



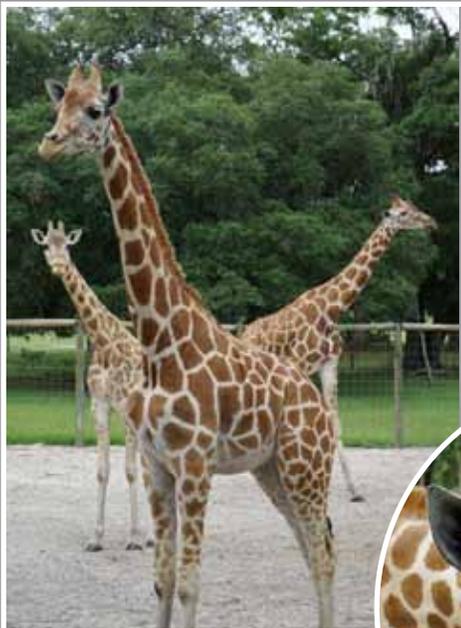
Tampa Bay Star

June/July 2014

Tampa Bay Downs
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TAMPA BAY DOWNS
MERCEDES BENZ
CLUB OF AMERICA
TAMPA BAY SECTION



Giraffe Ranch
See Page 8



Coming Events

July 20, 2014
Calypso Cruise & Dinner
Clearwater Beach, FL

August 23, 2014
Paquette Museum & Dinner
Leesburg, FL

September 21, 2014
Fun Road Rally
Panera Bread
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 September and sometimes July & 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.

Jul 7 Monday 6:30PM
Business Meeting & Dinner
Crown Eurocars
6001 34th Street North
St Petersburg, FL

Jul 20 Sunday 1:00 PM
Calypso Cruise Tour & Dinner
Clearwater Beach, FL
See details in THIS issue

Aug 4 Monday 6:30PM
Business Meeting & Dinner
Crown Eurocars

Aug 23 Saturday 1:00 PM
Paquette's Museum & Dinner
Leesburg, FL
See details in THIS issue

Sep 8 Monday 6:30PM
Business Meeting & Dinner
Crown Eurocars

Sep 21 Sunday 1:00 PM
Panera Bread Restaurant
Tarpon Springs, FL
See details in THIS issue

Oct 6 Monday 6:30PM
Business Meeting & Dinner
Crown Eurocars

Nov 3 Monday 6:30PM
Business Meeting & Dinner
Crown Eurocars

Dec 1 Monday 6:30PM
Business Meeting & Dinner
Crown Eurocars

Dec 7 Sunday
Holiday Brunch
Safety Harbor Spa
Safety Harbor, FL

An Overview of the Club

Established in 1956, MBCA has more than 20,500 members in over 84 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

Since our last newsletter, we have had three club events and summer has officially arrived.

What has become an annual trip to Tampa Bay Downs lived up to our expectations with great food, good company, and loads of fun. The brunch had its usual delicious entrees and desserts. I can guarantee you, many of us avoided getting on a scale the next day. The horse races drew our attention as many studied the programs and then put their money on "the sure winner." Of course, most of us had better luck at choosing the sure loser. Still, it is always a great day to spend time with fellow club members.

In May we went to Lokey Mercedes in Clearwater. Many members took advantage of the \$25.00 cost to have Lokey's technicians do a visual and computer check of our Mercedes. Debbie's vehicle was due for servicing so we had it done while we were there. The event cost also included lunch for everyone, including the technicians. I want to thank Scott Suits for making all the arrangements. His hard work made this another successful club event.

And then, there was the June outing to the Giraffe Ranch in Dade City. We had 40 club members attend this wonderful experience. We fed giraffes and got to pet a rhinoceros. We were up close and personal with many other animals including a camel named Lincoln (just ask Heather). At the same time, we learned so many interesting facts about those animals and the property that hosts them. The staff at Giraffe Ranch were friendly and so knowledgeable about the animals in their care. Their enthusiasm and love for their work was evident in their presentation. We left the Giraffe Ranch and drove to Zephyrhills to meet over dinner at Blackstone Beef and Grill. We enjoyed great food as we talked about our experiences at the Ranch.

July, August and September will bring more opportunities for everyone to participate in the fun of attending our club events. A trip on a paddle wheeler on Clearwater's intracostal waters, a visit to a farm tractor museum in Leesburg, and a Road Rally in Tarpon Springs. As usual, we will get into our Mercedes and drive to meet fellow club members as we experience the value of being a part of the Tampa Bay Section.

I like to think that each event is marked by great fun, good friends, and delicious food. Now tell me, what's wrong with that; if you haven't been to an event please join us.

As a reminder, each event appears in the newsletter, the MBCA website, and on Facebook. They all, provide the dates and times, as well as directions, to each event. We suggest that you plan in advance for the trip by either entering the location on a GPS system or printing a copy of the directions from MapQuest or similar source. Also, we include the cell phone numbers of the event planners and officers so that you can communicate any problems you may incur related to the outing.

Thanks again to all who make the Tampa Bay Section great!

Dan

Welcome New Members!

Joseph Colwell • Palm Harbor
Joyce Cooper • Clearwater
James Dowdell • Brooksville
Frank Fitzhenry • Safety Harbor
Raymond Otto • Pinellas Park
Ryan Saldanha • Tampa
Bobby Stark • Valrico

Renewed Members

Mike Ferragamo • Tampa
Linda Garnatz • Temple Terrace
Bob Guckenberger • Saint Petersburg
Bob Hayes • Odessa
James Hightower • Clearwater
Roger Jester • Tarpon Springs
James Jones • Bradenton
Michael Julian • Treasure Island
Steve Kasarjian • Tarpon Spgs
William Klein • Lutz
Daniel Konkol • Highland City
Uwe Lehmann • Port Charlotte
Ellen Lizzo • Sarasota
Lance Meyerson • Tampa
Perry Moore • Tampa
James Moslener • Apollo Beach
Nancilou Patton • Homosassa
Mark Raciappa • Tallahassee
Marcia Schulz • Oldsmar
William Sgro • Lakewood Ranch
W Simon • Largo
Gay Stanislawski • New Prt Rchy
Patricia Tornblom • Shady Hills
Patrick Uli • St. Petersburg
Keith Wood • Hernando
Robert Yaeger • Sarasota

Above are the new and renewed members from April 23 through, June 23, 2014. We look forward to meeting the new members and hope to keep seeing our renewed members at many of our events. – Editor



Find us on
Facebook

Calypso Queen Scenic Cruise & Dinner at Beachcomber



Details:

From the Calypso Queen web site: "Enjoy a daytime cruise aboard the Calypso Queen, departing from the Clearwater Beach Marina, taking in the sights of beautiful Clearwater harbor. This afternoon cruise features a live captain's sightseeing narration including points of interest along the route and the history of our picturesque region. Dolphins are a common sight on our afternoon cruise!" Their website is: <http://calypsoqueen.com>

Please be there by 1 PM so we can board early as a group. Parking is \$2 & you can pay for that at the window. After our 1.5 to 2 hour tour aboard Calypso Queen, we will enjoy a great meal at Bob Heilman's Beachcomber restaurant. This is the same restaurant we enjoyed after our tour of Clearwater Aquarium. They have awesome Sunday specials along with their regular menu. Their website is: heilmansbeachcomber.com

Directions: The Clearwater Marina is 3/4 of the way around the traffic circle as you come on Clearwater Beach from SR 60. Put the address above in Google Maps, Mapquest or you phone or car GPS for the best directions from you location. The drive from the Marina to Beachcomber restaurant is back through the traffic circle and north on the Mandalay for .2 of a mile. If you get lost I put one of Dave & Lynns cell numbers above or you will find the other officers cell numbers on page 12. Calling house lines on page 2 will not get us if we have already left home!!

Important Info

WHEN: Sunday, July 20, 2014

WHERE: **Calypso Queen - Clearwater Marina**
25 Causeway Blvd, Slip #18
Clearwater Beach, FL 33767
(West end of S.R. 60)
Heilman's Beachcomber Restaurant
447 Mandalay Ave.
North Clearwater Beach, FL 33767

COST: \$13.00/person for cruise

CALL: Dave & Lynn Hutchinson
727-726-6711 • Dhutch@verizon.net
Cell: 727-420-0424

TIME: 12:30 gather before boarding at 1:00
for sailing at 1:30
Dinner at the Beachcomber after at
about 3:30 pm

RESERVE BY: **July 13th**

Calypso Queen Scenic Cruise & Dinner Sunday, July 20, 2014

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

_____ @ \$ 13 /person for cruise _____ Enclosed

I/We will be going to Heilman's Beachcomber Restaurant after _____

Make check payable to:

Tampa Bay Section MBCA

Mail by July 13, 2014 to:
Dave & Lynn Hutchinson
2104 Flamingo Place
Safety Harbor, FL 34695

Paquette's Historical Farmall Museum Tour & Dinner



Important Info

WHEN: Saturday August 23, 2014

WHERE: Paquette's Historical Farmall Museum
615 S. Whitney Road
Leesburg, Florida 34748 • 352-728-3588

COST: \$23/person for museum & dinner

CALL: Dave & Lynn Hutchinson • 727-726-6711
dhutch@verizon.net • Cell: 727-420-0424

TIME: 1:30PM for our tour with our meal to follow

RESERVE BY: August 11th

Details

Paquette's Historical Farmall Museum – Dedicated to the preservation of International Harvester farming and construction equipment. This is the museum that Charlie Belcher recently featured on Fox 13's One Tank Trips. Their web site is: <http://www.stewsihstuff.com/>.

The tour begins at 1:30 PM with dinner following in the Show Barn (Chicken, coleslaw, baked beans, and garlic bread. Vegetarian meals by request in advance). The total price: \$23.00 per person includes tour, dinner, tax and tip.

Directions: From Interstate 75, take Wildwood Exit 329 east on Highway 44 for about 9 miles. Put the address into Google Maps, Mapquest and/or your car or phone GPS for the best directions from your location. If you get lost I put one of Dave & Lynns cell numbers above or you will find the other officers cell numbers on page 12. Calling house lines on page 2 will not get us if we have already left home!!

Paquette's Historical Farmall Museum Tour & Dinner August 23, 2014

Name _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

Make check payable to:
Tampa Bay Section MBCA

Mail by August 11, 2014 to:
Dave & Lynn Hutchinson
2104 Flamingo Place
Safety Harbor, FL 34695

\$23/person _____ Enclosed

Tampa Bay Downs

Tampa, FL
 April 13, 2014
 By Lynn Hutchinson

Forty members attended the Tampa Bay Downs event on Sunday, April 13. We had preferential seats in the Sky View Terrace where we were able to easily keep an eye on the dessert table – oops, I mean horses. Not only did the sumptuous buffet offer breakfast foods and made-to-order omelets and waffles, there was also a roast beef carvery plus shrimp and fish and salads (oh my!). Four of our members were picked, lottery-style, to go down and have their picture taken with the winning horse from the Mercedes Race. The four were: Krissy Bacon, Lou Dughi, Bryan Gulick and Frank Cannoe. And, even though the club provided each member \$2 to place a bet, we have no new MBCA millionaires to announce.

We have held this event for many years and everyone always ask when we will do it again. So keep a lookout in the newsletter for next year's date.



Above: Lynn & Dave Hutchinson. Dave took all the wonderful photos for this event & Lynn handled the registrations.



Left: Heather & Steve Rush. An editors BIG thanks to Heather for all her wonderful editing skills for our newsletter.



Above: Elaine Lee, Debbie Cabrera & Jimmie Lee

Left: Ron & MaryEllen Ames and JoJo & Frank Cannoe

Left center: Lynn Gulick - did she find a winner??

Below: Carolyn Jarotz, Caroline Cerveny, Pat Tornblom, Mary Lounge and Ed Jarotz



On the Cover: Frank Cannoe, Bryan Gulick, Krissy Bacon and Lou Dughi present winning jockey with the prize
 Tampa Bay Downs photos taken by Dave Hutchinson



Left: Krissy Bacon, Ken & Joan Pitts, Eleanor & Kimberly Vassel, Scott Suits, Ted & Sherry Hoffman and Lou Dughi

Left center: Dan Cabrera

Below: Rose Bennagott, Lynn Hutchinson, Heather & Steve Rush, Paul & Linda Cooper, Dick & Kathy Browsers and Joannie Brady



Left: Norm & Victoria Ross

Right: Connie & Gary Dolin



Tech Inspection

Clearwater, FL
May 17, 2014
By Scott Suits

Saturday May 17th Lokey Motor Company staged a Technical Inspection for the members of the Tampa Bay Section. Four Technicians conducted a thorough inspection of eleven members' cars. The Technicians, along with the Service Advisors, counseled everyone and provided a detailed printout of the issues that were detected by visual and computer inspections. A few members chose to take care of the issues found while they were there, many scheduled appointments for the future, and Nancy Patton left her SLC for a safety issue and was provided a loaner car to get back home to Homosassa.

The Club provided lunch for members, Technicians, Advisors, and parts department personnel. We also gave Outback gift cards to the four Technicians to, in a small way, thank them for all of the courtesy and help they provided. Thank you Lokey!.

Giraffe Ranch & Dinner

Dade City, FL
 June 1, 2014
 by Linda Cooper

- ✓ Forty two registered.
- ✓ A few last minute cancelations due to injury, car problems, conflicts.
- ✓ A few lost souls, eventually found and directed via cell phone.
- ✓ Thirty-nine present and accounted for and we were off on our Giraffe Ranch African safari in Dade City, FL.

After a “show-and-tell” explanation from our hostess, Elena, about the genesis of the types of animals we would see, followed by a quick group photo, we boarded our safari vehicle (an ancient Blue Bird school bus with the top lopped off and a Bimini top installed for shade) for one of our best afternoons ever. We fed giraffes, petted rhinos, and observed zebras grazing. Camels greeted us up close and personal. A camel named Lincoln developed a serious schoolboy crush on Heather Rush, hustling her till her husband, Steve, had a word with him. Lex, our driver/tour guide, explained the eco system of the ranch – all is fertilized naturally mostly from the rhino “litter box!!” We experienced some fine drizzle and were thankful for make-shift roof, and the cloud cover made for a lovely day weather-wise.

After our tour, we reluctantly (I say reluctantly as we could have watched the wonderful animals all day!) jumped in our cars and headed 15 miles south to Blackstone Reef & Grill in Zephyrhills for a terrific meal. They were able to give us a whole section, accommodating us at 2 large tables. Their menu is varied and, as the name implies, they have great steaks and seafood. We will surely keep them on our list for future activities in this area.

Lex & Elena have another ranch near Lakeland. Hopefully we will put that on our list to visit next year. If it’s something that interests you, let the board know!!



Above: Ed Jarotz, Nancy Pease, John Thomas, Neal & Michele Dion, and up the right side Rose Bannagott, Jimmie & Elaine Lee



Above: Two zebras and the horse like animal with the striped legs - the results of 1 of the zebras that fell in love with a donkey!!



Left above: Heather Rush, Bryan Gulick, Ben Berman at the “head of the table pick up the check seat”!, Gary Dolin, Bob Martino, Michael Gulick & Steve Rush are those in the front of this group shot



Lex: Lex our driver & guide



Above: Elena gives us a talk about genesis types

All photos on pages 8 & 9 taken by Dave Hutchinson. Giraffe photos on the cover taken by Connie Dolin.



Member Car Spotlight

Safety Harbor, FL
by Dave Hutchinson

This issue spotlights members Michael and Lynn Gulick and their recent acquisition, a beautiful 2010 flint gray Mercedes S550. Michael and Lynn moved to Florida from California in 2007 where they were members of MBCA and an SLK special interest group. They have been members of the Tampa Bay Section since arriving in Florida. Michael and Lynn live in The Villages and attend most of our events. They have even hosted several get-togethers for our members at their beautiful new home after events near the Villages. They are huge Mercedes Benz fans and even now have their son Bryan driving a 2005 CLK500. Bryan is a graduate student at the University of Central Florida.

If you would like for me to feature you and your Mercedes in a future *Tampa Bay Star* newsletter please contact me at dhutch@verizon.net

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 – Bonnie & Dick Wolverton cars **2007 S-550**, 49k miles, Options include parktronic backup camera, Iridium silver; all services at Crown. \$32,500. **2003 SLK32 AMG** black, 46k miles, all service Crown, new tires, very good condition. Great for driving events. \$16,500. Call Dick (H) 727-896-1995, (O) 727-823-1399 or dickwolv@aol.com

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 – 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 – Chris Tornblom's car – 1 left: 1984 SEC 500 - fully loaded - car runs great heated seats, new tires. Call Pat 727-856-5584 to see this beauty.

FOR SALE - Car cover Silverguard Class 2; SLK class '99-'04 \$100; 2 CD holders - each holds 6 CD's for the trunk CD holder, both \$30; Silver MBCA front license plate, \$10; & white terry MB front seat cover for SLK, free. call Krissy @ 727-548-0313

FOR SALE - 2005 SLK 350. SUPER clean -auto -7 spd-V6 268 HP -Black -Beige interior; Harman/Kardon sounds- 21,650 miles. \$21K Call John @ 941-755-9154



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Fun Rally & Early Dinner



- There is no stopwatch!
- This is not a timed event!
- This will be about a two-three hour rally.

Important Info

WHEN: Sunday, September 21, 2014

WHERE: Panera Bread Restaurant - rally start
40968 US Hwy. 19 N. • Tarpon Springs
The German Restaurant - after rally
2616 US Highway 19 North, • Holiday

COST: \$15.00/car for rally. Meal off the menu

CALL: Scott Suits • 727-460-5739
suits@ij.net

TIME: 11:00 AM for rally start
2:00-2:30 PM gather for dinner at

RESERVE BY: **September 14th**

Details: We will start the Rally at the Panera Restaurant at 40938 US Hwy. 19 N. , Tarpon Springs, 34689. (Turn West off of US Hwy. 19 N. onto E. Tarpon Ave. and then a Left at the first light. Panera will be less than a half a block on your Right)

We will start cars in about 3-4 minute intervals starting at 11:00 AM. This will be a 2-3 three hour course that will lead you through an area North East of your starting point. Participants will receive sheets at the start line with the directions and clues to questions along the course. Participants will most likely have to leave their car from time to time to gather information to answer some of the questions. Winners will be awarded trophies on 1) Closest to the pre-determined mileage. 2) Most correct answers to the questions. **THIS IS NOT A TIMED EVENT** so speeding is of no advantage.

Normal occupancy of the cars are a Driver and Navigator but there will be no penalty for an additional occupant.

Directions: Editor: I put the address in Google Maps, Mapquest & my iPhone and they all found Panera Bread. Please test your GPS/phone before the day of the rally. The restaurant address is above but sometimes in the search it comes up 41002 which is the main address of the shopping center – they both get you to the same location. If you are lost Scotts cell number is above or you will find cell numbers for some of the officers on page 12.

Fun Rally & Early Dinner

Sunday, September 21, 2014

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

_____ @ \$ 15 /car _____ Enclosed

I/we will be stay for dinner Yes No

Make check payable to:

Tampa Bay Section MBCA

Mail by September 14, 2014 to:

Scott O. Suits
795 CR #1 Lot 205
Palm Harbor, FL 34683

Paquette's Historical
Farmall Museum
Tour & Dinner
Saturday
August 23, 2014
See Page 5 For Details

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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