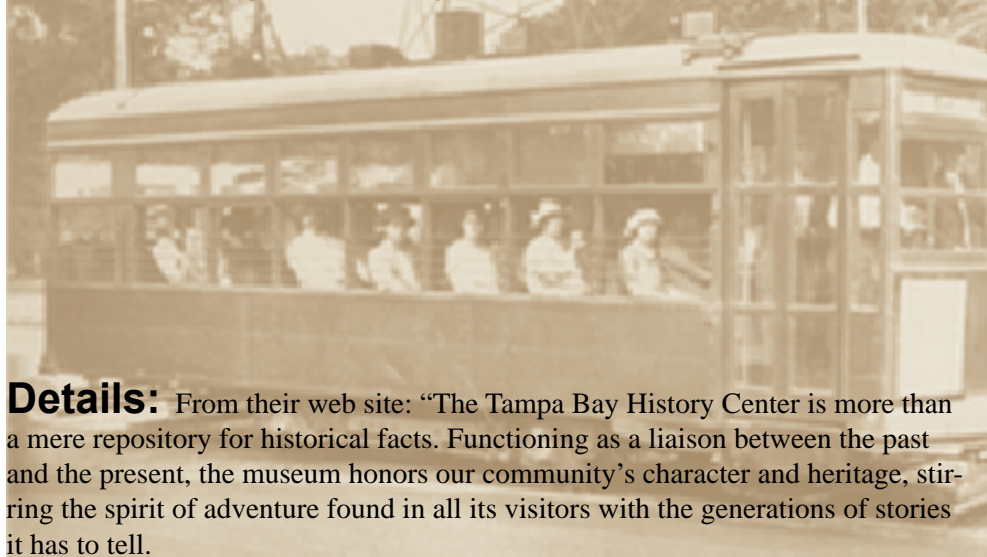
Make check payable to:

Tampa Bay Section MBCA

Mail by June 15, 2012 to:

Ben Berman
4223 MacKay Falls Ter
Sarasota, FL 34243-4260

Tampa Bay History Center Tour & Dinner



Directions: FROM I-275 NORTH OR SOUTH - Traveling north on I-275, take the Ashley Street/West Tampa Exit #44 to downtown. Traveling south on I-275, take the Downtown East-West Exit #45A to downtown. Turn left on Jackson Street. Turn right on Morgan Street. Turn left on Channelside Drive. Turn right on Old Water Street.

PARKING: Visitors can park at the Tampa Bay Times Forum parking lots, the Channelside parking garages, various downtown surface lots, downtown street parking or the Ybor City parking garage, taking the streetcar to the Channelside District. Parking fees vary based on availability and scheduled events at surrounding locations.

Details: From their web site: "The Tampa Bay History Center is more than a mere repository for historical facts. Functioning as a liaison between the past and the present, the museum honors our community's character and heritage, stirring the spirit of adventure found in all its visitors with the generations of stories it has to tell."

Step inside the 60,000-square-foot History Center in Tampa's bustling Channelside District and take a journey through 12,000 years of powerful stories. Follow in the footsteps of the first native inhabitants, Spanish conquistadors, pioneers, sports legends and railroad tycoons. During your journey, you will stroll through a 1920s-era cigar store, row up the Hillsborough River, ride along with a cattle drive and learn about the early exploration of Florida in a dramatic theater presentation." Go to their site listed below for more details.

Our docent guided tour will begin promptly at 2 PM for about 2 hours. The Tampa Bay History Center is proud to partner with the historic and critically-acclaimed Columbia Restaurant and to be home to the first Columbia Cafe. Located on the first floor of the History Center, the Cafe boasts indoor and outdoor seating areas. We will be dining on the patio weather permitting after the guided museum tour at about 4:00 PM.

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

<http://www.tampabayhistorycenter.org>

Important Info

WHEN: Sunday, July 22, 2012

WHERE: **Tampa Bay History Center**
801 Old Water Street • Tampa, FL 33602
Columbia Cafe
801 Old Water Street • Tampa, FL 33602

COST: \$7.50 / person for Museum - dinner off the menu

CALL: Dave & Lynn Hutchinson • 727-726-6711
or via email Dhutch@verizon.net

TIME: 2PM - for Center tour • Dinner around 4 PM

RESERVE BY: July 15th

Tampa Bay History Center Tour & Dinner July 22, 2012

Name _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____

Email address _____

No. _____ \$7.50/person – Enclosed _____

Make check payable to:

Tampa Bay Section MBCA

received by July 15, 2012 to:

Dave & Lynn Hutchinson
2104 Flamingo Place
Safety Harbor, FL 34695

Tampa Section at the Races

Tampa, FL
April 22, 2012
By Pat Tornblom

It was rainy the weekend of the race track. I called them they said the race would go on rain or shine and that they only cancel the race because of lightning. Thirty seven members arrived at the gate waited in anticipation for the doors to open.

Even though there was a mix up and they put us into the clubhouse when we were suppose to be in the Sky Terrace, we still had a wonderful time. As always there was one race called Mercedes Benz Club of Tampa Bay. After this race four members were chosen to meet the jockey, trainer and owner and present them with the winnings. These four also had their picture taken with the owners and the horse.

We checked past contracts and there was never mention that the upper level (where we had always been in the past for this event) was called Sky Terrace in any of our past agreements. So it seems that either we have been in the wrong place all these years!! And no one noticed or the ever changing personnel at the track was even more disorganized than usual. Who knows! Please be sure that when next year rolls around, you make plans to be present at this event. It seems to be a very popular since every year we get more and more who want to attend. We had a good time and met many new members.



Above: Mary Loudon & Pat Tornblom.

Below: Ann & Bob Beltz



Above: Krissy Bacon & Lou Dughi.

Left: Nancy & Jim Merada





Left: Don & Splash Ecker-son.

Below: Carolyn & Ed Jarotz

In th circle: Gary Dolin

Below far: Norm & Victoria Ross



Above: Greg & Pat Watson

Left: Dan Cabrera, Lynn Gullick, Scott Suits & Elaine Lee

Photos of our day at the races taken by Caroline Cerveney



Mermaids at Weeki Wachee & Dinner

Weeki Wachee, FL

May 20, 2012

By Dan Cabrera

Like the tails of sea lore, 27 members were drawn to the magic of Mermaids. A beautiful day provided us the opportunity to take a nostalgic trip into Florida's past at Weeki Wachee Springs State Park. Upon our arrival, we went down to the theater to watch the Mermaids perform their underwater ballet. They danced choreographed routines that showed their mastery of the tails they sported.. We were also amazed to watch them eat and drink underwater. One of the mermaids in training did a dive 117 feet down the natural spring. She used the air hose during the descent but once she reached the distance the air hose was pulled up and she had to hold her breath as she ascended. Most of this dive was not visible to us, so many of the members were skeptics. When she returned to view, she continued to hold her breath for longer than 2 minutes total (including the ascend). All new mermaids must complete this task at the end of their training. I personally believe in Mermaids.

After the show, we boarded a boat for a 25 minute trip on the Weeki Wachee River. The river was 4 feet

lower than usual because of the current drought. The guide pointed out an eagle's nest (more than 7 feet wide). A family of bald eagles could be seen perching on nearby branches. The guide also pointed out different vegetation important to the river's Eco-system, as well as blue herons, egrets and humanoids.

We departed Weeki Wachee and headed south for dinner at the INN ON THE GULF. Those sitting at my table agreed that the sea food offerings were cooked to perfection and were quite tasty. The wait staff was pleasant and attentive to our needs. This is a restaurant I personally plan to revisit. I need to add that this was the first event attended by several of the members. We certainly hope they enjoyed the outing and the company, and that they will join us again at the next event. As always, I must commend and thank our officers, Dave and Lynn Hutchinson, Paul and Linda Cooper and Pat Tornblom for doing a wonderful job of planning and orchestrating another successful event.

Below: Left side - Elaine Lee, Nancy Pease, Jimmie Lee and Dan Cabrera. Right side - Lynn Gulick, Debbie Cabrera and John Thomas



Above: Lynn Hutchinson, Linda & Paul Cooper



Above: John Thomas & his wife Nancy Pease

Below: Jim & Nancy Merada, Pat Tornblom, Paul & Linda Cooper. In front Lynn Hutchinson and Catharine & Bob Martino





Above: Lynn Gulick, Lynn Hutchinson & Pat Tornblom
Below: Elaine & Jimmie Lee with the Mermaid



Above: Jim & Nancy Merada
Below: Don & Lorraine Franco & their guest



Above: New members Debbie & Marsh Houck



On the Cover

Paul Cooper, Rose Bannacott, Nancy & Jim Merada to the left and behind Connie & Gary Dolin, Lunn Hutchinson and Jimmie & Elaine Lee in front of Karen McBride & Ron Weaver, Pat Tornblom, Lynn Gulick in front of Linda Cooper and Nancy Pease, Dan & Debbie Cabrera to the left in front of John Thomas, Debbie Houck in the white hat just in front of her husband Marsh

In the oval: Photographer, Dave Hutchinson with one of the Mermaids.



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"30 Years Factory Trained"

Bonnie Wolverson - May 6, 2012

Scott Suits sadly informed us that Bonnie Wolverson passed away early on Sunday, May 6, 2012. Most of you will remember Bonnie as the capable organizer of our many holiday brunches at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. In the past Bonnie was also Section vice president and she welcomed new members for many years. We will all miss her. Linda

Far right top: In 2004 Chris & Pat Tornblom with Dick & Bonnie at the member appreciation.

Right oval - Holiday brunch 2005

Lower far right: Aboard the Starship with Karen & Mike McBride also 2005.

Below right: 2002 at the Classic Car Museum in Sarasota where we will be in June!!

Below left: Dick & Bonnie at the Holiday Brunch 2007

Below: Bonnie & Dick having lunch in the Everglades on our way to Shark Valley in Miami in 2008



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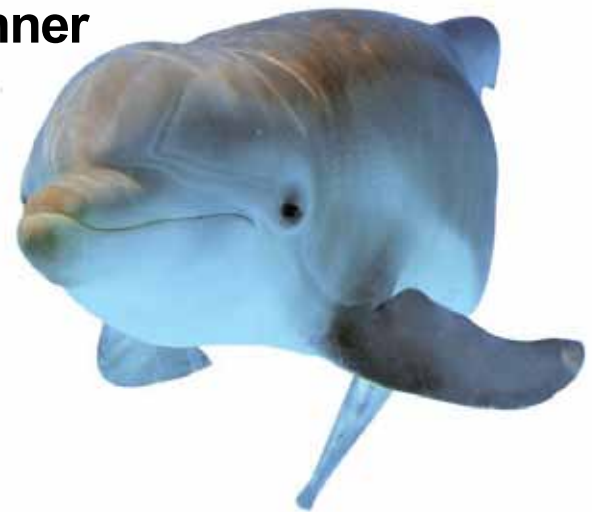
800.330.2887

www.CrownEurocars.com

6001 34th Street North St. Petersburg, FL 33714

Clearwater Marine Aquarium Tour & Dinner

Important Info



WHEN: Sunday, August 19, 2012

WHERE: **Clearwater Marine Aquarium**
249 Windward Passage • Clearwater, FL 33767
(727) 441-1790

Dinner following at Heilman's Beachcomber
447 Mandalay Avenue Clearwater, FL 33767
(727) 442-4144

COST: \$16.95 / person for Aquarium - dinner off the menu

CALL: Jim & Nancy Merada • 727-391-4298
res7dizo@tampabay.rr.com

TIME: Noon - for CMA tour • Dinner around 3:30 PM

RESERVE BY: **August 15th**

Details: Meet Winter, the star of Dolphin Tale, a 3-D major motion picture starring Morgan Freeman, Harry Connick, Jr., and Ashley Judd, filmed here at CMA. See film locations and learn about this exciting movie.

Enjoy our free trolley ride to Historic downtown Clearwater. Immerse yourself into the world of Dolphin Tale and be the first to see and experience authentic rebuilt scenes and actual props seen in the movie. Kids will have fun in our "Save Winter Day" game area...experience the hurricane scene...learn the history of how Dolphin Tale was made.

Dinner after at the Beachcomber is off their varied menu and early specials.

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

Directions: **FROM Tampa** - Go West on SR 60 (the Courtney Campbell Causeway) through downtown Clearwater, Follow the signs and stay on

60. After crossing the Memorial Causeway Bridge (enjoy the view at the top of Clearwater Beach) in about 1 mile turn right at the Island Way traffic light; turn left on to Windward Passage. CMA and their parking lot will be on the left just past the Island Way Grill back entrance.

From the North: go South on US hwy 19 or the Suncoast Parkway. Go West on SR 60 (Gulf to Bay Blvd if you are in Pinellas County) and follow the directions from Tampa.

From the South: go North on I-275 through St. Petersburg. Use the St. Pete/ Clearwater Airport exit. After the airport go north on the Bayside Bridge. The first exit is SR 60 (Gulf to Bay Blvd.); Go West on SR 60 & follow the directions from Tampa directions..

PARKING: Clearwater Marine Aquarium has their own parking lot .

<http://seewinter.com>

Clearwater Marine Aquarium Tour & Dinner August 19, 2012

Name _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____

Email address _____

No. _____ \$16.95/person – Enclosed _____

Make check payable to:

Tampa Bay Section MBCA

received by August 15, 2012 to:

Jim & Nancy Merada
13528 Monalee Ave.
Seminole, FL 33776

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 – 2006 320E CDI, silver-gray. Mercedes serviced, never been in an accident. Purchased new from local dealer. 48,000 miles, 28-37 MPG. Warranty until April 2012. Leather, Premium Pak I and II. Sunshade, Dash Navigation. \$24,900.00 Tampa, FL; call Cell 813-230-7370

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 – 1975 240D Baby Blue original perfect paint, navy interior, totally restored by certified Mercedes mechanic. 300,000 + miles. Contact Kathy Medick @ 727 437 7325 (home) or 727 641 6632 (Cell). FYI this is long time MB member Ron Watson's councour award winning "Mercy".

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

We're visiting
Tampa Bay History Center
Check out the
Details on page 5

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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