



Tampa Bay Star

December 2011/January 2012

Cruising on Marina Jack II
see pages 6-7

Coming Events

January 28, 2012
Relaxing at the Gulick's
The Villages, FL

February 25-26, 2012
Weekend Hayride, BBQ,
& Rodeo
Westgate River Ranch
River Ranch, FL

March 25, 2012
Lakewood Ranch Polo Match
Sarasota, FL

April 22, 2012
Tampa Bay Downs
Tampa, FL



Most of us at Chihuly
See pages 8 & 9 for more

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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.

Jan 9 Monday 6:30PM
Business Meeting & dinner
Crown Eurocars
6001 34th Street North
St. Petersburg, FL

Jan 28 Saturday
Pot Luck by the Pool
Home of
Michael & Lynn Gulick
The Villages, FL

See details in THIS issue

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

Feb 25-26 Saturday & Sunday
Hayride, cookout & overnight
River Ranch
East of Lake Wales, FL

See details in THIS issue

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

Mar 25 Sunday
Lakewood Ranch Polo Match
Sarasota, FL

See details in THIS issue

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

Apr 22 Sunday 10:30AM-4PM
Tampa Bay Downs
Racing & Brunch
Tampa, FL

See details in NEXT issue

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

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

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

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

Happy Holidays!

I am thrilled to be the new club President for the remainder of 2011 and 2012. This past year has certainly been an exciting one. Our socials have all been hits with almost all of the events numbering well over 25 members in attendance. Congratulations to Lynn and her Board.

The Holiday Party at Countryside Country Club was well attended. Over 50 members participated. The Chinese auction was a riot. Lots of Mercedes Benz toy cars were given and the club blankets were a huge hit. Everybody seemed to be so satisfied with their gifts that there was very little stealing going on. Countryside Country Club is a new location for our annual club party. I think that everyone was thrilled with the beautiful golf course location, the ambience and the food. We have already reserved Countryside for the 2012 Holiday Party. You can put the event on your calendar now for Sunday, December 9. More details to come later.

Our club meets the first Monday of each month unless the Monday is part of a holiday weekend. In that case, the meeting will be the second Monday of the month. Our business meeting is at Crown Mercedes in St. Petersburg at 6:30 PM. Incidentally, most of our socials are created as a result of brainstorming in these monthly meetings. If you have an idea, please bring it to the meeting. It is also a good place to get to know your fellow members. We get together for an on-your-own dinner at a convenient place

that is decided during the meeting. Most of our members think that eating out is the best part of our meetings!

We are really excited about the scheduled socials in the First Quarter. Michael and Lynn Gulick have graciously offered their beautiful new home in The Villages for our first social get together of the year. Most of us have heard about The Villages, but few of our members have ever been there. So this is an opportunity to get a firsthand look at this golf cart friendly adult community. See page 4 for details.

In February we will be doing a brand new event, a weekend get together at River Ranch. River Ranch is a dude ranch that has been in Central Florida for decades. The Coopers and the Hutchinsons checked out the property recently, and we think that it offers a lot of promise for a unique weekend in the country. There will be lodging, a hay ride, dinner and a rodeo. Read all about it in this edition of the newsletter.

In March we return to the Sarasota Polo Club in Lakewood Ranch for an event that has really been popular with club members for the last two years. The club will furnish refreshments during the matches. See page 11 for details

Please join us for lots of fun at the club in 2012. Happy New Year!

Dave

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 - 2005 SL500 Aegean Blue/Gray, 49K mi., original owner, bi-xenons, clear film body protectors since new, Alphard (MB) 18" staggered wheels w/ Michelins, all books & records, excellent condition. \$34,900. Call Bill Iseman 941-779-2929

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



Find us on
Facebook

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 counour award winning "Mercy".

FOR SALE - 1987 560 SL, silver (original)/navy interior (recovered in '07), 105,000 miles, converted A/C, new tires on original wheels, original soft & hard top, new Jensen radio. Asking \$12,500. Call Cheri at 727-365-5268

"Pot" Luck at Michael & Lynn's

Details: This will be a "Pot" luck post luck!! Dust off that crock pot you had hidden in your kitchen and bring your favorite soup, stew or chili. Cooking and crock pots not your thing – then sign up to bring a dessert. Enjoy the view of the golf course from the patio of the new home of Michael & Lynn Gulick and an afternoon with fellow MBCA members..

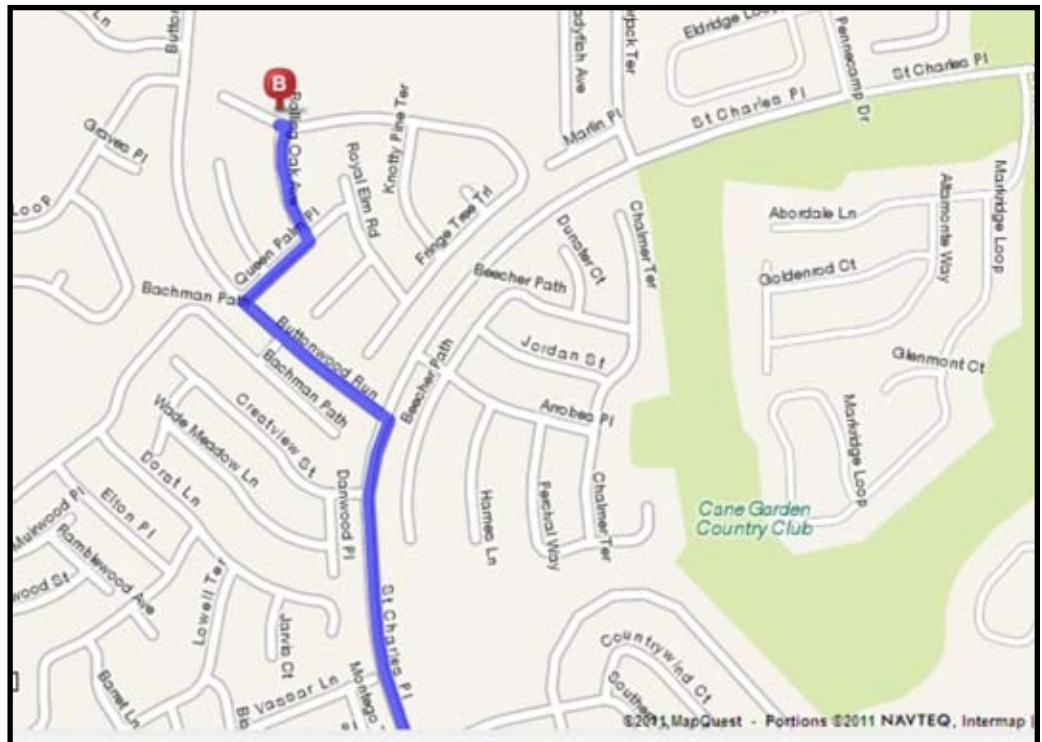
The club will provide interesting breads/rolls to accompany along with beer/wine/soda & since this is winter possibly coffee/tea/cocoa.

Directions: Take Interstate 75 North to Exit 329 towards Wildwood. Head East on 44 towards Leesburg for about 5 miles (cross HY 301). Turn left, North, on Buena Vista Blvd (at a traffic light). Drive about 2 miles, cross HY 466a and enter The Villages, stay on Buena Vista. Continue North for another ½ mile and at the traffic circle exit Left (West) on St Charles Place (entering the Village of St Charles). Use either gate as they are not controlled. Continue on St Charles Place for about 2 miles. Turn Left on Buttonwood Run. After 100 yards, turn right on Queen Palm Pl. After 100 yards turn Left on Rolling Oak Ave. (2nd road). Go to end of street then turn Left on Fringe Tree Trail. We are the first house on the right, next to the open lots.

FYI from the editor - Google maps on your computer does not find their street. The map to the right is from MapQuest. On my iPhone the app for MapQuest also will find the directions but the built in map for the iPhone does not. So you might want to test your car/phone/hand held GPS before you leave.

Important Info

WHEN: Saturday, January 28, 2012
WHERE: Home of Michael & Lynn Gulick
2299 Fringe Tree Trail. • The Villages, FL
COST: \$5 / membership
CALL: Michael & Lynn Gulick • 352-259-1952
or via email MAGulick@centurylink.net
TIME: Noon - ? PM
RESERVE BY: January 24th



Pot Luck at Michael & Lynn's January 28, 2012

Name _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____

Email address _____

No. _____ \$5/membership – Enclosed \$5.00 I will bring _____

Make check payable to:
Tampa Bay Section MBCA

received by January 24, 2012 to:
Michael & Lynn Gulick
2299 Fringe Tree Trail.
The Villages, FL 32162

HAYRIDE WEEKEND AT RIVER RANCH

Important Info

WHEN: Saturday/Sunday February 25-26, 2012

WHERE: Westgate River Ranch
3200 River Ranch Boulevard • River Ranch, FL
<http://wgriverranch.com>

COST: \$20.00/person for hayride & cookout
\$12/person for Rodeo

ROOMS: \$89/nite for double room. Call (863) 692-1321.
Mention Mercedes Benz to get this awesome rate

CALL: Paul & Linda Cooper • 727-726-6837
Cell 727-798-6800 • LindaBcooper@verizon.net

TIME: Room check in 4 pm • Hayride at 5pm
Rodeo at 7:30

RESERVE BY: February 20, 2012



Details: Check in time is 4pm but come early or stay longer on Sunday if you want to enjoy any of the other activities they have to offer such as the 9 hole golf course, horseback riding, and heated pool & hot tub to mention a few. We will have the hayride & BBQ before the Rodeo that starts at 7:30

Hayride Details: Experience an old-fashioned, tractor-pulled Hayride at Westgate River Ranch that takes you into the beautiful, 7,000-acre KICCO Wildlife Management Area (KICCO stands for “Kissimmee Island Cattle Company”), which runs along the Kissimmee River. As its name implies, the KICCO Wildlife Management Area is home to abundant wildlife such as white-tailed deer, bald eagles, wild hogs, hawks, sandhill cranes, wading birds, alligators and wild turkeys. Enjoy a family-style cookout buffet – that includes barbecue chicken, hotdogs, corn on the cob, baked potatoes, baked beans and iced tea – at the East Corral and, of course, don’t forget to toast marshmallows over the campfire for dessert!

Rodeo Details: Cowpokes and bronco busters descend upon Westgate River Ranch every Saturday night at 7:30 PM for an evening of fun for the whole family at the 1,200-seat rodeo arena. This real-life rodeo features trick riding, bull riding, calf roping, barrel racing, rodeo clown antics and a patriotic, flag-waving tribute to our armed forces

Directions: Centrally located between the Atlantic and Gulf beaches, Westgate River Ranch lies within Polk County, Florida, approximately one hour South of Orlando.

From Tampa:

Take State Road 60 East. Continue East approximately 25 miles past U.S. 27. Westgate River Ranch will be on your right-hand side.

Hayride & Rodeo at River Ranch February 25-26, 2012

Name _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____

Email address _____

No. for hayride/BBQ _____ \$20/person No. for Rodeo _____ \$12/person

Make check payable to:
Tampa Bay Section MBCA

received by February 20, 2012 to:
Paul & Linda Cooper
121 Woodland Court.
Safety Harbor, FL 34695

Marina Jack's Lunch Cruise

Sarasota, FL
October 23, 2011
By Lynn Hutchinson

October 23rd the club traveled to Sarasota for a cruise and lunch aboard the Marina Jack II. What a better way to enjoy water front dining than to be on the water? We cruised on the intercoastal waterway for a couple of hours. We were so fortunate to have had such a beautiful day for our social. Most of us have never seen that area by sea so it was new and exciting. I think that everybody was overwhelmed by the many beautiful homes along the Intercoastal.

This was a really popular event with over 50 members attending – some of them new and at their first event. It seems like anytime that we get the club out on the water that a good turnout is almost guaranteed. We sure do live in a beautiful part of the country. The lunch was a buffet and the food was very good.

Thanks to Ben Berman for chairing a great event.



Above: Len Berman, Lynn Hutchinson, Dick Wolverton & event planner, Ben Berman

Below: Bob & Catherine Martino and Rob & Rita Verge



Above top: Scott & Colleen Lowry

Above: Debbie Cabrera



Above clockwise: Debbie Cabrera, Pat Tornblom, Lynn & Michael Gulick, Lynn Hutchinson, Mary Lounge & Dan Cabrara



Above: Bill Iseman, Edgard & Marcia Schulz, Rosemarie Bannagott & her friend, and Mandy Iseman

Below: Bob Kummer & Beth, Victoria & Norm Ross



Above: Paul Cooper, Nancy Tracy, Connie Dolin, Estelle Estabrook, Reagan Rowe, Gary Dolin, & Dick Tracy



Above bottom right clockwise: Len Berman, Dick Wolverton, Tish Gaskin, Cliff Brinkley, Scott Suits, Betty Johnson, Laurie Kosky & Bonnie Wolverton

Photos of this event taken by Dave Hutchinson



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Chihuly Collection Tour

St. Petersburg, FL
November 6, 2011
By Linda Cooper

The phone began ringing Friday – event planner, Nancy Merada was in the hospital for emergency tests, Pat Tornblom was down with the flu and with Dave & Lynn Hutchinson jetting their way to Africa – we became the contact persons at the last minute for this event. Paul & I met with Jim Merada on Saturday to get the list & payments Nancy collected (she was doing better but still at Bay Pines for more tests at that time). Jim told us that Len & Ben Berman called and also would not be attending due to a family emergency. Sunday morning we headed out early so we could handle the little details before everyone began to arrive. With all but a couple stragglers, our guide began the tour right on time. Unfortunately there was no photography allow in Chihuly.

After our hour tour we retrieved our MB for various parking lots and headed a couple miles across St. Petersburg for our demonstration and tour of the Morean Art center.

There we enjoyed a glass blowing demonstration that was awesome and some shopping in the gift shop. Our next stop was a great dinner at the Red Mesa Cantina (a Mexican restaurant where the special of the day was a

“Cuban Hamburger”. We all asked Dan Cabrera who heritage is from that island, if he was familiar with this. He hadn’t a clue!! Food was great but another oddity for a Mexican restaurant – you had to order chips and salsa as an appetizer!

A big thanks to Nancy Merada for planning this great day. BTW – she is fine and was released after some medication adjustments the following Monday – just 1 day too late to enjoy our day.



Above: Connie & Gary Dolin
Left: Bonnie & Dick Wolverton.



Photos of this event taken by Linda Cooper



Left: Kevin Johnson and new members Don & Margaret Eckerson

Below: Krissy Bacon, Lou Dughi and Noel Johnson



On the Cover L-R: Don & Margaret Eckerson, Lou Dughi in front of Krissy Bacon, Rita & Rob Verge, Catherine Martino, Dick & Bonnie Wolverton in front of Bob Martino, Paul Cooper, Debbie & Dan Cabrera, Lynn Gulick and Carolyn & Ed Jarotz



Above: Krissy, Lou, Debbie, Lynn, Don & Margaret watch intently.

Right: They formed in a mold, shaped, blew and spun a red hot blob of hot glass into an awesome bowl - were we surprised when it became a flat dish like bowl from what looked all along like a vase!



Right: Rob Verge & Bob Martino

Below: Catherine Martino & Rita Verge



Left: Carolyn & Ed Jarotz

Below: Lynn Gulick and Debbie & Dan Cabrera





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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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Polo Match & Tailgating

Important Info

WHEN: Sunday, March 25, 2012

WHERE: Sarasota Polo at Lakewood Ranch
8201 Polo Club Lane • Sarasota, FL 34240
(941) 907-0000
<http://www.sarasotapolo.com>

COST: \$5/membership for food - send with coupon below
You will pay \$10/person at the gate for match entry

CONTACT: Dave & Lynn Hutchinson • 727-426-6711 •
Dhutch@verizon.net

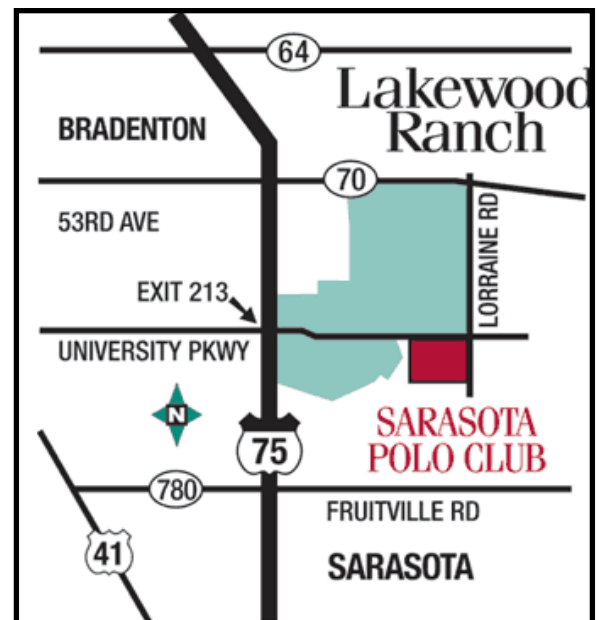
TIME: 11am- gate opens • 1 pm matches start

RESERVE BY: March 18, 2012

Details: We have something exciting planned for Sunday, March 25th - we will be tailgating at the Sarasota Polo Club at Lakewood Ranch, Sarasota FL. The club will bring the food and beverages. You just arrive in your MB, pay the entrance fee of \$10/person at the gate & relax in your lawn chairs for the match that begins at 1 p.m. The gates open at 11 am and we will be arriving then as there are no assigned parking locations unless you are a Polo Club member. We will get as many parked together as possible. If you have to park away from the group, just look out for the MBCA club banner. Make a note of the officers cell phone numbers always in this newsletter in case you have trouble finding us. Bring chairs or blankets. Dress is casual according to the weather. Jeans & shorts are fine. We will have 2 tents for more shade so between that and the fact that we are a few weeks earlier, we hope this year will be cooler. Please be sure we can contact you with additional parking directions and other information as it arrives.

With 130 acres, consisting of 9 meticulously groomed and irrigated polo fields, 2 stick and ball fields and a regulation size arena, Sarasota Polo Club is one of the largest clubs in the country. Surrounding the polo fields are 35 private ranches, ranging from 5 to 40 acres. During season, over 600 horses are stabled in and around the Club.

Directions: I-75 to Exit 213. Head east on University Parkway towards Lakewood Ranch (3.5 miles). Turn right on Lorraine Road, entrance for General Admission during the Polo Season is the second right.



Polo Match & Tailgating March 25, 2012

Name _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

No. _____ for lunch/ Enclosed \$10/membership

Make check payable to:
Tampa Bay Section MBCA

mail by March 18, 2012 to:
Dave & Lynn Hutchinson
2104 Flamingo Place.
Safety Harbor, FL 34695

George Orndorff Wins Best of Show

St. Petersburg, FL
November 13, 2011
By Linda Cooper

On Sunday, November 13, 2011, Dr. George Orndorff was the recipient of the Best of Show in the Post War Sports Cars 1945-1962 open & closed category for the 15th annual Vintage Motor Classics show at St. the Petersburg Yacht Club. Many of you saw his 1959 190 SL "up on the rack" in his 2 tiered garage during out dockside pot luck at his home in August. Congratulations George.



Welcome New Members!

Air Care
Samir Dobric
Art Dorsett
Don Eckerson
Michael Germak
Mike Halley
Chris Johnson
Edward Kinsley

Robert Kruse
Neil Lawrence
Goitzen Meindertsma
Bengt Niebuhr
Jeffrey Rush
Robert Schmidt
Case Whittemore



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