



# Tampa Bay Star

April/May 2016



## Hillsborough River Park picnic See Pages 8-9

Above R-L: Marianne Gorske, Dan Cabrera, Michael Gulick, Mary Ellen Ames in front of Pat & Greg Watson, Ron Ames behind Connie & Gary Dolin, Lynn Hutchinson, Tim Gorske behind Gena Miller, Helen Sanders, in front of Lynn Gulick and Marcus Leibrecht, Elaine & Jimmy Lee in front of Michael Miller

### Coming Events

May 14-15, 2016  
Kennedy Space Center Tour  
& Dinner Weekend  
Titusville & Cocoa Beach, FL

June 25, 2016  
The Great Escape  
Tampa, FL

July 24, 2016  
The Carriage Museum Tour  
Wiersdale, FL

August 28, 2016  
Member Appreciation Brunch  
Safety Harbor Spa  
Safety Harbor, FL

# Important Dates

## Officers

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Suits@ij.net

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727-726-6837  
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**Past President**  
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LindaBCooper@verizon.net

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727-726-6837 C 727-644-6837  
PaulJCooper@verizon.net

**Activities** Lynn Hutchinson

**Photography**  
Dave Hutchinson

**Historian** Lynn Hutchinson

**Technical**

**Legal Advisor**  
Dick Wolverton

**Webmaster**  
Dan Cabrera  
dcabrera2@tampabay.rr.com

**SE Regional Director**  
Pierre Hedary  
407-765-2867  
mbownersforlife@bellsouth.net

**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.

**May 14-15 Sat-Sun 9:30AM**  
**Kennedy Space Center**  
Titusville, FL  
**See details in LAST issue**

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

**Jun 25 Saturday 2:30 PM**  
**The Great Escape**  
Tampa, FL  
**See details in THIS issue**

**Jul 11 Monday 6:30PM**  
Business Meeting & Dinner  
Crown Eurocars

**Jul 24 Sunday 10 AM- 3 PM**  
**Carriage Museum Tour**  
Wiersdale, FL  
**See details in THIS issue**

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

**Aug 28 Sunday 11 AM**  
**Member Appreciation**  
Safety Harbor, FL  
**See details in THIS issue**

**Sep 12 Monday 6:30PM**  
Business Meeting & Dinner  
Crown Eurocars

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

**Nov 7 Monday 6:30PM**  
Business Meeting & Dinner  
Crown Eurocars

**Dec 4 Sunday**  
**Holiday Brunch**  
Safety Harbor Spa  
Safety Harbor, FL

## 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.

## 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 \$55  
Two Years \$107  
Three Years \$157  
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

Guys,

It's Newsletter time again when we review recent events and learn about upcoming ones.

In February we had the Tampa Bay Downs event. This is one of our favorite events, and this year did not disappoint. The food was excellent and plentiful, and the racing was great. The limit this year was 50 people, and we had a waiting list. Next year we will try to have more spots. See the full write up in this issue for further details and photos.

We had a great picnic event planned at the Hillsborough State Park. Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate. Despite the rain, 22 brave souls came out to enjoy good food, libations, and great company.

In April we had the charity rally ending at Hope Children's Home. Our meal was catered by Smoky Bones, and we had a tour of the Home. Scott's rallies are good fun and, unlike other rallies I have been on, there is little chance you will fight with your spouse about where to turn. See photos and read about our day in the next issue.

In May we have an overnight event to the Kennedy Space Center. I was there a few years ago and came away mightily impressed. There are more things than you can do in just one day. If you have not been on one of our overnight events, you are in for a treat. We have the opportunity to socialize and enjoy each other's company from breakfast to late in the evening.

There are other events under consideration. In June, we planned the afternoon at the Great Escape Room. Test your Sherlock Holmes skills where we will pit the guys against the girls to see who gets out first. In July we will revisit (under new ownership with new exhibits) the Carriage Museum and August is Member Appreciation brunch at the Safety Harbor Spa. So if you missed the Holiday Brunch, here is your chance to feast at the Spa. See details for these coming events in this issue.

We are always looking for new events and would love suggestions from the rank and file. Just contact any board member, or better yet, attend one of our board meetings. Everyone is invited, and the meetings rarely last more than 30 minutes. Of course, we all go out to dinner afterwards.

Safe Motoring,

Gary



# Welcome New Members!

Paul Blaasch • Zephyrhills  
Chas Brooke • Tampa  
William Buckingham • Sarasota  
James Erb • Clearwater  
Wayne Gosling • Valrico  
Trent Goss • Tampa  
Steven Gulino • Tampa  
Michael Hanson • New Port Richey  
Vermilda Janning • Clearwater Beach  
Natalie Jones • Crystal River  
Susan Keaty • Saint Petersburg  
Mirian Lopes • St Petersburg  
Michael Maksym • Sun City Center  
Richard Miller • Saint Petersburg  
Steve Nilsen • St Pete Beach  
George Palermo • Blue Hill  
Janet Robertson • Dade City  
Frank Selph • Tampa

# Renewed Members

Herb Anderson • St Petersburg  
J R Benzing • Ellenton  
Eric Berg • Largo  
Leigh Bohne • Tampa  
Rhonda Bowers • Brooksville  
Merle Brouman • Belleair Beach  
Frank Cannoe • Bradenton  
Paul Dooley • Summerfield  
Peggy Gretchen • Wesley Chapel  
Ken Hackett • Sarasota  
Gene Heil • Treasure Island  
Brett Hylwa • Sarasota  
Alden Jameson • Safety Harbor  
Roger Jester • Tarpon Springs  
Stuart [Stu] Kerxton • sun city center  
Helen Sanders • Dave City  
Marcia Schulz • Oldsmar  
Keith Wood • Hernando

Above are the new and renewed members from February 15, 2016 through April 30, 2016. We look forward to meeting the new members and hope to keep seeing our renewed members at many of our events. – Editor

## REQUEST FROM THE EDITOR:

Please include full names of all persons attending an event on the Registration Coupon. We often refer back to the registration coupon for first and last names to accompany photos published in this newsletter. Did you know that you can have your spouse/significant other listed as the Associate Member in your member profile? I can see that information when I get the member list for the mailing labels. Thanks. – Editor

# The Great Escape Room and Dinner



## Details:

The Great Escape Room is a real-life room escape game based on the popular computer and mobile phone escape games. Escape games are the newest craze sweeping the nation – a fun, team-building, brain-busting experience! After entering a room with your team, the door is locked behind you. 60 minutes are on the clock! You must work together in order to find clues and solve puzzles that will lead you to your escape. It is part scavenger hunt and part puzzle game. Only about 20% of groups are able to meet the challenge and escape in time!

Locked in a room with no way out, you must search for hidden compartments, secret passageways, and clues to plot your Great Escape. It is a hybrid of a scavenger hunt and a puzzle game. The trial is timed and teamwork is essential. Success, failure and bonding are inevitable – escape is not! When the hour is up you will be guaranteed laughter, a sense of accomplishment, a new respect for your teammates, and, of course, a group photo. This is an experience that will be remembered for a lifetime – assuming you get out!

Dinner will follow at 4:30 PM at Crumbs and Cork Restaurant – where Wine meets Jazz! <http://crumbandcork-usa.com>

## Important Info

**WHEN:** Saturday June 25, 2016  
**WHERE:** **The Great Escape**  
300 Madison Street, Suite 301  
Tampa, FL 33602  
202-780-8437  
**Crumbs and Cork Restaurant**  
501 N Franklin Street  
**COST:** \$25.00/person for escape room  
Dinner off the menu after  
**CALL:** Dan Cabrera • 813-759-0776  
dcabrera2@tampabay.rr.com  
**TIME:** 2:30 - 4:30PM Dinner after  
**RESERVE BY:** June 18, 2016

Parking Meters are free on the weekends in Tampa. There is a parking garage across the street from the Great Escape Room and The Crumbs & Cork is right next door. as always you can come for just the escape room or just for dinner. Please indicate on your registration coupon below.

## Directions:

Put the address into your navigation system, smart phone GPS, google maps or Mapquest for specific directions from your location. If you are lost here is the cell number for Dan 813-480-3484

## The Great Escape Room & Dinner Saturday, June 25, 2016

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

No. \_\_\_\_\_ persons      Enclosed \$25.00/person      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to:  
**Tampa Bay Section MBCA**

received by June 18, 2016 to:  
Dan & Debbie Cabrera  
3016 Leila Estelle Dr  
Plant City, FL 33565

I will be staying for dinner Y N

# The Grand Oaks Resort & Museum



**Details:** We will begin our day with a brunch from 10 AM to noon at the Grand Oaks Resort new restaurant, The Bistro.

The Carriage Museum Tour is from 12:30 - 2:45 PM (can stay as long as you like, last entry is 2:45 PM and they close at 4:00 PM). The cost for both the brunch and tour is \$25.00 per person. If you only have time for the tour, then the tour only price is \$16.00.

They also offer carriage rides available 08:00 - 09:00. If you wish to do this, please contact them at the number above to arrange your own reservation.

The Grand Oaks Carriage Museum is home to one of the world's largest private collections of carriages and equine artifacts. Step back in time and enjoy the elegance and pageantry of over 160 European and American Carriages, including the elaborate 1850 Armbruster Dress Chariot once owned by Emperor of Austria Franz Joseph, and his wife, Elisabeth. Our Museum uniquely offers a glimpse into the history of the relationship between man and horse and clearly defines the manner in which the horse has helped shape the history of man.

**Directions:** Put the address into your navigation system, smart phone, GPS, google maps or Mapquest for specific directions from your location. If you are lost here is the cell number for Michael 352-430-8325

## Important Info

**WHEN:** Sunday, July 24, 2016

**WHERE:** The Grand Oaks Resort & Museum  
3000 Marion Country Road  
Wiersdale, FL 32195

**COST:** \$25.00/person for brunch & museum tour  
\$16.00/person for just the tour

**CALL:** Michael Gulick • 352 259 1952  
MAGulick@centurylink.net

**TIME:** 10:00 AM - noon for brunch  
12:30-2:45 PM (or until 4 PM when the museum closes)

**RESERVE BY:** **July 9th**

## The Grand Oaks Resort Brunch & Museum July 24, 2016

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_ \$25/person for brunch & tour \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed OR

# \_\_\_\_\_ \$16/person for just the museum tour

Make check payable to:  
**Tampa Bay Section MBCA**

Mail by July 9, 2016 to:  
Michael & Lynn Gulick  
2299 Fringe Tree Trail  
The Villages, FL 32163

# Tampa Bay Downs Brunch

Tampa, FL  
February 28, 2016  
By Lynn Hutchinson

**W**e held our annual Tampa Bay Downs event on Sunday, Feb. 28, starting at 11 a.m. It was a huge success. We had 50 people signed up in January and then had a waiting list. We have decided to get more tickets next year and hopefully we can get a date in February again.

I am not a very successful bettor and only won \$1.30; however, a few people did much better winning over a hundred dollars. I guess you either have to know what to bet on and pick winning horses or bet more than \$2 to show. The Club gave everyone \$2 so they could at least place one bet on us. It was a fun afternoon and we always have lots of time to visit with each other as well as having a nice brunch buffet.

During the afternoon, the mother of one of our members, Victoria Ross, had a stroke and had to be transported by ambulance to the hospital. We are so glad to report that she is doing well.

Remember, when this event is announced next year, please get your reservations in early. It is one of only a few events where space is strictly limited.

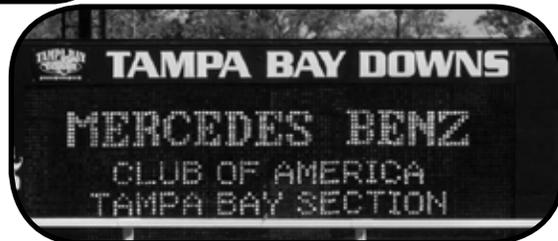


Above top: Rosemarie Bannagott, Scott Suits, Jimmy & Elaine Lee, Helen Sanders, Scott & Colleen Lowry.

Above: Case Wittemore, Victoria & Norm Ross, Jean McMorris and Patricia Wittemore



Above: Krissy Bacon, Marcia Schulz, Katherine Smith, Rob Harris, Larry Smith, Edgard Schulz and Lou Dughi  
Far left: Marica & Edgard Schulz



All photos in this issue taken by Dave Hutchinson.



Above Right: Ed Jarotz, Michael Cooper, Caroline Cerveney, and Carolyn Jarotz

Right: the winning horse, trainer and jockey



Above Top: Lynn Hutchinson, Paul Cooper, Michelle & Neal Dion, Ron & Mary Ellen Ames, Linda Cooper and Lynn & Michael Gulick

Right: Horse owner, jockey and award presenters Patricia Wittemore, Scott Suits, Ron Ames, Sean & Paul Cooper



Above: Greg & Perry Huntington



Above: Rhonda Bowers & Rob Harris  
Left: Lynn Gulick studies the betting odds.

# Hillsborough River State Park Picnic

Thonosassa, FL  
March 19, 2016  
By Dan Cabrera

The morning's weather report predicted 100% chance of rain. We all know that meteorologists are not always 100% accurate. Unfortunately, it was just our luck that they were right that day. Twenty-six members showed up at our scheduled event, a picnic at Hillsborough River State Park. We gathered under our rented pavilion and pondered how long the rain would last. We had hopes of walking on the nature trail, across the suspension bridge, and over to the rapids. After lunch, we planned to take the tram over to Ft. Foster for a look into early Florida History. The fort tour includes individuals dressed in period clothing of soldiers and Seminole Indians who provide insight about the way of life to those who inhabited the area of Tampa Bay. It was not to be; the rain continued steadily all day.

The good news was that, regardless of the circumstances, our members know how to have fun especially when it involves food and beverages. We all brought our own lunches and drinks. Some brought snacks, (thanks for the brownies!!) to share with everyone. A good time was had by all! Many said we have to do this (sans rain) again.

I have often reported that we have great members in our Section. Those of you who do not make it to our events, you are missing good times and the opportunity to make new friends.

Right: Paul Cooper, Gary Dolin, Michael Gulick, Connie Dolin & Lynn Hutchinson



Above: Ron Ames, Marcus Leibrecht & Dan Cabrera



Above: Pat Watson, Elaine Lee, Paul Cooper, Dan Cabrera, Jimmy Lee, Lynn Hutchinson, Gary & Connie Dolin and Greg Watson

Left: The pesty squirrel - not a member!! Wildlife??



Above: Nancy & Jim Merada



Above: Elaine Lee, Helen Sanders, Marianne Gorske

Below: Lynn Hutchinson, Dan Cabrera & Paul Cooper



Above Top: Jimmy Lee and Greg & Pat Watson

Above: Mary Ellen Ames and Lynn Gulick

Above in the oval: Helen Sanders

Below: Lynn Hutchinson and Lynn Gulick





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# Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!!

## A Great **BIG** thanks to our April Rally for Hope Children's Home sponsors.

The rally took place on Saturday, April 30th. With the help of the sponsors below and checks from our participating members, we presented \$1,125.00 to Hope Children's Home. Look for photos and the announcement of the winners in our next issue. Rally master, Scott Suits presented plaques, donated by Bayshore Trophies in Clearwater to the sponsors.

Right: Smokey Bones managers Rob Klinge & Vicki Morales with Scott Suits. The 8020 Citrus Park Dr, Tampa, location provided our awesome lunch after the rally

Below: Scott with Crown Eurocars general manager, Larry Costco, and Gary Dolin. Crown donated a check for \$250 and is the host of our monthly club meetings



Below: Scott with Lokey Mercedes Benz general manager, Jason Good. Lokey donated a check for \$250 and was the starting point of our rally.



## 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** - Mercedes Benz Owners Manual from 1970 280 SE nd 280 SE 4.5. in paper envelope sleeve, and in near perfect condition. \$45. Also a BECKER GRAND PRIX AM-FM stereo/cassette radio. OEM for Mercedes, Audi and Porsche in the 1980s. Recently examined by Becker technicians and found to be working perfectly. \$225. Text for photos (914)548-5450....cell. Anthony Lo-Balbo, Beverly Hills, FL

**FOR SALE** - 1994 E320 cabriolet. Black/gray. Second owner, rust free, unrestored original in excellent condition, garaged, 63k miles. Original sticker \$77,775 with all op-

tions. Limited production - will be collectible. \$17,950. Call Jerry @ 727-580-7800 or Bobbie @ 727-458-4719

**FOR SALE** – Bonnie & Dick Wolverton cars **2007 S-550**, 58k miles, Options include parktronic backup camera, Iridium silver; all services at Crown. \$22,000. **2003 SLK32 AMG** black, 58k miles, all service Crown, new tires, 349 hp, very good condition. Great for driving events. \$13,000. Less than 1,000 sold in 2003 Call Dick (H) 727-896-1995, (O) 727-823-1399 or dickwolv@aol.com

**LOOKING TO BUY** – an early 50's to 60's Mercedes 190 SL or Pagoda. Also interested in a Adenauer 300 or Ponton. He is familiar with the restoration & will consider any condition. Contact Robert Barret via email: mbz190slmembers@yahoo.com or this number 239-400-2945

# Member Appreciation Brunch



## Details: Brunch with a side of history...

Sunday Brunch at the historic Safety Harbor Resort and Spa is more than a collection of enticing entrees, savory soups, salads and delectable desserts - it's a sensory experience served up with a dash of history.

Dating back to the sixteenth century when Spanish explorer Hernando DeSoto believed he had found the elusive Fountain of Youth on this very site, Safety Harbor Resort and Spa has been an intriguing destination where notable figures from the worlds of politics, sports and entertainment have graced the tables. While brunch-goers here may not always dine with major league heroes or Hollywood legends, the meal promises to be every bit as memorable - and historic.

Every Sunday from 11:00 - 2:30 PM, Brunch is enjoyed in spaces like History Hall, Four Springs Ballroom, Athena or Baranoff where fine art, artifacts and glittering chandeliers blend with freshly prepared specials. The result is a holistic dining endeavor where patrons experience more than a meal

## Important Info

**WHEN:** Sunday, August 28, 2016

**WHERE:** **Safety Harbor Spa**  
105 N Bayshore Dr., Safety Harbor, FL

**COST:** \$10.00/person - limit 2 per membership

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

**TIME:** 11:00 AM - 2:30 PM

**RESERVE BY:** **August 13<sup>th</sup>**

in a hotel restaurant. To enjoy Sunday Brunch at the Safety Harbor Resort and Spa is to immerse yourself in the story beyond the food - a story of adventure, beauty and eternal youth.

We will be awarding certificates for your years of membership and pins for those who achieved years of membership ending in 5 or 0 - 5, 10, 15, etc. If you are receiving a pin please register early so we have time to order your pin from National.

This brunch sells for \$24.95 plus tax and tip so your club will be underwriting this event to show our appreciation for your continued membership. There is a limit of 2 persons per membership.

**Directions:** . Put the address into your navigation system (even outdated disks will have this location as the Spa has been there longer than all of us!), smart phone GPS, google maps or Mapquest for specific directions from your location.

## Member Appreciation Brunch Sunday, August 28, 2016

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

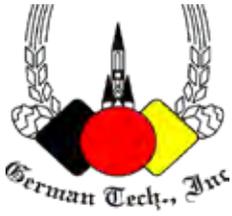
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

No. \_\_\_\_\_ persons @ \$10/person for brunch \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to:  
**Tampa Bay Section MBCA**

received by August 13, 2016 to:  
Lynn & Dave Hutchinson  
2104 Flamingo Place  
Safety Harbor, FL 34695



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