



Tampa Bay Star

December 2017/January 2018



Wearable art model with
Julian Hartzog
See Page 10



See Page 8



Gary Dolin presents Couple of the
Year Award to Greg & Pat Watson
See pages 6 & 7 for Holiday Brunch

Coming Events

January 27, 2018
Car Collection & Dinner
Sebring, FL

February 24, 2018
Sunken Gardens Tour
& Lunch
St. Petersburg, FL

March 18, 2018
Tampa Bay Downs
Tampa, FL

Important Dates

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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.

Jan 27 Saturday 11:30 AM-4PM
Car Collection & Lunch
Sebring, FL
See details in THIS issue

Feb 5 Monday 6:30PM
Business Meeting & Dinner
Crown Eurocars
6001 34th Street North
St Petersburg, FL

Dec 3 Sunday
Holiday Brunch
Safety Harbor Spa
Safety Harbor, FL
See details in THIS issue

Mar 5 Monday 6:30PM
Business Meeting & Dinner
Crown Eurocars

Mar 18 Sunday 10:30 AM - 5PM
Tampa Bay Downs Brunch
Tampa, FL
See details in THIS issue

Apr 2 Monday 6:30PM
Business Meeting & Dinner
Crown Eurocars

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

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

Jul 2 Monday 6:30PM
Business Meeting & Dinner
Crown Eurocars

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

Hi Everyone!

Welcome to 2018. Hope you have a happy and healthy New Year. I am looking forward to our Club's fantastic year.

We have so many great events planned for this year. Here are the events for the first 3 months of the year. On January 27 we are attending the Alan Jay Wildstein Car Collection in Sebring, followed by lunch at the Island View Restaurant and Pub. See the sign-up sheet for details. On February 24 we will be going to Sunken Gardens in St. Petersburg followed by a late lunch at Harvey's Fourth Street Bar and Grill. On March 18 we are holding our annual Tampa Bay Downs Event in Oldsmar. We have a limit of only 50 people for this fun afternoon of eating brunch, desserts, and betting on the horse racing. It always fills up fast so get your reservation in as soon as you can.

Our regular meetings are held the first Monday of each month unless it falls on a Holiday. I invite everyone to come... it is a short business meeting followed by dinner at the nearby BJ's restaurant. Come and get to know the other members and bring any ideas you may have for upcoming events. We love new ideas. I am looking forward to a great year for our Mercedes Club.

Lynn

Did you misplace your newsletter?

Do you know that Dan puts a copy of each issue of our local on the Tampa Bay Section website? Here is the address of our site:

<https://tampabay.mbca.org/>

Once you are on our site click [Newsletter](#) at the top and you will see the PDF format for all of our current and previous issues.



Find us on
Facebook

Welcome New Members!

Mark Benjamin • Long Boat Key
Laurie Campbell • Williston
John Ferrante Gennaro • Tampa
Larry B French • St. Petersburg
George Grundhoff • Gulfport
Wesley Lamb • Tampa
Serujnie McKenzie • Spring Hill
Curtis Neuman • Ocala
Chuck Rodriguez • Tampa
Agnes M Santos • New Port Richey
Christopher Trombetta • Seminole
Christine Yrigoyen • Dunedin

Renewed Members

Larry Bilby • Tampa
Thomas Bonaparte • Tampa
Clifton Brinkley • Ocala
Richard Browers • Safety Harbor
Daniel Cabrera • Plant City
Bettrice Conner-Mason • Saint Petersburg
Stephen Digilio • Kingston
David Hutchinson • Safety Harbor
John Koczman • Sarasota
Beverly Lowell • Palm Harbor
Carl Markowitz • Bonita Springs
Tracey Marlowe • Tampa
Anthony Massaro • Sarasota
Lynda Miller • Plant City
Jon Mitchell • Bradenton
Charles O'Kelley • Tampa
Elizabeth Palmer • Wesley Chapel
Daniel Perry • Jacksonville
Walter Piff • Clearwater
Deborah Pinto • St. Petersburg
George Smith • Saint Petersburg
Scott Suits • Palm Harbor
Helmut Tramosch • Riverview
Gary Warner • Naples
B Weeks • Tampa
Jo Wolfrey • Treasure Island

Above are the new and renewed members from October 18, 2017 through December 31, 2017. We look forward to meeting the new members and hope to keep seeing our renewed members at many of our events. – Editor

Alan Jay Wildstein Car Collection & Lunch



Details: Jim Dean has seen the Alan Jay Wildstein car collection with his Corvette club and suggested we might like to see these cars. Alan just moved his collection to a hangar at the Sebring Airport. This hangar is right next to the Tullius hangar we visited a few years ago to see the Bob Tullius's Collection. Jim ran into Alan in the last couple days and he said his whole collection is now in the hangar. According to Jim he has quite a collection of Corvette pace cars and that the rest of the collection has limos, Maseratis and Ferraris to name a few. The collection is forever evolving.

If you are limited for time you are welcome to join us just for the tour or just for the meal. Please let us know either way so we have an accurate count for both parts of this event.

Directions: Put the address into your navigation system, smart phone, GPS, google maps or Mapquest for specific directions from your location. They just renamed the street from 44 Victory Lane to 44 Alan Jay Way. I put Victory Lane into google maps and my iPhone and both found directions. It is basically just East of where east-west US 98 meets north-south US 27. It is just under 2.5 hours from my house in Safety Harbor.

Here is what the Island View website says about their menu: "Our New Coast cuisine combines the freshest seafood of the Southeast with some of your favorites from the Northeast. Whether you're sharing our fried green tomato basket or munching on our mouth-watering Italian beef dip sandwich, you'll find yourself right at home." It is about a half hour drive from the airport to the Island Lake View along the perimeter of Lake Jackson.

Important Info

WHEN: Saturday, January 27, 2018
WHERE: Alan Jay Wildstein's hangar
44 Victory Lane
OR
44 Alan Jay Way • Sebring, FL
Island View Restaurant & Pub
at the Sun & Lakes Country Club
5223 Sun N Lake Blvd, Sebring, FL 33872
863-382-1191 •
<http://www.islandviewrestaurant.com/>
COST: FREE for tour. Lunch off the menu
CALL: Paul Cooper • PaulJCooper@verizon.net
Home 727-726-6837 • Cell 727 644 6837
TIME: 11:30 AM - 1 PM for tour. Lunch to follow
1:30 for lunch
RESERVE BY: **January 20th**

Car Collection & Lunch January 27, 2018

I will attend this event Yes No
I will be staying for Lunch Yes No

E-Mail or call or text
by January 20, 2018 to:
Paul & Linda Cooper
PaulJCooper@verizon.net
727-726-6837 - Home
727-644-6837 - Paul Cell

Sunken Gardens Walking Tour & Lunch



Details: Join us for a tour of Sunken Gardens for the February event. Sunken Gardens is a botanical paradise in the midst of a bustling city, as St. Petersburg's oldest living museum this 100 year old garden is home to some of the oldest tropical plants in the region.

Built in 1903, by a local plumber, George Turner, Sr. purchased a plot on the outskirts of then St. Pete. George Turner had a 4 acre lake on the property and being an avid gardener he was more interested in the fertile soil that lay 15ft below the lake. So putting his plumbing skills to good use, he drained the entire lake. He began his sea level garden by planting a few citrus trees and vegetables. He added walk ways and tropical plants over the years. The humid below ground bubble created a tropical garden. By 1920, the locals could buy a stroll through the exotic landscape. The gardens remained family owned until the 1970's. The family did their best to maintain the property with minimal resources, while eventually looking to sell the gardens. When no buyers were found, the gardens became wild. In 1998, St. Pete declared the gardens a local landmark and invested in its restoration. Since the restoration, the gardens have been open to the public in all it's tropical glory.

We will begin the guided begin tour of Sunken Gardens at 1PM. The tour is a walking tour between an hour to an hour and a half. We will stroll through meandering paths, lush with exotic plants from around the world. We will explore cascading waterfalls, beautiful demonstration gardens, more than 50,000 tropical plants and flowers. **There is limited parking in the lot so consider carpooling. Additional parking can be found on the adjacent streets.** After the tour, join the group for a late lunch at Harvey's 4th Street Grill, reservations are for 2:45PM.

Directions: Put the address into your navigation system, smart phone, GPS, google maps or Mapquest for specific directions from your location or call Greg Watson, 941-539-8700.

Important Info

WHEN: Saturday, February 24, 2018

WHERE: **Sunken Gardens**
1825 4th St. N • St. Petersburg, FL.33704
727-551-3102 • www.stpete.org/attractions/sunken_gardens/index.php

Harvey 4th Street Grill
3121 4th St. • St. Petersburg, FL 33704
727-821-6516 • on FaceBook

COST: \$10.00/person for tour

CALL: Pat & Greg Watson • gwatson511@verizon.net
Home 941-745-1460 • Cell 941-539-8700

TIME: 1 PM for tour. Lunch to follow
2:45 for lunch

RESERVE BY: **February 17th**

Sunken Gardens Walking Tour & Lunch February 24, 2018

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

Make check payable to:

Tampa Bay Section MBCA

Mail by February 17, 2018 to:

Pat and Greg Watson
552 Mast Dr.
Bradenton, FL 34208

_____ \$10/person tour _____ Enclosed

I will be staying for Lunch Yes No

Holiday Brunch

Safety Harbor, FL
December 3, 2017
By Lynn Hutchinson

Our 2017 Annual Holiday Brunch was held on December 3rd at the Safety Harbor Spa. We had a record 80 people signed up and 76 attended. The room is so pretty with windows looking out on Tampa Bay and on the Spa's swimming pool.

Of all the brunches I have ever attended, this one is by far the winner. Breakfast foods, salads, cold shrimp and oysters on the half shell, hot food including chicken, fish, mashed potatoes and vegetables as well as carved prime rib. One of my favorites is the lobster bisque. Last but not least is the huge dessert table....so many choices. All are so good.

The fun part of the brunch is our Chinese Auction where the gifts are opened and then the next person can "steal an opened gift" or open a new one. Everyone has a good time and there are lots of laughs when the gifts are stolen.

Mark your calendar for next year; the Brunch will be December 2nd and the room holds a maximum of 80 people. Get your reservation in when it is announced in the newsletter.



Above: Left Sandee Pfister; Right JoAnn Dean-
Below: Barbara Little & Nancy Pease



Above: Norma Boots
Above right : Margaret Gregoriou
Right:: Buzz Werner

Above: Bob Martino

All photos in this issue taken
by Dave Hutchinson



Scott Suits donated 3 paintings to raffle with the proceeds going to Hope Childrens Home

Left: Painting raffle winners Carolyn Jarotz with Scott; Buzz Werner also with Scott; and Lynn Gulick

Above right: Photographer Dave doing self portrait in the mirror!

Below left: Paul Cooper (or maybe Elton John??!!)

Below right: Gladys Cochran



Above: Bob Beltz
Right: Elaine Lee

For more photos from this event check out our Facebook page.



Above: Don Beach "steals" a gift from Edgard & Marcia Schulz

Gypsy Vanner Horse Farm Tour & Dinner

Ocala, FL
November 12, 2017
By Michael Gulick

Sunday was a beautiful day to visit the Gypsy Vanner Horses. 44 of our members participated in this event with the majority joining us for lunch at the Off-The-Hook Peruvian Restaurant.

It's not often one has the opportunity to visit and touch a unique horse in person, especially one that was recently introduced to the world and establish it as a recognized breed.

We started with a talk about the history of the breed from its discovery in Great Britain to its evolution in the United States, as presented by our Tour Guide/Owner, Dennis Thompson.

A walking tour of the farm followed where we met the stallions, mares, foals, and various other animals loved at Gypsy Gold farm. The farm is located on 40 acres in Ocala, Florida. The facility features a 14-stall show barn, and a 12-stall bedding-free barn, surrounded by 19 lush paddocks dotted with ancient granddaddy oaks draped in Spanish moss. Private trails, hilltop views, and many gorgeous backdrops are here for four of the remaining foundation herd of the Gypsy Vanner horse.

After the tour, we headed to the Off-The-Hook Peruvian Restaurant for a great tasting of Peruvian dishes. We were the only customers at that time, since we filled up all available seats.

We hope everyone enjoyed this event and, for those not attending, you missed a great MBCA outing.



Above: Owners Erin & Dennis Thompson

Below: Lucie Lopez, JoAnne Dean, Gary & Connie Dolin, Debbie Cabrera & Lynn Hutchinson



Left: Wendy & Patrick Myelle
Above: Lisa Gulick Smith & baby Everly Smith



Right: Patty & Case Whittemore





Left: Deborah & Frank Pinto and Greg & Pat Watson

Below: Jim and Carol Ashworth and Mary Ellen & Ron Ames



Below: Lou Dughi & Krissy Bacon



Right: Paul Cooper and Ed & Carolyn Jarotz



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 – Glass Mercedes Model 300E on wood presentation board, \$45. Danbury Mint model 1931 Mercedes SSKL, presentation Box included. \$75. Anthony LoBalbo, E-mail or text for photos. (352)513-5058, (914)548-5450



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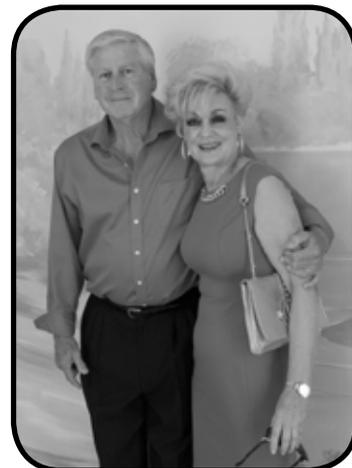
Above: Catherine Martino



Above: JoAnn Dean and Debby & Marsh Hauck
Below: Charles & Joan Cure



Above left: George & Carol Orndorff



Above right: Tom & Donna Petersen

Below: Lynn Gulick, Sandy Schwartz, Mary & Carmine Pulchino, and Connie Dolin



Tampa Bay Downs Thoroughbred Horse Racing & Brunch

Details: Thoroughbred racing is back for the winter season and we have March 18th scheduled for the Tampa Bay Section – MBCA. We have reserved a group area in the Skye Terrace Dining Room located on the 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 \$30.00 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 winner's trophy. Four (4) members will be picked via a drawing for the Trophy presentation in the Winner's Circle (with photo!) and a surprise by the board!!

We will be limited to the first 50 people to sign-up (2 persons per membership) and send in their payment. Our absolute deadline for cutoff is in-hand receipt of your check by March 9th. Price for the brunch and afternoon of action is \$30.00 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 at 11:00AM promptly!! (Be parked by 10:45!) 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 or skorts are allowed, and gentlemen are required to wear a colored shirt... this dress code is soundly 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 18, 2018

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

COST: \$30/adult

CALL: Dave & Lynn • 727-420-0424
DHutch@verizon.net

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

RESERVE BY: **March 9th**. (or first 50 people)

Limited to 50 registrations (2 per membership).

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

Tampa Bay Downs Thoroughbred Horse Racing & Brunch March 18, 2018

Name _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

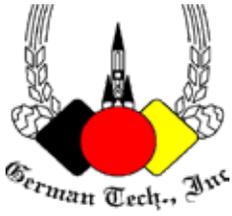
Email _____

Address _____

Make check payable to:
Tampa Bay Section MBCA

Mail by March 9, 2018 to:
Dave & Lynn Hutchinson
2104 Flamingo Place
Safety Harbor, FL 34695

1 or 2 @ \$30/adult _____ Enclosed



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