



Tampa Bay Star

August/September 2016

Don Garlits Museum
Tour & Dinner
See Pages 8-9



Read & See Photos of
Our Great Escape Challenge
See Pages 6-7

Coming Events

September 10, 2016
Showmen's Museum Tour
Riverview, FL

October 15, 2016
Siesta Key Rum Tour
Bradenton, FL

November 13, 2016
Historic Spanish Point Tour
Osprey, 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.

Sep 10 Saturday Noon
Showmen's Museum Tour
Riverview, FL
See details in THIS issue

Sep 12 Monday 6:30PM
Business Meeting & Dinner
Crown Eurocars
6001 34th Street North
St Petersburg, FL

Oct 3 Monday 6:30PM
Business Meeting & Dinner
Crown Eurocars

Oct 15 Saturday 2:00 PM
Siesta Key Rum Tasting
Bradenton, FL
See details in THIS issue

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

Nov 13 Sunday Noon
Spanish Point Tour
Osprey, FL
See details in THIS issue

Dec 4 Sunday
Holiday Brunch
Safety Harbor Spa
Safety Harbor, FL

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

Jan 9 Monday 6:30PM
Business Meeting & Dinner
Crown Eurocars

Feb 6 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 Guys,

We have had an eventful few months with great events.

In June, we experienced The Great Escape Room, organized by Dan Cabrera. In this event, we were locked into rooms – men in one room and women in the other – and the room had several clues and puzzles leading to the way out. It was not easy. Of course, the men beat the women, but the women claimed that the men received more help from the employees in each room. I think it is sour grapes.

In July we went to the Don Garlits drag racing museum. Unfortunately I missed this event, but everyone said it was fantastic. See the write-up on pages 8 and 9 in this issue.

In August we will be at the Safety Harbor Spa for the member appreciation brunch. We have been to the Spa several times, and the food is unfailingly excellent. We are expecting a big turnout, so try to sign up as soon as possible.

The event for September will be the Independent Showmen's Museum in Riverview. This is a large collection of memorabilia from Traveling Shows (carnivals) and Circuses. The limit for this event is 40 people, so sign up early.

Greg Watson has scoped out a new event for us in October. We will be visiting the Siesta Key Rum Tour and Tasting. This will be followed by dinner at the Anna Maria Oyster Bar. The tour is limited to 45 people, but if you miss the tour please join us for dinner.

In November Len Berman has organized a visit to Spanish Point. See the write-up details on page 11 in this issue.

Board meetings are open to all members, and I encourage you to come and help us shape the future of the club. The meetings are on the first Monday of every month, except holidays.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Gary



Welcome New Members!

Raymond Eckhardt • New Port Richey
Lon Fairchild • Ocala
Terri Fritzel • Saint Petersburg
Brian Lee Godwin • Tampa
Jim Keck • St Petersburg
Wayne Konga • Atlanta
G Perpich • Sarasota
Ben Price • Sarasota
Aven Yang • Taoyuan City

Renewed Members

Gloria Bock • Clearwater
Todd Christian • Lakeland
John Di Fazio • Clearwater
John Heuer • Treasure Island
Boris Hlushchenko • Bradenton
Michael Julian • Treasure Island
Ellen Lizzo • Sarasota
George Mason • Largo
Gay Stanislawski • New Prt Rchy
David Stein • Plant City
Peter Werner • Crestview
Leo Wolk • Northport
Robert Yaeger • Sarasota

Above are the new and renewed members from June 24, 2016 through August 10, 2016. We look forward to meeting the new members and hope to keep seeing our renewed members at many of our events. – Editor

REQUEST FROM THE EDITOR:

Please include full names of all persons attending an event on the Registration Coupon. We often refer back to the registration coupon for first and last names to accompany photos published in this newsletter. Did you know that you can have your spouse/significant other listed as the Associate Member in your member profile? I can see that information when I get the member list for the mailing labels. Thanks. – Editor

Independent Showmen's Museum Tour & Dinner



Details:

Operated by the International Independent Showmen's Association of Gibsonton, Florida, the museum is held in a large warehouse space that can barely contain the eclectic collection. There are brightly colored wagons and an ornate carousel as well as one of the nation's first ferris wheels which has been rebuilt and put into working order inside the museum. Visitors can easily get a sense of what it's like to live as a traveling performer, traveling state to state just to entertain. In addition to the rides and vintage vehicles the museum displays countless photos and pieces of ephemera from throughout the history of the traveling circus in America including a number of costumes and apparel, some of which belonged to performers whose proportions dwarf that of any traditional human.

From wild west shows to railroad era big top productions, the museum covers every era of the storied show form that dates back to at least the late 1700s in America. Traveling shows are a disappearing art in this day and age but seeing the rich and colorful history on display at the International Independent Showmen's

Important Info

WHEN: Saturday September 10, 2016
WHERE: **Independent Showmen's Museum**
 6938 Riverview Drive
 Riverview, FL
 813-671-3503
Circles Waterfront Restaurant
 1212 Apollo Beach Blvd.
 813-641-3275
COST: \$10.00/person for museum tour
 Dinner off the menu after
CALL: Dave Hutchinson • 727-726-6711
 dhutch@verizon.net
TIME: Noon - 1:30PM Dinner after
RESERVE BY: September 3, 2016

LIMIT of 40 for TOUR

Museum may be enough to make you want to run out and join the circus.

Dinner will follow at

Directions:

Put the address into your navigation system, smart phone GPS, google maps or Mapquest for specific directions from your location. If you are lost or running late here is the cell number for Lynn 727-420-0424 or Linda Cooper 727-798-6800

Independent Showmen's Museum Tour & Dinner Saturday, September 10, 2016

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____

Email address _____

No. _____ persons Enclosed \$10.00/person \$ _____

Make check payable to:
Tampa Bay Section MBCA

received by September 3, 2016 to:
 Lynn & Dave Hutchinson
 2104 Flamingo Place
 Safety Harbor, FL 34695

I will be staying for dinner Y N

Siesta Key Rum Tasting & Dinner



Important Info

WHEN: Saturday, October 15, 2016

WHERE: **Siesta Key Rum.**
2212 Industrial Blvd. • Sarasota, Fl.
Anna Maria Oyster Bar Landside
is 6906 14th. St. W. • Bradenton, FL

COST: \$2.50/person for the tour

CALL: Ed & Carolyn Jarotz
Cell: 727-421-5052
Ed.Jarotz@gmail.com

TIME: 1:45 - 3:30 PM for tour. Dinner after

RESERVE BY: **September 30th**

RUM TOUR LIMITED TO 45

Details: Siesta Key Rum has been awarded several accolades for having one of the best spiced rums on the market, including “Best Rum in America 2016” by Caribbean Journal. This is a small batch rum distiller and each batch is labeled and numbered. Rum purchase is limited to a 4 or 5 bottles per calendar year. Special Note: The 1.75 L bottle counts as only 1 not 2, so buy big.

We will be starting the Siesta Key Rum Tour at 2:00pm sharp. All tour guests must be present at 1:45PM. Guests must arrive 15 minutes early to be included. The pre-tour tasting can start after your registered usually about 20 min.before the tour. Also, after the tour, tasting and Rum purchasing will be available for another 15-20 minutes. The tour should take about 45-50 minutes.

We have reserved the “Captains” room at the Anna Maria Oyster Bar Landside beginning at 3:30pm. If you find that you do not have time for both the tour and dinner, you are welcome to join us for either just the tasting or dinner. Please let Ed know so we have an accurate head count.

Directions: . Put the address into your navigation system, smart phone GPS, google maps or Mapquest for specific directions from your location. FYI NOTE: Siesta Key Rum is NOT on Siesta Key.

If you are lost or running late here is the cell number for Lynn 727-420-0424 or Linda Cooper 727-798-6800.

Siesta Key Rum Tasting & Dinner Saturday, October 15, 2016

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____

Email address _____

No. _____ persons @ \$2.50/person for the tour \$ _____ I will stay for dinner Y N

Make check payable to:
Tampa Bay Section MBCA

received by September 30, 2016 to:
Ed & Carolyn Jarotz
8091 Candlewood Rd
Seminole, FL 33777

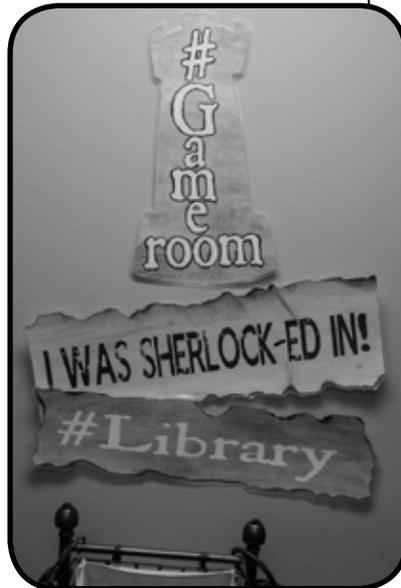
The Great Escape Room

Tampa, FL
June 25, 2016
By Dan Cabrera

WOW! This event was so much fun. As described by the game monitors, the clues were hard to find and the puzzles were difficult to solve.

A total of 24 members and one granddaughter took on the challenge. We broke up into two teams: Men versus Women. We were told that, when men and women teams are pitted against each other, the women win 80% of the time. Additionally, the staff said that only 20% of all teams escape the room within the allotted 60 minutes. Each team was locked in an identical room. In this case, a library. The clues were hidden in identical places and each team had the same puzzles to solve. This is one time were the Men prevailed, opening the secret passage and making their escape in 57 minutes and 6 seconds. The Women also made their escape, shortly after the allotted time.

Some of us had checked the same locations and objects several times without locating the well-hidden clues. Some clues were hidden in plain sight, but still over-looked. Other clues made you look “outside the box.” Once the clues were all found, our great minds got together to solve the puzzles. But first we accidentally solved the myth, that all great minds think alike. Not true! No pun intended. Nonetheless, we met the challenge, opened the secret passageway, and made our Escape. We made our way to a delightful dinner at the Crumb and Cork Restaurant, where we laughed and reviewed our bumbling and fumbling search for the clues.



Above L-R: Michael Gulick, Nancy Pease, Lynn Gulick, Debbie Cabrera, Connie & Gary Dolin, John Thomas, Dan Cabrera, Jen DeCresie Molino and Rodger Baker.

Below L-R: Paul & Linda Cooper, Jimmy & Elaine Lee, Marianne & Tim Gorske, Lynn Hutchinson with granddaughter Savannah Puter, Michele & Neal Dion and Greg & Pat Watson.



All photos in this issue taken by Dave Hutchinson.



Above: The escaped team - Dave Hutchinson, John Thomas & Tim Gorske behind Gary Dolin, Ben Berman & Jimmy Lee in front of Michael Gulick, Dan Cabrera, Paul Cooper, Neal Dion, Greg Watson & Rodger Baker.



Left L-R: Dan Cabrera sitting in front of Ben Bermas, Lynn Gulick peeking between Elaine Lee & Debbie Cabrera, Tim Gorske in the back, Savannah Puter with her grandma, Lynn Hutchinson, Jimmy Lee in front of John Thomas, Nancy Pease, Linda Cooper & Gary Dolin, Michele Dion in front of Connie Dolin holding the sign & Neal Dion, Greg Watson behind Marianne Gorske, Jen DeCresie, Michael Gulick, Rodger Baker, Paul Cooper, Dave Hutchinson and Pat Watson


 Independent Showmen's
 Museum Tour & Dinner
 Saturday
 September 10, 2016
 See Page 5 For Details



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Don Garlits Museum of Drag Racing Tour & Dinner

Ocala, FL
July 23, 2016
By Michael Gulick

Our trip to The Grand Oaks Resort & Museum, unfortunately, was cancelled by the resort due to a delay in their renovations work. Soooo Plan B.

Nearby was the The Don Garlits Museum of Drag Racing and Plan B was in effect. The cars were unbelievable; few of us have seen so many drag racers. We learned a lot about the sport and were able to visit another building that housed their museum of historical cars. It was fantastic to see such an extensive collection.

To keep things interesting, Plan B included lunch at Zaxby's, but they called and said they could not accommodate us. Soooo Plan C.

Following the tours, we traveled to the 484 New York Pizza restaurant and had great Italian food. The place was small, but they made us welcome. Thru innovative efforts, tables were set up in their hallway as we maxed out the place. Service was excellent, everyone enjoyed the food, and conversations about the cars were great. (Editors note: they make all their own pizza crust and breads and they were to die for!!)

If you cancelled or missed this trip due to the changes, you missed a great experience and super food. Hope you will join us for the next event..



Above: New members Lon & Sharon Fairchild



Right: Lynn Hutchinson



Above L-R: Jim Merada, Paul Cooper, Sharon & Lon Fairchild, Debbie & Dan Cabrera, Linda Cooper, Neal Dion, Kay & Lee Doughty, Nancy Merada, Ed & Carolyn Jarotz, Michele Dion, Lynn Hutchinson, Lynn Gulick, Catherine & Bob Martino, Marcia & Edgard Schulz, and Michael Gulick



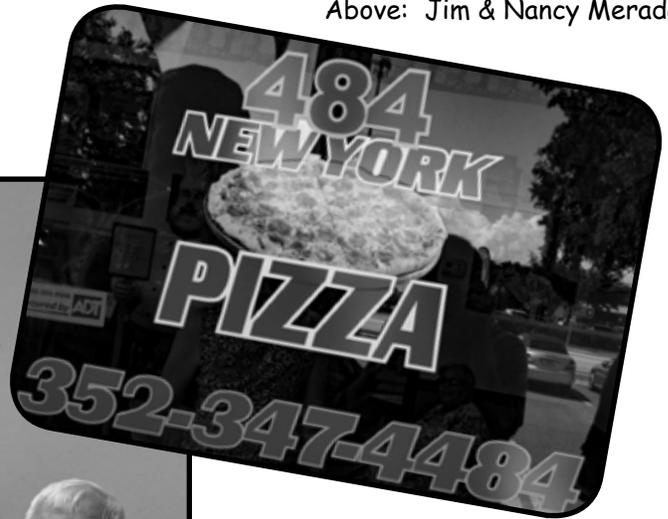
Above: Debbie Cabrera, Lynn Hutchinson, Linda Cooper, Lynn Gulick & Marcia Schulz



Above: Jim & Nancy Merada



Clockwise around beginning at the lower left: Lon & Sharon Fairchild, Lynn Hutchinson, Neal Dion, Jim Merada, Paul Cooper, Event planner Michael Gulick at the head of the table, Lynn Gulick, Nancy Merada, Linda Cooper, Carolyn Jarotz (FYI Ed was across from Carolyn but seems to be behind Neal), Michele Dion, Marcia & Edgard Schulz Debbie & Dan Cabrera.



Kudos to 484 New York Pizza for handling this overwhelming group at the last minute. The service as great and they make the best bread ever. They even borrowed chairs from the business next door so we could all sit together. If you are hungry on you way north or south on I-75 through Ocala, mark them as a great place to stop for a meal.



Right: Catherine & Bob Martino
Left: Lynn Gulick
On the Cover: Lee Doughty





Member Car Spotlight

The Villages, FL
By Lynn Gulick



As some people already know I am not a native Floridian. I grew up in a northern suburb of Chicago (Lincolnwood) and after graduating from Marquette University in Milwaukee I joined the US Air Force to see the world. Having lived in Germany, it provided a gateway to Europe, and assignments in Panama and the States further opened the doors to explore our own country. After more than thirty years on the move Michael and I landed in Florida. Oddly enough this was a place we had never thought of moving to but we are very glad we did for we have found our best friends ever. It is like the universe brought us all together for a reason. Party time!!!

Over the years we have driven (I have driven, that is) the practical car. I had to have room for the kids and boxes and furniture and animals, etc.!!! After years and years of waiting for the right time and the right color and the right whatever, the heavens (in this case, Mercedes) sent forth the right car at the right time. Now, as life changes and time passes quickly, the idea that I could actually buy my dream car arrived. As I walked into the Wesley Chapel Dealership to meet with my friends and club members for our monthly get together, the last thing I expected was to see was the beautiful SLK that now sits in my driveway. The color was magnificent and the rest is history. It's as if the car was made for me. Splurge. I have loved every minute in it and find the ride and the seats so comfortable. I am able to make the trip from The Villages to Tampa with ease. I have yet to see another car (any model) in this color and receive Kudos ("gorgeous car") frequently if not every time I drive it. Mercedes hit it out of the park this time for sure. Improvements and options abound have come together in a vehicle that is fit for a queen. From the stereo system to the trimmings, all are impeccable (well except for the cup holders, of course, which are a might small for my Tervis Tumbler brimming with coffee or should I say cream and sugar with a little coffee?) What can I say? Cup holders are always an issue in America. No regrets. Let's just hope I stay nimble enough to get in and out of this car for years to come.

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 - Mercedes Benz Owners Manual from 1970 280 SE and 280 SE 4.5. in paper envelope sleeve, and in near perfect condition. \$45. Also a BECKER GRAND PRIX AM-FM stereo/cassette radio. OEM for Mercedes, Audi and Porsche in the 1980s. Recently examined by Becker technicians and found to be working perfectly. \$225. Text for photos (914)548-5450....cell. Anthony Lo-Balbo, Beverly Hills, FL

FOR SALE - 1994 E320 cabriolet. Black/gray. Second owner, rust free, unrestored original in excellent condition, garaged, 63k miles. Original sticker \$77,775 with all options. Limited production - will be collectible. \$17,950. Call Jerry @ 727-580-7800 or Bobbie @ 727-458-4719

FOR SALE - Bonnie & Dick Wolverton cars **2007 S-550**, 58k miles, Options include parktronic backup camera, Iridium silver; all services at Crown. \$22,000. **2003 SLK32 AMG** black, 58k miles, all service Crown, new tires, 349 hp, very good condition. Great for driving events. \$13,000. Less than 1,000 sold in 2003 Call Dick (H) 727-896-1995, (O) 727-823-1399 or dickwolv@aol.com

Historic Spanish Point Tour & Dinner



Details: This is from the website: “A multi-faceted history awaits you at Historic Spanish Point.

While Historic Spanish Point is a complex museum with many layers and facets, there are four main elements to the overall story. To help our visitors understand them, we refer to them as the “4 Ps of Historic Spanish Point.” Prehistory, Pioneers, Palmer, and Plants. Take time to explore these elements.”

Your can check out more details at their web site listed in the Important Info box above.

We have a reservation with 3 docents - 1 for those who can walk the grounds and 1 for each of the two 7 passenger trams for those who are unable to do the walking. The tour is about 2-2.5 hours. After the tour we will head about 6 miles north on Tamiami Trail to Square 1 Burgers for an early dinner.

Directions: Put the address into your navigation system, smart phone, GPS, google maps or Mapquest for specific directions from your location. Direction from Len: Exit 205, Clark Road/SR 72, off I-75; Go west, toward Siesta Key, about 5 miles (NB Clark Road becomes Stickney Point Road); Turn south (left) on US 41/Tamiami Trail South; Go about 5-7 miles - just after the traffic light for MacEwen Dr/Osprey Pt Dr there’s a right turn lane for Historic Spanish Point, take turn & Go to the Visitor Center on the left. If you are lost or running late here is the cell numbers for Len Berman 941-539-3471, Lynn Hutchinson 727-420-0424 or Linda Cooper 727-798-6800.

Important Info

WHEN: Sunday, November 13, 2016

WHERE: **Historic Spanish Point Tour**
337 N Tamiami Trail • Osprey, FL
941-966-5214.
<http://www.historicspanishpoint.org/>
Square 1 Burgers & Bar
6240 S Tamiami Trail • Sarasota, FL

COST: \$10.00/person for tour

CALL: Len Berman • 941-923-7436
L.sb@verizon.net

TIME: 12:00 noon - 2:30 for the tour
3:00 pm for dinner

RESERVE BY: **November 5th**

Historic Spanish Point Tour & Dinner November 13, 2016

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

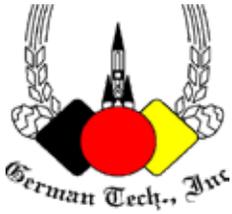
Email _____

Address _____

_____ \$10/person for tour _____ Enclosed I will stay for dinner Y N

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