



Tampa Bay Star

June/July 2018

**Tech Inspection
See Pages 6 & 7**



Coming Events

**July 21, 2018
Sculpture Experience
St. Petersburg, FL**

**August 5, 2018
Cadillac Car Collection Tour
Bradenton, FL**

**September 9, 2018
James Western Art Museum
St. Petersburg, FL**

**See details for these events
on pages 4, 5, and 11**

**Ed Fletcher's Dinner Theater
See Pages 8 & 9**

Important Dates

Officers

President Lynn Hutchinson
727-726-6711 C 727-420-0424
dhutch@verizon.net

Vice President
Greg Watson
941-745-1460
gwatson511@verizon.net

Secretary Pat Watson
941-745-1460
gwatson511@verizon.net

Treasurer Paul J. Cooper
727-726-6837 C 727-644-6837
PaulJCooper@verizon.net

Past President
Gary Dolin
941-896-6881
g.dolin@verizon.net

Newsletter Editor
Linda B. Cooper
727-726-6837 C 727-798-6800
LindaBCooper@verizon.net

Chairpersons

Membership
Paul J. Cooper
727-726-6837 C 727-644-6837
PaulJCooper@verizon.net

Activities Lynn Hutchinson

Photography
Dave Hutchinson

Historian Lynn Hutchinson

Technical

Legal Advisor

Webmaster
Dan Cabrera
dcabrera2@tampabay.rr.com

SE Regional Director
Dan Cabrera
813-480-3484
dcabrera2@tampabay.rr.com

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 21 Saturday 1:00 - 5:00PM
Sculpture Experience
St. Petersburg, FL

See details in THIS issue

Aug 5 Sunday 11:00 AM - 3PM
Cadillac Car Colletion Tour
Bradenton, FL

See details in THIS issue

Aug 6 Monday 6:30PM
Business Meeting & Dinner
Crown Eurocars
8302 US Hwy 19 N
Pinellas Park, FL

Sep 9 Sunday
James Western Art Museum
St. Petersburg, FL
See details in THIS issue

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

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

Oct Saturday
Old Castle Restaurant
Oktoberfest
Ruskin, FL

See details in NEXT issue

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

Dec 3 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.

Mercedes-Benz
Roadside Assistance
Call 1-800-FOR-MERCEDES
24 hours a day.

President's Message

Hi Everyone!

Happy Summer everyone!! We have had some excellent events, as always.

In May we had our Tech Inspection at Crown Mercedes. Besides checking members' cars, Dan and Debbie Cabrera even booked their regular service and had it done while they were enjoying the event. Crown's new facility is just beautiful. It is huge and has the biggest showroom I have ever seen. They put on a very nice lunch for us, catered by Mike's Pizza, with sandwiches and fruit.

The June 16 event at Ed Fletcher's Early Bird Dinner Theater was fabulous. The matinee play, Savannah Sipping Society, was so very funny. The buffet was amazing... delicious food and lots of choices... salmon, chicken, meatballs, ham, carved roast beef, sides, a salad bar, and lots of desserts. It was a great event.

Check our coming events; we have a fun-filled summer planned so plan to attend. On July 21 will be going to the St. Petersburg Sculpture Experience & lunch following at the Oyster Bar.

August 5 we will be attending a private car collection in Sarasota.

September 9 we are going to the James Museum of Western and Wildlife Art in St. Petersburg, followed by lunch at Datz Deli, the museum's café.

Hope to see you at our monthly meetings the first Monday of each month followed by dinner at a nearby restaurant. The meeting facilities at Crown are awesome... we have a room to ourselves with lots tables and chairs. Come and get to know us and bring ideas for future event.

Lynn



Find us on
Facebook

Welcome New Members!

Jeffery Ach • Safety Harbor
Martin Conner • St Petersburg
Bruce Crockett • Treasure Island
Donald Davis • Palm Harbor
James Fitzgibbons • Sarasota
Joe Meggison • Palm Harbor
Alexandre Moscoso • Tampa
Paul Reid • Saint Petersburg
Jean Robertson • Dade City
Roberto Saez • Wesley Chapel
Richard Strefling • St Petersburg
Timothy Stroyne • Belleair
Jose Uranga • University Park

Renewed Members

Rosmarie Bannagott • St Petersburg
Benjamin Berman • Sarasota
Joe Brenna • Indian Rocks Beach
Frank Cannoe • Bradenton
Jeffrey Dressel • Tierra Verde
Louis Dughi • Palm Harbor
Lisa Forsyth • Lutz
Gary Gould • Tampa
Chris Gregoriou • Crystal River
Gene Heil • Treasure Island
William Klein • Lutz
David Mc Nabb • Tampa
Lance Meyerson • Tampa
Marcia Schulz • Oldsmar
W Simon • Largo
Terry Stephens • Gulfport
Ditmar Wissel • Ocala
Leo Wolk • Largo
Robert Yaeger • Sarasota

Above are the new and renewed members from April 20, 2018 through June 22, 2018. We look forward to meeting the new members and hope to keep seeing our renewed members at many of our events. – Editor

St. Petersburg Sculpture Experience & Lunch



Important Info

WHEN: Saturday, July 21, 2018

WHERE: **St. Petersburg Sculpture Experience**
780 Central Avenue • St. Petersburg, FL
Jonhair.com
DiscoverDowntown.com under Museums

Lunch: **The Oyster Bar**
249 Central • St. Petersburg at 2:45PM

COST: \$12.00/person for tour

CALL: Pat and Greg Watson
Phone: 941-539-8700
gwatson511@verizon.net

TIME: 1:00 - 2:30 PM for tour

RESERVE BY: **July 13th**

Details: Join us for a tour of the St. Petersburg Sculpture Experience for the July event at their new location on Central Avenue. There are over a hundred sculptures on display at this new St. Petersburg Exhibit. The sculptures range from life size to giant size to I can't believe my eyes size. At 27 feet, this includes the world's largest lion and an 8 foot tall Neil Armstrong. Jon Hair is a highly commissioned monumental sculptor who had over 80 sculptures commissioned since beginning his career in 2000. Some of his clients include the cities of Beijing and Shanghai, U.S. Olympic Committee, U.S. Air Force Academy, Metro-Goldwyn Mayer, Academy of Television Arts and Science, and 35 universities. **The artist will lead the tour,** which begins promptly at 1:00 PM. The tour will last between an hour to an hour and a half. Please arrive 15 minutes early, so the tour can begin on time. More information on parking can be found in the next issue.

After the tour, join the group for a late lunch at The Oyster Bar, reservations are for 2:45 PM. If you can't make the museum, join us for lunch.

Directions: For directions, put the address in your GPS or call Greg Watson, 941-539-8700.

St. Petersburg Sculpture Experience & Lunch July 21, 2018

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

_____ coming @ \$12/person _____ Enclosed I will stay for Lunch Y N

Make check payable to:
Tampa Bay Section MBCA

Mail by July 13, 2018 to:
Pat and Greg Watson
552 Mast Dr.
Bradenton, FL 34208

Cadillac Car Collection Tour & Lunch



Important Info

WHEN: Sunday, August 5, 2018
WHERE: **Meet location: Target Parking Lot**
101 N Cattleman Rd., Sarasota
Duff's Original Buffet
6010 14th St. West • Bradenton, FL 34207
(941) 752-3666
COST: FREE tour - Lunch off the menu
CALL: Len Berman • Home 941-923-7436 •
lsb1946@verizon.net
TIME: 10:30 AM - 3 PM
RESERVE BY: **July 29th**

The car collection tour is LIMITED TO 30

Details: This is a private car collection owned by Sal, a friend of Len & Ben Berman and member of the Cadillac Club. Here's a description of the place provided by Len: There's a small eclectic collection of Cadillacs, including the car used for the film "Driving Miss Daisy" (picture above) and an exact reproduction of the (original) "Ghostbusters" hearse. The cars are surrounded by storefronts of the imaginary village of Fleetwood, Florida, all themed to the Cadillac marque. The rest of the building is filled with an amazing collection of memorabilia, including literature, models and pictures related to Cadillacs, sports and Sal's life. It's very entertaining.

Afterward, we will drive a relatively short distance to Duff's Original Buffet, an inexpensive (less than \$9.00) restaurant with an unbelievable selection of very good food in unlimited quantities!!

Directions: Sal doesn't want to give out the address; he wants us to caravan there. We'll meet at the Target parking lot at exit 213 on I-75 at 10:30 am. That lot is on the south west side of the interchange of University Parkway and I-75 - we've met there before. It's opposite the University Town Center mall on Cattlemen Road. Put the address into your navigation system, smart phone, GPS, google maps or Mapquest for specific directions from your location. If you are running late or lost, call Len Berman on his cell number 941-539-3471 or Lynn Hutchinson, 727-420-0424 or Linda Cooper, 727-798-6800.

Cadillac Car Collection Tour & Lunch August 5, 2018

When you call or send a message to Len,
please indicate if you will be joining us after the tour for lunch.

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

Call or email
by July 29, 2018

Len Berman
lsb1946@verizon.net
Home: 941-923-7436

Tech Inspection at Crown

Pinellas Park, FL
May 19, 2018
By Linda Cooper

Wow what a beautiful new facility. If you missed the Tech Inspection at the new Crown location last month, or have not been to a monthly meeting, you are missing a lovely new dealership. As Lynn mentioned, it has one of the largest air-conditioned show rooms and an expansive front lawn for room for oh so many beautiful cars on display. Close to 40 members gathered in the lounge area sipping gourmet coffee as they took down the name and the model of cars to be inspected. I elected not to have my 2004 E320 inspected since, with 20 cars there, I did not think there would be time.

Well, as they say, hindsight – as I was driving home from work Thursday afternoon, my dashboard flashed a big red warning light in the middle of the speedometer. On Friday morning I was back in the service department with my car. It seems the computer relay that charges or communicates with the auxiliary battery (the one that controls the computer) got stuck. They gave me a very nice GLK to drive and I was on way home in no time. In just a day after 2.5 hours of labor and a new auxiliary battery, she was all fixed and as good as new. I very reluctantly returned the loaner GLK on Saturday. Darn the fact that they have service hours on Saturday as I didn't get to keep the GLK for the holiday weekend!!

When I introduced myself to Curt & Sue Neuman, Sue said they had a friend also named Linda Cooper. I then verified that they did live in Ocala and that this Linda Cooper was married to a farrier. The reason I knew this is because the other Linda Cooper was the wife of Paul's cousin Frank Cooper and before he passed away several years ago, they lived and worked in Ocala!! How is that for coincidences!!

The folks at Crown provided a terrific lunch catered by Mikes Pizza. If you missed the event, you missed a great day. Plan to join us for some of our future events.

On the Cover: Rose Bennagott with Roses' new car and her friend Pat Anagnosyis

All photos of this event and the cover taken by Lynn Hutchinson



Above: Joe Colwell

Below left: Sue & Curt Neuman

Below right: Marilynn & Robert Reason





Left: Gail Werner,
Linda Cooper & Buzz
Werner

Right: Gayle Moore

Below: Steven Rae

Below left: Jim &
Santee Pfister



Below: Joe Brenna



Above: Dennis & Barbara Zawacki, and
Mary Elizabeth & Carmine Pluchino

Right: Tim & Marianne Gorske



Ed Fletcher's Dinner Theater

Clearwater, FL
June 16, 2018
By Linda Cooper

Aren't you lucky? You get to read 2 of my articles this month!! The rule of thumb is that you are in charge of either writing about the event or getting someone to do it, and since I forgot to ask someone at the last meeting – here I am again in this issue!!

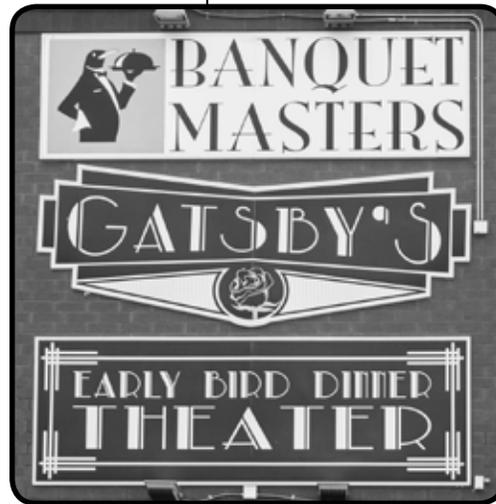
Our afternoon last weekend at Ed Fletcher's dinner theater was so much fun. We started our meal with the salad bar – very fresh romaine lettuce with all the usual toppings and several salad dressings to choose from: pasta, potato, and three bean salad and rolls. The dessert table had many delectable choices from carrot cake to Boston cream pie and my choice, lemon meringue pie. Each table had a number and when the main courses were ready you went up in table order. There were 2 carving stations with beef and ham, chicken in a thick gravy that tasted like chicken and dumplings, and my very favorite onion-crust salmon. The salmon was a whole large filet that you just cut off your portion and was as moist and good as any entree ordered in a specialty restaurant.

Promptly at 1 pm the play, Savannah Sipping Society, entertained us for the next two hours. We laughed the whole time. I think we have found a gem. The production runs until July 7th and then they take a summer break until September 1st. The show changes every two months and they have matinee performances on Thursday and Saturday and evening performances Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.



Above: Linda & Paul Cooper

Below: Lynn Hutchinson & Michael Gulick



Right: Lynn Hutchinson, Krissy Bacon, Lynn Gulick and Lou Dughi

All photos at this event taken by Dave Hutchinson



Above: Julian Hartzog & Sandy Schwartz

Right: Pat & Greg Watson



Above: Neal & Michelle Dion



Left: Debbie & Dan Cabrera

Below: Deborah & Frank Pinto



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 – SLK - One of the first SLKs sold in Pinellas County. This car was ordered on the very first day that the SLK was announced. 1998 SLK 230 – Brilliant Silver with Salsa (red/black) interior. All original. Only 18,000 miles m.o.l. Recent A Service. Always Dealer serviced. Garage kept. Immaculate, great rally car. \$14,999 - Call Dave Hutchinson at 727-420-0592 or 727-726-6711.

FOR SALE – Baby your SLK 230 with this flannel lined all weather extreme silver/gray “Custom Cover”. Pristine! Only \$100. Call Krissy at 727-548-0313.

FOR SALE – 2004 E320 station wagon, blue/gray, rear facing third seat, cargo privacy cover, nav system, sun roof. Recently service at Crown. 122k miles. Call Paul & Linda Cooper @ 727-726-6837



“Your Dealer Alternative”

M COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR

Jim Zuppelli
Michael LaMonte

4411 North Lois Ave.
Tampa, FL 33614
office 813.870.1250
fax 813.870.1345

www.mcompleteautorepairoftampa.com

Specializing in Mercedes-Benz Autos

Starfest 2018

Birmingham , AL
May 14-21, 2018
By'Chris Gregoriou

What a wonderful experience. Meeting and spending time with fellow members of our Tampa Bay section was great. It's always nice to have a common interest and to see so many vintage and classic Mercedes. Of course the icing on the cake for me was to win first place for my 560SEC at Star Fest plus my wife winning the picnic basket. I will never forget it. Looking forward to the next event with the club.

Chris & Margaret



Above: Tampa Bay Section members at Starfest: standing Chris & Margaret Gregoriou, sitting L-R Bob & Catherine Martino and Connie & Gary Dolin

Below: Chris receives his award



Left top: Chris with his certificate

Left: Chris' winning 560SEC

James Museum of Western & Wildlife Art & Lunch



Important Info

WHEN: Sunday, September 9, 2018

WHERE: James Museum of Western & Wildlife Art
150 Central Ave, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

COST: \$10.00/person for the museum entrance

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

TIME: 11 AM - 3:00 PM

RESERVE BY: August 31st

The museum tour is LIMITED TO 50

Details: We will be touring the highly acclaimed James Museum of Western and Wildlife Art in St. Petersburg. Years ago when Tom and Mary James travels took them out West, they were captivated by the art, the landscape and the artists. This greatly moved them. They began buying pieces not only for their personal pleasure, but also to help the artists earn a living. They collected works in oil, in ink and in stone; works that define genres yet defy labels; works that evoke the spirit of a wide open frontier and the beauty of life in the wild. Members Bob & Catherine Martino and Lynn and I have viewed the collection and found it to be stunning and not to be missed. It is certainly a treasure for our community.

Docents will guide our tour of select pieces for approximately one hour. Then our members will have approximately an hour to see the rest of the museum. We have arranged a group rate of only \$10 per person. The tour will be limited to only 50 people, so please mail in your checks soon. **DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT is AUGUST 31st.**

Following the tour and visit, we will be having lunch (on your own) in the intimate Canyon Café which is in the same building. Due to the small size of the restaurant we may be requesting that you place your meal order prior to the event. We will advise those that are going by e-mail or phone if that is the case.

Directions: Put the address into your navigation system, smart phone, GPS, google maps or Mapquest for specific directions from your location. Paid parking is connected to the museum and is \$2.00 per hour on the 3rd and 4th levels. All other levels are \$1.00 per hour. There also may be some street parking available.

James Museum of Western & Wildlife Art & Lunch September 9, 2018

Name(s) _____

Make check payable to:
Tampa Bay Section MBCA

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

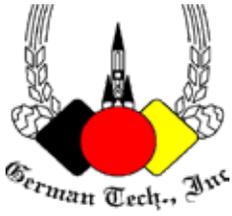
Mail by August 31, 2018 to:

Email _____

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

Address _____

_____ at \$10/per person _____ Enclosed I will stay for lunch Y N



YOUR ONE STOP FOR ALL YOUR GERMAN CAR NEEDS

SERVICE & REPAIR OF:



- Free Estimates
- Factory Trained Technicians
- Family Owned & Operated Since 1994
- Specializing In Historic German Cars
- Call 547-0818 For An Appointment Today



GERMAN TECH, INC. • 10881 75th Street North • Largo, FL 33777
 Business Hours: Mo-Fr 7:30 am - 5:30 pm • (727) 547-0818 • info@germantech.com



THE NEW HAUS OF LUXURY



Employee Pricing On All NEW Vehicles for Mercedes-Benz Club of America Members

It's the dawn of a new day at the all-new Crown Eurocars. Now at a new location with new architecture, but with the same superior service, Crown Eurocars offers the pinnacle of the luxury car ownership experience.

Crown Eurocars is pleased to offer MBCA members special employee pricing on all new vehicles! Contact Randall O'Leary, 727-329-3031, and Larry Chapman, 727-329-3002, directly for details.

Discover the Better Way to drive at Crown Eurocars



CrownEurocars.com
 8302 US Highway 19 N, Pinellas Park, FL 33781
 866-369-3751