



Tampa Bay Star

October/November 2012



At Clearwater Marine Aquarium
See pages 6 & 7



Ready to Rumble at the Rally
See Pages 8 & 9

Coming Events

November 17, 2012
Wine, Dine & Cars
Plant City, FL

December 9, 2012
Holiday Brunch
Clearwater, FL

January 20, 2013
Bob Tullius Hangar Tour
Sebring, FL

March 24, 2013
Tampa Bay Downs Brunch
Tampa, 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 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.

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

6001 34th Street North
St Petersburg, FL

Nov 17 Saturday
Wine Dine & Car Show
Plant City, FL

See details in THIS issue

Dec 3 Monday 6:30PM
Business Meeting & dinner
Crown Eurocars

Dec 9 Sunday
Holiday Brunch
Countryside Country Club

See details in THIS issue

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

Jan 20 Sunday 12:30PM
Tour Bob Tullius hangar &
dinner for the day

OR
The weekend at nearby hotel
Sebring, FL

See details in THIS issue

Feb 3 Monday 6:30PM
Business Meeting & dinner
Crown Eurocars

Feb 23 or 24 S
To be announced later

See details in NEXT issue

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

Mar 24 Sunday
Racing & Brunch
Tampa Bay Downs
Tampa, FL

See details in NEXT issue

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

The Prez Says!

Time flies when you are having fun. It has been a busy summer with club activities.

On August 19th we visited the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, the home of Winter, the famous dolphin with no tail. Again, a great turnout of the club on a hot summer day enjoyed. Following the afternoon social we had an early dinner at Heilman's Restaurant on Clearwater Beach. Many of the club members had never been to Heilman's, a legendary restaurant that has been on Clearwater Beach for decades. Lynn and I had not been there in years. The food and atmosphere were great. I know that we will certainly both be back. Thanks to members Nancy and Jim Merada for organizing this event.

Southeast Regional Director and former president Scott Suits conducted an auto rally on September 16th which began at Crown Eurocars in St. Petersburg and concluded at the secret destination, The Crab Trap II in Bradenton. Approximately 15 member's cars participated. We understand that this event was very enthusiastically received. Lynn and I and Paul and Linda Cooper were vacationing in Poland and missed the event. Thanks to Bob Martino for taking pictures at this event.

Lynn Hutchinson and Linda Cooper report that almost 50 members will be attending our Membership Brunch on October 14th at the Safety Harbor Spa. Several of us have enjoyed the Spa's Sunday brunch in the

Notice for those members North

Ron Ames, a 14 year member of the Nebraska section, recently moved to The Villages. Ron approached the Tampa section board about holding meetings/events in that area. We and National provided the names of the current members in that area including Ocala. He will be sending an e-mail questionnaire to those in this area asking for ideas for event(s) and if you are interested in participating. He will do this in conjunction with his membership in our section and we will put the details for these happenings in our newsletter. Please respond to his message. — Editor

past and feel that this will be really an excellent club event. If you have indicated that you will be attending and have not mailed in your payment for this event yet, please send it now. Thank you!

Our Holiday Party at Countryside Country Club is less than two months away. Please be sure that you have signed up for this always wonderful time. Details are in this edition of the newsletter. And start looking for your car or non-car related items to give away in the Chinese auction that has always been a big hit over the years.

We already have an event in place for January. We will be traveling to Sebring on the 20th for a showing of a private collection of airplanes and Jaguars at Bob Tullius' hangar in Sebring. This one should be a lot of fun. Members Jim and Jo Ann Dean are arranging this event. It is nice to see our new members stepping up to the plate with ideas for our monthly socials.

We hope that you will join us soon at one of our monthly get-togethers or at a monthly meeting at 6:30 PM on the first Monday of every month at Crown Mercedes in St. Petersburg.

Dave

Welcome New Members!

Sh. Ahmed Bin Khalid Althani • Sarasota
Henk Eisinga • Seminole
Jesse Hall • Bradenton
Gerri Marsocci • Tampa
Brian Mullady • The Villages
Neil Rideout • Sarasota
Ashley Southerland • Tampa

Above are the new members for August and September up to the 2nd of this month. — Editor

Wine, Dine & Car show

Important Info

WHEN: Saturday, November 17, 2012

WHERE: **Keel and Curley Winery**
5202 Thonotosassa Road • Plant City, FL 33565
813-752-9100 • <http://keelandcurleywinery.com/>

Mi Casa Restaurant
2613 Thonotosassa Road • Plant City, FL 33563
813-752-0057

Plant City Strawberry Classic Car Show

COST: \$ 6.00/person for wine tasting- dinner off the menu

CALL: Dan & Debbie Cabrera • 813-480-3484
DCabrera2@tampabay.rr.com

TIME: 1:30 PM for wine tasting • Dinner around 3:00 PM

RESERVE BY: **November 10th**



to join us for dinner, please call or e-mail the number attending and your contact information, so we have a seat for your and an accurate count for the restaurant.

Directions: To Keel & Curley Winery - proceed from your location to I-4 to exit 17 (Branch Forbes Road). Exit 17 is east of where I-75 crosses I-4 and is 17 miles from Ybor City near Tampa where I-4 begins. At the exit go north on Branch Forbes (toward Dinosaur World) for 1.4 miles. Turn left on Thonotosassa Rd & the winery will be ahead 220 ft. on the right.

For the restaurant - take I-4 to exit 19 for FL-566 E (Thonotosassa Rd). Go south this time on Thonotosassa Rd. The restaurant is in a strip mall on the right about .1 from the exit.

Details: This month we have a triple event planned & you can attend any or all events. We will begin our day at 1:30 PM with a wine tasting at the Keel and Curley Winery. After our tasting (about 3 PM we will head 3.5 miles down the road to Mi Casa Restaurant – a family-owned restaurant dedicated to serving the finest foods and atmosphere of Mexico and the Southwest. The comfortable atmosphere and friendly service will make you feel more than welcome.

After our meal, we will head a couple more miles into the heart of Plant City where we can enjoy the third Saturday Plant City Strawberry Classic Car Show stroll downtown Plant City. Have a look at the antique cars and see historic downtown Plant City.

Please mail the coupon with your payment for the wine tasting. If you plan

*** PLEASE NOTE - ALL CHECKS ARE MADE PAYABLE TO: **TAMPA SECTION MBCA *****

Wine, Dine & Car Show November 17, 2012

Name _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____

Email address _____

No. _____ \$6.00/person Enclosed _____ for wine tasting

No. _____ for dinner off the menu No. _____ for car show

Make check payable to:
Tampa Bay Section MBCA

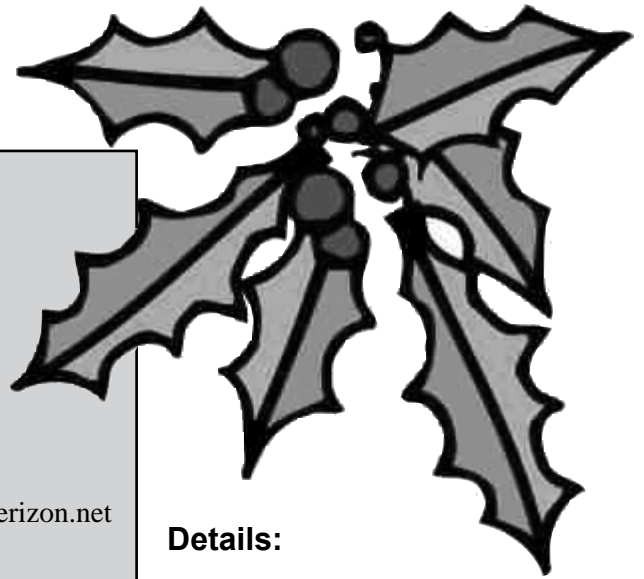
received by November 10, 2012 to:
Dan & Debbie Cabrera
3016 Leila Estelle Dr
Plant City, FL 33565

Holiday Brunch

Important Info

WHEN: Sunday December 9, 2012
WHERE: Countryside Country Club
3001 Countryside Blvd, • Clearwater, FL
727-796-1333 - if you get lost
COST: \$20.00/person
CALL: Dave & Lynn Hutchinson • 727-726-6711 • dhutch@verizon.net
Cell phone: 727-420-0424
TIME: 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
RESERVE BY: December 2, 2012

Limit 2 per membership



Details:

Please join us for what promises to be a most enjoyable and unforgettable Holiday Brunch. This year's party begins at 11:00 AM and I'm sure you will agree will be filled with much delicious food and the usual MBCA fun. We will have our famous lively Chinese Auction. Bring a gift costing no more that \$10 if you want to participate in this gift exchange

The menu includes: Chef attended Omelette Station, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Fresh Fruit Bowl, BLT Pasta Salad, Chicken Piccata, Grilled Salmon with Lemon Butter, Broccoli Florets, Mashed Potatoes, Club Rolls & Butter, Cookies, Brownies Petit Fours.

Directions: Driving North or South on U.S. 19: Turn east on SR 580, continue .8 miles to Countryside Blvd. Turn left on Countryside Blvd. The country club is .7 mile on the right.

Driving West from Tampa: Follow the sign west to the Tampa airport & then to Clearwater using SR60/Courtney Campbell causeway. The third light on the west side of the causeway is McMullen Booth Rd./CR 611. Go right (North) on CR 611 for 4 mile; turn left on SR 580. Go 1.1 miles & turn right on Countryside Blvd. The country club is .7 mile on the right.

Traveling North on I-275: Follow the signs to St. Petersburg/Clearwater Airport; just past the airport proceed North on the Bayside Bridge; on the North side of the bridge the road becomes McMullen Booth/CR 611; turn left on SR 580 (it is about 8 miles from the St. Pete/Clearwater airport to SR 580). Go 1.1 miles & turn right on Countryside Blvd. The country club is .7 mile on the right.



Holiday Brunch December 9, 2012

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____

Email address _____

No. _____ \$20/person enclosed _____

Make check payable to:
Tampa Bay Section MBCA

received by December 2, 2012 to:
Dave & Lynn Hutchinson
2104 Flamingo Place
Safety Harbor, FL 34695

Clearwater Aquarium & Dinner

Clearwater Beach, FL
August 19, 2012
By Linda Cooper

We arrived early to Clearwater Beach to find the on-site parking lot totally full. After following the signs (around several blocks) we located the additional parking about 3 blocks away. Clearwater Marine Aquarium personnel provided us with blue arm bands for our members due to arrive. We gathered just inside the gate, posed for our group shot (see the cover of this issue) and our tour began with our guide explaining the history of CMA. She had a sample of one of Winter's prosthetic tails (seems they have to make a new one several times a year as his is still growing) for us to feel.

We saw Winter swimming without his tail, other dolphins performing on command and the cutest otters swimming in their enclosure nearby. Down

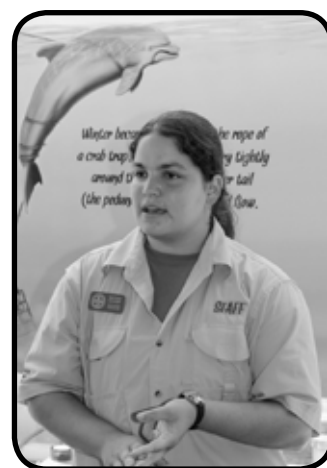
on the first floor we saw and read about rescued turtles and how it they can survive on their own, they are released back into the sea after they mend.

Toward the end of our visit we made our way to the third floor where we were entertained by Nicholas (named this because he was rescued a couple years ago on Christmas Eve). He jumped and splashed (to the delight of the kids lined up along the railing) and put on quite a show.

At the close of our afternoon, we headed to Heilman's Beachcomber for a wonderful dinner and great service. If we didn't see you there, you missed a terrific afternoon. A great big THANKS to Nancy Merada for handling all the details for this event. Well done.



Above: Nancy & Jim Merada with their Grandson



Below: Lynn Hutchinson, Linda Cooper, Gloria & Bob Moore, Pat Tornblom and her great granddaughter, Danielle, Mary Lounge and Paul Cooper

Below Left: Catherine Martino, Michael & Lynn Gullick, Debbie & Dan Cabrera, Lou Dughi, Krissy Bacon and Bob Martino



Above -Ben Berman, Connie & Gary Dolin, Len Berman, Betty Hendrix and Scott Suits



Photos at CMA taken by Dave Hutchinson



Above: Jim & Nancy Merada with Mathew, and Carolyn & Ed Jarotz

Below: Jim & Jo Ann Dean and Marsh & Debbie Houck



Above: Don & Splash Eckerson

Left: Bob & Gloria Moore



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Fun Road Rally

St, Petersburg, FL
September 16, 2012
By Scott Suits

Crown Eurocars in St. Petersburg was gracious to provide our section with a staging area to line up our Mercedes for the rally as well as coffee and donuts brought in and set up by Amy and Matt Teneja. Matt is a new member to the club and a sales person for the dealership. He is the one who encouraged me to do the rally.

Twelve cars lined up and were given their instructions that would guide them through the route and to the unknown end until they made their final turn into the restaurant parking lot. The course was 59.8 miles long and there were 37 questions to answer. Some of the answers to find were the name of a pastor, a phone number to buy property, what year a plantation was built or the birth date of a person off of a headstone. On the last sheet were four bonus questions: the meaning of the three pointed star; what is the definition of the name Mercedes; what year was Mercedes trade name registered and; what year was Mercedes-Benz certified? Three teams, Gulick, Marino and Taneja answered all four bonus questions right. Four teams, Gulick, Taneja, Berman and Konkol answered all 37 of the main question correct.

Gabriena Sgro, 8 years old, was navigator for her dad Bill and they placed 8th overall. Gabriena is the youngest navigator I have ever seen and I commend her for a great job!!!

The results are as follows:

1st Michael & Lynn Gulick 357.5 points
2nd Bob & Catherine Marino 345.3 points
3rd Russ & Donna Boyle 338 points

Participants in order of points earned:

336.5 Matt & Amy Taneja
335.5 Debbie & Dan Cabrera
327.0 Louis Dighi & Krissy Bacon
320.0 Ben Berman & Len Berman
315.5 Bill and Gabriena Sgro
312.5 Ron & Mary Ellen Ames
308.0 Don & Margaret Eckerson
296.0 Dan & Gayle Konkol
275.5 Connie & Gary Dolin



Above top: Rally master Scott Suits

Above middle: Gary & Connie Dolin

Above: Dan & Debbie Cabrera

Left: Mr. Teddy lurking about!!

Photos of this event taken by Bob Martino



Above: First place winners Lynn & Michael Gulick with Scott Suits



Right: Ben Berman

Below far: Scott with third place winners Russ & Donna Boyle



Above: Second place winners Bob & Catherine Martino with Scott Suits

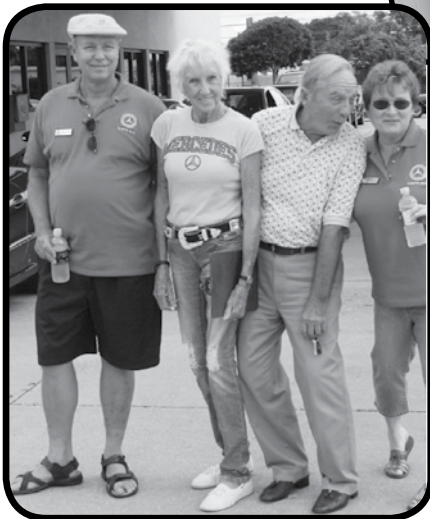
Below far: Mary Ellen & Ron Ames



Right: Scott with Gayle & Dan Konkol

Below: Michael Gulick, Krissy Bacon, Lou Dughi & Lynn Gulick

Right oval: Bill and Gabriela Sgro



Right: Lynn Hutchinson and Linda & Paul Cooper with the MB Sprinter for their own rally on the roads of northern Poland

Right above: Matt & Amy Taneja and Scott figure the scores



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 – 1997 SL 600 Mercedes, white. Never been in accident, have service records from dealer (car fax). Garage kept. Two tops, hard top panorama roof. Sports Package. New ceramic brakes. All new cylinders for top. Second owner \$14,000.00. Contact Bob Moore (MB Member) @ 727-560-6798.

FOR SALE – Chris Tornblom's cars:

1984 SEC 500 - fully loaded - car runs great heated seats, new tires.\$7,500 or best offer

1978 280 Convertible - 5 speed transmission - new rebuilt engine - new interior - car runs great - interior needs to be put back in car - seats are in, carpet needs to be put in and dash board completed \$5,000 or best offer.

2001 Jaguar S Class 4 door - car in perfect shape gold in color - \$8500 or best offer. Call Pat 727-856-5584 to see these beauties.

FOR SALE – 2006 320E CDI, silver-gray. Mercedes serviced, never been in an accident. Purchased new from local dealer. 48,000 miles, 28-37 MPG. Warranty until April 2012. Leather, Premium Pak I and II. Sunshade, Dash Navigation. \$24,900.00 Tampa, FL; call Cell 813-230-7370

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 – 1982 380 SEC, silver (original)/navy leather interior. Call Paul Cooper @ 727-726-6837

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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Bob Tullius Hangar Tour & Dinner

Important Info

WHEN: Sunday January 20, 2013

WHERE: **Bob Tullius "Group 44" Hangar**
44 Victory Ln. • Sebring, FL 33870
727-726-1161

Yianni's Restaurant

3750 Us 27 North • Sebring, FL
863-385-9222

COST: \$5.00/person for the hangar tour

CALL: Jo Ann & Jim Dean • 863-386-0286
gatorwatcher@embarqmail.com

TIME: 12:30 PM Tour • 1:45 Lunch/Dinner

Hotel: Resident Inn, Marriott • 863-314-9100
3221 Tubbs Road • Sebring, FL
Inn on the Lakes • 863-471-9400
3100 Golfview Rd. • Sebring FL

RESERVE BY: **January 15th**

Details: While Tullius is a racing hero who founded the legendary Group 44 racing team almost 50 years ago, he doesn't live in Sebring for its racing history. Instead, he's there because of the love for airplanes he discovered in the late 1960s. While his love for sports car racing and team ownership decreased over the years, his interest in planes grew significantly. Over the past few decades, he's owned a wide range of planes. That includes one of the most sought-after exotics: the P-51 Mustang, a single-seat fighter-bomber used during World War II and the Korean War. Tullius also maintains another half a dozen planes in his private hangar, as well as several of Group 44's race cars.

Dinner at Yianni's Restaurant will follow our tour around 1:45 PM . they have early Sunday special dinners from \$7.99-9.99 (this is not a typo!!) that include choice of potato, vegetable, fresh baked roll and glass of wine or draft beer!! An additional glass of wine is \$2.50! They also have extensive regular menu and a 5 star rating on many sites.

The board will have a suite at the Marriott for both Saturday & Sunday night (BTW Monday the 21st is MLK birthday and may be an off day for those of you who still work. Standard queen & king rooms are \$121 & \$131 and the 2 bedroom/2 bath suites are \$161/nite - easy to share with 2 couples. All have full kitchens and come with full hot buffet

breakfast. Plenty of room to party in the suites where the club will provide the usual libations and snacks. Jo Ann & Jim can also provide golf course information for those who want to come early on Saturday or stay longer on Monday to play. Contact them if you are interested.

*** PLEASE NOTE - ALL CHECKS ARE MADE PAYABLE TO: **TAMPA BAY SECTION MBCA ***.**

Directions: Take SR 60 or 64 East to SR 70. Go South on US 27 through Sebring to US 98. Turn left on US 98 South for 3.1 miles to Haywood Taylor Blvd., turn left. Go 2.4 miles (past Sebring Int'l Race Track) to Victory Lane, turn left to Gate 16. It is the hangar on the left next to the airport tower.

The directions above are not on the highways. If you are coming from points North & West you might want to take I-275 to I-4 East toward Lakeland/Bartow & the Polk Parkway. Then you can take Exit 10 on the Parkway which is US 98 & then follow directions above.

Bob Tullius Hangar Tour, Dinner & Weekend January 20, 2013

Name _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____

No. _____ @ \$5.00/person I/we will be staying for dinner Yes No

Make check payable to:
Tampa Bay Section MBCA

Mail by January 15, 2013 to:
Jo Ann & Jim Dean
184 Lake Dr Blvd
Sebring, FL 33875

Tour Around Lake Erie for 2013

Ron Ames reports

Below is an early e-mail announcement of a fall 2013 MBCA trip around Lake Erie. This will be the third in a series of Circle Tours around one of the Great Lakes – Lake Michigan in 2008 and Lake Huron in 2011. MaryEllen and I have been on both of the previous trips and they are truly wonderful – Ron Harshman is a superb Tourmiester and will no doubt arrange a memorial event.

We will be driving our 450 SL from The Villages and would love to have others from the Tampa Bay Section join us. This tour is not restricted to MBCA members.

G. Ronald Ames • 1303 Corona Avenue • Village of East Hacienda • The Villages, Florida 32159
Phone: 402-250-6066 • E-Mail: NebraskaRon@hotmail.com

Hello Everyone,

Just a quick message to give you a heads up that I will be doing a tour of Lake Erie September 28 - October 4, 2013, starting from Cleveland, Ohio. Highlights will include a visit to Tony Packo's or MASH fame, the Automobile Hall of Fame and Henry Ford in Dearborn, RM Classic Autos and Restoration in Ontario, a stop in London, Ontario for an opportunity to attend a play, two nights in Niagara Falls, Ontario, a stop at the Pierce-Arrow museum in Buffalo, and concluding night at the lodge at Geneva-on-the-Lake, Ohio. Along the way we will be passing some of the premier sites in North America for viewing the fall migration of raptors and song birds. The tour is being sponsored by the Western Reserve Section of MBCA. My preliminary estimate for the cost is \$310 per person which includes three dinners, two boat cruises, and admission to the RM Exhibit. I am in the process of finalizing the budget and itinerary. Please contact me if you are interested in receiving further information.

Ron Harshman • 43000 Whispering Pines Path • Coloma, MI 49038 • 218-213-4967



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