



# Tampa Bay Star

December 2012/January 2013



**At Keel & Curley Winery**  
**See pages 8 & 9**



**2012 SLS AMG**

## Coming Events

**January 20, 2013**  
**Bob Tullius Hangar Tour**  
**Sebring, FL**

**February 23, 2013**  
**Yuenling Brewery & Dinner**  
**Tampa, FL**

**March 24, 2013**  
**Tampa Bay Downs Brunch**  
**Tampa, FL**

**Member Appreciation**  
**See Pages 6 & 7**

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Dhutch@verizon.net

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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.

**Dec 9 Sunday**  
Holiday Brunch  
Countryside Country Club

**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 Saturday Noon-3PM**  
Tour Yuengling Brewer  
Dinner MiMi's Cafe after  
Tampa, FL

**See details in THIS issue**

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

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

**See details in THIS issue**

**Apr 1 Monday 6:30PM**  
Business Meeting & dinner  
Crown Eurocars  
6001 34th Street North  
St Petersburg, FL

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

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

**Jul 1 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

## The Prez Says!

Happy Holidays to you. It has hard to believe that 2012 is almost behind us. This has been a momentous year for our club with great participation from many of our members. I have enjoyed serving as your President.

More than 50 members attended our Membership Appreciation Brunch in October at the Safety Harbor Spa. We received really great feedback from you on the spacious room and the huge and varied brunch. As a result we have already contracted with the Spa to hold our 2013 Holiday Party (on December 8) there.

In November Dan and Debbie Cabrera coordinated a great club event in Plant City. First there was a wine tasting at the Keel & Curley Winery. That was a good opportunity for socializing with club members. We followed that with an early Mexican dinner at Mi Casa which was muy bueno! Lynn is very picky about her chile rellenos. She loved them at Mi Casa. Then we attended the monthly oldies car show in historic downtown Plant City. This was a lot of fun. I couldn't believe how many cars were displayed...almost 4 city blocks full! Lynn & I plan to return.

As you read this the 2012 Holiday Brunch at the Countryside Country Club on December 9 will be behind us. More than 60 members have already signed up for the brunch. This is another beautiful setting on Countryside Golf Course. I will again be taking individual portrait photos for the newsletter so please plan to dress up. Please no shorts or jeans. Thanks!

We are excited about the January event. We will be traveling to Sebring on the 20th for a showing of a private collection of airplanes and Jaguars at the Robert Tulus' hangar in Sebring with dinner at the Yianni Restaurant on your own following. The hangar has a view of Sebring Racetrack. Several of our members plan to spend the night in Sebring after this event as well as the night before. We will have a hospitality room. This is a great opportunity to get to know your fellow members a little bit better.



Check out the club Facebook page or our Section web site at [MBCA.org](http://MBCA.org) for color photos of our events

Sebring Members Jim and JoAnn Dean are arranging this event. Please contact them with any questions. Their information is on page 4 in this edition of the newsletter.

Another club first will be our February social which is a tour of the Yuengling Brewery in Tampa. I will bet that most of you didn't even realize that there was another brewery in the Tampa Bay Area. Yuengling is the oldest brewery in America dating back to 1829 with it's roots in Pottsville, Pennsylvania. This should be a lot of fun. Dinner on your own will follow at MiMi's Cafe on Dale Mabry. See page 5 for details.

Of course, just about everybody's favorite social is the day at the races at Tampa Bay Downs. This year the event will be on March 24th. You will have the opportunity to bet on your favorite filly and enjoy the track's delicious brunch. A race will be named in honor of the Tampa Bay Mercedes-Benz Club Race. We have been guaranteed the best room at the track, The Sky Terrace. Sorry, no shorts or jeans permitted. See page 11.

Again, I hope that this Holiday Season will be your best yet. The Board looks forward to seeing you at our exciting events in the New Year!

Sincerely,

Dave

## Welcome New Members!

Robert Baldwin • Longboat Key  
John Boots • Tampa  
Richard Crossley • Sarasota  
Daniel Hogan • Largo  
Gary Hull • Tarpon Springs  
Ken Pitts • St. Petersburg  
Charles Shanberg • Tampa  
Wai To • Sarasota  
Steven Weinstein • Gulf Port  
Peter Weiss • Sarasota

Above are the new members for October and November up to the 3rd of this month. – Editor

# 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 15<sup>th</sup>**

**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 to 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



# Yuengling Brewery Tour & Dinner

## Important Info

**WHEN:** Saturday February 23, 2013

**WHERE:** **Yuenling Brewery**  
11111 North 30th Street Tampa, FL 33612  
813-972-8500

**MiMi's Cafe**  
11702 North Dale Mabry • Tampa, FL  
813-265-4460

**COST:** \$5.00/membership for tour

**CALL:** Paul & Linda Cooper • 727-726-6837  
PaulJCooper@verizon.net

**TIME:** Noon Tour • 1:45 Lunch/Dinner

**RESERVE BY:** **February 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Details:** Step out from under the hot Florida sun to discover how the cool, crisp taste of Yuengling is brewed and bottled. Tour the Yuengling brewery in Tampa where “America’s Oldest Brewery” uses modern technology to brew fine beer in a time-honored tradition. Sample the Yuengling heritage for yourself at the brewery’s biergarten.

- Yuengling tour guides will share with you history of the brewery and detailed information regarding the brewing process, however there is no production on Saturday’s.
- Tours last approximately one hour and fifteen minutes.
- All ages are welcome. A valid ID is required to sample Yuengling products at the end of the tour. There is soda available for those under the age of 21 and visitors who prefer non-alcoholic beverages.
- All tour visitors must wear completely closed shoes. No sandals, flip flops, clogs, crocks, anything with openings around your foot is unacceptable, **must be a completely closed shoe.**
- The building is not handicapped accessible.

**MiMi’s Cafe:** In 1944, an American airman named Arthur J. Simms fell in love with the beauty, foods and flavors of France. It was to become a passion that would change his life.

Stationed there during the final days of World War II, young Arthur J. was taken by the friendly neighborhood bistros and warm, inviting cafés. Arthur J. loved the simple yet charming meals. He savored the aroma of freshly baked breads, café au lait and the company of good friends raising toasts all around. Equally captivating was a mademoiselle he met by chance, who went by the name of Mimi. Arthur J. Simms never forgot his days in France. In 1978, he opened the first Mimi’s Cafe® – a neighborhood bistro inspired by his memories of Mimi and passion for good food, wine and camaraderie that he remembered so fondly.

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

**Directions:** Take I-275 north or south depending on you home location. Take exit 51 to merge onto FL-582 E/E Fowler Ave going East for 2.1 mi. Turn right onto N 30th St, Destination will be on the left. (To give you an idea the brewery is just north of Busch Gardens and 30th Street runs North & South along the back of the park.

From Brewery to MiMi’s: Head north on N 30th St toward E 113th Ave, 0.3 mi. Turn left onto E Fowler Ave 1.5 mi; Turn right onto N Nebraska Ave 1.0 mi; Turn left onto E Fletcher Ave , 3.4 mi; Turn left onto FL-597 S (Dale Mabry) Destination will be on the right

## Yuengling Brewery Tour, Dinner February 23, 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 February 15, 2013 to:  
Paul & Linda Cooper  
121 Woodland Court  
Safety Harbor, FL 34695

# Member Appreciation at the Spa

Safety Harbor, FL  
October 14, 2012

By Linda Cooper

**M**ember appreciation 2012 - 55 honored members from 2 weeks to 43 years membership - an awesome brunch at the Safety Harbor Spa - what more could you ask for!! Bob & Catherine Martino received their 40 year pin (their membership began when they moved to Los Angeles to "meet people" and they have been members of many sections over the last 43 years). Ken & Joan Pitts took the honors as our newest members but if any of you have been around a while you will remember them from more that 5 years ago. They moved to Tallahassee several years ago and recently returned to St. Petersburg. We welcome them back.

Food choices went from made to order omelets and every breakfast item you can think of to sliced beef and an abundance of seafood. And then there was the deserts that never ended. Although Jim Dean (a real chocolate lover) said there was not enough "stuff" to put the hot fudge on!!

Everyone was so impressed with the brunch that it was suggested we use them for our holiday brunch for next year. We signed the contract last week and have them booked for December 8, 2013. So mark you calendar.



Above: Paul & Linda Cooper, 35 years, Scott Suits, 27, Bob & Catherine Martino, 43 years, Lynn & Dave Hutchinson, 27 years, Dan Konkol, 20 years and Reagan Rowe with his friend, 25 years. Missing from this over 20 years photo was Len Berman with 21 and Scott & Colleen Lowry with 23 years.



Below -Joan Pitts, Ed & Carolyn Jarotz and JoAnn Dean at the buffet



Above: Lynn & Michael Gulick, Debbie & Dan Cabrera, Nancy Pease & John Thomas

Photos at member appreciation and at the Gulick's taken by Dave Hutchinson



Above: Connie & Gary Dolin, Len & Ben Berman, Ken & Joan Pitts, Krissy Bacon, Lou Dughi and Victoria & Norm Ross

Below: Dan & Nancy Konkol, Marsh & Debbie Houck, Ed Jarotz, Jim & Nancy Merada (who were celebrating their anniversary) and Carolyn Jarotz



Above: Eleanor Bird & friend, Greg & Pat Watson, Catherine & Bob Martino and Colleen & Scott Lowry

Below: Birthday girl Lynn Hutchinson, Kathy & Dick Brower, Pat Tornblom, Mary Loudon and Paul Cooper



## Halloween at Gulick's



Above: King & Queen Michael & Lynn Gulick

Below: Connie & Gary Dolin



Below: Jim & JoAnn Dean



# Fun in Plant City

Plant City, FL

November 17, 2012

By Dave Hutchinson, Jimmie Lee & Linda Cooper

**A**nother great Club event Saturday. 38 members enjoyed a fun filled day in Plant City that included wine tasting at Keel & Curley Winery, an enjoyable lunch at MiCasa Restaurant and a great oldies car show featuring hundreds of classic American cars from the 30s through the 60s and a couple of classic Mercedes Benz. Thanks members Dan & Debbie Cabrera for hosting this terrific event.

Jimmie Lee says: Had a really great time at the "Wine, Dine, and Car Show" event and Mi Casa Restaurant was a first class choice. Best Mexican food ever. Thanks to Dan and Deb for organizing this great event.

Linda Cooper says: I also had fun at the winery - there was lots to taste that I enjoyed. I agree with both Dave & Jimmie - the meal was superb. My burrito took up the entire plate!! It was one of those why we live in Florida evenings as we parked our cars and headed to the center of Plant City for the biggest street car show I've seen. Of course they lost me about half way when I discovered a new fabric store on Main Street and they were open!! FYI Plant City holds this car show event monthly so if you missed being with us, check it out on your own and ladies if you want to check out this quilt fabric store, just suggest a car show night out in Plant City!!



Above: Debbie & Dan Cabrera

Below: Lynn Hutchinson with Bobbie & Jerry Rendel

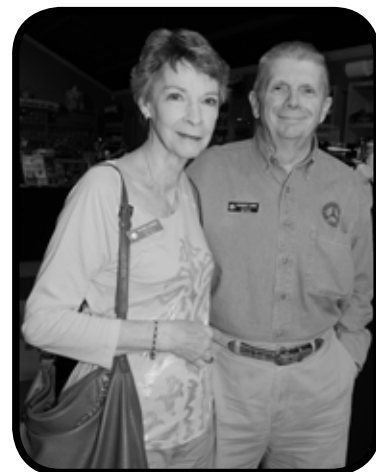


Right: Marcia & Edgard Schulz

Below: Jim & Nancy Merada



Right: Roxie & Robert Lewis



The group on the cover L-R: Dan & Debbie Cabrera, Nancy Merada & Lynn Gulick in front of Bob & Catherine Martino, Jimmie & Elaine Lee in front of Robert & Roxie Lewis, Jim Merada, Pat Tornblom & Lynn Hutchinson in front of Connie & Gary Dolin, Paul Cooper, Lou Dughi, Michael Gulick, Linda Cooper and Greg & Pat Watson

Photos of this event taken by Dave Hutchinson

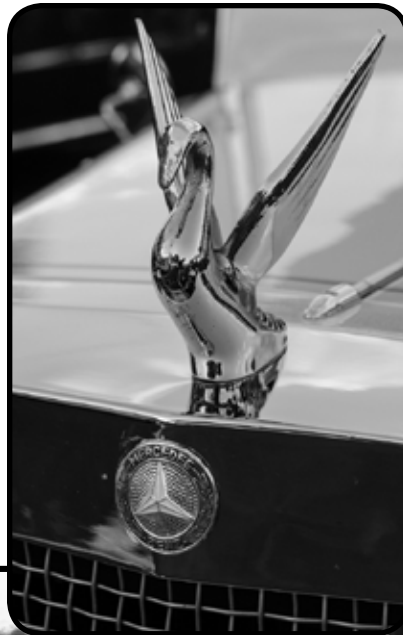




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Above: Paul & Linda Cooper and Lynn Hutchinson next to a car that matched our Tampa Section club shirts



# 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** - Like new custom cover Silverguard Plus Class 2; SLK class '98-'04 (W170 body style). Only used in garage \$150. Call Jim & JoAnn 863-386-0286 Sebring, FL

**FOR SALE** – Chris Tornblom's cars:

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

**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.

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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# Tampa Bay Downs Thoroughbred Horse Racing & Brunch

**Details:** Thoroughbred racing is back for the winter season and we have March 24th scheduled for the Tampa Bay Section – MBCA. We have reserved a group area in the Skye Terrace Dining Room located on 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 \$27.00 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 winners trophy. Four (4) 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 40 people to sign-up (2 persons per membership) and send in their payment. Any increases from that number can only be taken on an availability basis. Our absolute deadline for cutoff is in-hand receipt of your check by March 17th. Price for the brunch and afternoon of action is \$27.00 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 and skorts are allowed, and gentlemen are required to wear a collared shirt**... this dress code is strongly 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 24, 2013

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

**COST:** \$27/adult

**CALL:** Pat Tornblom • 727-856-5584  
ptornblom@tampabay.rr.com

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

**RESERVE BY:** **March 17<sup>th</sup>** (or first 40 people)

Limited to 40 registrations (2 per membership). Extra registrations per membership will be considered after the deadline if all 40 places have not been reserved

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

## Tampa Bay Downs Thoroughbred Horse Racing & Brunch March 24, 2013

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mail by March 17, 2013 to:  
Pat Tornblom  
16630 Laura Lee Dr.  
Shady Hills, FL 34610-7775

1 or 2 @ \$27/adult \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed



# Ocktoberfest at Crown



St. Petersburg, FL  
October 27, 2012

Club members spent the day celebrating Ocktoberfest at Crown Eurocars. Beer, brats and German music entertainment kept them busy as we talked about MBCA with potential new members. Above Scott Suits and right Bob Martino displayed their original paintings for sale.



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